

# 'Samora's death a unity lesson'

THE death of Mozambican President Samora Machel, has exposed the absolute necessity for Zimbabweans to unite and guard their independence jealously, the Prime Minister, Cde Mugabe, said yesterday.

Addressing the Zanu (PF) Midlands Provincial Congress, Cde Mugabe said Zimbabwe had to attain a level of operational preparedness to defend herself from sudden aggression by both internal and external elements.

"The mysterious plane crash in which President Machel perished has exposed to us the absolute necessity for us to unite and, through the phenomenon and instrumentality of our unity, guard our independence, sovereignty and economic institutions jealously day and night and every hour.

"South Africa will, in its entrenched defence of apartheid, continue its desperate acts of aggression and destabilisation including assassination against neighbouring independent states," he said.

Cde Mugabe, who is Zanu (PF)'s President and its First Secretary, said Zimbabwe's only defence was in its unity, vigilance, and readiness to fight.

The boers, he said, were committed to the perpetuation of apartheid in South Africa and did not want to see prosperity and the existence of amicable relations between blacks and whites in the neighbouring countries.

Cde Machel's death showed that if Zimbabweans did not unite there would always be disasters, not only in the country, but in the entire region.

Cde Mugabe said that the party had won the liberation struggle because of unity and added that the strength of the party was more important than its leader.

"Mugabe can go today or tomorrow, but if the party is united, the revolution will continue."

He said that in an effort to strengthen the party, the Central Committee would visit all the provinces to see how the districts were organised and those which were in order would be given certificates.

"If our structural transformation reached the desired level of excellence, it should always be easy to send and receive messages up and down the party hierarchy within the shortest possible time."

This structural excellence would also facilitate the mobilisation of the people for action in any emergency situation, the Prime Minister said.

Zimbabweans, he urged, had to intensify efforts towards the attainment

of a higher politico-ideological consciousness and commitment, Cde Mugabe asked the more than 800 delegates to observe a minute's silence in remembrance of the late President Machel.

The Prime Minister said that the late Mozambican leader was a comrade-in-arms not only for his country, but for all the suffering and oppressed people. If it had not been for Cde Machel,

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it would have taken much longer to attain Zimbabwe's independence. He said in the early stages of the liberation war, Zanu (PF) was regarded as a splinter party whose leaders were power-hungry and had no direction.

Mozambique had been the first country to recognise the party and helped

in the establishment of bases from which the freedom fighters operated, hence Cde Machel became the first to pay a state visit to independent Zimbabwe.

"As we mourn his tragic and untimely death, we know that his spirit and love are with us and urge us to re-dedicate ourselves to the principles which he fought for while he lived and continue his just struggle until final victory."

Although it was not yet known for certain whether the plane in which President Machel died had been shot or diverted from its course, "we all think there is a way that was used to drop the plane", Cde Mugabe said.

Zanu (PF) provinces, he said, would choose party members to represent them at Cde Machel's funeral in Maputo on Tuesday. Midlands Correspondent-Ziana.