

# Church & Media Symposium in Zimbabwe

**T**HE symposium was convened by EDICESA between 7 and 11 December 1987. This meeting was addressed by a number of speakers both from South Africa and from other African states. The opening address was made by the then President Canaan Banana.

He said South Africa's political dilemma has got to be resolved in order to secure peace and justice in southern Africa. He said destabilisation is an effort to force the African states to succumb to Pretoria. Therefore it is the duty of this region to co-ordinate its means and fight this monster. He said the Church should be persuaded to see the harsh realities of the political situation in South Africa.

This can be done by EDICESA through documentation of information. This relevant information should be disseminated to all to enable them to take a position. The Church should be taking a leading democratic position in this fight for peace and justice. The media should reflect the current situation and people's position as it is obtaining in South Africa.

He said Nazism was destroyed in Germany, colonialism was destroyed in South Africa and apartheid has to go in South Africa and Namibia. He said he doesn't see anything standing in front of this political sea. The national democratic struggle has got to achieve national democracy and political rights and implement a system of their choice. He said non-violent

by Mr Maxwell  
Mamase

*Mr Maxwell  
Mamase,  
Co-director  
of the IDASA  
Eastern Cape  
region.*

will work. If tough measures are not being taken by all countries, the impact will not be the expected one. It was mentioned that apartheid was coined by Verwoerd but started by Jan van Riebeeck in 1652 when he chased away the Khoisan people in the Western Cape.

The involvement of the Church in the quest for liberation is vital and it should sensitise its members through conscientisation and exposure to the harsh realities of our situation. The Church should openly challenge the state as regards all its atrocious activities. People in the church have to understand that racism is evil.

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