

also destroyed, were worth another six million meticaís.

Indecision seems to be the current state of mind of the Manjacaze businessmen. "I'm thinking about agriculture, but I still don't really know what I'm going to do", said Mr Khan. "My cousin told me he's going to start selling things from his veranda. Perhaps I'll do the same".

He thinks that, under the circumstances, the government should allow any kind of establishment - including warehouses, and even back yards - to be used for trading purposes.

Rofina Pedro Langa, another businessman whose shop is now a heap of ashes, told AIM that he had taken out a loan of a million meticaís from the bank, shortly before the bandit raid.

"Now I'm thinking of writing a letter to the bank, informing them of the situation, asking for a longer repayment period, and also requesting another loan", he said. "It's the only way I can see of getting back on my feet".

A spokesman for the Bank of Mozambique in the provincial capital, Xai-Xai, told AIM that the bank does not yet have enough information about the losses suffered by its clients to take a decision on credit. He said that the bank would study the matter case by case.

The businessmen do not necessarily own the buildings in which their shops were situated. Instead they rent space from the state housing authority, APIE. Indeed, seven of the shops burnt down on 14 February were in buildings belonging to APIE. Some of the businessmen are now suggesting that APIE sell them the ruins, and they will try to rebuild the shops.

However, the response from the district director of APIE is that the law only allows APIE to sell shops that are located in rural zones. He suggested that the shopkeepers could rebuild the shops using their own finance, which would then be set off against the rent they pay.

APIE itself did not have the resources to rebuild the destroyed shops, he said.

The first reports of the raid that reached Maputo said that the bandits had destroyed the cashew processing factory in Manjacaze. This turned out to be inaccurate.

However, the raiders did burn 339,286 kilos of cashew nuts, and 24,000 boxes of packaging material. Equipment in the factory