

Manicaland villagers help round up MNR bandits

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VILLAGERS in Manicaland were instrumental in the recent capture of 10 armed MNR bandits in the province as the recent drive to politicise people in the border areas begins to pay dividends, says the Governor, Senator Joshua Dhube.

In an interview with The Sunday Mail yesterday, Senator Dhube, who was discussing the security situation in his province in the wake of the recent Burma Valley atrocities in which a man and his two sons were murdered after five heavily armed bandits attacked a village in Burma Valley, said:

"The 10 MNR bandits were handed to the police by the villagers and they are now in police custody. This co-operation comes in the wake of a series of rallies we started in October last year, which were aimed at getting the message to the people that they should be vigilant and should not harbour any people who might turn out to be MNR or their supporters."

Asked about the Burma Valley incident which took place on Sunday, he said this had happened at a coffee farm owned by a co-operative, "but we have already started an exercise to clean up anybody who does not belong there".

There was, he also said, "total support" for the security measures from the ordinary people, the business community and farmers. In the Chipinge area while there was some apparent reluctance, by the older farmers, the authorities were pleased with the level of co-operation they were receiving from the younger farmers.