Tribute to Professor Sam Moyo, a Great Intellectual, and a Man of Integrity

23 September 1954 - 22 November 2015

25 Novembre 2015. Dakar, Senegal
Professor Sam Moyo has moved on…

The Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA) regrets to announce the extremely sad news of the passing on of its former President, Professor Sam Moyo. Sam was in New Delhi, India to participate in a conference on “Labour Questions in the Global South”. The vehicle in which he was travelling got involved in a crash in the evening of Friday, 20 November, and Professor Moyo died in the early hours of Sunday, 22 November 2015.

Professor Moyo has been an active member of CODESRIA since the 1970s. He was elected Vice-President of CODESRIA in 1998, and during the 12th General Assembly held in Yaounde, Cameroon in December 2008, was elected President of CODESRIA, a position he held until December 2011.

The Executive and Scientific Committees, and the staff of CODESRIA present our sincere condolences to the family of Professor Moyo, to the staff of the Harare based Africa Institute of Agrarian Studies that he founded and led for many years, and to the entire CODESRIA community, which was his extended family.

Ending his short but extremely productive journey in this world in India speaks volumes of Sam’s commitment to scholarship and to the cause of the peoples of the Global South.

Professor Sam Moyo, a Great Intellectual, and a Man of Integrity
Professor Dzodzi Tsikata, President
Dr. Ebrima Sall, Executive Secretary

The Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA) deeply regrets and mourns the passing away of its former president, Professor Sam Moyo. Professor Moyo was in New Delhi, India, where he was attending a conference on “Labour Questions in the Global South”. The vehicle in which he was travelling was involved in a serious accident in the evening of Friday, 20 November, and Professor Moyo died in the early hours of Sunday 22 November 2015.

Sam had been an active member of CODESRIA since the 1970s. He coordinated a number of CODESRIA working groups and research networks, and was a tireless and inexhaustible resource that CODESRIA heavily relied upon. Several of his most important ideas were first carried in CODESRIA publications. In 1998, he was elected Vice-President of CODESRIA. During the 12th General Assembly held in Yaoundé, Cameroon in December 2008, Sam was elected President of CODESRIA, a position he held until December 2011. He continued to play a vital role in the life and work of CODESRIA, attending general assemblies, representing CODESRIA at many events, hosting activities in Harare, advising on research programmes, contributing to the deepening and broadening of intellectual exchanges across the Global South and providing wise counsel to the leadership.

Sam was Africa’s leading intellectual voice on land and agrarian transformation. Over long periods when there was little policy interest in land reforms, he and a few other scholars kept the issues alive through rigorous empirical research and theorizing about Africa’s land and agrarian questions in the context of globalization. Throughout an intellectual career that spanned decades and produced a massive body of work, he consistently championed the rights of Africa’s smallholders as well as its landless and dispossessed communities and chronicled the struggles of agrarian social movements for equitable land rights. He followed up his research with engagements with policy makers, civil society organisations, research networks on agrarian issues as well as social movements. He was much in demand in Africa and beyond as a policy advisor on land and agrarian issues.

Sam showed great courage in his robust engagement with Zimbabwe’s land reforms. He charted a course of independent research which eschewed sensationalism and illuminated the scale and significance of land redistribution represented by the Fast Track Land Reform Programme which saw over two hundred thousand Zimbabwean households acquiring land for their livelihoods. In spite of the fact that this was for a long time a very lonely undertaking, which incurred the disapproval of the different sides of the debates on Zimbabwe’s land reforms, he was much respected and admired not only within CODESRIA, but in the wider community of progressive intellectuals within the global south for his consistency and the quality of the evidence he produced to back his positions. The growing acceptance of Sam’s positions in the wider land and agrarian studies community sadly failed to give him full credit for his pivotal role in changing the debate about Zimbabwe’s land reforms.

Sam was full of life and lived life to the full. He was warm, kind hearted, humble and respectful of every member of staff at CODESRIA. So was he with the countless numbers of younger scholars and colleagues he mentored over the years. We will miss a man of integrity, a committed pan Africanist, a loyal friend, and a great leader.

Ending his short but extremely productive
journey in this world in India speaks volumes of Sam’s commitment to scholarship and to the cause of the peoples of the Global South. This commitment was much in evidence in his leadership of the Agrarian South Network, a tricontinental research network on agrarian issues he co-founded with colleagues from Africa, Asia and Latin America.

On behalf of the Executive and Scientific Committees, and the staff of CODESRIA, we would like to offer our sincere condolences to Sam’s partner Beatrice, his mother Madam Mavis Moyo, his daughters and his wider family and friends, to the staff of the Harare based Africa Institute of Agrarian Studies that he founded and led for many years, and to the entire CODESRIA community, which was his extended family.

Hamba Kahle, Sam. Go well.

CODESRIA
23 November 2015

Sam Moyo

Thandika Mkandawire
In my current state of shock I cannot write much by way of an intellectual tribute to Sam Moyo and his rich life. Such an undertaking will have to wait.

I met Sam in the late 1970s in Dakar at the IDEP
library – IDEP was at the time run by Samir Amin and was a real pan-African intellectual magnate. Sam had an uncle who lived in Dakar so he spent his holidays from Fourah Bay College (Sierra Leone) with him. A few years later we were to meet again in Harare where I had been seconded by CODESRIA to advise on setting up the Zimbabwe Institute of Development Studies (ZIDS). Sam belonged to the band of young, enthusiastic graduates who had chosen the uncertainty of a job with the new institute over a much more secure job in government.

Sam immediately demonstrated his zest for research and his prodigious working capacity. His involvement with the institute went beyond doing his own research. He took the task of building the institution very seriously and enthusiastically accepted any tasks demanded of him. And over many years that combination of serious researcher and dedicated institutional builder was to manifest itself on many occasions and in many institutions he was associated with, earning him great esteem.

One memorable characteristic of Sam was his intellectual tenacity to delve into a subject with all the energy he could muster. The “Land Question” in Zimbabwe took huge amounts of his time and energy. There were four aspects to his preoccupation. The first aspect was a passion for social justice. The second aspect was simply intellectual drive to understand one the most important social processes in the Third World – the land reform in Zimbabwe— whose significance was being downplayed by scholars from an amazing range of ideological persuasions for whom the massive transfer of property was reduced to something about “Mugabe and his cronies”. The third aspect was his insistence on having African voices heard on critical matters relating to Africa and his belief that this demanded rigorous work and institutional backing. And finally there was keenness to link African research to research elsewhere in the “Global South”.

His position on the land question was principled and no threat of withdrawal of funding of his institute bent his intellectual integrity. He was bitter and disappointed by the de-campaigning of the institute by fellow scholars with close links to funders.

I once sent him a link to an article in the New York Times citing his work on land in Zimbabwe. This was no minor thing given what had been a systematic effort to blackout the work of his institute and the financial strangulation it was being subjected to. But he took it all in stride. However I do know for sure that he took pride from the knowledge that he and his team had beaten the media blackout. He also knew he had won the intellectual battle.

