



SPEECH

BY

**THE PRESIDENT AND COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE
ZIMBABWE DEFENCE FORCES,
HIS EXCELLENCY, CDE. E. D. MNANGAGWA**

AT

**THE BURIAL OF THE LATE NATIONAL HERO COLONEL
(Rtd) TSHINGA DUBE,**

NATIONAL HEROES' ACRE, HARARE,

9 OCTOBER 2024

The Bereaved Dube Family and Amai Nomathemba Dube;

The First Lady, Amai A. Mnangagwa;

Vice President and Second Secretary of ZANU PF, Hon Gen. (Rtd) Dr. C. G. D. N. Chiwenga and Amai;

Vice President and Second Secretary of ZANU PF, Col. (Rtd) K. C. D. Mohadi,

National Chairman of ZANU PF and Minister of Defence, Hon. O. C. Z. Muchinguri-Kashiri;

Minister of State for Harare Metropolitan Province, Hon. C. Tavengwa;

Other Honourable Ministers here present;

Speaker of Parliament, Hon. Adv. J. F. N. Mudenda;

President of the Senate, Hon. Amai M. M. Chinomona;

The Chief Justice, Hon. L. Malaba;

President of the National Chiefs' Council, Hon. Sen. Chief M. Khumalo;

Politburo and Central Committee Members;

Chief Secretary to the President and Cabinet, Dr. M. Rushwaya;

Chairman of the Public Service Commission, Dr. V. Hungwe;

Commander Zimbabwe Defence Forces; General P. V. Sibanda;

Service Chiefs;

Your Excellencies Members of the Diplomatic Corps;

Mayor of the City of Harare, His Worship, Councillor. J. Mafume;

Veterans of the Liberation Struggle;

Senior Government Officials;

Comrades and Friends.

Today we gather yet again in solemn occasion,

surrounded by many fallen heroes interred at this sacred National Heroes Shrine which stands as a reminder of the irreparable debt paid by the many sons and daughters as a sacrifice, so that our beloved motherland, Zimbabwe, can be independent, sovereign, peaceful, united and free. Their individual and collective contribution will forever be enshrined in the memory of this great nation and endure in the annals of our glorious history.

One such luminary is the late National Hero, Colonel (Rtd) Tshinga Judge Dube, who passed on at the Mater Dei Hospital in Bulawayo on 3 October 2024 at the age of 83. He was a gallant son of Zimbabwe, distinguished Veteran of the liberation struggle, decorated Senior Military Officer, former Cabinet Minister and ZANU PF Politburo member.

His passing on, is a huge blow to our Nation, the Defence Forces, community of veterans of the liberation struggle and our Party, ZANU PF, which he loyally served as well as the soccer fraternity, particularly **'i-team yelizwe lonke'** Highlanders Football Club, where he served as a long time benefactor.

On behalf of the people and Government of Zimbabwe , our ruling Party, ZANU PF, my family and indeed on my own behalf, I wish to once again express my deepest heartfelt condolences to his widow Amai Nomathemba Dube, the children and entire Dube family. We grieve this sad loss with you, reflect on lessons from his life and honour him for his valour, character, steadfastness and unflinching patriotism. The late Cde, Retired Colonel Tshinga Dube's consistent service to our nation and forthright,

outspoken perceptive-persona, will be greatly missed. He was a fearless cadre who always spoke his mind. At all times, we need cadres who are prepared to speak the truth like our late National Hero.

May you forever take pride and comfort from the distinguished role played by our late departed National Hero in liberating our beloved motherland, service in the Zimbabwe Defence Forces and within our Party, ZANU PF, as well as in broader public service.

Comrades and Friends;

The late Colonel (Rtd) Tshinga Dube, whose Chimurenga name was “Comrade Embassy”, was born on 3 July 1941 in Fort Usher, Matobo District, Matabeleland South Province. He enrolled for primary and secondary education at Mzilikazi Primary School

and Solusi Mission. On completion of secondary education in 1960, he briefly worked as a teacher, prior to his full-time involvement in politics.

