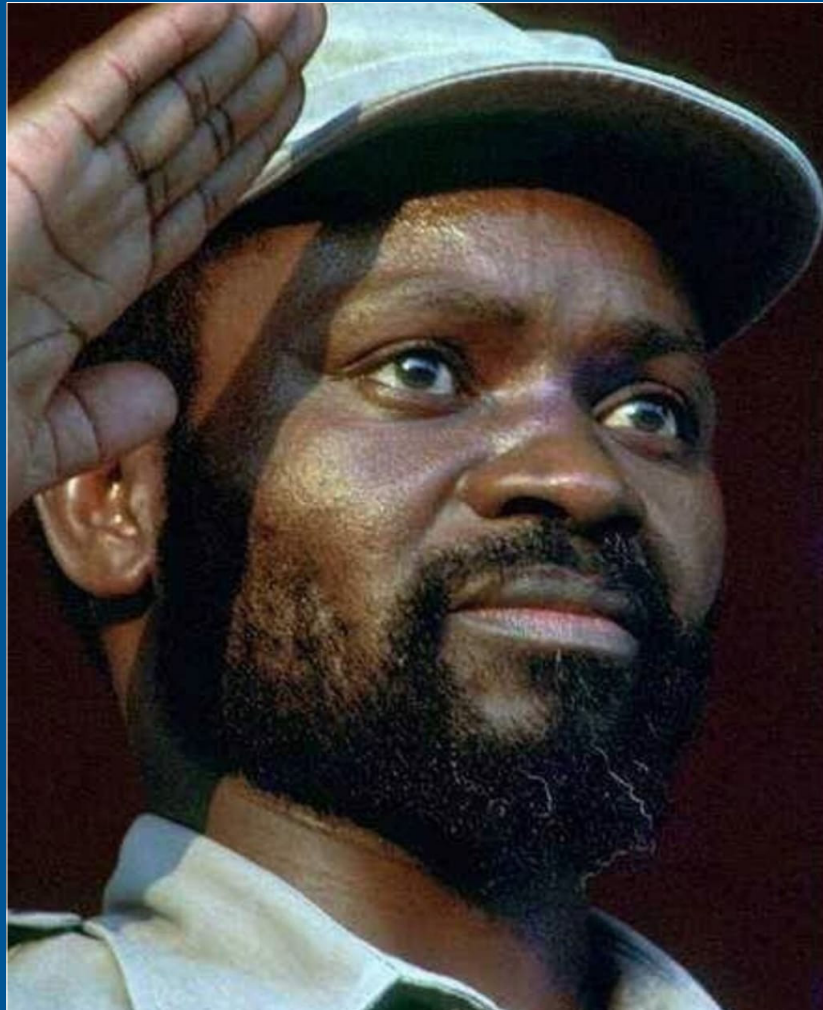




Tshwane University
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20
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2004-2024

PRESIDENT SAMORA MOISÉS MACHEL



COMMENDATIO

PRESIDENT SAMORA MOISÉS MACHEL

Doctor of Public Affairs (Honoris Causa)(Posthumous)

17 October 2024

Samora Moisés Machel was born to Mandande Moisés Machel and Guguiye Thema Dzimba on the 29th of September 1933. He was born in Chilembene, roughly three hundred kilometres from Maputo, Mozambique. Samora Machel was the first President of an independent Mozambique and was in office from 1975 to 1986. President Machel was killed in a plane crash in Mbuzini (South Africa) *en route* from a summit in Mbalax (Zambia) to Maputo, on the 19th of October 1986.

Initially educated in the mission school system of Mozambique, Machel rose to become a qualified professional nurse and served in the profession in Maputo for a decade. Radicalised by his experience of the ill-treatment of African patients and African hospital workers by the Portuguese, Machel decided to join FRELIMO, a liberation movement, in 1963. The late Joe Slovo had vivid memories of how the young Samora Machel travelled with him and JB Marks from Francistown in Botswana to Dar es Salaam in Tanzania. Little did they know that they were travelling with someone who would become the future President of a free Mozambique, less than 15 years later.

From 1964 to 1975, Samora Machel was fully involved in the Mozambican struggle for independence. The whole of the continent and the whole world paid attention when, on Wednesday, 25 June 1975, Samora Machel took his oath of office as President of a free and independent Mozambique. He went on to play a crucial role in the liberation struggle of Angola, Zimbabwe, and South Africa. At the time of his death in 1986, Samora Machel was the most influential political leader in what is today known as the SADC region, inclusive of Angola.

The life of Samora Moisés Machel encapsulated the African quest for independence and self-determination. If freedom was a dream to be clung to, never to be let go of, and if

freedom was a dream that had to be fulfilled in a lifetime, the dreamer of such a compelling dream was none other than Samora Machel, a man on whose shoulders rested the hopes of the people of Mozambique, Angola, Zimbabwe, and South Africa.

Machel was a soldier, a military tactician, a political theorist, and an inventor of the nation that Mozambique has become. The force behind Samora's struggle against colonialism was his patriotism and Pan-Africanism. Under his astute leadership, Mozambique became a catalyst for the liberation of both Zimbabwe and South Africa.

When Mozambique attained independence in 1975, the fledgling Black People's Convention and the South African Student Organisation were filled with hope. Several Viva FRELIMO rallies were organised and scheduled for 24 September 1975.

Although subsequently banned by the then Minister of Police Jimmy Kruger, at least the rallies at Turfloop and Durban went ahead. Several "youngsters" were arrested, including Saths Cooper (24), Muntu Myeza (24), Mosiuoa Lekota (28), Aubrey Mokoape (30), Nkwenkwe Nkomo (24), Pandelani Nefolovhodwe (25), Kaborone Define, Zithulele Cindi (25), Strini Moodley (28) and Gabriel Sedibe, among others.

The impact of Samora Machel on the South African struggle against Apartheid was immense, but has not been adequately recognised.

The Tshwane University of Technology is immensely proud to confer the prestigious degree of Doctor of Public Affairs (Honoris Causa)(Posthumous) in the Faculty of Humanities upon President Samora Moisés Machel for his distinguished contribution in the Liberation Struggle.

Celebrating 20 years of empowering people