



SPEECH

BY

**THE PRESIDENT, HIS EXCELLENCY,
DR. E. D. MNANGAGWA**

AT

**THE MEN'S NATIONAL CRICKET TEAM
(CHEVRONS)**

PRESENTATION AT STATE HOUSE

HARARE

8 APRIL 2026

Director of Ceremonies;

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

Vice President, Hon. Col. (Rtd) Dr. K. C. D. Mohadi;

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

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

Minister of Sport, Recreation, Arts and Culture, Hon. Lt. Gen. (Rtd) Amb. A. N. Sanyatwe;

Honourable Ministers;

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

Senior Government Officials;

Chairman of the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee, Hon. F. Jere;

Chairman of the Sports and Recreation Commission Board Dr. N. Madzivanyika;

Acting Director General Sports and Recreation Commission Mr. P. Mudzimiri;

Zimbabwe Cricket Board Chairman, Dr. T. Mukuhlani
along with Members of Staff;

The Senior Zimbabwe Cricket Team-The Chevrons;

Members of the Media;

Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is with a profound sense of pride and admiration that I am pleased to host our Men's National Cricket Team, the Chevrons, here at State House. This special ceremony is being held to honour and celebrate you all, for your sterling performance at the ICC T20 World Cup. Your progression to the Super-8 stage was commendable and a powerful statement of what we are capable of, as a sporting nation. It demonstrated that Zimbabwe is worthy of participating at the global stage across various sporting disciplines. You competed with exemplary determination and showed sturdy preparations, teamwork and self-belief.

The Chevrons showcased sporting prowess and were true ambassadors of Zimbabwe's national character of resilience and an inherent warrior spirit. As a team, you brought great honour to our motherland, Zimbabwe. Through your actions on and off the field, you were able to positively profile 'brand Zimbabwe' in the eyes of the world.

The historic victory over Australia stands out as a defining moment in the Chevrons campaign. It was a victory that captured the imagination of the cricketing world and re-ignited national pride here at home. The result sent a strong message, that Zimbabwe is capable of overcoming the most formidable teams. It reminded us all that greatness is always within reach. For young people in particular, the Chevrons are evidence that the highest levels of sporting success, are attainable, through hard work, discipline and determination.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

Zimbabwe has a rich sporting history with sport being one of our effective tools of diplomacy. Through sport, we have built bridges, fostered unity and projected a message of peace, cooperation, and mutual respect. Zimbabwe Cricket and the Chevrons have been one of the sporting codes at the forefront of sporting diplomacy.

Congratulations, Well-done.

I also extend sincere gratitude and appreciation to Zimbabwean cricket supporters who travelled to the tournament, from here at home and various destinations in the Diaspora to support the Chevrons. Their presence in the stands, songs of encouragement and belief in the team made a difference; carrying the spirit of Zimbabwe and creating a home away from home atmosphere. Together, they reflected the diversity of our society and unity of our people, flying one national flag and singing one national anthem.

May I take the opportunity of this occasion to commend the Board, Management and Staff at Zimbabwe Cricket, for the work being undertaken to develop and promote the game of Cricket, in the true spirit of leaving no one and no place behind. The establishment of cricket facilities in Victoria Falls, at Ncema Valley Country Club, and Masvingo Sports Club, represents a significant step in the right direction. These will go a long way to enhance talent identification from grassroots communities and the overall growth of cricket in Zimbabwe.

On a broader scale, your efforts in hosting international competitions are commendable and will go a long way to position our nation, as a befitting and competitive destination for world-class cricket. To this end, I congratulate Zimbabwe Cricket for successfully hosting the ICC Under-19 Cricket World Cup Tournament. This was a clear testament of our country's organisational capacity and professionalism.

Looking into the future, my Government, stands ready to provide the necessary guarantees and support for hosting the prestigious ICC Men's Cricket World Cup next year. Zimbabwe, together with South Africa and Namibia, will co-host the tournament. This presents a historic opportunity to once again showcase on the global stage the unique hospitality of our people and passion for cricket. I, therefore, challenge all stakeholders to work concertedly, with unity of purpose to deliver an event that reflects the highest standards of excellence.

Finally, to you, the Chevrons, I say; this gathering in your honour, does not mark the end, but is a significant footnote in your exciting journey, as you take your place, among the world's great, Cricket playing nations. I urge you, to continue representing Zimbabwe with utmost pride and responsibility as you lift high, our flag of Zimbabwe.

Remain disciplined in your preparations for the tournaments ahead. Let your conduct, both on, and off

the field, consistently exemplify the unique values and traits, that define us as a nation.

We believe in your potential. You have made the nation proud. Go further; aim higher; write new chapters in Zimbabwean sport and Cricket in particular.

I once again congratulate you, the Chevrons, on your outstanding achievements and wish you great success in your sporting careers.

God bless you.

God bless Zimbabwe.

I thank you.