

Bandit victims find shelter

Report by Oliver Gawe;
Pictures by Regis Nyandima

VICTIMS of the recent MNR attack at Nyahuku village in the Mudzi district have started moving to the neighbouring Chimutsanya village to seek shelter with sympathisers. The Herald found out at the weekend.

Some of the victims of the attack, in which three people died and several huts and property were burnt down, are still at their homesteads, with nowhere to go.

The security forces have mounted regular patrols in the area and the situation there, as in the Mutema communal lands, appears to have returned to normal.

The bandits also abducted six people from the village, near the border with Mozambique, and held them captive for several hours. The abductees escaped the same night as they were being taken across the Nyangwa Range into the Rushinga area.

The Herald visited the village at the weekend and found some of the villagers already moved to the neighbouring Chimutsanya village across the Nyahuku River.

Driving along a makeshift dirt road to the village in the north-eastern

border area of Zimbabwe, several deserted houses were a common sight with only a few goats and pigs still roaming around the village.

Although some of the families had moved from Nyahuku to Chimutsanya village, the bereaved Kufakwembwa family was still at their gutted homestead late on Saturday afternoon. People were still gathered to pay their condolences to the family which lost two of its members in the brutal attack carried out on Monday August 17.

Cde Dickson Kufakwembwa and his mother-in-law, Mrs Mazowe Boku, were axed to death by the bandits in the village.

Cde Kufakwembwa's son, Martin, who works in Harare was at the village putting together a few remains from the fire and trying to rebuild another hut for his wife, Mrs Theresa Kufakwembwa, who was one of the people the bandits tried to abduct before they escaped.

Still shocked from her ordeal, Mrs Theresa Kufakwembwa could hardly narrate the events of the night of the attack.

She said they managed to escape from the bandits in the Nyangwa mountains and ended up at St Pious School near Mazowe River bridge in Rushinga where they later found transport to Mutoko.

Most of the people who had moved to Chimutsanya village were reluctant to talk to the Press, maybe out of sheer mistrust or fear.

However, Cde Rebecca Mariyapera who has since moved to Chimutsanya to live with friends, said the security situation appeared to have returned to normal as security forces were constantly patrolling the area.

Cde Martin Kufakwembwa said he had prepared several fields he intended farming on during the next rainy season, but following the attack on his family, the future was uncertain.

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