

# Mozambican army kills 15 MNR bandits

MAPUTO.

THE Mozambican armed forces on Wednesday killed 15 of the bandit group that attacked the town of Manjacaze and massacred 72 people.

A source in the FPLM general staff said the Mozambican forces pursued the withdrawing bandits.

"Today (Wednesday) there were two clashes," he said, "in which 15 bandits died."

This brings to 25 the number of MNR attackers killed. On Monday the nine Mozambican soldiers defending the town man-

aged to kill 10 of the raiders.

"In the week from August 4-11 infiltration of bandits coming from South Africa continued," he said.

The source said over the week, the FPLM "maintained a rhythm of offensive operations throughout the national territory". As a result of these operations 118 bandits were killed and six captured. The operations took place in the southern provinces of Gaza and Inhambane, the central province of Zambezia and the northern provinces of

Niassa and Nampula. About 748 people were freed from bandit control in this period.

The source said the bandits had destroyed the petrol station, the pump for the town's water supply, and the local electricity station in the Manjacaze raid. A restaurant was also wrecked, and two warehouses pillaged.

Meanwhile, President Joaquim Chissano has ruled out the possibility of negotiating with the MNR because they are the creation of Portuguese colonialists and apartheid South Africa.

To discuss with them, he said, would be to re-negotiate the independence of Mozambique from Portuguese colonialists as well as re-negotiating the signing of the Nkomati accord with South Africa.

Cde Chissano was addressing a Press conference at Radi in Botswana at the end of his four-day state visit to that country yesterday.

The local authority in the southern province of Gaza, has set up special brigades to support the families of those killed in Manjacaze.

The provincial health

director has appealed for blood donors. The Xai-Xai hospital received, by Wednesday afternoon, 25 people wounded in the pre-dawn raid on Manjacaze.

Several thousand MNR bandits are said to have infiltrated into southern Mozambique over the South African border in recent months.

Cde Alfredo Nhantumbo, secretary for defence in the Gaza provincial committee of the Frelimo party, made this accusation at a meeting in the provincial capital, Xai-Xai. — Ziana-AIM.