Towards the end of his life he had shifted his interests towards two new concerns. One was the productivity of the newly acquired farms and the other was the emerging social differentiation in the new agrarian dispensations. These are two questions that arise after any major land reform such as the one that Zimbabwe carried out. He had problems raising funds for this research programme. It is sad that death has denied him the time to pursue research in these areas.

His departure has deprived us not only of a major scholar but also of one of the outstanding pillars of the African social sciences institutional architecture.

Sam loved the research community and was generous with his time as many scholars visiting Harare will testify.

Sam and I became close family friends. Members of my family and I will miss his humility, care, warmth and kindness.
Mahmood Mamdani

I no longer recall when exactly I met Sam. Maybe it was in the late 70s at CODESRIA, or in the early 80s at the Zimbabwe Institute of Development Studies. The late 1990s, though, was the time we truly got to work together, closely and intensely. The two of us were at the helm of CODESRIA’s leadership, as President and Vice President. The next two years were a time of deep and sharp differences in policy, and it often seemed as if there was no end in sight.

I remember a particularly difficult episode a year down the line. We had an emergency meeting in Dakar but Sam said he could not be there because he was to have a delicate operation in a few days. I explained what was at stake and asked if he could postpone the operation by a week. He warned me that he would not be able to sit for long in his current state. But the next day, he was in Dakar. During the meeting, he kept on shifting the weight of his body from one side to the other, now leaning on one buttock, then on another. He was obviously in great pain, but it never showed on his smiling face.

That was Sam, selfless, committed to a fault, totally reliable. He was the person you would want by your side if you expected hard times ahead. But no matter how difficult the times, as during those years, I never saw him turn vindictive against anyone. Later, we would look back on that period as something of a crossroads in the history of CODESRIA. Then, however, it was hard and painful. It was the kind of ordeal that can forge enduring friendships. Sam was that kind of a friend.

In those years, I also learnt that Sam was a mathematical genius. As soon as we would land in Dakar, he would head for the Accounts office, take charge of all the books, and go through them meticulously. No matter how long it took, 12 or 24 hours, Sam would work until he would have a report ready for discussion between the two of us. Soon, word went around that it would be foolhardy for anyone to try and pull a fast one on Sam.

Students and scholars came to CODESRIA for different reasons, some for the thrill of travel, others to be part of a Pan-African conversation on issues of the day, and yet others to access otherwise scarce resources for research. Sam shared all those motives but, above all, he was among the few who unfailingly gave more than he received. When it came to facing temptation or intimidation, his was a towering presence. Sam stood for integrity and steadfastness, a
calm intelligence and a cool deliberation, a level head in a crisis situation, and a free spirit in a party that was sure to follow every difficult episode.

Sam was one of the few who presented a seamless blend of this capacity for sobriety, integrity and joy that marked the CODESRIA crowd – all with a cigarette in one hand no matter the time of day, and a glass of beer at the end of the day. The ground on which this companionship was nurtured was the city of Dakar. We came to it from different corners of the continent, all marginal in one way or another, all looking for freedom, most of all the freedom of expression, as if gasping for oxygen. Out of that common endeavor were born close associations and lasting comradries.

Sam’s major scholarship was in the field of agrarian studies. Always unassuming, he seldom talked of his own scholarly work unless someone raised it first. For me that occasion came in 2008 when the London Review of Books invited me to write a piece on Zimbabwe. The land reform was the big issue at the time. I pulled together whatever studies on the subject I could lay my hands on. Three sources stood above all others as original and reliable: one from the Institute of Development Studies at Sussex, another from the University of Western Cape and then Sam’s work at the African Institute of Agrarian Studies in Harare. As I read these sources, and the press reports on their findings, I learnt something about the politics of knowledge production and its recognition in the public sphere. Two facts were crystal clear to me: one, that Sam had been several steps ahead of the others; and, two, that his work was the last to be recognized. It was almost as if the press went by a rule of thumb: when it came to ideas, the chain had to originate in a Western University, and the link go through a South African institution, before it came to an African researcher.

I discussed this with Sam. He smiled, as if to say, what’s new? At home, his critics were at pains to paint him as partisan. If he showed that the land reform had improved the lot of a large number of the landless, those in the opposition discounted it as the claim of someone with the regime. But if he refused to give blanket support to the regime, those with it said he must have hidden links to the opposition. When it came to public policy, Sam took the cue from his research, always fearless, unafraid, and hopeful. He was a voice listened to by all, especially when he was the target of criticism. Whatever their disagreement, all knew that Sam was not susceptible to corruption, and that he would not offer an opinion unless it was informed by deep research.

The last time I saw Sam was at the CODESRIA General Assembly in Dakar in June. Only two months before, we had been together in the city of Hangzhou in China at a conference organized by the Inter-Asia School to celebrate the 60th anniversary of Bandung. The hospitality was overwhelming. Every meal was like a banquet; every plate on the table was renewed before it could be empty; wine and drinks flowed. Sam was relaxed, as he reminisced of our efforts to build CODESRIA over the past decades, and reflected about future plans for the African Institute of Agrarian Studies. I recall this as if it was yesterday: Sam, smiling, trusting, reassuring, strong, purposeful, and thoughtful, yet again doing what he was best at, charting a road none had travelled before, but at the same time taking you along.

This is one journey, dear Sam, that you take alone. You leave this world as you came into it, alone, but this world is a better place, and we are better off, because we had the privilege of being part of your world. The loss is great and the heart is heavy, and it is hard and painful to say good-bye. As we grieve for our loss, we also celebrate your life.
In Memory of Prof Sam Moyo

Message from Dr BE Nzimande, MP, South African Minister of Higher Education and Training

I would like to express my deepest condolences to the family, friends and colleagues of Professor Samson Moyo. His untimely passing was a great shock to me and to other South Africans who knew him. I feel his loss very deeply as he was a friend as well as a collaborator in various projects. He was wrenched from us at the height of his powers as a leading African intellectual, an activist and an institution builder.

I knew Sam for many years – from the time of our liberation struggle against apartheid in the mid 1980s. I met him through the SAPES network led by Dr Ibbo Mandaza. He had fought for the liberation of Zimbabwe and he was committed to the cause of a free, democratic, independent and prosperous African continent. His dedication continued throughout his life. This is demonstrated by all his work and more especially his intellectual work for the benefit of our continent. Sam was held in high esteem by the intellectual community in Africa and beyond. He served for many years in CODESRIA, the Council for the Development of Social Research in Africa, successively as a Member of the Executive Committee, Vice President, and finally, from 2009 to 2011 as President.

Sam’s specific areas of interest was agrarian studies, in particular policy regarding agriculture, food, land reform and the environment. After working in these fields as a professor at the University of Zimbabwe and as a government advisor, he demonstrated his social entrepreneurship and institution-building skills when by established the African Institute of Agrarian Studies.