This saw him join our protracted liberation struggle for independence as a member of the Zimbabwe People's Revolutionary Army (ZIPRA). While in Zambia in 1964, the late "Comrade Embassy" was selected for military training in the then Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR), specialising in Military Communications and became a notable instructor in that field.

In 1966, he was deployed as a Reconnaissance Officer in the western part of Zimbabwe and participated in various missions, including mobilising and organising the masses in support of the war of liberation. The late National Hero's competencies,

particularly in the areas of military communications and arms procurement, helped to enhance the military capabilities of the liberation forces.

Our late retired Senior Military Officer rose through the ranks, to become a key member in the arms procurement department of ZIPRA and was instrumental in facilitating shipments of arms to support our struggle against the racist settler Rhodesian regime. This perilous and dangerous task resulted in his unfortunate arrest and imprisonment in Botswana for bringing arms of war.

After serving his prison sentence, the late Colonel (Rtd) Dube was released and returned to Zambia, where he was appointed to various command positions and later became a member of the ZIPRA High Command.

He was one of the first liberation fighters to be deployed to the front and operated in Tsholotsho District, Matabeleland North Province. He was among those that laid the necessary ground work for the 'Wankie Battles'. This was a joint operation conducted by ZIPRA and Umkonto WeSizwe cadres, spreading into Bulilima District Matabeleland South Province.

We recognise and pay homage to the communities of both Matabeleland North and South Provinces, like others across the country, for providing the requisite support that saw us successfully wage our war of liberation.

As a communications specialist, assigned intricate tasks, the late National Hero worked closely with cadres such as comrades Cain Mathema, Joshua

Mpofu and Bhekuzulu Khumalo, amongst others. They jointly oversaw departments alongside comrades from ANC's Umkonto WeSizwe (MK) which included Comrades Walter Mavuso and Jackie Modise.

The collaboration of liberation movements, as well as friendly and progressive countries during the colonial era remains an important feature for the unity, solidarity and regional cohesion among member states. Ours are relations cemented by the precious blood of our forebears.

As such, Zimbabwe reaffirms its unequivocal and unshakable stance to continue deepening cooperating with other SADC member states, for lasting coexistence among the peoples of the region, peace, security, regional integration,

stability and sustainable
development.

socio-economic

Comrades and Friends;

As the armed struggle for liberation progressed, the command hierarchy of most liberation movements realised the need to send cadres for specialised military training to ideologically friendly countries.

Specialist training proved vital in the execution of the military operations, especially the use of specialised combat equipment.

It was under programmes for such purposes that the late retired Senior Military Officer attained a Master of Science Degree in Electro Techniques, at the Moscow Institute of Technology. He returned to Zambia in 1978 and continued to be part of the ZIPRA High

Command in charge of Military Communications.

During his deployment at the war front, he was involved in the heroic 1979 'Madliwa Battle', along the Zambezi River Escarpment near Kariba, which dealt major blow to the oppressive Rhodesians Army.

At the end of 1979, the late Cde Tshinga Dube was deployed as a member of the Ceasefire Commission, assigned to help in the demobilisation and integration of ZANLA, ZIPRA and Rhodesian Forces to form the Zimbabwe National Army. He was attested in the Zimbabwe National Army in 1980 and commissioned as a Colonel, where he headed the Zimbabwe Signals Corps, until his retirement in 1989.

During his illustrious career in the Zimbabwe Defence Forces, our National Hero, Cde Dube attended career

military courses which included: Intermediate Staff Course at the Zimbabwe Staff College; Management Staff and Command Course in Canada; as well as the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons Course in the Hague.

As a result of his dedication, selfless and exemplary service to our beloved motherland, as a member of the Zimbabwe Defence Forces, the late National Hero was awarded the Liberation Medal; Independence Medal; Ten Years' Service Medal; Long and Exemplary Service Medal as well as the Mozambique Campaign Medal.

