

1960

19/10

& Staff Reporter

A Jbg non-White newspaper yy reported tt a former leader of  
t now-outlawed Pan-Africanist Congress died in jail on May 31 --  
and tt his relatives only learned of his death two weeks later.

more/

According to the newspaper, the relatives intend making an application in the <sup>the</sup> and Supreme Court this week for the exhumation of the body. They want "to re-affirm the cause of death", and want the body buried in Orlando.

The man, Mr G. Z. Siwisa, the former chairman of the Witwatersrand region of the PAC, was serving a three-year sentence for incitement at the Cinderella Prison, Boksburg.

The newspaper states that Mr Siwisa died on May 31, and was buried the next day. The death certificate gives brain thrombosis as the cause of death. He was buried by the prison authorities at Wattville Cemetery, Benoni.

Two weeks later, Mr Siwisa's daughter in Orlando East received a letter from the Bantu Commissioner's office in Jbg.

Addressed to "The relatives of the late George Siwisa", it was her first news of her father's death. The letter asked her to collect his clothes.

Mr Siwisa's daughter interviewed the superintendent of Boksburg Prison, who showed her the letter sent ~~xxx~~ ~~sent~~ to her advising her of her father's death. But the letter had not been delivered because

The correct address, according to the newspaper, was in Mr Siwisa's prison file.

Mr Siwisa's daughter has told the newspaper that she is worried about ~~this~~ the matter. "We can't understand how they could have buried him the day after his death when, even if the letter had reached us, it would have been a day or two after his burial," she says.

She also cannot understand how, several weeks later, her correct address was found.

She also wants to know why her father was buried in ~~a public~~ <sup>the public</sup> Wattville cemetery at Benoni. He died in Boksburg, and she says she has discovered that prisoners are usually buried in special prison cemeteries.

FOOTNOTE: On Friday, the RDM, ~~was~~ acting on information received, asked the Pretoria headquarters of the Commissioner of Prisons for a statement on the death of Mr Siwisa. A senior official said that he had "no information at all" on the matter.

The official added that if Mr Siwisa had died, the Commissioner's office would have known about it.

After t publication of yy's report in t non-white newspaper,  
t RDM again contacted t official. He repeated tt he hd no  
information about t matter. He promised to investigate/ it.

ends.

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