

Fugitive pilot remembered for anti-white attitudes

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MAPUTO — Adriano Francisco Bomba, the Mozambican pilot who recently sought political asylum in South Africa, is remembered for his "racist feelings" against white people, according to the Mozambique information agency, AIM.

In April 1974 he apparently told a friend: "Now we are going to be independent we can kick out all the whites."

According to AIM, his school friend considered him "somewhat cynical," calm and introverted.

A good student, he never drank or smoked and talked little to his classmates.

A friend of his told AIM that Bomba used to read a lot, preferably technical and

science fiction books and that, at times, he came out with a very elevated opinion of himself, calling himself the "phenomenon."

He was born on May 7, 1958 in Matola, an industrial - residential area about 10 km from Maputo. He lived there until called up for military service in 1976.

He is the son of Francisco Mahulande Bomba, now working for Mobil in Maputo, and of South African-born Miriam Zibia Bomba. He has five sisters and one brother. The brother is a musician with some records to his name.

One of his sisters is married to a Mozambican air force captain. Part of his family, from both his mother's and his father's side, live in South Africa, although it is not

known where.

He finished his primary school studies in Matola and then moved to the Joaquim Araujo High School from where he passed in 1973 to the then Antonio Enes High School, renamed Francisco Mavinga Secondary School after independence.

His standard 9 chemistry teacher recalls that he finished with high marks in maths. Like his brother he liked music and formed a band.

From 1976 to 1979 he trained in the Soviet Union as a MIG pilot.

In October 1980 he visited his family in Matola. A childhood friend who met him then said Bomba had taken to drinking heavily.

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