

SPORT CANCELLED DURING MOURNING

Herald Reporter

ALL competitive sporting events in Zimbabwe during the two weeks of national mourning have been cancelled and the Prime Minister, Cde Mugabe, is expected to address a national rally in Harare on Sunday in honour of the late President Samora Machel.

The Director of Sports in the Ministry of Youth, Sport and Culture, Cde Killian Bukutu, told The Herald yesterday that the events covered by the cancellation included all league and cup games in all forms of sport, including horse racing.

"In fact, we expect all the country's sportsmen and women to honour the late Mozambican leader by, among other things, attending the national

rally on Sunday and other similar functions being organised for the mourning period," he said

Asked if the cancellation also affected non-competitive sporting events such as social games, Cde Bukutu said all such activities had to be kept low-key and, as he put it, "we do not expect people to be jubilant at this painful moment"

It was hoped that the radio and other media would adjust its musical programmes to be in line with the Government's directive that the nation pay its full respects to the late Mozambican leader.

The 14-day national mourning period started yesterday with flags flying at half-mast, and the national rally on Sunday and other processions are part of the commemoration period for Cde Machel.

Also being lined up for the national mourning period is a big church service

in Harare which is expected to be attended by President Banana and members of all churches in Zimbabwe.

The rally expected to be addressed by Cde Mugabe at Rufaro Stadium on Sunday is being organised as a national event and replaces all other rallies and functions which were due to take place in and around Harare on that day, Zanu (PF) said yesterday.

The party's Harare provincial secretary for publicity and information, Cde John Zhakata, said all people in the city metropolitan area were welcome to attend the rally, which starts at 9 am. The public should be seated by 8 am.

"We are appealing to all employers of domestic and farm workers in and around Harare to release them in time for the rally and would be grateful if the employers could provide transport to ferry them to the stadium in places where buses are not available," he said.

The party's Harare province was

also appealing to all people who would be visiting the communal lands and other places outside the city metropolitan area to come back in time for the gathering.

Buses would start picking up people from the usual points at 6 am. District officials were being asked to attend an inter-district meeting at Stodart Hall in Mbare at 6 pm today where additional details about the rally would be announced, said Cde Zhakata.

The church service being organised by the heads of denominations at the Anglican Cathedral in Harare on Tuesday, the day Cde Samora Machel will be buried, starts at 11 am. Further details will be announced tomorrow the chairman of the church body, Dr Watson Mkwakwami, told The Herald.

"All churches in Zimbabwe are invited to attend the service, which will be held in honour of and respect for our late dear brother Samora Machel," he said.

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