

Zimbabwe hails Chissano's choice

ZIMBABWE yesterday hailed the election of Cde Joaquim Chissano as the new Mozambican leader.

In a congratulatory message to Cde Chissano, the Prime Minister, Cde Mugabe, who is Zanu (PF) first secretary and president said:

"By electing you to the highest office, the politburo and central committee of Frelimo have demonstrated not only the confidence and high esteem in which you are held but also the political maturity and unity of the Mozambican leadership in a time of great loss and potential crisis due to the death of Cde Samora Moises Machel."

Cde Mugabe said Zimbabwe had no doubt that Cde Chissano would carry on his entrusted duties well. "Frelimo, the government and fraternal people of Mozambique will persevere in the struggle to advance their revolution and defend national independence."

Cde Mugabe re-affirmed Zimbabwe's complete solidarity with Mozambique. The two countries had a common struggle

against imperialism, neo-colonialism and the racist South African regime's acts of aggression and destabilisation.

Cde Mugabe said he was speaking on behalf of the Zanu (PF) Central Committee and party as a whole as well as the Government and people of Zimbabwe in wishing Cde Chissano well.

● President Ali Hassan Mwinyi of Tanzania has congratulated Cde Chissano on being elected president.

In a message yesterday Cde Mwinyi said Tanzania was confident that under Cde Chissano's leadership, Mozambique would further consolidate and preserve its independence and territorial integrity.

President Mwinyi assured Cde Chissano that as Frontline States, Tanzania and Mozambique would always work closely together in the common struggle against apartheid and colonialism in Southern Africa.

● The Pan Africanist Congress of South Africa yesterday congratulated

the newly elected Mozambican leader.

In a message telexed from Dar es Salaam the PAC chairman, Cde Johnson Mlambo, expressed his confidence in Cde Chissano's leadership in strengthening unity among the Mozambicans and neighbouring states for the fight against racism and colonial domination.

● Portuguese President Mario Soares and Prime Minister Anibal Cavaco Silva sent separate notes of congratulations to Cde Chissano, hours after Cde Chissano was named president.

Another message of congratulations came from the United States, which pledged to work with Cde Chissano.

● Members of both houses of the Indian parliament have expressed grief over the death of President Samora Machel.

On the first day of the five-day winter session of Parliament, the members yesterday observed a brief silence in memory of President Machel. — Herald Reporter - Ziana-Shihata-Pana-IPS-PTI.