Sam was a true internationalist. His very passing in India, on a work assignment far away from his home, is testament to his internationalism and his understanding that the challenges that face humanity are universal. His internationalism is also demonstrated by his contributions in South Africa. Several years ago, I decided to establish a National Institute for Humanities and Social Sciences and asked him to assist us and to bring with him his experiences and deep knowledge of social science research across the continent. He accepted my request without hesitation and when the Institute was formally established two years ago, Sam became a valued, useful and influential member of its Board.

Despite all his accomplishments, Sam remained modest and unassuming. He was a kind and gentle person and had an easy way with people. He was the type of individual that you one quickly felt at ease with.

My grief at his loss is shared by the South African government and all South Africans who knew Sam Moyo. Our grief is profound and sincere; we will do all we can to ensure that the path that he trod will be followed by others and especially by younger academics and the youth.

Hamba kahle, Sam, brother and friend..
Sam Moyo

Jayati Ghosh and IDEAs Team

23 September 1954-22 November 2015

In deep sorrow we mourn the sudden and untimely death of Sam Moyo, profound scholar and progressive activist, beloved comrade, Member of the Executive Committee of IDEAs. Sam was in New Delhi, India to participate in a conference on “Labour Questions in the Global South” when a car he was travelling in was involved in a terrible accident. Two other friends and colleagues (Marcelo Rosa and Paris Yeros) were injured but Sam was very critically hurt. After a valiant struggle for survival, he passed away in the early hours of 22 November 2015.

Sam was much more than a guiding spirit in many of our activities. He illuminated our lives and work with his sharp intellect, passionate commitment, exemplary integrity and extraordinary energy. His strong sense of Pan African consciousness and wider South solidarity enriched his and our academic endeavour and public dissemination. His analytical insights always provided a fresh and penetrating perspective that enabled us to better understand the complexities of agrarian change and economic realities in Africa and elsewhere.

His death leaves a void that is impossible to fill. We will miss his warmth, affection, generosity and humour and of course his irresistible charm that could disarm the keenest adversary. In particular we will always cherish his ability to live life to the fullest, even in adverse circumstances. Our hearts go out to his family and his innumerable friends in Zimbabwe and across the world. For many of us, this cannot be farewell. A bit of Sam has enriched us forever and will live on inside us.

We hope to have more on Sam Moyo in the days ahead, to honour him and celebrate his extraordinary life. Please send your tributes, memories and other contributions to webmaster@networkideas.org and jayatijnu@gmail.com.

Deeply Saddened

Enna Sukutai Gudhlanga (Zimbabwe)

Am deeply saddened by Prof Sam Moyo’s passing on in India where he was attending a conference on the Labour Question in the Global South. The academic fraternity has really been robbed of a giant who was eager to mentor both seasoned and upcoming scholars. We have been deprived of an erudite scholar and a fine gentleman. I will never forget the assistance he gave to our CODESRIA CRN Team, the project culminated in a book which was published in 2015 by CODESRIA titled: Gender, Politics and Land Use in Zimbabwe, 1980-2012. The Land and Agrarian Studies question will never be the same without Prof Sam Moyo. We have been privileged to know and learn from the prolific Professor par excellence of our time. Fare thee well Prof Sam Moyo, may your soul rest in eternal peace. May your family, the AIAS FAMILY, the CODESRIA family and the whole academic fraternity be comforted.

Enna Sukutai Gudhlanga (Zimbabwe)
A Tribute to our Colleague and Friend Sam Moyo

Fatima Harrak,
Former President of CODESRIA
Morocco

It was such a shock to hear about Sam’s passing.

Sam was a brother, a friend, a scholar, a dedicated pan-Africanist and a person who infected everyone with his great spirit.

From our first meeting in Yaounde, Cameroun, where he was elected as President of CODESRIA to working by his side as his deputy during three years Sam Moyo always had about him a passionate dignity that made him an inspiring leader and a great human being to be around.

Energy, commitment, integrity are all words that captured the moral fiber of this man.

In addition to his renowned scholarly contribution to the study of peasant social movements, agrarian reform and land struggle in Africa and his exceptional leadership abilities Sam was also a caring, generous and selfless person who loved life and believed in the goodness of people. I experienced his kindness as I succeeded him at the head of CODESRIA when he offered his unconditional support and advice.

Sam was one of a kind and will be sorely missed as a colleague, scholar and friend but never will he be forgotten by those who were fortunate enough to have known him!

23.11.2015

Sam, My Dear Friend,

By Teresa Cruz e Silva
Former President of CODESRIA

With a lot of sadness and apprehension, during the last weekend we received the news of the car accident in New Delhi, your struggle for life and the heavier news that you was not anymore among us. It was and, still so hard to believe in the new reality of your physical absence!

It is difficult to accept that a fighter for a more equal world, a friend always cheerful and generous, or that an academic always worried with the reality of our continent has left us.

However, we have the joy of knowing that the spread of your wisdom among different generations of scholars, young people and your daughters, will immortalize your life.

To your family, your friends, to CODESRIA to whom you gave an important part of your knowledge, and to the entire academic community, we would like to express our deepest solidarity and our deepest condolences in this difficult moment.

A Luta Continua!

Sam Moyo will live forever!
Profondément Choqué

Amat Hessana

Je suis profondément choqué par la nouvelle de la disparition du Pr SAM MOYO.

Il a forgé en moi une méthodologie spécifique aux études foncières, après ma participation à l’Institut sur le genre 2014.

En rentrant à Yaoundé dans l’avion, j’ai dévoré passionnément son ouvrage qui a fait de moi un chercheur du foncier.

C’est ce que je retiens de lui, bien que je ne l’aie pas rencontré une seule fois.

Je vais le citer dans mes travaux sur le foncier.

Au CODESRIA, ma proposition: imprimons son portrait sur fond de la dernière des couvertures des ouvrages que nous produirons et sur nos badges; ceci pendant le nombre de jours prochains qui sera égal à l’âge auquel il est décédé.

TU ES A JAMAIS DANS MES TRAVAUX ET DANS MA MEMOIRE

Dear Fellow members of CODESRIA,

Rama Salla Dieng

Doctoral Researcher, SOAS-University of London

Please accept my condoleances for the loss of our Professor Sam Moyo. I am writing the word ‘loss’ unwillingly. It is so hard to accept the news. I had turned to land studies because of his great passion and commitment at the first PanAfrican land grab conference in 2013 in Addis, because of his writings, those of Prof Tsikata, Prof Olukoshi and Prof Amanor. It is because of him that I later focused most of my research at SOAS on land, proud to quote his brilliant analysis of the “African Land Question”. And it is because of him that I am now doing my PhD on “land grabbing in Senegal”

I met him again at the third PanAfrican land conference in Harare in September 2015!

The last day of the conference, I was sitting with Prof Moyo listening to his advice, preaching the need to have a global South approach. I can still hear him telling me to be Qondi’s old sister in London, at SOAS when I return.

I was supposed to see him again in January 2016 at the AIAS Summit and was working towards finalising my paper.

So soon!! We have lost a GIANT. May God console us and welcome him in Paradise. May his soul rest in Perfect peace.

We need to keep reading him, engage with his work, furthering it (a difficult venture!) but the best way to pay a tribute to his rigor!

