

Eulogy at Mozambican Leader's Funeral: "Samora Machel Lives"

Maputo home service in Portuguese 0654 gmt 28 Oct 86

Excerpts from live relay of eulogy at the funeral of President Samora Machel read by Marcelinos dos Santos, member of the Frelimo party Political Bureau and Secretary of the People's Assembly Standing Commission, at city hall in Maputo (ME/8402/ii):

Comrade President: How can we speak of you? How can we evoke you as much and as well as you deserve, as we still have your irreplaceable voice echoing within us?

Your voice was sometimes vibrant with emotion, and at other times full of tenderness, but always as enveloping as the embrace of a father, or a brother. . .

How can we speak of you, if it was from you that we borrowed the most adequate words and the most just ideas, in order to discover ourselves, the soul of people, the heart of the world? How can we speak of you, Comrade President, if the whole country is still gasping with astonishment at your journey of no return? How can we speak of our refusal to accept that we will never again feel your strong handshake, but that we have been left with the certainty of your friendly hand's warmth forever resting on the shoulders of our fatherland?

How can we cry for you, if throughout your life, your sacrifices, and long marches on the path to freedom, you never taught us to cry? Instead, you taught us to transform pain into redoubled strength, more powerful still than the reasons for the tears themselves. You were an indefatigable combatant, and you fell in the struggle against apartheid. An immense vacuum has opened around us. Your death fell upon us suddenly. It wrapped Mozambicans in a heavy blanket of pain and anxiety. A part of each one of us died with you.

Voices from all over the world - from Africa, and from all continents - reach us continuously. They express revulsion and they search for the enemy who took you away from your friends. These harrowing voices ask the reason for your unnecessary death.

Voices from all over the world, friendly voices, voices of admirers - and you had so many wherever you went - voices from those who heard you and learned of your ideals and of your love for peace, progress and the well-being of all mankind; they are the voices of comrades and combatants who still fight and die for the liberation of their peoples and for the construction of a fatherland. They are the voices of the humiliated and oppressed who are prepared to give their lives for freedom so that they may assert their dignity. . .

During the struggle, you said that our main weapon was unity. The fatherland which you created is the fatherland of all Mozambicans, the fatherland of equality beyond race, colour, tribe, ethnicity, sex and creed. You yourself were the most important element behind national unity. You are the eternal symbol of the Mozambican spirit. We will always remember the way you pointed at our flag and proudly said: this flag covers us all. We will never forget the way you defined our society's anti-racist beliefs and declared: this is our most sophisticated weapon.

You elevated the fight against racism to the dimension of a fundamental component of African nationalism. To you, it was not just a matter of accepting the collaboration of citizens of all races. You taught us that relations must not be defined in racial terms in any continent. For you, anti-racism did not have the limited dimensions of a ploy. It was a principle on which you never wavered.

Today, men of all races share the same rights and obligations in our fatherland. You were the implacable enemy of tribalism and regionalism. You used to say: the tribe must be killed so that the nation may live. You knew how to see in all forms of tribalism and regionalism an equal number of spears pointing at our people's heart. In all of them you identified the venom which corrodes unity, which is our most valuable weapon. You taught us that the petty face of ambition always lurks behind racism, tribalism, and regionalism and that this ambition often leads to crime and treason. These views were reflected both in your political stands and in the manner in which you related to people of all tribes and races without any preconceptions. That was how you chose your friends in your private life. In each man, you only saw his concrete qualities and his universal dimension. . .

The world today recognises the Mozambican people, our personality, our dearest aspirations, our achievements and gains mainly because of you. Your international activity, your activity as a great revolutionary leader and a statesman of world status led to worldwide recognition of Frelimo and the Mozambican state. Your name is and will

forever continue to be linked to main causes - the fundamental struggles of peoples of our era. It will be impossible to study anti-colonial and anti-imperialist struggles without studying your thoughts and actions.

Africa had in you one of its most brilliant sons devoted to the cause of liberation and African unity. During decisive periods, your voice led the OAU to defend firmly its principles following your courageous espousal of correct stands. You understood inherently that the struggle for the national liberation of African peoples did not end with the achievement of political independence. You defended with energy and persistence the development of co-operation between African countries as prerequisites for unity and an essential instrument of African liberation.

In fraternal relationships with Angola, Cape Verde, Guinea/Bissau, and Sao Tome e Principe you made great contributions to the transformation of ties forged during the national liberation struggle into a driving force of our development and diplomatic action.

In southern Africa, together with your colleagues of the frontline states and the SADCC [Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference] who today are with you here, you knew to combine active support for the struggles of the oppressed and development of regional co-operation as fundamental weapons in the fight for the total independence of our region. In your international action, you always strove for the noble ideals of independence, peace, development and equality among the peoples of the Non-Aligned Movement. The world recalls vividly your vibrant words in defence of these ideals. You strengthened and validated our friendship and solidarity with all socialist countries. In the interest of our fatherland, you led Mozambique to establish relations with all countries for the cause of peace, liberty, co-operation and progress.

You were unwavering in your fight against apartheid. You viewed apartheid as a problem affecting all of mankind; you understood that it is the very concept of mankind that is at issue in South Africa. You hated the racist system deeply. You considered the destruction of apartheid to the political liberation of the entire South African people, the oppressed majority, and the white minority living with a fear which it created for itself. In this context you said that it was only when every South African climbed to the top of the mountain of equality that they would see the beauty of their country and that of the South African people. Death prevented you from seeing your ideal fulfilled, but history will prove you right, although not everyone has yet been able to understand.

