

Zimbabwe Minister on Support for Frelimo Government in Mozambique

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Zimbabwe has reiterated that it will not allow the self-styled National Resistance Movement (MNR) to take over power in Mozambique. Zimbabwe's Minister for Information and Telecommunications, Nathan Shamuyarira, said in Dar es Salaam yesterday that Zimbabwe will never allow the Frelimo government to be toppled by the South African-backed MNR bandits. We don't want to see the Frelimo government fall, because in Zimbabwe we will be threatened, he stressed.

Shamuyarira, who was speaking at the university of Dar es Salaam, where he taught for many years before the independence of Zimbabwe, said the major priority of Zimbabwe and other frontline countries was to flush out the MNR in Mozambique. The Minister said if the MNR were allowed to assume power in Mozambique, this would pose a threat to all the frontline states from the South African regime.

Shamuyarira, who was giving a public talk on the "struggle in southern Africa after the death of Samora Machel", noted that there was now a growing military confrontation in southern Africa between South Africa and its henchmen and the forces of liberation. He blamed the United States and Britain for their continued support to the racist regime and bandit groupings in the region.

Referring to the tragic death of Samora Machel, the Zimbabwean Minister accused Pretoria of having a hand in the plane accident which killed the late president last October. He said evidence by the international commission of enquiry formed to investigate into the circumstances leading to the plane crash has indicated that racist South Africa was involved. "Although there is no evidence that the plane was shot at, there is evidence that the plane was technically sabotaged by South Africa," he said. He said a few minutes before the plane was to land at Maputo airport, communications between the pilot and the airport control tower broke down, indicating that there was jamming of the control tower by South Africa. He added that even the evidence after the incidence arising from the behaviour of the South African officials at the crash scene indicated Pretoria's involvement.

On the question of sanctions against South Africa, the Minister, who was here to attend the ruling party (CCM) celebrations, said sanctions would be effective if they were imposed by all countries, particularly African countries. He said sanctions would not achieve their intended effect if some countries continued to collaborate with the racists. Shamuyarira said Zimbabwe was now looking for alternative routes for its goods in anticipation of South African retaliation against the country after the imposition of sanctions. He praised the people of South Africa, particularly the youth, for their high level of political consciousness, which, he said, was an important factor in the struggle against apartheid.