

# MNR victims seek protection in Beira Corridor

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**Herald Reporter**  
HUNDREDS of Mozambican villagers, fleeing MNR bandit brutalities, continue to pour into the Beira Corridor for protection by members of the Zimbabwe National Army deployed there.

The commander of the Special Task Force headquartered in Chimoio, Brigadier Philip Sibanda, could not give the number of villagers who had sought refuge but said at least four villages had sprung up in the past two months.

The Mozambican vil-

lagers were pouring in almost daily, setting up temporary shelters next to army positions.

Brigadier Sibanda, the commander of 4 Brigade, said villagers continued to be abducted, murdered and set on fire by the bandits.

"It appears the bandits want to intimidate the povo into moving away from the corridor to join them in the bushes so that they (the bandits) can get help from the villagers."

Brigadier Sibanda said although his troops were involved in many contacts with the MNR bandits, he was happy that progress was being made.

The 4 Brigade was fully deployed from Machipanda near the Zimba-

bwean border to Beira to ensure that the bandits did not disrupt the free flow of traffic.

"Our operations are designed to get Zimbabwean goods, meant for Zimbabwe, to their destination without any loss."

Brigadier Sibanda said there had been a few disruptions of traffic by bandits as they dug up the oil pipeline and blasted it with explosives.

Most of the isolated bandit incidents took place at night.

Brigadier Sibanda said the bandits usually sneaked in at night, harassed people and left in the morning.

Soldiers deployed in Mozambique had often been involved in heavy battles with the bandits,



COMMANDER of the Special Task Force Brigadier Philip Sibanda.

but the Zimbabwean troops had only sustained a few very small injuries.

Some bandits had been captured by the troops but had since been handed over to the Mozambican authorities.