Comrade President, you fell in a crucial and difficult period in our history. The prolonged aggression against our country has already caused deep wounds. We do not possess the tranquility we need to reconstruct our land. We still face hunger. Our production is constantly sabotaged by our enemies. We still face nakedness, disease, ignorance and backwardness inherited from colonial domination. With you, we were certain to rid ourselves of obstacles. With you, we did not know fear. We did not know doubt or vacillation. With you, everything was possible. You were our certainty. You were our way.

Now, we shall have to learn to follow. We shall continue the struggle, Comrade President, because your example has not disappeared. You remain with us, with every Mozambican. You continue to live among us. You have given body and dimension to our future. You have overcome time; that is why we say that you shall continue leading our struggle and our hope. We shall win. We shall defeat this deep grief and look forward. You have defined the targets of our fight and taught us how to take up arms. We shall grow stronger in our rage because we have been deprived of you. The Frelimo Party, vanguard of all our triumphs, will grow stronger. We shall deepen the leading role of the party in every place and every sector. By carrying out your guidelines, we shall strengthen our army and be on a permanent offensive. Our defence and security forces will grow in organisation, training, discipline, and fighting readiness.

As you have always wanted, we shall establish a Nachingwea [training camp in Tanzania during liberation struggle] in every centre of political and military training. Our

soldiers will increasingly be a model of behaviour, courage and respect for our people. Our soldiers will pursue the example of the heroic guerrillas who, under your leadership, defeated the colonial army. We shall defeat armed banditry and external aggression. We remember vividly the clear directives you left for us shortly before your departure. The objectives you defined will be realised.

The roads will be free of criminals and highwaymen. The communal villages will cease to be subject to massacres. At schools children will no longer experience terror. The hospitals that we have built will not be destroyed. Our people will know peace and calm. We will accomplish all this because we are a people whose unity is consolidated by your blood and strengthened by your memory. And those who will come after will know how to feel proud of these heroic years. The light of your example will remain as a source of inspiration, a cause for pride and renewed trust.

We are going to develop our grassroots organisations - the party's arms. The Mozambican women, to whom you always dedicated special care and attention, will correspond to your continuing concern by further involving themselves in the process of their total emancipation. For the Mozambican youth you will continue to be a model to be followed. The sap of the nation - as you used to call them - will strengthen the fatherland now more than ever before. . .

As you used to say, the most important thing is to organise ourselves. Victory is prepared and organised. You have already fulfilled the most difficult part. You gave us the tools and the science to make them efficient. We will be loyal to your dedication and guidelines. We will continue to build the foundations of people's power - the people's assemblies. Each assembly will be more efficient and functional. The deputies will have concrete tasks and work on the economic, cultural, education, health, and production fronts. We will practice your extremely human code for living.

Others always deserved your attention. Nobody was anonymous. For you there were no human problems that were too small. Despite all the concerns and responsibilities of a statesman you personally dealt with countless individual cases that people who trusted you had brought to your attention. Your firm attitude was also full of tenderness and human sympathy. You always developed profound friendships. All people regarded you as a true father. For you, governing was a form of loving. That is why you were loved by all. Soldiers regarded you as their commander-in-chief but also as the eldest brother whom they obeyed out of respect, trust and admiration.

We will follow your example of unequalled humanity. Just as it was for you, serving the people will be for us an act of love. You were a unique leader. You were in the streets, at the factory and in the barracks. You did not wait for reports nor were you bound to the office. There was no formality preventing you from directly contacting the people and [words indistinct]. There was no other priority. The problems of the people were always your first concern. You were implacable against abuse and injustice. You denounced illegality even when it emerged from within our own organisations. We will make sure legality is respected. We will fight arrogance and arbitrariness.

You taught us about the grandeur of our country. You encouraged the pride of being Mozambican and the understanding of the complexity of our society, nurturing respect for the diversity which is the wealth of our culture. With your own example you taught us leadership and our own way of wielding power. We have grasped your teaching. In the People's Republic of Mozambique people's power will be exercised in that living and complete manner. We will always be where there is combat, production and construction. We will know how to hate the way you hated traitors to our revolutionary cause. We will know how to point the weapons inward and neutralise those who grow wealthy at the expense of the misery of others. We will apply the principles of our socialist option and will solve the problems of the people.

We are armed with your example. We are armed with our irreversible gains. Although we are besieged by war we are capable of transforming unity into an impenetrable fortress. We are Mozambicans - citizens without race, without tribe, and without

distinction of origin or creed. We are a people who are conscious of our place and role in history. We shall never abdicate our internationalist principles. We shall pursue the support for and solidarity with the struggle against racism, colonialism, and oppression. The People's Republic of Mozambique shall continue to be a firm rearguard of the struggle of other peoples. No force and no obstacles will be able to divert us from the path that we chose with you. . .

President Samora Machel, we hereby solemnly pledge to continue with your work, loyal to your example as a man and fighter. We hereby pledge to defend with our lives every inch of our sacred land. We pledge to increasingly consolidate national unity, a weapon and instrument of victory. We pledge to build a Mozambique that you dreamed of - a developed, prosperous, and socialist Mozambican fatherland. Your dreams are also ours and so is your struggle. Comrade President, the most difficult period for all of us has arrived - the period of farewell. However, we return to the earth only your body while you remain with us. We shall never say goodbye to you. A people cannot say goodbye to its history. Samora Machel lives. The struggle continues [crowd shouts "continues, continues, continues"]; the struggle continues [crowd shouts "continues, continues, continues"]; the struggle continues [crowd shouts "continues, continues, continues"].