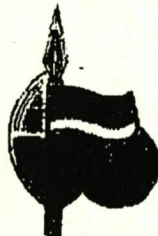


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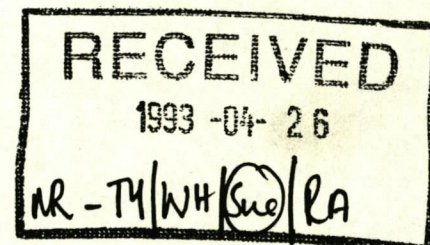
**AFRICAN
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**PRESS STATEMENT OF THE AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS ON FUNERAL
ARRANGEMENTS FOR ANC NATIONAL CHAIRPERSON, OLIVER REGINALD
TAMBO**

25 April, 1993

This is a moment of profound grief for all South Africans. The death of ANC National Chairperson, OR Tambo, following so closely on that of Chris Hani, has deeply affected our people.

Comrade OR was a father figure to millions of South Africans, whether members of the ANC or not. We will bury him with the dignity and solemnity that the occasion demands.

A Funeral Committee, including Comrades Joe Slovo, Thabo Mbeki, Pallo Jordan, Barbara Masekela, Cheryl Carolus, Baleka Kgositsile, Alfred Nzo and headed by ANC Secretary General Cyril Ramaphosa, has been established to coordinate the preparations for the funeral.

The funeral service for Comrade Tambo will be held on Sunday 2nd May at a venue still to be announced. He will be buried in Benoni, the town in which he had his home before he left the country in 1960.

While there will be a national funeral, all ANC regions are called upon to hold simultaneous memorial services in regional centres so as to permit the fullest participation by our people at every level.

During the course of this week, regions shall at their discretion, also hold requiem services. Announcements of dates and times will come from the regional structures. In view of the May Day observances, due to take place throughout the country on Saturday 1st May, Comrade O.R. Tambo

will lie in state on Sunday 2nd May from 06.00 hours. Regional and local public vigils shall be announced later in the week.

Messages of condolence continue to pour in from every part of the world. We will make the funeral details, and the names of international dignitaries who will attend the funeral, known as soon as these become available.

We have a special message for our people, in particular the youth: Comrade OR was the honorary life president of the ANC Youth League. As a founder member of the Youth League in 1944, engaging the spirit, energy and dynamism of the youth was always among his priorities.

We are burying a hero of national and international stature, who must be laid to rest with the full honours befitting a man who sacrificed his life, to the very last moment, in service to his people and the cause of freedom.

The dignity, discipline and restraint shown by millions of our people during the funeral service for Chris Hani greatly impressed and encouraged Comrade OR. The thousands of people, standing in dignified ranks, lining the route to the cemetery, moved him deeply.

Comrade OR was however, very disturbed by the looting, vandalism and acts of violence that marred that occasion. No matter how deep our anger and grief, such acts should not be repeated. We must not permit criminal and hooligan elements to desecrate the burial service of our father, Comrade Oliver Tambo.

Comrade OR will be buried in a manner befitting a man of his stature. We are calling on all our members, supporters and mourners to pay due respect to one of South Africa's greatest sons. Let us all pay tribute to his memory by ensuring that there is no loss of life, no damage to property, no undignified behaviour. Let us emulate his ideals, his steadfast commitment to peace, freedom and respect for all humanity.

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