

# Peaceful student protests honour great leader

SEVERAL hundred Harare Polytechnic students demonstrated peacefully in the city yesterday, closely watched by a large unit of riot police.

Besides expressing their grief at the death of President Samora Machel and their solidarity with the people of Mozambique, the students were also demanding the release of the 98 University of Zimbabwe students and other youths arrested on Tuesday.

At one stage, they also demonstrated outside Herald House to complain about the editorial in yesterday's paper denouncing the violence that accompanied Tuesday's demonstration.

The students marched from the Polytechnic to the Mozambique Embassy and from there to Parliament and The Herald. After discussion with the police, they then were allowed to march to Harare Central police station where they called for the release of 67 UZ students and 31 other youths.

The chairman of the Students' Representative Council, Cde Patrick Gwini, was invited inside the station. On his return to the crowd, he said the students would be released later in the day and he asked his Polytech students to return to the college.

They declined and said they would wait for the release.

The riot police on duty then started drumming their batons on their shields and the students changed their minds and ran away. A little later the riot police chased them, making sure they would not reassemble.

Police confirmed yes-

terday afternoon that the 98 demonstrators arrested on Tuesday had been released. A senior police officer also visited the four buildings damaged on Tuesday but no further details were available yesterday.

In Mutare hundreds of residents demonstrated peacefully, expressing their solidarity with the grieving people of Mozambique.

The demonstration staged yesterday was started by the Mutare Teachers' College students who marched through the city, where they were met by the Zanu (PF) provincial chairman, Cde Edgar Tekere.

Cde Tekere expressed his profound grief and pain in losing a very dear friend. "It is not easy to get a friend in deed, as Cde Samora Machel," he said, while shedding tears.

He warned the demonstrators against violence and senseless destruction of property, and advised that they should only mourn the gallant soldier.

The students set off peacefully on their demonstration, carrying placards which condemned the racist Botha regime and its puppet leaders — President Kamuzu Banda of Malawi and President Mobutu Sese Seko of Zaire — in their collaborating in the assassination of Cde Machel.

"One who uses a spear to kill others shall also be killed by a spear," Cde Tekere said, amid soft

mourning from the demonstrators. Cde Tekere swore in the name of Chimurenga that the indomitable spirit of Cde Samora Machel still led and would always remain in the people's hearts.

In Marondera hundreds of primary school pupils and members of the public from Dombotombo high-density suburbs continued their demonstrations for the second day running.

Yesterday, the demonstrators brought all traffic in the town to a complete standstill, and ordered all shops — except two — to be closed.

Later, the demonstrators assembled at Green Park where they were addressed by the Mashonaland East Provincial Governor, Cde Rwizi Ziyenge, who urged them to be calm.

The governor then invited everyone to attend a mass rally at Rudhaka Stadium on Sunday, which would be addressed by the Minister of Co-operative Development and Political Affairs, Cde Maurice Nyagumbo.

In Gweru at least 600 students from the Mkooba Teachers' College staged a peaceful demonstration.

The students, who carried placards — one of which read: A good Botha is a dead one — assembled at Gweru's Town House where they sang revolutionary songs and attacked the South African regime. — Herald Reporter - ZIS - Midlands Reporter.