A luta continua
Tribute to Sam Moyo

Marie Ndiaye, CODESRIA

Sam Moyo was one of those exceptional human beings we encounter and who leave an indelible imprint on our lives. A good, simple, warm and caring man has left us.

He had the gift of captivating his audiences with his joie de vivre and his quick wit. His mischievous smile, his anecdotes, his jokes and his laughter animated conversations from which we came out reeking of tobacco but invigorated and enlightened.

I remember standing with him, in the early hours of Saturday, June 13, 2015 while waiting for the bus that was to take him to the airport with others returning to Southern Africa after the 14th General Assembly of CODESRIA in Dakar. We said a simple goodbye imbued with this certainty of friends who know they can pick up the thread of any discussion as soon as they have the opportunity. He was the best of friends in good times and the best support to have in bad times.

I have trouble imagining Sam in the death that separates us. I will miss his comforting friendship and kind companionship.

We Are Poorer Without Him

Tendai Murisa, Executive Director, TrustAfrica

This is so sad and obviously very tragic. We have lost a committed Pan-African intellectual. He was bigger than Zimbabwe.

Sam’s reach was global but he remained very grounded and engaged in local debates.

For some of us who have been his students he was always available to mentor, read our various versions/drafts of thesis, direct us to new debates and helped in the process to understand his very dense work. I will miss him so much.

We only take comfort in two things- he has left us with a great heritage of scholarship and rigor and he also perished whilst still engaged- he did not for whatever reason abandon the struggle despite the many opportunities for cooptation by the state. I am sure you are also aware that he turned down a number of top regional positions in many donor organizations because he chose to remain true to his intellectual calling despite the every day challenges of donor politics etc.

We are poorer without Sam.

Sad News

Emmanuel Yenshu Vubo

Cameroon

“This news of Sam Moyo came as a veritable shock indeed. Sam died on the battlefield of science as he travelled to attend this conference on issues that were not only an intellectual passion for him but a social crusade in which he was engaged. But how horrible such a death. Let us pray the very good All-knowing and Almighty God that He would grant repose to Sam’s soul in His bosom. We will miss his surely miss his critical insights, commitment and devotion to the cause that he served with us and the entire African social science community. Adieu Sam”.
From Your Friend Bill

William Martin

My gratitude to Tendai and Fred, for reminding us, warming us, with these difficult summations of Sam in a time when thinking much less writing is so very difficult to do. Surely the flood of warm memories will cohere as we gather everywhere to celebrate Sam’s inestimable gifts to us and our unimaginable loss. What Fred, Tendai and others highlight was really a key source of Sam’s gentle, persistent greatness: his deep, unrivaled commitment to an independent African intellectual life and community, and his corresponding eschewing of the easy slide into the traducing hands of those who possess intellectual, much less state, inducements and rewards. May his example continue to inspire us in our weaker moments—and the next generation.

An Ode in Memory of Chimusoro Sam Moyo

Bella Matambanadzo

An unimaginable loss has happened. Our phenomenal intellectual pan African giant on land issues, Professor Sam Moyo, has died following injuries sustained during a terrible car accident in New Delhi, India. We are in disbelief. We are waiting for him to come home. We feel ripped apart with pain.

We grew up following you in our townships. We nicknamed you Sekuru ‘Chimusoro’, the one with the very big head. All our parents wanted us to be exactly like you. At the end of every school term, you would come home with a report card full of number ones. Your arms would be laden with trophies and certificates for best student in this subject; outstanding record in that.

Your mother, Gogo Mavis Moyo’s face would beam with enough joy to light up the whole continent. She was a woman of her own accolades, a pioneer black female broadcaster at a time when radio was segregated by racism. But somehow your achievements made her glow in the way that only a mother can do.

We always marveled at the shiny silver cups with your name on them. Playfully, you would fill them with cherry plum juice and serve us to drink along with candy cakes. The pink icing would crease between our fingers. Domestic chores, serving those around you, never bothered you. You had such a deep sense of the hospitality of food, and the power of sharing drinks with those you loved, that we always felt welcome to your side. Our great tree that bore so much fruit. Yes we would laugh, but you would steer us to talk about the thing that mattered most to you; and even if we did not know it then, to us. How to fully reclaim the land that was stolen by the colonial forces.

Throughout your life, you carried your intellectual smarts with so much ease. In your later years, when your trophies had turned to degrees, you would seek us out so we could sit in your seminars. At that time I think you were at the Zimbabwe Institute of Development Studies (ZIDS). Later on you moved to SAPES and taught the SARIPS Masters Programme with radical feminists like Dr Patricia Macfadden you made our brains sweat. In the beginning we would all look at each other unable to write down some of the big words and theories you used. And
yet you persisted. Sharing your knowledge with us, crafting an epistemology around land and agrarian rights. Together you showed us why land was a critical resource for women to have ownership and control over.

When we tried to call you Prof, you would smile and say, ‘vafana vangu, ndinonzi Sam - my youngsters, I am just Sam.’ It didn’t matter that you had ‘eaten many books’ as the saying used to go. You would listen to our elementary theories, nurture us with love and suggest, ‘let’s write a policy brief on this subject. That’s how we will change the world’.

You lent your brilliance to the environmental think tank Zero, pulled us into the Senegal based Codesria and introduced us to people who wore Dashiki shirts as a form of political expression. People whose papers you had photocopied for us to read. This was before computers. It was the time of type-writers. Your scrawl was impossible to decipher, but we knew that if we didn’t figure out your handwriting, there would be trouble. You could not abide intellectual laziness.

On Boodle Road, in Harare’s Eastlea suburb you set up the African Institute of Agrarian Studies (AIAS). It was nothing short of a bold move. This was Zimbabwe in the early 2000s when land invasions were at their apex. Nothing could deter you. Not physical threats, nor slurs to your name. And who can forget the raid of your home office in Borrowdale. You put your ubiquitous cigarette to your mouth and shock your head. ‘why did they have to mess my papers up? I had order here’. I would look at the piles and piles of papers you had and wonder what kind of order you meant. Your office was a project for a neat freak.

Last year, we danced until dawn in your front garden. Your lawn groaned underfoot of our stampede. It was your 60th birthday party. Food, music, friends and land politics. The delicious chocolate cake was a creative meme of your desk. Cellphone, books on land with the spine carrying your name. And of course your friends from all over the world filled your yard. Or skype feed.

By your side was your sweetheart and partner, the top human rights lawyer Beatrice Mtetwa. We marveled at how possible it was for two wonderful, strong and brilliant human beings to love each other so much. It made us feel good to see you dancing. It was as if no one else was around as you smiled at each other and twirled each other to Hugh Masekela’s trumpet. Power couples that publicly show each other affection and validation are so very rare in our activist civil society worlds. We were hoping for a huge international African wedding and had decided we were going to be in the bridal party. I don’t know how we will comfort you Beatrice. I don’t know how we will comfort Gogo Moyo. What will we do for Sibongile and her sisters?

