

CAZ man quizzed about role in MNR

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A SENATOR yesterday challenged the former Rhodesian defence minister, Senator P. K. van der Byl, to give the Upper House details of how the regime established the Mozambican MNR bandits.

Speaking on a motion on the death of Mozambican president Cde Samora Machel, Senator Patrick Chinamasa said that since the bandits had been created by the Rhodesian government, Mr van der Byl must have played a role.

Senator van der Byl was in the House at the time but made no response to the challenge.

"I am asking him to give this House the benefit of his knowledge of the true origin of the MNR. . . to give details on how they went about recruiting these people,

how they financed them and gave them a free radio to broadcast propaganda."

Senator Chinamasa said at the time of independence in 1980 the Smith regime had destroyed many important documents and "donated" some to the MNR bandits.

He said with support from South Africa, the MNR bandits were now destabilising Mozambique and other Frontline States.

"The objective can only be to create puppet regimes in the region which will dance to the tune of racism . . . their intention can only be to reassert foreign domination."

Senator Chinamasa said the late President Machel had died fighting the bandits and it was the duty of all Zimbabweans to continue the struggle.

"We must not allow an inch of that territory to fall back into the arms of foreign dominators. We must dedicate ourselves to continuing the fight against armed banditry and fighting for our economic independence," he said.