

RESPONSE TO MACHEL'S DEATH ENDS IN COURT

11 5.11.80
Court Reporter

A MAN who allegedly publicly rejoiced at the death of the late Mozambican President, Cde Samora Machel, was on Monday remanded to November 14 for trial.

Douglas Ronald Davidson (41) was charged with contravening a section of the Law and Order Maintenance Act — using insulting words.

It was alleged that he said: "President Machel died when he had gone Christmas shopping in South Africa." The prosecution said that he was in a jubilant mood when he said those words at Belvedere Teachers' College.

Although he was not asked to plead, his lawyer, Mr Byron Venturas, said that his client uttered the words to only one person.

"At that time, he did not appreciate its effect and when he had been informed that the students and staff were angry he apologised publicly. But then, it was too late because the matter was reported to the administration and later to the police," he said.

Davidson was granted \$100 bail by Harare magistrate, Mr Cleopas Kashora. Mr Jonathan Samkange prosecuted.