On the days I forgot to call to check on you, you would ring. And demand our company. ‘Is Nancy (Kachingwe) around? Where is Saru? Let me make you Oxtail. Bring your friends over’. You always offered your home to us, wether you were there or not.

Thank you for giving us so much of you Sekuru Chimusoro. Siyabonga Moyondizvo. We will forever carry you in our hearts. Broken as they are by your untimely and devastatingly painful death. Alone, so far away from the homeland you fought so hard for.
In memory of Sam Moyo

Abdul Raufu Mustapha,
University of Oxford,
England

It is hard to think of Sam in the past tense. It is deeply saddening to come to terms with the loss of this illustrious academic and son of Africa. The last time I saw Sam was at the CODESRIA General Assembly in June 2015, in Dakar. Sam was his usual warm and generous self. Clear in his commitments, perceptive in his observations, and gentle in making his point. We spent many a moment slipping out of the sessions to have a cigarette outside the hotel. Sam, a seasoned smoker; I, a serial quitter. Those were moments of chit-chat, comparing notes, exchanging views, and generally enjoying each other’s company. I will forever miss the warmth and friendship of this kind soul.

Sam was also a profound academic. He invited me once to teach at the Summer School in Agrarian Studies that his institute in Zimbabwe organized. He assembled academics from Brazil, India, and different parts of Africa at Rhodes University in Grahamstown, South Africa. I learnt so much at this gathering that I was supposed to be teaching in! Sam’s personal work on Zimbabwe’s multi-faceted land reform process is a study in academic courage, integrity, and commitment. He trusted himself, stuck to the truth as he saw it, and dirtied his hands in doing difficult fieldwork. He was characteristically generous to others when they finally saw the light and came over to his way of seeing the issues.

Sam was also a Pan-Africanist of the highest calibre. His Pan-Africanism was not shown in bombastic phrases, but in practical, real-life, ways. He never failed to answer any question one had about goings-on in Zimbabwe. He stuck to the key issues; I don’t ever remember Sam having a bad word to say about anybody. Occasionally he would make a point, followed by a chuckle. His commitment was to the long suffering peasantry of Zimbabwe. He was also frequently refreshing his knowledge of Nigeria by seizing the opportunity of our infrequent meetings to ask questions about friends, people, and events. Now and again, he would switch to Nigerian pidgin-English to relish a point. He might have left Nigeria many years ago, but he never let go of the country. In his heart and concerns, Sam remained one of us. Above all, Sam’s Pan-Africanism shone brightly in the invaluable duty he did for African academia by helping to steer the ship of CODESRIA at a very critical period in the life of this important institution.

I will sorely miss you Sam — courageous academic, and selfless scholar in the cause of Africa. Above all, I will miss a friend I have come to trust and respect. Our meetings will never be the same without you.

My deepest condolences to his family, especially his mother, his children, and his close relations. May you all, and his colleagues at the Agrarian Institute, carry on the work where Sam left off.
Tribute To Sam

Fred Hendricks

Rhodes University, Grahamstown, South Africa

The news of Sam’s death reached me on my arrival in Johannesburg yesterday morning. While it was not unexpected, given the extent of his injuries, I still hoped that he would somehow survive. Just before I boarded the plane in Delhi on Saturday night, Praveen sent me an sms saying, “Sam is sinking further.”

I feel bereft beyond words by his untimely departure and by how very close he was to us in the Guest House when the accident happened. On our way to Praveen’s house for dinner, we saw the damaged car of his fatal accident. Since the news we received about the extent of the injuries was understandably unclear at the time, it did not immediately appear that this was serious because they were actually taken to the hospital in a famous Delhi three-wheeler. But, when I saw the car, and how damaged it was I became inwardly worried and jittery.

My last memory of Sam, a very appropriate one at that, was in the car on our way to the conference on Friday morning, when he announced that Praveen had stocked his fridge with a tray of beers which he invited us to share that Friday night. We will never ever have the joy of sharing a drink with him again and there are so many other never evers, that I just can’t think straight today, in the knowledge that he is not with us any more.

I met Sam about 30 years ago at a conference and we’ve been in touch ever since because our research interest coincided. Most recently he was a key member in our SANPAD project which produced the book, “The Promise of Land”. Our paths also crossed in the Committee designed to prepare the way for the establishment of the National Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences and of course in the Agrarian South Network as well as in CODESRIA.

There are two aspects of Sam that impressed me most about his integrity: (i) He was offered a farm as part of the Fast Track Land reform Programme, which he refused saying that he was an intellectual not a farmer. (ii) He was also offered a ministerial job, which he refused saying he was an academic not a politician. These are rare and admirable qualities.

Let us honour the memory of his life and work in appropriate ways across the world.

With deeply felt sadness
For Inter-Asia School: In memory of Professor Sam Moyo (1954-2015)

Kuan-Hsing Chen, November 24, 2015
Professor, National Chiao Tung University, Hsinch, Taiwan

My last contact with Prof. Sam Moyo was on September 18, 2015. The e-mail exchanges were about concrete steps to open channels of intellectual interaction between Africa and Asia after the Hangzhou (China) Forum on “Bandung/Third World 60 Years”. Like always, Sam responded quickly and enthusiastically, listing a series of possible programs such as translation of essays and books, summer school and exchange for postgraduate students, and biannual intellectual forum. Now, with his sudden departure from us, I am not certain to what extent we will be able to implement and continue what he has suggested but will have to try our best to continue his “will to organize”.

Sam was a new friend. Most of us involved in the Inter-Asia School project only met him very recently in the Hangzhou gathering in April 2015. But Sam has immediately become an old friend once we were with him. His warm personality, open-endedness, honesty, ability to act on the spot, and of course love of beer and cigarette have won friendship and respect from anyone around him. I wonder whether he always travels lightly with a carry on bag; once landed in Hangzhou, with huge jet lag, he began to work and tune in smoothly. Over the dining tables and post conference tour to the tea field and West Lake, we all further learned about his erudite knowledge, infinite curiosity of popular life, and immense sense of humor.

Before Sam left Hangzhou for home, he proactively initiated the idea for some of us from Asia to join CODESRIA’s Assembly to happen in June. Two months later, Ikekami and I (representing the Inter-Asia School) landed in Dakar. For this reunion, Sam became the host of Africa to welcome the two first time visitors from Asia. In his hotel room, before the Assembly started, we did a long and engaging interview with Sam on the formation of CODESRIA from the 1970s onwards. He generously shared with us his reflexive analysis and introduced us to several core members of the organization to talk to in the following days to come. During this most intense meeting ever, from morning till evening every day for five days, we as outsiders began to have a sense of great achievement this African circle of thought, which has nurtured and produced brilliant scholars like Sam, and in turn Sam and others has contributed to build a community of trust for the next generations to grow. In the past 40 some years, CODESRIA’s Pan-Africanism is able to construct a solid modern intellectual tradition capable of analyzing difficult issues and troublesome problems from a continental perspective, breaking down the barriers of the nation-state boundary, and in dialogue with global community of knowledge. Sam’s kind invitation created a precious occasion for us to see what we need to learn from the African intellectual community and what is absent in Asia and beyond, though we understand the formation of CODESRIA has had its own unique conditions. Prof. Sam Moyo has left us with the friendship of a genuine human being for us, living in Asia and having the privilege to work with him as a comrade, to treasure for rest of our life, but, most importantly, a legacy of his tri-continental work, to which he has been committed and we will need to uphold. Sam will always be with us if we will continue the incomplete intellectual project of Africa, Asia and Latin-America links.
Sam Moyo
Praveen Jha
Centre for Economic Studies and Planning
Jawaharlal Nehru University
To mourn Sam is impossibly difficult for me. It seems like a most cruel and twisted nightmare. Nightmare is not even the right word – as nightmares end but this will not.

