

E4.78

Z. K. Matthew's funeral



The blue and white Botswana flag is lifted from the coffin as the pallbearers look on.



Dr. J. S. Moroka (right) and Mr. M. T. Moe rane, WORLD Editor, with Mrs. B. A. Gare and Miss Maggie K. Moroka.

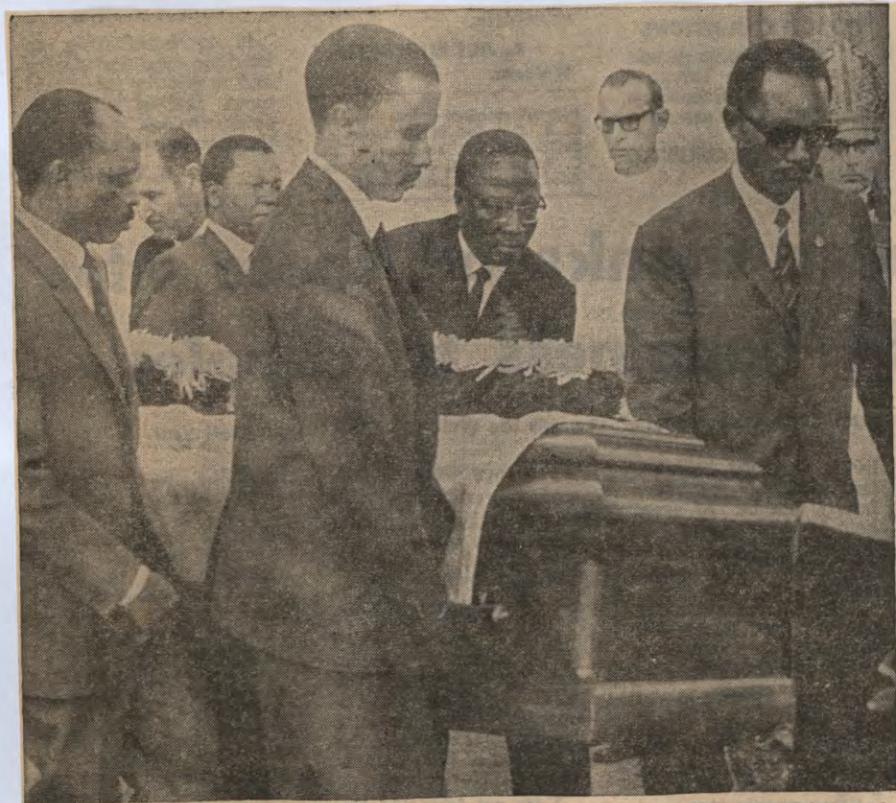


Dr. J. Letsuianyane, the daughter, after the funeral.

Pictures
by
Ronnie
Kweyi



Mrs. Matthews, the widow



The pallbearers carry the coffin from Trinity Church to the hearse. From left: Mr. A. M. Mogwe (Botswana Secretary of Foreign Affairs), Dr. Albert Mohale (Lesotho Ambassador to U.S.); Mr. S. H. Amessiah (General Secretary of All Africa Conference of Churches); Mr. M. P. K. Nwako (Botswana Minister of State) and Dr. Ronald Radebe.

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ANOTHER GREAT SON OF AFRICA BURIED



Mourners part to allow a glimpse of the wreath-decked mound. Wreaths were piled three feet high.

A shining son of Africa, Dr. Z. K. Matthews was buried in Gaberones beneath the shade of two mfhahu trees.

A blazing midday sun beat down as his body was lowered into the red dusty soil. It was a quiet, dignified funeral.

Almost a thousand people were there: Sir Seretse Khama, ambassadors, cabinet ministers, a Bishop and political refugees.

Among the people was an old woman. She never met Z. K. But, she said, her brother was born on the same day, at the same time, as Z. K. So she had to be there.

ELDERLY MAN

A very old man, gnarled like oak, had likewise never met Z. K. He had read in the papers that the great man was dead. So he came along, too.

The humble joined the illustrious in mourning the man whose body had been flown 8,000 miles from America to rest in Botswana soil.

A fine woman whom Z. K.

*Big crowd
at Z.K.
Matthews
funeral*

loved most of his life shed proud tears as the blue and white Botswana flag was undraped from the coffin.

That woman was his widow, Freda Matthews.

She clung lovingly to the
(Continued on Page 2)

Banned son allowed to attend Z. K.'s burial in Botswana

REFUGEES ARRESTED

TWO Botswana refugees were arrested at Francistown on Friday night on their way to the funeral of Z. K. Matthews at Gaborone.

They were Tennyson Makiwane, a top ANC leader, and Attwell Bokwe, a nephew of Joe Matthews.

The men had flown from Lusaka. They are still believed to be in custody.

Several refugees from South Africa now living in Botswana, were at the funeral, including Mr. Gerry Mbuli.

(Continued from Page 1) arm of her son, Joe, as the coffin was e a s e d into the earth.

And it was their together-in-death presence that overawed the mourners. More so than the regal presence of Sir Seretse and Lady Khama themselves.

PERMISSION

Joe Matthews, banned in Botswana and South Africa, was given compassionate permission to be with his mother at the funeral.

There was no tearful wailing, no histrionics. Only the laments of a young choir.

Sir Seretse and his White wife, Ruth, joined the many who jostled silently to pitch a handful of soil into the grave.

The only movement was a gentle breeze rustling the mfahu trees beneath which Z. K. was buried. The sky was quiet and blue as the Bishop of Matabeleland, the Right Rev. K. J. F. Skelton, intoned

the service.

The grave itself is two miles from Gaborone, along a dusty track off the main highway.

Over a hundred cars filed there bumper-to-bumper from Trinity Church. The last cars arrived as the burial service finished.

One man paused over the wreath-decked grave long after the rest had gone. He was Stephen Matthews (63), who, Bible in hand, paid his own private tribute to his elder brother. Stephen is now the last of the six Matthews' brothers.

SMILED

In the warm sun of the afternoon, Mrs. Matthews smiled for the first time since her husband's death.

She seemed happy to be with her sons, daughters and friends — gathered there on the lawn of the house which the Botswana Government has put at her disposal.



Mrs. Freda Matthews holds the arm of son Joe after the service.

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Sir Seretse Khama (centre) confers with his personal secretary (right). Looking on is Lady Khama.