

WE'VE LOST THE CHAMPION OF FREEDOM: MUZENDA

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Midlands Reporter
GWERU.

THE late President Samora Machel of Mozambique was yesterday described by the Deputy Prime Minister, Cde Simon Muzenda, as having been the most outstanding pan-Africanist of his generation.

"Africa last week lost one of its illustrious sons, the Organisation of African Unity lost a true champion of African freedom, this region has lost one of its important supporters for development, and Zimbabwe in particular has lost a man who did so much for the independence of our country," Cde Muzenda said.

He was addressing a memorial rally for the late Cde Machel at Mkoba Stadium in Gweru.

"The prominent place of Samora Machel among the great leaders of the African revolution is both indisputable and unique," he said.

The leader of Frelimo during his country's struggle for independence, and of his country since political independence, Cde Machel had been Africa's foremost statesman, said Cde Muzenda.

"Unlike other African leaders, Samora Machel was able to construct what is correctly regarded as Africa's most stable and probably most viable political system while giving considerable assistance to nationalists and liberation movements from other African countries," said the Deputy Prime Minister.

The Zanu (PF) Midlands provincial chairman, Cde Richard Hove, said the hand that killed Cde Machel was the hand of the enemy.

"Can we be sure that there is no such hand in Zimbabwe?" asked Cde Hove, who is also the

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Minister of Mines.

He urged Zimbabweans to be vigilant against the enemy, and to watch any suspicious characters within their midst, whom they should report to their leadership, right from the cell, branch and district levels.

● The Minister of State for Security, Cde Emmer-son Munangagwa, yesterday disclosed that a group of agents had infiltrated into the country to assassinate the Prime Minister, Cde Mugabe.

Speaking at a memorial rally for the late Mozambican President Machel in Chinhoyi, the minister said when the news about the plot to kill Cde Machel was circulated, "another group had been sent to assassinate Cde Mugabe".

He did not say what happened to the infiltrators or from which country they came from.

"The same people who killed Cde Machel want to kill Cde Mugabe. We must protect our leader."

He told the rally that Cde Mugabe and Zimbabwe and the progressive world had lost a true leader. — Ziana