

Red Salute Comrade Oupa

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I shan't bury you

For you'll always live in my heart and thoughts.

I shan't sing hymns for the peace of your soul

For your soul'll always fight for peace.

I shan't write obituaries

For they'll be singing your praises in mines and factories.

I shan't kneel down at your grave

For I'll always salute you standing up.

I shan't mourn and weep and grieve your death

For I celebrate your life.

Sing and celebrate for Comrade Oupa

Bellow the battle cry:

Working People of the World

Awake from neoliberal slumber

Arise from capitalist darkness.

Tear asunder the rainbowBEE nation

Paint it PanAfrican Red.

This poem was submitted by Issa Shivji in tribute for the funeral of Oupa Lehulere. You may republish it, so long as you credit the authors and Karibu! Online (www.Karibu.org.za), and do not change the text. Please include a link back to the original article.