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## **Zimbabwe**

**Mugabe Blames Pretoria Regime for Machel's Death**  
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[Text] Harare Oct 22 SAPA—Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe today described the South African Government as a “witch” saying the regime was directly responsible for the death of former Mozambican President Samofa Machel in October 1986, the national news agency ZIANA reports.

In his 50-minute address at a rally to commemorate President Machel's death, he said although South Africa had tried to give excuses about the late Mozambican president's death, Zimbabwe was convinced that the Pretoria regime was responsible.

“We rejected, right from when we heard the news, that Mr Machel had died in accident and we will never accept that the plane fell on its own. The boers were directly responsible.”

Mr Mugabe said Mr Machel's death would remain a reminder to all independent southern African states that they had one vicious enemy.

South Africa was using bandits, most of them nationals of neighbouring countries, and directly invading independent southern African states to perpetuate the system of apartheid, he said. President Mugabe said the Frontline States and SADCC countries were united and were making every effort to cushion South African acts of destabilization.

He said South Africa was frustrating Zimbabwe's efforts to secure the routes to the sea through Mozambique and that the regime was under-rating Zimbabwe's military strength.

“We are for peace and we believe in good neighbourliness. Although we might have a small fist, we can, at least, punch hard as evidenced by our victory against colonial rule.”