

OBITUARY

The news of passing away of the leader of the people of Botswana, President Seretse Khama, came as a blow to our people who are engaged in a fierce struggle against racist colonial domination, fascism and imperialism in South Africa and Namibia.

President Seretse Khama, grandson of Khama III, was born in 1921, in Serowe. In 1925 he succeeded to the Bama-ngwato throne when his father Sekhoma died. When he had come of age and had to take up his responsibility as traditional leader of his people, the colonialist British government made various attempts to depose him, but because the people of Botswana looked up to him as their sole legitimate leader, Seretse Khama became the country's first president in spite of the wishes of the colonisers.

Under President Khama's leadership, Botswana has made her contribution to the total elimination of colonialism in Africa as a member of the Front-Line States, OAU and Non-Aligned Movement. It is remarkable that despite her economic dependence on racist South Africa, Botswana has maintained her anti-colonial stand. Even harassment by the Pretoria boers and Smith could not pressurise them into terminating their support to the Zimbabwean people, who have recently won their independence, and the people of South Africa and Namibia who are still fighting.

Expressing the firmness of the Botswana people shortly before his death, President Khama said: "Botswana will continue to work for the elimination of injustice and racial tyranny in the sub-continent".

We have no doubt that following the example set by their leader, the people of Botswana will continue to make their contribution to their brothers' struggle to destroy the last bastion of colonialism in our region, the racist Botha-Malan regime and secure peace for all our peoples.

REST IN PEACE PRESIDENT KHAMA