

**Black
Eye**

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'Numbed, devastated' by death of Machel

WE HAVE yet to discover what the death of President Samora Machel earlier this week portends for this part of Africa. There has been much speculation already. But living, as we do at this time, in a continually changing social, political and economic climate, predicting the future is neither easy nor reliable.

Be that as it may, the black Press has already made up its mind — Machel's death is a disaster. All the editorial comment in the major newspapers are unanimous on this point.

The editorial in the latest issue of *The New Nation* gave the clearest exposition of the depth of black feeling towards Machel:

"We are devastated and numbed by the death of President Samora Machel.

"He was a friend, counsellor and ally of our struggle and our people — a beloved leader and a highly esteemed comrade.

"In the course of winning genuine African independence and developing progressive ideals, President Machel offered up his country, its people and its resources for the greater benefit of the continent's struggle to rid itself of colonialism, imperialism and all forms of repression.

"He, more than anyone else, gave a new meaning to African independence.

"Machel left a revolution unfinished, for he believed, and quite rightly so, that no part of the sub-continent could claim to be free until all people of the region were free.

"Why was Samora Machel so important to our country and our continent?

"Because he removed the African struggle from the narrow and dangerous confines of tribalism and superstition and made us see beyond the illusion.

"He made us understand that Africa's political independence would be meaningless until she achieved a new economic and social order.

"By his singular breadth of vision, the clarity of his ideological line and force of his personality, Machel brought to his country and the region the conviction that not only was People's Power achievable but that it was in fact unavoidable."