

3 MNR bases destroyed and 177 bandits killed in joint sweep

Herald Reporter

THREE MNR bases — one of them a regional headquarters — were destroyed last week in a joint operation by Zimbabwean and Mozambican forces in Mozambique's Gaza province and 177 MNR bandits were killed.

Two other bandits, one believed to be a close aide to bandit commander Gomez who narrowly escaped, were captured, the Zimbabwe Ministry of Defence an-

nounced in a statement last night.

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The bases in Gaza which borders on the south-east of Zimbabwe, had been set up with the aim of disrupting the rehabilitation programme along the Chicualacuala to Maputo railway line. They were also being used, said the ministry statement, as launching pads for attacks across the border into Zimbabwe where bandits have

committed atrocities.

The joint operation ran from Friday March 18 to Wednesday last week and was conducted in the Mabalane area of Gaza.

The principal base destroyed in the operation was the regional headquarters of the MNR, known as Central Base. Another, a logistic supply base, was known as Maginge and the third base destroyed was still under construction.