

# 40 000 Zimbabweans mourn Machel

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## Herald Reporter

MORE than 40 000 grieving Zimbabweans yesterday gathered at Harare's Rufaro Stadium to mourn President Samora Machel and re-dedicate themselves to the revolution in Southern Africa.

The solemn occasion later addressed by the Prime Minister, Cde Mugabe, brought together Zimbabweans from many parts of the country to commemorate the death of Cde Machel who died in a plane crash in South Africa last Sunday night.

The mourners, some wearing traditional black garb, started filing into the stadium as early as 7 am and by 9 am were already seated awaiting the arrival of the Prime

Minister.

Among the mourners were senior Government and party officials, a delegation from Mozambique and representatives of various liberation movements in Southern Africa.

Braving the scorching heat, the crowd, brought together by this tragic event, was noticeably quiet and listened to some revolutionary songs from various singing groups organised for the occasion. There was also some traditional dances.

In one corner of the stadium, the national flag, flying at half mast, forlornly swayed in a gentle breeze.

With choirs singing revolutionary songs — some vowing the intensi-

fication of the Southern Africa revolution and others praising Cde Machel and his work and predicting the downfall of the apartheid regime in South Africa — the emotion-charged ceremony began.

At one stage, a youth group, Mbuya Nehanda choir of Tafara, sent the crowd wild with emotion when the youths, one brandishing a dummy rifle, promised in song "that the Boers and their puppets would soon taste the blood that they thrived on".

Cde Mugabe arrived a few minutes after 11 am to a resounding welcome from the crowd which had packed the stadium

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to hear the first public statement the Prime Minister was making on the death of his long-standing ally and comrade-in-arms.

Before addressing the rally, Cde Mugabe invited the mourners to observe a minute of silence in memory of Cde Machel and others who died in the crash.

The Prime Minister's emotion-charged speech was interrupted at intervals by wailing and cheering from the people, some of them calling for

an end to the evil apartheid system and promising to defend Zimbabwe's independence "at all costs".

Calling on Zimbabweans to share the loss of Cde Machel with their Mozambican brothers and sisters, the Prime Minister told the rally that since the death of the "true revolutionary" the Government was ferrying supplies to Maputo daily. Cde Mugabe later received \$5 843 collected from Zanu (PF) Harare province towards funeral expenses.

He said it had been agreed that 20 Zanu (PF) officials should be chosen from each province to attend the funeral and leave tomorrow morning by plane.

Remarked one old man at the end of the day: "Although they have killed him (Cde Machel), they (the South African government) should realise that those who live by the spear will die by the spear — only this spear is more potent, it is the spear wielded by an angry and oppressed people."