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STATEMENT BY COMRADE OLI ER TAMBO AT THE FUNERAL OF  
1 THE LATE COMRADE MOSES MBHEKI MABHIDAI MAPUTO, March 22

"'tL 1286.

We!habe gathered here today to bid farewell to a warrior. We have converged from all corners of the globe to pay homage to a revolutionary. We have convened on this grieving piece of earth to salute a patriot.

We who have walked with giants know that MOSES MBHEKI MABHIDA helongs in that company too.

We who have filed among the rahks know that he was proud to count himself a foot solfier. A colossus because he was supremly human, MOSES MABHIDA has departed from our midst.

A seeming void occupies his space, the air so still without his voice.

Like the pure note of a bugle, that voice rose from the depths of the-Valley of a Thousand Hills, and multiplied.

It rose and grew and multiplied, reverberating from Durban's Curries Fountain until it was heard in Dar-es-Salaam and Havana, Moscow and Managua, Londontand Djakarta, Beijing and Rio de Janeiro, Prague and Washington.

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And in Pretoria the centres and symbols of oppression and repression - the Union Buildings and the VOOrtrekker Monument - heaved and trembled as they received hls message: Death to Fascism: Down with Racism. Freedom for my Peoplet

It is rarely given to a peeple that they should produce a single person who epitomises their hopes and expresses their common resdlve as'MOSGS Mabhida did. '

In simple language he could convey the aspirations of all out people in their magnificent variety, explain the fears and prejudices of the unorganised and sense the feelings of even the most humble among our people.

MOSES MABHIDA could do all this because he was of the people, a broduct of the stern university of mass struggle and.the life experience of the exploited and down-trodden workers and peasants of our country. It was that education which inspired MOSES MABHIDA to join the ANC, the South African Communist Party and the trade unionxmovement which ultimately

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coalesced in the South African Congfesemof Trade Unions.

In the ANC, MOSES MABHIDA rose from the lowest levels to become a natidhal leader, serVing as a member Of the National Executive Committee, a commander and commissar of the people's army, Umkhonto We SizWe, Secretary to the ReVblutionary Council, and one of the ChairperSons of the Politico-Military Council. He was an international representative and an underground organiser.

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IRBROCO through the ranks of the Communist P arty to become its General Secretary, while for many Myears he was Vice-PreSident of the South l African Congress of Trade Unions.

This comblnatlOn of functions sometimes surprisedinui puzzled our friends who wondered why Comrade MABHIDA had to serve in so many senior posltions in different organisations. But, above,all, it enraged our enemies. This combination of functions in one leader of our peohle upset our adversaries because lt reflected the permanence and acceptability among our people ' 9f the idea\_and the practice of the unity,of.the revolutionary democratic, the socialist and the trade union movements.in the South African struggle; for net ionel liberation.

It was part of Comrade foBHIDA's greatness that, having quite e\_arly oh understood the importance of the unity of these great movements, he succeeded in ably serving each one of them individually, and all,of them together, as a collective front for national and social emancipation.

Throhghoht Moses Mgbhida's lifetime; international reaction tried despera- tely hard and consistently to separate the three movements we have SPOE%ng of one from the other and to set them against one another. In the contem- porary period, we have seen determined efforts to separate the tra&e uniohs "from the broad democratic movement and to persuade-them to be nothing'more than an agency-to bring material benefits to a working class Which remains enslaved.

But MOSES MABHIDA knew that the very dignity of labour that thoSeo-iWho toil should-not'only enjoy the fruit of their'sweat,'buteshouldido-so as free men'andfwomehs eAccordingly, he fbught against all attempts to turn- the trade unions into appendages of the'property80wning classes and ' ' resisted all efforts to emasoulate the working class as a leading social force for political change in our country.

