

PM to meet defence chiefs on MNR threat

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CDE MUGABE will soon be meeting defence and security chiefs to discuss the escalation of banditry activities, including those of the MNR.

He said yesterday: "If we have to mobilise the entire nation to protect our border, we will do so. It means diverting our resources, it means tightening our belts."

Zimbabwe's dissidents were not justified in their actions of murder, torture and arson. "What the dissidents would like to achieve is a complete reversal of the verdict cast twice by the people in the 1980 and 1985 elections, which both yielded a Zanu (PF) victory, to

become a Zapu victory.

"How can we allow a Zanu (PF) victory to mysteriously translate itself into a Zapu victory?"

Cde Mugabe said that the South African air base built near Zimbabwe's border was a new development in that country's strategy towards its northern neighbours.

It should be recognised, however, that a country had the right to build any institution, on any part of its soil.

Zimbabwe, however, interpreted the building of the base as a threat and would therefore be building up its own defence, said Cde Mugabe. The base, near Louis Trichardt, was opened by the SA Defence Minister, Gen Magnus Malan, last week.