

RAJYA SABHA

Tuesday, 19th November, 2019/28 Kartika, 1941 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock,

MR. CHAIRMAN *in the Chair.*

OBITUARY REFERENCE

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, I refer with profound sorrow to the passing away of **Mr. Robert Mugabe**, former President of Zimbabwe, on the 6th of September, 2019, at the age of 95 years.

An iconic pan-African leader, Mr. Robert Mugabe played an instrumental role in leading Zimbabwe to its independence in the year 1980. An ardent votary of African issues and pan-African unity, he served as the Prime Minister of Zimbabwe from 1980 to 1987 and as the President of Zimbabwe from 1987 to 2017. He devoted his whole life to the benefit of the people of Zimbabwe. He served as the Chairman of the Non-Aligned Movement from 1986 to 1989. Mr. Mugabe was a true friend of India and contributed immensely to India-Zimbabwe friendship.

His demise is an irreparable loss to the Republic of Zimbabwe and its people. In his demise, the world has lost one of the tallest leaders of our times.

This House joins the bereaved family, the Government and the people of the Republic of Zimbabwe in mourning the passing away of Mr. Robert Mugabe and conveys its heartfelt condolences to them in their hour of grief.

We deeply mourn the passing away of Mr. Robert Mugabe. I request Members to rise in their respective places and observe silence as a mark of respect to the memory of the departed.

(Hon. Members then stood in silence for one minute)

FELICITATIONS BY THE CHAIR TO SHRI ABHIJIT BANERJEE FOR WINNING NOBEL PRIZE IN ECONOMICS FOR THE YEAR 2019

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, as you are aware, the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences has decided to award the Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences