

State banquet in Salisbury for Samora Machel

Salisbury radio reported that at the state banquet on 4th August President Canaan Banana had said President Samora Machel had been immortalized in Zimbabwe by having one of the principal avenues in the capital renamed after him; but no matter what Zimbabweans did to mark their high esteem of him it would never suffice to repay their debt of gratitude to Mozambique and its President. In reply, President Machel had told Zimbabweans that their liberation struggle had freed Mozambique from aggression, southern Africa from war, the colonial power from colonialism, and, above all, Zimbabweans themselves from racism. His "dear and respected friend" Robert Mugabe had gained incontestable prestige and respect and had become one of the most outstanding leaders of the African continent. * For details see Sections.

Earlier, on 4th August, Salisbury radio said thousands of Zimbabweans had thronged the streets to welcome President Machel whom Robert Mugabe had described as an admirable friend. The Minister of Information and Tourism, Shamuyarira, had issued a statement congratulating the people of Salisbury for the rousing welcome they had given the country's honoured guest. "The spontaneous effort made by all black and white Zimbabweans to welcome our honoured guest is evidence of the gratitude and appreciation in our hearts for the heroic role played by Mozambique in our long and hard struggle for national independence... We call upon all Zimbabweans in the areas to be visited by President Machel in the next few days to continue giving our guest and his delegation the warm welcome they truly deserve."