As some of you know, for well over a decade I was fortunate be very close to him, both professionally and personally. Along with a network of comrades from different parts of the world, particularly the global south, Sam was tireless and unwavering in his quest for a humane and just social order. One of the institutional expressions of our shared dreams, journeys and at times hunting together has been the Agrarian South Network. He was not only the cementing force of it but also its heart. The heart has been wrenched away and we gasping for breath.

I can speak forever for the great scholar, activist and everything else about Sam that has been shared in the massive outpouring of grief from all over the world. But I am speechless at the loss of my brother Sam. Let me hide behind a few words from a Neruda poem titled “So Many Different Lengths of Time” which have been haunting me since the early horrible hours of 22 November 2015.

“So how long does a man live, finally?
And how much does he live while he lives?
We fret, and ask so many questions-
then when it comes to us
the answer is so simple
A man lives for as long as we carry him inside us
for as long as we carry the harvest of his dreams
for as long as we ourselves live
holding memories in common, a man lives.

His lover will carry his man’s scent, his touch
His children will carry the weight of his love
One friend will carry his arguments
Another will hum favourite tunes
Another will share his terrors
And the days will pass will baffled faces
Finally a day comes when he will have ceased to be separated by death
So how long does a man live after all?
A man lives for many different lengths of time.”

I only wish the longest possible life for Sam, through his hugs, touches, arguments, inspiration and his inexorable quest for a progressive social order, that many of us experienced in our interactions with him. We will never give up on you Brother Sam.

If the metaphor of ‘Gods Own Good Man’ is an apposite one – it certainly holds for Sam.

For Sam Moyo
By Kofi Anyidoho
There was this thing about Sam Moyo:
A forever sparkle in his eyes
A certain gliding motion in his walk
A heart the size of Love
forever trembling with care and tenderness
A voice that soothes even in rage--
amidst CODESRIA’s countless arguments
his voice comes home with a soothing balm
A mind the pointed sharpness of laser beams
A Soul firmly Rooted in Ancestral Agrarian Soils
And oh! even the Smoke from his Serial Cigarettes
Curls into a Slender Prayer
Reaching out to God.
Accra, Ghana. Nov. 25, 2015
Sam You Live

By Issa Shivji
I come not to mourn you, Comrade.
I’ll shed no tear, my friend.
I refuse to say ‘pole’, to say ‘sorry’.
Why should I?
I refuse to bury you.

How can I?
For you live.
You live in me,
You live in many, across the globe,
Who loved you.
Whose lives you touched,
Whose hearts you cuddled,
Whose minds you tickled.
I come to celebrate your living, Comrade.
I’ll toast to your Ideas, my friend.

Over a glass of sahara, and a plate of ‘nyama choma’.
In Rose Garden, in Sao Paulo, in New Delhi.
I’ll sing praises of Sahara, that unites the continent,
As you did.
I’ll pontificate on Sahara, that embraces civilizations,
As you preached and practised.
I know this is not a poem, nor a flowery prose.
Porojo it may be,
Who cares?
It’s for my friend and comrade,
For my compassionate companion,
Straight from my heart and soul.
Yes, it’s for my friend and Comrade,
For, he lives.
November 24, 2015.

La terrible nouvelle de la disparition du Professeur Sam Moyo 1954-2015)

Bernard Founou

Third World Forum/Forum du Tiers Monde

Je laisse à Samir exprimer nos condoléances au nom des réseaux du Forum mondial des alternatives et du Forum du tiers monde.

J’ai eu l’occasion de travailler avec Sam dans nos colloques et nos conférences. Il était un des chefs de file de l’aile radicale de intelligenzia africaine en sciences sociales. En partant de la question du contrôle de l’accès au sol agricole et du caractère stratégique de l’agroalimentaire, il a apporté une contribution appréciable au renouvellement de l’analyse de l’impérialisme pendant et depuis la victoire des luttes des indépendances des colonies. Et cela dans une perspective qui lui a permis de confirmer par ses propres recherches et de ses collaborateurs le fait majeur que Samir Amin et Walter Rodney avec quelques autres avaient mis en évidence dans les années 1950s et 1960s. A savoir que les classes sociales détentrices des pouvoirs politico-économiques en Europe occidentale et aux États-unis sont en guerre ouverte ou dissimulée contre le développement du SUD depuis le seizième siècle d’une par et que peuples d’Afrique et du monde arabes doivent prendre conscience de la nécessité de se battre plus que d’autres pour formuler et mettre en œuvre efficacement des alternatives à leur extrême vulnérabilité d’autre part.

Sam Moyo a fait ce qu’il devait le cadre de ce défi. Il continuera à le faire à travers ses textes et le souvenir du chercheur rigoureux qu’il nous laisse.
A poem I wrote in tribute to Prof Sam Moyo –

Marie-France Baron Bonarjee
former student & Associate Researcher at AIAS

A light in our midst is extinguished today.
A luminary in the struggle for justice.
An intellectual
An idealist.
Sam Moyo,
a man of wisdom, patience, enthusiasm, humour and wit.
A great heart.
Generous with his time,
his knowledge,
his laughter,
his vision.
We mourn the loss of such a man;
Whose commitment goes beyond the credo of individualism and greed.
Whose life is a monument to engagement in his cause:
A challenge to the status quo.
We mourn the loss of such a visionary.
Sam Moyo;
Our Mentor, Professor, Inspiration and Friend.
You have given substance to our thoughts.
Your ideals and example stand forever as beacons of light in our minds.
They give us hope and courage to continue the struggle which you pursued with such conviction.
You have changed our lives and your spirit remains forever a part of us.

Goodbye Sam: brother, comrade, fighter and friend.–

Kotoka International Airport, Accra, was the last place I ran into Sam, seated in the departure lounge after a workshop on the land questions that he devoted his intellectual life to. We shared a beer, talked with intimacy about his life and mine, how both are inflected with the disparate ancestral and present-day contradictions that typify our generation, and discussed how these might inform both intellectual endeavours and activism. On this occasion, Sam reflected on the early days he spent in Calabar, Nigeria, and how the very different organization of land that he found in West Africa transformed his hitherto Southern African thinking. We reminisced too, recalling earlier visions of what the African scholarly community could become. A favourite we shared is the often-discussed dream of an ‘African Bellagio’ (which we would name differently, of course), possibly on the shores of Lake Malawi, where African scholars and researchers could overcome the vagaries of our variously precarious conditions, coming together to concentrate our best energies and skills, to re-inspire and re-connect, and to pursue the redistributive transformations that lie ahead, that we know must happen.

