

Maputo dismisses MNR⁴ objection on mediator ^{11/5}/₉₀

MAPUTO.

MOZAMBICAN Foreign Minister Cde Pascoal Mocumbi on Wednesday dismissed as "irrelevant" the rejection by bandits of President Mugabe as a mediator in efforts to end the 14-year-old war in Mozambique.

The MNR bandits and the Mozambican government accepted Cde Mugabe and Kenyan President Daniel arap Moi as mediators last year, but the bandits said in Lisbon on Tuesday that Cde Mugabe was no longer acceptable.

They said Cde Mugabe

was not impartial as his troops were taking an active part in operations against the MNR.

Cde Mocumbi said at Maputo Airport before leaving for a conference of Southern African Frontline States in Oslo: "What the so-called representative of the MNR in Lisbon is saying is irrelevant because since we started to have indirect contacts in Nairobi they have met with the delegations from Zimbabwe and from Kenya."

He said the important point was that his government was working towards establishing a venue for direct talks with the bandits.

Earlier this year, the bandits rejected the government's proposal of Malawi as a venue for direct talks. — Ziana-Reuter.