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Cost of frontline states' defence The frontline states have spent about 27.5bn dollars since 1980 defending themselves against "South African-sponsored bandits", according to Bernard Chidzero, Zimbabwean Minister of Finance, Economic Planning and Development, in remarks on 23rd January reported by the Zimbabwean agency (via the Yugoslav agency). Chidzero said this figure excluded losses in human lives and development potential, destruction of crops and property, displacement of people and the increasing spread of malnutrition and disease.