

CAZ MP asked how MNR was created

Chron

5/3/87

HARARE — 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 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 to 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" the MNR to South Africa.

He said with support from South Africa, the MNR bandits were now destabilising

Mozambique and other Frontline States.

"It (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 re-assert foreign domination."

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

CONTINUING

"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.

Speaking on the same motion, the Minister of Industry and Technology, Senator Callistus Ndlovu, said Cde Machel believed that to fight racism one must not be a racist oneself.

The multi-racial composition of his government was a negation of the apartheid system in South Africa, which could not tolerate it or permit it to succeed.

It was no coincidence that Cde Samora Machel had died during a week when there had been increased tension between the Frontline States and South Africa.

Some people might want to wait to find out the technical causes of the crash in which Cde Machel died but the people had no doubts as to who was responsible.

"The povo has no doubts as to who killed President Samora Machel," he said.

The people knew who the enemy of African liberty was. "The povo knows the murderers," he said.

The incident showed that racists learnt nothing, he said. The death of Cde Machel had heightened the consciousness of the people and made the task of the racists more difficult, contrary to what had been intended.