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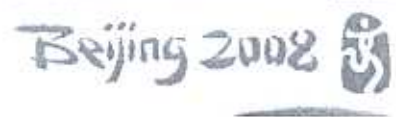
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NEWS

SADC LEADERS MOURN GREAT BRITISH WRITER

HARARE, Aug 25 (NNN-New Ziana) - Southern African leaders and veteran nationalists on paid tribute to the late journalist and publisher, David Martin, who died in Harare on Aug after a long battle with cancer.

Martin worked tirelessly to champion the cause of southern Africa 's liberation struggles tl his writings.

Various Heads of State and former presidents narrated in condolence messages at the bu Martin how they worked closely with him during and after the independence struggles.

A prolific writer, Martin worked closely with nationalist movements in Mozambique , Naml Tanzania , Zambia and Zimbabwe and gained the trust of the leadership during and after independence.

He developed personal friendships in the 1960s with various nationalists including the late former President of Tanzania, Julius Nyerere; the late Samora Machel of Mozambique and former Namibian President Sam Nujoma among others.

President Robert Mugabe, in a condolence message, described the death of Martin as a lo the country and the region.

He said Martin was a "rare type of journalist who connected with the liberation struggle in region."

The President said Martin understood and supported the struggle for land in Zimbabwe .

In recognition of his works that included various publications he wrote on Zimbabwe 's his the government granted him a state assisted funeral.

Former Tanzanian President, Benjamin Mkapa, described Martin as a 'household name' an journalists and politicians during the 10 years he lived in Tanzania in the 1960s when he as a journalist at the Tanganyika Standard newspaper.

He said Martin was not easy to intimidate:

"He gave and took the challenge, traded questions and criticism with other journalists, m included," he said in a condolence message.

"He won the trust and friendship of southern African leaders from when they were liberati fighters to when they became presidents.

"David was against injustice not only in white dominated southern Africa as some people have expected, he was against injustice everywhere."

Mozambican President, Armando Guebuza, described Martin as a great friend of Mozambii

"It is a loss to Mozambique as we will miss his advice and encouragement as we soldier o building a better and prosperous Mozambique ," he said.

"His tremendous contribution to the region will also be remembered."

The Zambian Ambassador to Zimbabwe , Sheilla Siwela, who was present at the burial sa "David left a permanent foot print in our region and his death will be remembered in SAD

A representative from the Namibian Embassy also showered praise on the late Martin whc described as someone who led a rich life full compassion.

Zanu PF secretary for legal affairs and rural housing and social amenities minister, Emme Mngangwa commended Martin for the role he played during Zimbabwe 's struggle for

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Independence.

"He was useful to us as a liberation movement, government and the party. He had an anti mind," he said.

He said it was rare for a Briton to work with nationalists for over 33 years joining them in trials and tribulations.

"We embrace him as one of us. He had a human heart and cared for others," he said.

"He served humanity and us in southern Africa with great humility."

Zanu-PF's secretary for information and publicity, Nathan Shamuyarira described Martin a totally committed journalist.

"He pioneered a lot of writing on the liberation struggle which was not taken seriously by Europeans who wanted to denigrate it," he said.

He urged journalists in the region to emulate Martin whom he said did not misrepresent facts and continued to uphold journalistic ethics.

Zimbabwe Defence Forces commander, General Constantine Chiwenga said: "He did a lot of work by using the pen and to him the pen was his rifle."

He chronicled how Martin exposed what transpired during the struggle and portrayed it from a nationalistic perspective.

Chairperson of the Josiah Magama Tongogara Legacy Foundation, Ambassador Simbi Mtshali described how Martin was closely connected to the late nationalist, Tongogara.

At the time of his death, Martin was writing a biography of Tongogara and was also a trustee of his foundation.

"He earned the trust of all the leaders in SADC," he said.

"I was impressed by his ability to get to facts and put them across."

Martin and his wife, Phyllis, co-owned the regional information resource centre, Southern African Research and Documentation Centre established 20 years ago under the patronage of the late Julius Nyerere.

It has offices in Zimbabwe and Mozambique.

SARDC supports integration and developmental initiatives in the post independent SADC.

SARDC board member, Dr Anderson Shankanga, described Martin as a person who demonstrated commitment and unwavering support for the liberation of Southern Africa.

"He generated and circulated information that was critical to the liberation struggle. He was a liberation and developmental journalist," he said.

Martin is survived by his wife and son, Tony.

--NNN-New Ziana