

People's army to step up Maputo's defences SM _{3/14} _{4/8}

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MOZAMBIQUE has started a military programme of training and arming all its people from the peasants in the villages to workers in the urban areas, the President of Mozambique's National People's Assembly, Cde Marcelino dos Santos, said in Harare yesterday.

Cde Dos Santos was in Harare for the Awepaa conference. He made these remarks while speaking at a public lecture in the capital on the present situation in Mozambique and Southern Africa. He said this move was aimed at "enabling every village, farm and factory to defend themselves".

He said everyone should be a member of the people's militia. "They don't receive money, but they give some hours or days during the month. This ensures the safety of the hospitals and other vital institutions."

Besides consolidating the army, said Cde Dos Santos, this would also ensure support for the country's unity.

He said the current prob-

lems in Mozambique were that there was fighting on four main fronts — economic, political, diplomatic and military.

"In every moment of our life, when we act, we act in order to build and to promote economic and social development of our country. The main form of action was military, but we are building our state."

Cde Dos Santos said that in 1980 Mozambique's economy had reached a high stage of development which it had never attained under colonialism.

"When South Africa, through banditry, started military aggression against Mozambique, factories were sabotaged and the country's economic infrastructure was destroyed.

"The change we made to our economy was not because we finally realised that our economic system was wrong. We had reviewed the way our economy had been destroyed by apartheid and its bandits."

He said today the Maputo

shops that were once empty had some goods to sell although some of them were not at accessible prices.

He urged the Zimbabwe Mozambique Friendship Association (Zimofa) to promote group visits to Mozambique of youths, women and other organisations. Zimofa's counterpart in Mozambique had started working on this.

The public lecture, which was organised by Zimofa, was also attended by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr Nathan Shamuyarira.