

BANDITS SPONSORED BY SA SLOW DOWN FOOD PRODUCTION

MAPUTO.

THE result of South African-sponsored banditry in rural Mozambique is that "areas traditionally known as food surplus areas have turned into net deficit areas", declares the Food Security Department in the Mozambican Trade Ministry in its latest report on the country's food situation.

The destabilisation of the rural economy includes the displacement of over one and a half million people. This means, explains the document, that about 250 000 families have been forced to restart their lives in new areas and "will not contribute immediately to production".

"The destruction or disruption of the road network between zones and provinces," it continues, "has led to a significant effect on the transport between surplus provinces or zones and deficit provinces or zones".

Traditional flows of foodstuffs have thus broken down, stocks of marketed crops take more time to circulate, while the time needed to move consumer goods from provincial capitals to some of the districts has quadrupled.

The security situation slows down the movement of traffic and in some cases means that "a journey which used to take just a few hours, can now take 15 or more days".

The banditry of the South African-backed MNR was certainly the main factor in the collapse of agricultural marketing in 1986. — Ziana-AIM-Pana.

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