

Angola Meets Her Future!

WHEN Savimbi's death was announced, many political prophets climbed on the bandwagon of "We'll have peace now." To some of these people there were two bulls in the kraal, and one or the other had to make way for the best. That is the way they see things. But we should bear in mind that there are many states in Africa run by a single ruler, and yet they are no better off than Angola. However, there is a time to hope, and a time for optimism. In a previous article, and later an open letter to Madiba, I appealed to international leaders who were directly involved in Angola during the colonial era, to come to her aid. I also emphasised the fact that Angola's people themselves

should sit down and sort things out. Of course, it never occurred to me that one of the leading figures in that country could come to his demise before peace was achieved. That Savimbi died so suddenly was quite unexpected, as though some evil spirit was tracking him throughout the length and breadth of the country, guiding him carefully and patiently until he met those who claimed his life. He's gone now, and forever. Period!

In retrospect, we take time to think of all kinds of stories we read about him. How evil and cruel the man was; how irresponsible; how his dastardly deeds of infamy sowed havoc in his own motherland, and eventually led him to be declared a war criminal by

his African compatriots. Funny, we've never heard the International Court in the Hague declare that he must be tried for his crimes. At this moment they have old Slobodan behind bars. But perhaps the time will come for his accusers to line up and cast the first stone. Whatever it was that Julius Caesar did out there with the woman called Cleopatra, upon his arrival home in Rome, he paid with his life. And Caesar was an honourable man of his day. There are those of Savimbi's countrymen who have been very vehement in their patriotic outbursts: "I love not Savimbi the less, but Angola more," we heard. Perhaps, but which part of Angola are they talking about here, the diamond area, or the oil well area? At this stage, as the people of that country are scattered all over the SADC region, with very little if any possessions of their own, we take anybody who says he/she loves Angola seriously. Of great significance however, is the fact that the warring factions in Angola have now come to their senses on their own, and have put pen to paper with a commitment to forge ahead and implement the Lusaka Agreement. We pray to the Almighty to have mercy on Angola. We have said so before, and we say it again: Leaders must not think only of themselves, especially where they have not been elected in free and fair democratic elections. Now

Angola needs unselfish men and women who must turn the tide back. All their people who are scattered all over the world must come back home. It is time now that Mr. Dos Santos himself should seriously consider bowing out for the sake of democratic governance. He has ruled Angola for over twenty years. He has the example of some of his neighbours who retire in less time. The world is waiting with bated breath to hear Mr. Dos Santos announce his retirement. Let it not be a perpetual "Aluta continua". Over 75 per cent of the population of Angola is no doubt unemployed, poor and hungry. Not mention children of school going age, who are languishing in the dark forests as well as bombed out shells previously called towns. Knowing Africa in general, and Angola in particular, we are not convinced that the signed agreement will hold for long. It might just be tea time for the men of the bush, to replenish their supplies and acquire more sophisticated weapons. We do however acknowledge the fact that the recent statement that Savimbi had signed a cease-fire death, could hold the key to peace in Angola. May the gods acquiesce, and may the Church of Christ be involved in the process of rehabilitating Angola. Viva Angola!

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