

Mozambique remembers Samora Machel

As people across Mozambique paid tribute to President Samora Machel yesterday, Prime Minister Pascoal Mocumbi reiterated that the apartheid regime remains the main suspect in the still open case of the mystery plane crash. BLURB reports.

Mozambicans remembered yesterday the country's first President, Samora Machel, who was killed in a plane crash 12 years ago, in the South African locality of Mbuzini.

The ceremonies across the country involved the laying of wreaths on the monuments dedicated to Mozambican heroes and on the tombs of the others who were killed with Machel.

Speaking in those ceremonies, members of the Mozambican government, in different provinces, praised Machel's life and work and stressed that the best way to remember him and those who died with him was to continue their work, consolidating peace and national unity.

In Maputo, Prime Minister Pascoal Mocumbi led the ceremonies at Heroes' Square, where Machel was buried alongside the founder of Frelimo, Eduardo Mondlane.

He reiterated that the apartheid regime is the main suspect in the Mbuzini tragedy.

Speaking to reporters, Mocumbi said that the Mozambican and South African interior ministries were continuing investigations to ascertain the exact circumstances of the plane crash.

The evidence points to the use by the apartheid military of pirate radio beacon which lured the presidential plane away from its correct flight path.

The minister in the presidency for economic and social affairs, Eneas Comiche, denied that the government has abandoned to their fate the relatives of the Mbuzini victims, saying that the government established immediately a support programme for them.

The ruling Frelimo party published a statement, remembering Machel's life and work.

In that message it urged Mozambicans to involve themselves in the "building of a better future for the country's children", as a way to "pay tribute in a permanent manner to the late President Samora Machel."

"To remember Samora, after 12 years, is to remember the Mozambique of the past, it is to recall the Mozambique of the present, and it is to think of the Mozambique of the future, because Samora is part of that heroic and determined Mozambique," the document says. - PANA, October 20, 1998.