A versatile senior officer, he served with honour and distinction as Deputy Secretary for Defence in Charge of Research and Development; General Manager of the Zimbabwe Defence Industries (Pvt) Ltd; Chairman

of the Organisation of Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (Zimbabwe National Authority); the United Nations Advisory Board to the Secretary General under Butros Butros Gali and Kofi Annan; as well as Director of Communication Systems of Zimbabwe.

Further he was appointed to serve as Chairman of Matabeleland Development Foundation; Chairman of the Mafela Trust; Director of the Zimbabwe Mining Development Corporation; Deputy Chairman of the Tel-One Board and Chairman of Marange Resources, and served on the NRZ Board. An astute business-man in his own right, he successfully migrated to civilian life.

In this vein, my Government is indeed committed to rendering the necessary assistance to those who have served in our security sector as they naturally

transition to other socio-economic endeavours. Our country will undoubtedly gain from their skills, discipline and experience.

We will fondly remember him for his jovial as well as frank and honest contributions in both the ZANU PF Politburo and Central Committee. He was a reservoir of knowledge and repository of institutional memory, always guiding cadres on the correct line of the revolution.

His loyalty, compassion and servant leadership, as a long serving Member of Parliament for Makokoba Constituency, coupled with the integrity he demonstrated during his time at the helm of the Ministry responsible for Veterans of the Liberation Struggle, is worthy of emulation.

The life-history of our departed and living heroes, including the late Cde Tshinga Dube, serve as a powerful reminder that this nation, with our unity and cohesion as a people, is capable of conquering the seemingly impossible, no matter how arduous.

Our remarkable achievements in the protracted war of liberation and the many years of illegal economic sanctions, remain a testament of our firm determination and unquenchable resolve as the people of this great nation. In unity we will forever defend and safeguard our God-given motherland, its independence, sovereignty, peace, security and stability.

I once again commend you all my fellow compatriots, from Mutare to Plumtree, Chirundu to Beitbridge for demonstrating tremendous resilience and

perseverance.

This in the face of efforts by our detractors to reverse our economic gains.

I call upon the media and communications fraternity, together with Civil Society Organisations, to play their part in nation building. Content which propagates hate, disharmony and harms our national institutions is an affront to our collective national aspirations.

Let us all ensure the realisation of Vision 2030 through production, productivity as well as positive national efforts, in all sectors of the economy.

Nyika inovakwa, inotongwa, inonamatigwa nevene vayo/Ilizwe lakhiwa, libuswe, likhulekelwe ngabanikazi balo, is the philosophy and guidance that must continue to inspire and motivate us, as we build our

country, young and old alike.

Fellow Mourners, Comrades and Friends;

The life history of our departed distinguished cadre and veteran of our liberation struggle who had a pure allegiance and loyalty to our nation, provides lessons for us. He never wavered, but remained patriotic and committed to the cause of our country and people. He remained an honest, humble, trustworthy and selfless cadre who was always ready for national assignments and to serve our revolutionary mass Party, ZANU PF.

As we befittingly lay the late National Hero, Colonel Tshinga Dube alongside his colleagues at this sacred National Shrine, for remembrance and eternal reverence; I say to you “Cde Embassy”, you fought a

good fight, serving until the very end.

What you sacrificed your life for will not be in vain. We shall carry on the good work that you and other luminaries begun.

The right to our dignity, self-determination, territorial integrity, development and prosperity of our beloved motherland, Zimbabwe, shall be promoted and guarded for posterity.

Hamba Kahle Mntwana Wenhlabathi,

Famba Zvakanaka Mwana Wevhu,

Go well Son of the Soil,

Lala Ngokuthula Qhawe lamaqhawe,

Zororai Murugare Gamba remaGamba.

Rest in eternal peace our liberation stalwart.

God bless you.

God bless Zimbabwe.

I thank you.