

# 'Death dealers cannot kill Machel spirit'

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THE daily butchering of innocent and defenceless people in troubled South Africa and Namibia excites horror and revulsion from all people of honour who value and respect the sanctity of human life, President Banana said in Harare yesterday.

Cde Banana told a grief-stricken inter-denominational memorial service for the late President Samora Machel of Mozambique at the National Sports Centre that the tragic death of Cde Machel on the "accursed soil of South Africa" was a manifestation of the regime's wicked policy of destabilisation.

"For how long will the international community, especially the Western world, continue to display callous indifference before they can wake up to the reality that apartheid is a cancer that requires the collective endeavour of all people of goodwill to remove it?"

he asked.

Perhaps, he added, the fact that Cde Machel died on South African soil might not be an accident, but a powerful message to the struggling masses of South Africa and Namibia.

"It is a pointer to those dedicated to the cause of freeing their country that no price is too high; no sacrifice is too great; no love is too precious and no life is too sacred to be laid down for a noble cause," said Cde Banana.

Cde Samora Machel has become a concrete embodiment of South Africa's fight for freedom — a martyrdom incarnate for a free South Africa, he told the service that was punctuated by hymns and prayers.

"His crimson blood that was shed at Komatiport will serve to water the tree of freedom which will bear the fruits of peace, progress, prosper-

ity and social justice that will drown the sterile drought of apartheid."

Cde Banana said the death of Cde Machel left a "yawning gap" in the ranks of the Frontline States and also posed a serious challenge to the fighting cadres of South Africa and Namibia.

"It is my earnest hope and prayer that the blood of these countless martyrs will inspire even those on the fringes of the struggle to throw in their lot with the progressive forces for change, and thus hasten the hour of redemption and salvation for this strife-torn country," he said.

Describing the late Mozambican leader and founder-member of the Frontline States, Cde Banana said: "He was energetic, enthusiastic, exuberant and highly sociable.

"He was a pan-Africanist at heart, and strove hard for unity and solidarity among the continent's

peoples."

Unity and solidarity was now imperative, he said adding that a revitalised commitment to the cause of freedom and social justice — for which Cde Machel stood — on the part of the Frontline States would demonstrate to the enemy that this "heinous crime has not triumphed over us".

"The tragic event, though sad and painful, must not be allowed to dampen our spirits or destroy our hopes for the future," said Cde Banana.

He said nothing could separate Samora from the love of his people. "It is because of this love that Samora can never die — even with mortal death, his memory will live forever with the people he loved and served with singular dedication."

The whole of Southern Africa and indeed the whole of humanity was the poorer for Cde Machel's passing away. "We have been cruelly robbed of a dear friend and brother, and a statesman

who was an indefatigable fighter for freedom and social justice."

President Banana added that Cde Machel chose to carry the cross of the oppressed, and to champion and fight for those values that would ensure the birth of a new world.

The Botha regime and those before it had fouled, contaminated and profaned that "beautiful land" — South Africa. "South Africa today stands in need of reclamation, cleansing and redemption."

He added: "It would be an undying tribute to Cde Samora Machel if Komatiport could become an eternal symbol of resistance to oppression — a Calvary of redemption for those in search of freedom."

Cde Banana described Cde Machel as one who belonged to a rare breed of men and women of honour, one who defied history and smashed the chains of bondage and subjugation of his fellow compatriots.