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CHRONICLE
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bandits surrender

MAPUTO — Twenty-two bandits have surrendered to the government in the first reported acceptance of a new amnesty offer, the national news agency said here.

— The news agency, AIM, quoted the state radio as saying the bandits had been placed in custody of the Mozambican Red Cross in the central city of Chimoio.

The report did not specify when the bandits surrendered, but said they had been provided with clothing and temporary accommodation.

An amnesty law approved by the government last month offered bandits of the MNR a year to surrender without reprisals.

AIM also reported that a warehouse set on fire in Chimoio on Christmas Day contained Red Cross relief supplies, not weapons.

On Tuesday, the MNR issued a statement saying its men had set fire to stores of arms and ammunition in Chimoio.

AIM quoted the general secretary of the Mozambican Red Cross as saying the fire destroyed food, clothing and other relief supplies for displaced people in north and central provinces.

It said the value of the destroyed supplies had not been calculated but quoted the Red Cross official, Cde Janet Mondane, as saying thousands of people would be affected.

The MNR was formed in 1977 by the Rhodesian regime to harass the Frelimo government two years after Mozambican independence from Portugal.

After Rhodesia became black-ruled Zimbabwe, the bandits received backing from South Africa.

Meanwhile, it is reported that Britain will give Mozambique \$153 500 to buy 20 000 blankets for displaced Mozambicans. A British High Commission spokesman said in Harare yesterday that the blankets would be made in Malawi — Ziana-AP.