

MNR GAZA BASE CAPTURED

MAPUTO.

THE army overran the principal Gaza province base of the MNR bandits on Christmas eve, the newspaper Noticias reported yesterday.

The article said the bandits had occupied Nhamala in June, turning the town 220 km north of the capital into their "provincial base".

The town, 90 km north of the government's Gaza province military com-

mand in Chiputo, was used for mountain attacks on roads in the area, including the main north-south highway from Gaza to Maputo, said the national news agency, AIM.

The report said the bandits also used Nhamala as a base for attacks on the Limpopo railway line which links Zimbabwe to the port of Maputo.

South Africa continues to sponsor the bandits in violation of a 1984 peace accord in order to de-

stabilise Mozambique and to try to force countries like Zimbabwe to use South African ports.

Noticias said the capture of Nhamala involved four Mozambican forces, including a special commando unit, converging on the base from different parts of Chiputo district.

"The fighting only lasted for 15 minutes, before the bandits broke and ran," said the AIM report. It said 18 bandits were killed. — Ziana.