

**Remarks by Dr Anderson Shankanga  
on behalf of the SARDC Board, Management and Staff  
at David Martin's Funeral 24 August 2007**

- Phyllis and family
- Hon. Shamu the Director of ceremonies
- Father Mukonori
- Fellow colleagues and friends of David Martin:

I stand before you to say a few words of tribute to David Martin, on behalf of the Board, Management and staff of the Southern African Research and Documentation Centre (SARDC), in particular on behalf of the Chairperson of the Board, Professor Peter Katjavivi, Ambassador of Namibia to the Federal Republic of Germany, who is unable to be with us on this occasion.

David Martin and Phyllis Johnson founded SARDC more than 20 years ago on the inspiration of the Frontline States and the Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference (SADCC). Under the guidance of its Founding Patron Mwalimu Julius Nyerere, the purpose of the Centre then was to assemble and circulate vital information to assist the politics of the liberation struggle. Today, the Centre works as a strategic resource to support integration and development initiatives in post-colonial and post-apartheid southern Africa.

David Martin's work in the region went back to the 1960's. From that time until his death he demonstrated commitment and unwavering support for the liberation and development of southern Africa. We saw him making an unparalleled contribution to efforts to generate and disseminate fundamental and analytical information needed for the liberation, political and development processes around the region. We saw David working –

- As a liberation and development journalist, a pre-eminent 'front line reporter'
- As a reliable commentator on southern African issues

- As a historian and researcher who sought to establish the link between the past and the present. David was also a vital element within our Board for shaping our inputs into Ambassador Mbita's project on the History of the Struggle in southern Africa.
- As an author and publisher. David established the African Publishing Group, co-founded the Zimbabwe Publishing House and the Zimbabwe International Book Fair. David's writing about different parts of the region provides a formidable source of information on the culture, tourism and economic potential of the region
- As an advocate of improved condition among disadvantaged communities. During the research for one of his books David photographed a young girl in a village community located within one of Tanzania's national parks. She was carrying a bucket of water for the family. David described to the Board the economic circumstances concerning the girl's family. The girl had no prospects for education. David's report to the Board persuaded SARDC to mobilize resources to provide for the girl's education. She is now attending a boarding primary school near Dar es Salaam and doing well in her studies.

SARDC joins southern Africa in celebrating David's contribution to the region's advancement. His departure leaves us all the poorer. But as I end my remarks I must share this with you. The other day during a SARDC Board meeting we received a telephone call from our Patron saying he was getting impatient because he had not received any briefing on the situation in the region for a long time. Mwalimu went on to direct that David must go to him with a brief immediately, and that while he is gone Phyllis will work with all of us to continue the many tasks that he had assigned to David.

Phyllis, we are with you, and we shall together continue the work David started. David, Go Well and May Your Soul Rest in Peace.