A complex personal history may go some way to explaining Sam’s remarkable, incisive and visionary intellect, and the manner in which this was coupled with all-embracing generosity of spirit. The rigorous scholarly work he carried out in collaboration with so many was driven by Sam’s deep commitment to serving, and facilitating the liberation of oppressed and marginalized peoples, across the South. His roots in rural Zimbabwe as well as in urban...
township communities lent him profound insight into the land-questions that continue to stall justice and democratization, but which—properly addressed—would end poverty and inequality in Zimbabwe, the rest of Africa, and across the former colonies of the South. His multiple racial and cultural identifications made him a voracious traveller who was able to engage deeply with people across ideological, cultural, national and disciplinary borders, to vigorously debate ideas wherever he went, inspiring and mobilizing across generations.

Few, if any, of us could pass through Harare without being invited home, to ‘gist,’ to drink and eat the pots of food he would produce with abandon. Sam stirred many things beyond belly-filling food. Chez Sam, we ate well, but most of all we feasted on the intense intellectual and political debates he also liked to stir up, stretching our minds as well as our bellies. Few of us will forget the winning embrace of his smile or the warmth of his big brotherly hugs—these earned him the affection that girded the respect colleagues, friends and community felt for him.

The African Institute for Agrarian Studies, established in 2002 was the pioneering initiative that Sam dedicated himself to for the last thirteen years of his energetic career, a remarkable endeavour that grew to span three continents, bringing together people-focused land expertise from African, Latin America and Asia. His death in India, tragic and shocking as it is for us all, occurred when he was doing what he was most committed to, what he most loved. Colleagues and fellow travellers, we owe it to Sam to continue to pursue his vision, and to collectivise the mission he discovered in the course of his brutally foreshortened life, for posterity, for the liberation of the still dispossessed.

Sam was no angel, as the women he has loved in the course of six decades of a life fully lived can surely testify. At the same time, his unadulterated joie de vivre was one of his most endearing features—even as we worried about his health at times! We need not have. Death was to take him away from us ahead of his old age, and at the prime of his activist-intellectual life. This tragic end also snatched Sam away from a new chapter in his personal life, with his equally courageous fighter for human rights, Beatrice Mtetwa. Beatrice, my heart goes out to you—your pain must be unimaginable, inconsolable. Know that you have the love and support of us all, and a life to live, people to serve.

Sam will surely live on in our hearts, our ideas, in our actions, and in our vision of a liberated and just Africa.

Goodbye Beloved Comrade.

Amina Mama
Messages

B. ELMORCHID
Marrakech University

Cher(e)s collègues

Je tiens à m’associer à votre peine et apporter tout mon soutien à ses proches et à ses amis en ces durs moments que la vie nous impose. L’Afrique vient de perdre l’un de ses plus grands chercheurs en sciences sociales.

Veuillez accepter mes plus sincères condoléances

Solani Ngobeni
Director: Publications
Human Sciences Research Council

It was tragic to receive the news of Prof. Moyo’s passing. I cannot come to terms with the fact that the same sage with whom we attended the CODESRIA General Assembly this past June in Dakar, Senegal is no more. We also attended the South African Association of Political Sciences Colloquium at the University of Johannesburg in August. How can death be so cruel?

May His Soul Rest in Peace!

Regards,

A Message From

Jimi Adesina

The sense of utter desolation that one feels at the news of the loss of Sam is beyond words. Sam was a wonderful and generous friend, an inspiring colleague, an immensely active and courageous scholar, and a remarkably dedicated member of CODESRIA and one of its leading lights.

Message From

Rémy Herrera

Dear all,

This is a so hard news... so sad to hear it...

Sam was a so wonderful friend-comrad-brother.

We will all continue his struggle, together.

Fraternité,
A Message From

Isabel Casimiro

DEAR COMRADE, ACTIVIST OF SEVERAL STRUGGLES IN ZIMBABWE, AFRICAN CONTINENT AND THE WORLD

I AM STILL IN SHOCK, NOT WANTING TO BELIEVE. WE KNOW WE ALL DIE. BUT EVEN SO IT IS ALWAYS HARD TO DEAL WITH DEATH, AND OF SOMEONE SO COMMITTED WITH LAND AND SO MANY OTHER ISSUES THAT DIVIDE HUMAN BEINGS.

WE MET IN HARARE LONG TIME AGO, IN THE 90’s AT THE HIVOS ADVISORY GROUP (HAG) AND THAN WITH THE SAPEM ACTIVITIES, BOARD, CONFERENCES.

AND WE MET AT CODESRIA.

WE WILL GO ON FIGHTING FOR EQUALITY AND JUSTICE!

CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILY!

SEE YOU SAM.

A LUTA CONTINUA!

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From: Samia Zennadi.
Editions apic.

Chers amis et camarades,

C’est avec une grande tristesse que je relais la terrible nouvelle de la disparition du Professeur Sam Moyo.

Je ne le connaissais pas très bien mais j’ai eu à le rencontrer au Forum Social de Dakar où il a intervenu dans les activités organisées par le FMA.

Depuis, j’ai pu lire plusieurs de ces écrits qu’il a consacré à la question de la terre et de la question agraire dans le contexte de la mondialisation.

Aussi, je me faisais une joie de la possibilité de le retrouver à Harare en janvier prochain mais la vie en a décidé autrement,

Je m’excuse de m’adresser à vous avec émotions mais je ne peux pas faire autrement.

J’espère que nous pourrions un jour lui consacrer une rencontre en hommage à tout le travail qu’il a fait.

Pensées solidaires à sa famille et à ses amis.

Samia
Pablo Gentili
CLACSO / Secretario Ejecutivo

Queridos amigos y amigas,

Recibimos la triste noticia de la prematura muerte de Sam Moyo, miembro del Comité Ejecutivo de IDEAs y ex presidente del Consejo para el Desarrollo de la Investigación en Ciencias Sociales (CODESRIA), la institución hermana de CLACSO en África.

Sam fue un destacado estudioso de la economía política en Zimbabwe. Se encontraba en Nueva Delhi, India, para participar en una conferencia sobre “Cuestiones laborales en el Sur global”, cuando el auto en el que viajaba sufrió un grave accidente. Luchó hasta último momento por la vida, pero falleció ayer, 22 de noviembre de 2015.

Sus temas de estudio fueron la ecología política, las nuevas ruralidades, las organizaciones no gubernamentales y los movimientos sociales. Publicó varios artículos, capítulos de libros y los siguientes libros (como autor, co-autor o co-editor): La cuestión agraria en Zimbabwe; El proceso de adquisición de tierras en Zimbabwe 1997/8: impactos Socio-Económicos y Políticos; La Reforma Agraria bajo el ajuste estructural en Zimbabwe; Las ONG, el Estado y la política en Zimbabwe; Política Energética y Planificación en el Sur de África; Seguridad Ambiental en el Sur de África; Organizaciones campesinas y democratización en África; La recuperación de la Nación: El retorno de la cuestión nacional en África, Asia y América; entre otros.


