

# ZIMBABWE TO MOURN MACHEL FOR TWO WEEKS

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*Herald Reporter*

THE Government has declared a two-week period of national mourning starting today so the nation can pay its full respects to the late President Samora Machel and Tuesday next week, the day of Cde Machel's funeral, will be a public holiday with churches requested to hold memorial services.

A statement from the Prime Minister's Office last night set out the programme for the nation to pay "its full respects to the late President Samora Machel, a gallant hero and freedom fighter for the liberation of Mozambique, Zimbabwe, South Africa and Namibia".

The 14-day mourning period starts today and all flags will fly at half mast during this period.

## PREMIER COMFORTS WIDOW

*Herald Reporter*

THE Prime Minister, Cde Mugabe, has sent a personal message to the wife of the late Mozambican leader, Cde Graca Machel, urging her to take joy and solace in the immortality of President Machel's magnanimous deeds.

Cde Mugabe said that while it was a heart-rending and irretrievable loss for Cde Graca and the family, they were not alone in their grief.

"It is an irreparable loss to me and Cde Sally. An irreparable loss of one who cherished as dear the political

freedom of not only Mozambicans, but that of Zimbabweans, South Africans and Namibians as well as that of the whole African continent."

Cde Mugabe said the revolution had made Cde Machel a brother, bosom friend and universal humanitarian.

"There could be no greater revolutionary anywhere, no greater friend anywhere, no greater husband and father. Please take solace in the immortality of his magnanimous deeds. These shall live forever and tell the undying story of Samora."

On Sunday rallies and processions will be held throughout the country in commemoration of President Machel's tragic death and the deaths of all who died with him.

The statement said that the Government had decided to give as much assistance as possible to people of Mozambique to enable them to bury their hero and the other sons and daughters who perished in the tragic incident in a burial befitting them.

An advance team of

three ministers led by the Minister of Information, Posts and Telecommunications, Dr Nathan Shamuyarira is going to Maputo to co-ordinate the funeral arrangements with the Mozambican authorities.

The other two ministers are the Minister of Energy and Water Resources and Development, Cde Kumbirai Kangai, and the Minister of Youth, Sport and Culture, Cde David Karimanzira.

Yesterday the Prime

Minister, Cde Mugabe, sent a message of condolence to the people of Mozambique and a second message to Cde Graca Machel, President Machel's widow.

In his condolence messages, the Prime Minister said President Machel might be gone but his ideals would live on.

In a message to the government and people of Mozambique on the death of Cde Machel and his delegation in a plane

# Nation to mourn for Machel

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crash, Cde Mugabe described the Mozambican leader as a champion of freedom and fighter against oppression and exploitation.

"Cde Machel's dedication to the struggle for a free and just Africa, rid of apartheid and other forms of oppression and exploitation, will always be cherished by the people of Africa in particular and generally by the people of

the progressive world who cherish the sacred values of freedom, justice and democracy."

Cde Machel's tragic death had deprived Mozambique of a dear and dedicated revolutionary leader, a champion of the people's struggle for freedom and independence and a champion of that country's consolidation and sustenance.

Cde Mugabe said he had learnt of Cde Machel's death with great shock and a deep sense of loss. He said Cde Machel had been his true friend and comrade-in-arms.

Zimbabweans in particular would remember and be grateful for Cde Machel's selfless dedication to Zimbabwe's independence.

"Even as his country was celebrating its own independence, he made it clear that freedom could not be complete without the freedom of Zimbabwe."

Cde Machel's commitment to Zimbabwe's freedom had ultimately

translated itself to the commitment of freedom and justice for the toiling masses of South Africa and Namibia. "Indeed, as the true revolutionary that he was, he cherished the freedom of the Palestinians under the PLO, of Western Sahara under Polisario and East Timor under Fretilin."

Cde Mugabe, who is chairman of the Non-Aligned Movement, said the movement had lost a strong pillar and unwavering supporter of the movement.

He recalled Cde Machel's role at last month's NAM conference in Harare, where he said the Mozambican leader had contributed significantly to the meeting's success.

Cde Machel had not only resolutely believed in the principles of non-alignment but had been outspoken on all the vital questions the movement faced such as questions of national sovereignty and non-interference in the domestic affairs of

nations and the need for world peace and security through disarmament.

"He was a vigorous advocate of South-South co-operation and argued for an international economic order based on justice and fair play recognising the interdependence of developed and developing nations."

Cde Mugabe said he believed he was expressing the true feelings and sentiments of the heads of state and governments of NAM and the millions of people they represented in expressing sincere sympathies and condolences to the government and people of Mozambique.

"At the same time, I affirm the movement's increasing abhorrence to apartheid as an evil blood-thirsty monster that must be fought until it is exterminated."

Cde Mugabe hailed the Mozambican revolution, Mozambican independence and Zimbabwe's solidarity with Mozambique.



A CLOSE-UP picture of part of the wreckage of the aeroplane shot down in South Africa near the Mozambican border on Sunday night resulting in the death

of President Samora Machel of Mozambique and a number of his key government officials. Covered with a blanket is the body of an unidentified victim.