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leewise, ihe was fiercely opposed to all manoeuvres which sought to be turned into a base for the creation of a new political formation separate from and opposed to the ANC and the Communist Party., MOSES MABHIDA could take no other position because he had learnt and absorbed the lesson passed on to him and to us by the late Chief Albert Lutuli: that the ANC and SACTU were to each other - a spear and a Shieldo' MOSES MABHIDA knew that the durability of the alliance between the ANC, the Communist Party and the trade union movement lay in strengthening each as an independent formation and in securing their co-operation on an entirely voluntary basis. He therefore always worked to ensure that these formations respected one another and developed among them a deep-seated feeling of revolutionary unity and interdependence.

MOSES MABHIDA knew, it, as clearly as he was convinced of the certainty of our victory, that the historic and urgent issue of the day in South Africa is the question of the transfer of power to the people. He saw in the ANC the unique and authentic vanguard to mobilise and lead our people to victory. None among us was more conscious than he that the African National Congress could only carry out its historic mission if it maintained the character it had come to assume - that of a parliament of all the people of our country, the representative of our future, the negation of the divisions and conflicts that racial arrogance and capitalist greed have imposed on our people.

That is why Comrade MABHIDA fought hard and long to ensure that nothing should turn the ANC into a rabble of black chauvinists or a clique of leftist demagogues. He battled against all conspiracies designed to weaken the ANC as a fighting organisation of the people, a true national movement loyal to the great principles which inspired its creation and have guided it to this day.

What an experience it was to listen to MADHEVU as he spoke in Zulu, drawing on our heroic past to fire the timid with enthusiasm, encourage the brave and correct those who had erred' The images he so vividly portrayed were of a Shaka and a Dingane - great giants, who, if they were alive today, would be with us as commanders of the people's army, Umkhonto we Siwe, and not arrogant local government functionaries of a regime that despises everything African.

The deepxyell from which MOSES MABHIDA drew strength and courage, the undying tradition of our pe5ple' s resistance to oolonlaligm a nd racial' tyranny, enabled him to teach a whole generation not to fear the tyrants, however powerful they mlght Seem. It gaVe him the foresight to recognise the enemy clearly, to concentrate hls flre on the adversary and never to turn his weapon against the people.

Yet, today, there are some in our country who claim that they drink from the same well but, their manhood having deserted them, they are so petrified of the enemy that they see its brutal armed strength as'a supef-human ' maehine in front Of ohich we mhgt'cowereand-criinge.

MOSES'MABHIDA will not be with us on the gloriouslday of liberation. He will not be there when the vdice of the liberators proclaims from the height of the spine of our land - the sacred mountains of Ulundi - that \_, the cause for which so many perished has triumphed.

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Yet there is an error in those statements, because wherever MOSES MABHIDA is.in the end laid to rest, his grave Shall be like a place of pilgi magen to all those who love freedom as he did,-a beacon to the future for all those;whg value liberty more than their own lives - as he did.

No: MOSESMBHEK1 MABHIDA will he there when the trumpet sounds the: saitilfe to freedom.. He will be there, because the young lions who fed on his courage and daring, the eff-spring of the lions\_and lionesses that our fathers and mothers are, they who have dared to rebel as Bambatha rebelled 80 years ago-these are his peers and the relay team to whothe has handed the torch that he carried for so long.

He will be there, hecaus e his sudden (7teath on March 8th, international Women' s Day, outside the borders of the country for whose happiness he has sacrificed so much, was Mkhize' s call on us to do what remains to be done. And we shall do it - together, in unity. Together, we shall see victory.

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Mozambican men and MOZambiean wemen, you looked after our comrade and brother during the last days of \_his llfe.I Comrade Presloent Samora Maehel, you have done more than your duty - yeu hsVe exceeded our highest expectations in the way you have gone set of your way, taking your people,with you, to tend and honour one who was to you a comrade of long-standing, a fellow comhatant, a leader of the people of. South Africa, a leader recognised by the progressive movement throughout the world, an unti-imperialist.