Su fuerte sentido del panafricanismo y su solidaridad con los pueblos del Sur nos han enriquecido permanentemente y nos acompañarán siempre.

CLACSO despide a nuestro querido y admirado Sam Moyo, sabiendo que esté donde esté, nos acompañará siempre en las luchas por un mundo más justo, humano e igualitario.

Message From
Jessie Kabwila Ph. D. Malawi

I am still trying to get to terms with this devastated piece of news. The loss of Professor Sam Moyo has really shocked me and reminded me that life is too short. we have really lost one giant of a scholar. very sad for the CODESRIA family.
Dear Sam and Ebrima
Gladys Lechini, Argentina

So long without getting in contact with you. I hope you are both well
I am writing you this time just to share my regrets and sorrow for the disappearance of our friend Sam Moyo. Although we have not met for a long time, since I had to leave CLACSO, I have the best remembrances of the old times together.

My sincere and profound condolences for this irreparable lost -

Message From
Evans Osabuohien

Ja,

The death of Sam is a great lost to Africa in particular and the generality of the Global South. The few times I had one-one discussions with him, I was greatly humbled by his simplicity cum humility void of any ambiguity.
The important lesson we all should learn from him is that ‘it is Honorable to pursue a course we believe in to the very end. This did Sam
As they will say in the military, he died in the very active service better.

Addieu our beloved Sam

Message From
Cláudio Furtado
Universidade de Cabo Verde

Dear colleagues

I am currently taking notice of the tragic death of Sam. I am completely shocked. I participated in a panel discussion during the annual meeting of the graduate programs in social sciences from Brazil in the last week of October in which we talk about Sam and his work for the strengthening of South-South cooperation, that the Agrarian South: Journal of Political Economy is an example.

We will honor the intellectual trajectory and Sam engagement. Rest in peace and condolences to the family and the entire community of African researchers.

Dear Claudio and colleagues,
By Prof Puleng LenkaBula, Member of CODESRIA EC

What a loss… I think these are the words I can humbly share with you now. It is really a sad situation to lose a colleague who was full of life, loved his work and was intellectually astute with a broad footprint in many disciplines and particularly on the land questions and agrarian issues, in very detailed way… I am saddened by the loss. May his soul rest in peace.

Kindest regards,
Message From
Lesiba Teffo

Colleagues,

Big Brother Sam Moyo touched us and impacted our humanity, and influenced our intellectual growth in a profound way. I align myself with the sentiments that seek to honour him. Keep thinking on the best way how, and I will convene a meeting in January to chart the way forward. I am also thinking about a FESTSCHRIFT. Sis Thoko Didiza has some suggestions as well.

In the arena of human life the honours and rewards fall to those who show their good qualities in action. (Aristotle)

Regards,

Chers amis
Abdelatif Rebah

C’est une bien triste nouvelle que celle de la disparition tragique du Professeur Sam Moyo, chercheur et spécialiste des questions agraires et économiques de notre continent C’est une perte que la communauté des chercheurs engagés dans les luttes libétrices de leurs peuples ne peut que ressentir. Personnellement, sans avoir eu l’honneur de le connaitre, j’ai pu en prendre l’immense mesure en prenant connaissance de sa riche et impressionnante production scientifique. Et c’est dans la continuation de ce combat d’idées pour l’émancipation nationale et sociale des peuples, je pense, que le meilleur hommage peut lui être rendu. Merci à vous tous de Our Global University de m’avoir permis de partager cet hommage.

All the best

Dear friends,
Message From Victor Hugo JIJON
Movement Pachakutik from Ecuador

The tragic accident that took the life of Professor Sam Moyo has deprived us of a great researcher and enlightened political analyst on the agrarian question in Africa that has contributed significantly to the orientation of liberation struggles. I have not been lucky enough to know him personally, but reading his books and his many articles helped me a lot to know and spread in my country, Ecuador, and in several forums in Latin America, social unrest and political conflicts in several African countries.

Sam has undertaken a great flight, but his departure is only physical because his thoughts and expectations of emancipatory political transformation will remain an essential reference in all continents.
Message de Victor Hugo JJON

Movement Pachakutik from Ecuador

Chers amis,

Le tragique accident qui a coûté la vie du Professeur Sam Moyo nous a tous privé d’un grand chercheur et d’un analyste politique éclairé sur la question agraire en Afrique qui a beaucoup contribué pour l’orientation des luttes de libération. Je n’ai pas eu la chance de le connaître personnellement, mais la lecture de ses livres et de ses nombreux articles m’a beaucoup aidé à connaître et à diffuser dans mon pays, l’Equateur, et dans plusieurs forums en Amérique latine, les troubles sociaux et les conflits politiques dans plusieurs pays africains.

Sam a entrepris un grand vol, mais son départ est seulement physique parce que ses idées et ses expectatives de transformation politique émancipatoire resteront une référence essentielle dans tous les continents.

Message from Francois Houtart

Quito ECUADOR

Chère Samia,

Cela me fait beaucoup de peine d’apprendre la mort de Sam. Ses travaux ont été une inspiration pour beaucoup. Il a pu ainsi faire entendre la voix de l’Afrique dans un domaine essentiel pour l’avenir. J’espère que l’on pourra lui rendre hommage à la hauteur de son apport.

Si tu as des contacts avec sa famille, dis-leur que je prends une grande part à leur douleur.

Très cordial souvenir.

François

Cher Ebrima,

El Hadj SANE

Senegal

C’est avec grande stupéfaction que je viens d’apprendre le décès accidentel de notre ami le Professeur Sam Moyo. Je voudrais vous présenter à toi, Bayo, Francine, l’ensemble du personnel du Codesria et à la famille de Sam mes condoléances les plus attristées.

Ce que je retiens surtout de Sam c’est de le trouver à chaque rencontre avec toujours son calme, la bonne humeur et un petit sourire à l’endroit de tous. Une grande perte pour le Codesria. Que le bon dieu l’accueille dans son paradis.

Reçois toutes mes amitiés.
A message From
Mwalimu Senkoro.

Dear Dzodzi and colleagues,

It's 02:00am here in Windhoek, and I just woke up to finish writing a piece on popular culture and youth engagement in Namibia, only to read Dzodzi’s mail and the shocking news of the passing away of Sam Moyo. This is VERY sad news indeed. It’s a very big loss to Zimbabwe and to the social science community in Africa. May his soul rest in eternal peace.

I am dumbstruck and short of words for, indeed, we have lost a dear friend.

Sadly,

Message de Baaba Maal
Artiste, Musicien

C’est une grande perte pour l’Afrique et le monde intelectuel.

Paix à son ame.

Que le Seigneur l’acceuille dans son paradis

The Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA) is headquartered in Dakar, Senegal. It was established in 1973 as an independent pan-African research organisation primarily focusing on social sciences research in Africa.

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