

Condolence Message by The Tanzania Gender Networking Programme Following The Passing Away Of Comrade David Martin.

Dar es Salaam, 24th August 2007

We have received with great shock the news on the untimely passing away of our beloved Comrade David Martin on Saturday 18th August 2007. I remember David Martin as someone who inspired me as a person and a friend but also inspired us in our struggles of attempting to reclaim our history in the region and Africa. Martin contributed significantly to the documentation of African/SARDC history with alternative and empowering approaches. We shall always honour and cherish his contribution into making us build a more holistic picture of the SADC liberation history, and the role different people played, including the Late Mwl. Julius Nyerere.

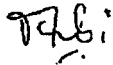
David departs when he is most needed. Africa/SADC region is in dire need of diligent and remarkable liberation leaders and revolutionaries of David's sort. His sort of Journalism and independence of mind is rare in the world. He contributed to the making of what SARDC is now and for this, never shall he be forgotten. For me personally, I shall miss David not only as a friend, but as a fellow SARDC Board member, who always encouraged me to touch base with realities of our history in the region.

Martin and his partner Phyllis Johnson remain as exemplary Pan-Africanists who truly believe/ed in growth of independent African governments and Societies. Their passion and commitment to enhance visibility of the contributions of the SADC region, including gender equality and equity in Africa and the world over is worth recognition. The two have been models for humanity and teachers for me as a SARDC Board member but also for all of us in the civil society movement in Tanzania/region in this respect.

On behalf of myself as SARDC Board member, but more so on behalf of Tanzania Gender Networking Programme membership, Board of Directors, Secretariat and networks, we would like to convey my and

our deepest sympathy to Phyllis Johnson, SARDC, family, comrades, colleagues, friends and all transformative revolutionaries in SADC/Africa and the Diaspora who now have to bear with this difficult reality. SADC has just lost one of the biggest resources.

May the almighty rest David's soul in eternal peace as we celebrate his life and contributions to democracy in our region.



Mary Rusimbi
Outgoing Executive Director
**Tanzania Gender Networking Programme, (TGNP) &
Board Member, SARDC.**