

Smith praises Samora Machel for his courage

THE leader of the Conservative Alliance of Zimbabwe and former Rhodesian prime minister, Mr Ian Smith, yesterday praised the late President Samora Machel of Mozambique, saying he had one great quality lacking among many politicians.

Speaking in the Assembly during debate on a motion of condolence to the people of Mozambique, he said Cde Machel was a courageous man who was able to make decisions even if they ran contrary to public opinion.

"Samora Machel had one very great quality (courage), one which I believe is desirable in all people but particularly desirable in leaders," he said.

Mr Smith, whose government was responsible for the formation of the MNR bandits in Mozambique, said the death of Cde Machel could be detrimental to the future and well-being of the Southern African region.

Elaborating on Cde Machel's courage, he said, "he made a number of decisions during his political life which went contrary to public opinion . . . That

is a true mark of leadership".

The CAZ leader described Cde Machel's death as "untimely and tragic" and said his party associated itself with Cde Machel's wife, Graca, and family and the rest of the Mozambicans in mourning the late leader.

Mr Smith's remarks were echoed by Cde Edgar Kwenda (Zanu-PF, Karoi) who said while aware that his life was in danger, Cde Machel had courageously continued to fight for peace in Southern Africa.

He called on all Mozambicans to unite under the leadership of newly-elected President Joaquim Chissano so he could successfully continue with the work Cde Machel had left unfinished.

The Zanu (PF) MP for Gweru district, Cde Ernest Tongogara, said Cde Machel was a hero and died for his love of peace.

"Cde Machel was killed while on a mission of peace and for the love of peace he sacrificed his life, he sacrificed the lives of his people and he sacrificed his country's economy."