

# Hundreds pay Machel tribute in poem, song

*Sunday Mail Reporter*

**ABOUT 300 people gathered yesterday at the Harare Polytechnic new hall to pay tribute to Cde Samora Machel who died on October 19 in a mysterious air crash in South Africa.**

The event was attended mainly by local theatre groups, poets and writers. They began by chanting slogans and singing revolutionary songs condemning apartheid.

Books about Cde Machel and Africa were on display and the hall was decked with posters illustrating the Mozambican leader's contribution to the liberation of the people of Southern Africa.

The poetry, drama and songs reflected the history of cultural resistance in southern Africa and spoke of the need to continue the struggle for liberation.

Among the poets was Chirikure Chirikure who presented an emotional poem entitled 'Samora Haarovi' ('Samora will never be forgotten'). This was followed by a poem, 'Gamba Redu Raenda Samora' ('Our hero Samora has gone') read by the Women's Theatre Group.

Also present was writer Chenjerai Hove who read a prose piece about the people's grief at Cde Machel's death.

A film on the life of Cde Machel, entitled 'Rurumba to Maputo Part Two', was screened.

The Zimbabwe Mozambique Friendship Association urged all theatre workers, playwrights, writers, artists and members of the public to compose works in memory of Cde Machel. These will be compiled in book form as a tribute by Zimbabweans.