



REMARKS

BY

**THE SADC CHAIRPERSON AND PRESIDENT OF THE
REPUBLIC OF ZIMBABWE,
HIS EXCELLENCY, DR. E. D. MNANGAGWA,**

AT

**THE GROUND-BREAKING CEREMONY FOR THE
SADC LIBERATION SQUARE AT THE MUSEUM OF
AFRICA LIBERATION**

**LIBERATION CITY
18 AUGUST 2024**

Director of Ceremonies and Minister of Home Affairs and National Heritage, Hon. K. Kazembe;

Our host, Prof. S. V. Mubako, Chairperson of the Institute of African Knowledge (INSTAK);

Your Majesty, King of the Kingdom of Eswatini, King Mswati III;

Your Excellencies, Heads of State and Government;

Vice President of the Republic of Zimbabwe, Hon. Gen. (Rtd) Dr. C. G. D. N. Chiwenga;

Vice President of the Republic of Zimbabwe, Hon. Col. (Rtd) K. C. D. Mohadi;

Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Chairperson of the SADC Council of Ministers, Hon. Ambassador F. M. M. Shava;

Honourable Ministers and Political Leaders from the Republic of Zimbabwe, here present;

Your Excellency, SADC Executive Secretary, Mr. E. M. Magosi;

Your Excellencies, Members of the Diplomatic Corps;

Senior Government Officials and Members of SADC Delegations

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen.

I warmly welcome you all to this continental project, the Museum of African Liberation, aptly branded the Liberation City.

Zimbabwe remains inspired by our collective national history and the spirit of Pan-Africanism vision, hence, our desire to host part of the repository of the history of the continent, for the benefit of present and future generations.

It is, therefore, befitting that I acknowledge the support of SADC Member States and that of other countries, in Africa, that enabled the official African Union endorsement of the establishment of the Museum of African Liberation. This project is being spearheaded by the Institute of African Knowledge (INSTAK).

My Government will continue to deploy resources and expertise towards the institutionalisation of African narratives and perspectives on the decolonisation of the continent.

We are aware that the history of our continent has been and continues to be deliberately distorted to suit the parochial interests of our former erstwhile colonial masters. It is the responsibility of our generation to ensure that this important phase in the history of our continent is accurately documented and secured. It is time that we set the record straight. Otherwise, history will judge our generation harshly for having watched, with disinterest, while our history is falsified.

Your Majesty, Excellencies and Distinguished Guests;

This Museum is an affirmation of the liberation struggles of the African continent. It should ultimately be the custodian and embodiment of all that which characterised the decolonisation of our respective countries,

our Region and the entire African continent, including the African Diaspora.

It immortalises our rich African heritage, given its central role as a reservoir of the events and activities that characterised our struggle against foreign domination and exploitation. It should, also, be a source of pride and inspiration to future generations to, jealously defend and guard against the encroaching wave of neo-colonialism.

Exhibitions that showcase the heroic struggles of the African people and the victories registered against oppression and injustice will form the core of this Museum. The facility will, thus, help to amplify the heroic exploits of the African people, to restore the dignity of the African people and to celebrate our African-ness.

My Government has, therefore, resolved to avail a hectare of land to SADC, where each Member State will be able to construct a monument of our struggle against colonialism.

Our protracted liberation struggles remain invaluable and imprinted in our psyche at national and regional levels.

This can never be erased by those who dehumanised and commodified us. Through timeless projects such as this one, we shall jubilantly celebrate the historic victories we scored as a result of our unity and solidarity, for posterity.

Your Excellencies;

In the case of the liberation of Zimbabwe, special tribute is paid to the then Frontline States, for the selfless political and economic sacrifices which they made for us. Our struggle for freedom and independence would not have been as successful, without the support and solidarity of you all along with other members of the progressive world such as the People's Republic of China and the Russian Federation, then USSR. We are forever indebted to you all and shall never forget that history.

Your Excellencies Distinguished Guests;

We are implementing this project being fully aware and supportive of other projects on Museums within our region. The SADC Museum in Gaborone, Botswana, and the Liberation Museum, to soon take-off in the United Republic of Tanzania, will also contribute to our Pan-Africanist agenda through bold inscriptions and artefacts on the struggles for our liberation. SADC can count on Zimbabwe with regards to the success of those two projects.

It is my singular honour and privilege to now officially hand over this piece of land measuring one hectare, of the SADC Liberation Square, to the Chairperson of the Organ Troika and President of the United Republic of Tanzania, Her Excellency, Dr. Samia Hassan.

May I highlight that this site also overlooks our country's sacred National Heroes Acre, where the Founding Fathers and gallant luminaries of Zimbabwe are interred.

May I now invite you, Your Excellency, the Executive Secretary of SADC, Mr Magosi to officially perform the ground-breaking of the SADC Liberation Square.

God bless you all.

I thank you.

Merci beaucoup.

Muito obrigado.

Asante sana.

God bless SADC.