

MNR killings blamed on Sithole

RUSAPE.

THE Speaker of the House of Assembly, Cde Didymus Mutasa, yesterday blamed Rev. Ndabaningi Sithole for the murders carried out along Zimbabwe's eastern border area by Mozambican MNR bandits.

He accused Mr Sithole of working with the MNR bandits and said foreign powers were trying to divide the people in Zimbabwe and Mozambique by using Rev. Ndabaningi Sithole in Zimbabwe and bandit leader Alfonso Dhlakama in Mozambique.

He was speaking at Matotwe growth point about 225 km east of here in support of the Zanu (PF) candidate in next month's Makoni East by-election, which is being contested by Mr Sithole's party, Zanu (Ndonga).

Mr Sithole is living in self-exile in the United States.

The by-election is to fill the seat vacated by Zanu (PF) MP Cde Naomi Nhiwatiwa, who resigned her seat

last month to take up a post with the United Nations Children's Fund, in Nairobi, Kenya.

The Speaker, who is Zanu (PF) secretary for external affairs, warned the people in Makoni East against supporting people who would later bring about chaos and lawlessness.

"Zanu's (Ndonga) intentions are sinister and quite surprising at this time, because since 1987, when the nation began the process of uniting under one party, some malcontents insisted on going their own way," Cde Mutasa said.

"This is how the dissident menace starts. You may find arms, caches in this area later on," he warned.

Zanu (PF) is taking the forthcoming Makoni East constituency by-election "very seriously" and the party has launched a campaign which will include rallies addressed by senior party members, party secretary for administration Cde Maurice Nyagumbo said in Harare yesterday.

Zanu (PF) candidate Cde Gibson Munyoro will be standing against Mr James Chitungo, a member of Ndabaningi Sithole's Zimbabwe African National Union.

Cde Nyagumbo said that the party viewed the election as a challenge and members of the Central Committee and Manicaland MPs had already started addressing

campaign rallies.

"We are taking it (the by-election) very seriously. We take it as a challenge to us.

"I am confident that we still have the majority of the support in the area," he said.

The by-election will be held on February 14 and 15.

Spelling out his party's policies, Mr Chitungo said it took adverse elements to build a happy nation. "That is why Zanu advocates national unity in diversity.

"Vast numbers of people in Zimbabwe fought the war of liberation at different levels — the guerilla fighters at the front; workers, peasants, housewives, intellectuals; businessmen worked hard in the rear; and Zimbabweans outside the country made donations in support of the war effort. The whole country was turned into a huge battle front.

"In short, all Zimbabweans paid a supreme price for the independence of this country. We must always remember that without these diverse forces, the defeat of the enemy would have been impossible," he said.

He said if elected he would, among other things, fight for a multi-party democratic state, a mixed economy with special encouragement to private enterprise and the right of chiefs to distribute land within their areas of jurisdiction.

The Deputy Minister of Information, Posts and Telecommunications, Cde Ken-

neth Manyonda, also said yesterday that Mr Sithole has joined hands with South Africa and the MNR bandits, who are engaged in a campaign to murder innocent civilians.

Addressing a campaign rally, in support of the Zanu (PF) candidate, Cde Manyonda said it was saddening that Mr Sithole, a Zimbabwean, chose to join a bandit movement that was ruthlessly murdering fellow Zimbabweans for no reason.

"Zanu (Ndonga) of Reverend Sithole has done nothing for the country. Sithole failed to pull the party together. Instead he teamed up with Muzorewa and Smith to create a country with a surname Zimbabwe-Rhodesia."

Cde Manyonda said after being elected to Government, Zanu (PF) had consolidated people's power by transforming the country along the path of scientific socialism.

Immediately after independence, he said, enrolment increased at primary, secondary, college and university levels in line with people's wishes. The Government also introduced a home ownership scheme "which is accessible to all Zimbabweans".

Cde Manyonda cited the Government's achievements in health, education, housing, resettlement and reconstruction, drought relief and industry and commerce.