



**ADDRESS**

**BY**

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

**AT**

**THE BURIAL OF THE LATE NATIONAL HERO AIR  
COMMODORE (RTD) SIMON BRIAN BERE**

**NATIONAL HEROES' ACRE,  
4 MAY 2026**

The Bereaved Bere Family;

First Lady, Amai A. Mnangagwa;

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

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

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

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

Honourable Ministers;

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

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

Chief Justice, Hon. L. Malaba;

President of the National Chiefs Council,  
Hon. Sen. 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;

Senior Government Officials;

Commander Zimbabwe Defence Forces,  
General E. Matatu;

Service Chiefs;

Your Excellences, Members of the Diplomatic Corps;

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

Veterans of the Liberation Struggle;

Fellow Mourners;

Comrades and Friends.

On behalf of the nation, Government and our revolutionary mass Party, ZANU PF, and indeed on my own behalf, I express my heartfelt condolences to the Bere Family, over the loss of a son, husband, Father, brother and uncle, among other titles.

Air Commodore (Rtd) Bere passed on, on the 24<sup>th</sup> of April 2026, after serving our great motherland, Zimbabwe as a young freedom fighter, professional air officer and civil servant. In all these areas, he always exhibited unparalleled patriotism, loyalty, discipline and unflinching dedication to our country, never seeking personal glory. The late gallant Son of the Soil, was an asset to us all.

Befittingly, therefore, we lay our departed, National Hero, whose war-time name was ***‘Brian Garanewako Chimurenga’***: here, at the National Heroes Acre, along-side other illustrious sons and daughters of our beloved motherland, Zimbabwe.

May the family, his liberation war comrades and colleagues, continue to find solace from the fact that the nation, suffers your grief and also shares your pride.

## **Fellow Mourners;**

To understand the late National Hero, Cde Bere, it is critically important to contextualise the historical times that informed his revolutionary decisions.

By 1978, Rhodesia was burning, as the war to liberate Zimbabwe had reached every corner of the country. The racist colonial regime had made education, the economy and wealth, privileges of a few settlers. Land and livestock expropriation, coupled with oppression and marginalisation, were a reality for the black majority.

Born on 19 September 1959, the late Air Commodore (Rtd) Simon Brian Bere, faced a choice, either to submit to a life of being a second-class citizen or to fight for a new free, independent and sovereign Zimbabwe. He made the monumental sacrifice, to fight for self-determination, national identity and the dignity of the people of our great country.

In December 1978, Cde Bere, crossed into Mozambique and joined the Zimbabwe African National Liberation Army at Samacuesa Base. Thousands of other young men and women were making the same journey, crossing into Botswana, Mozambique and Zambia for military training and ultimately to return home and fight for freedom.

I call upon all our people, young and old alike, to never take for granted or trivialise that sacrifice. It took supreme bravery, courage and determination to leave home, to face enemy fire, disease and possible death, in a struggle where victory was certain, but the timelines, unknown.

**Zvaida vakatsunga moyo, uye vakazvipira kuti ropa ravo raizo-wanikwa pamureza weZimbabwe.**

On completion of military training at Samacuesa, the late Retired Air Commodore Bere, was appointed Detachment Political Commissar in the Education Department. This was based on the clear understanding that wars are won by ideas. The importance of national consciousness and grassroots mobilisation were indispensable aspects of the liberation struggle.

Our National Hero thus, taught, politicised and prepared minds of our people for both the protracted struggle as well as for freedom and Independence. As the liberation war intensified, the Rhodesians were forced to pursue peace, resulting in the Lancaster-House Conference of 1979.

Following ceasefire, 'Cde Chimurenga' reported to Tongogara Assembly Point waiting for the birth of an Independent Zimbabwe. To the young people and the entire nation, let us always recognise that our freedom was not donated and never came on a silver plate.

It was fought for by your grandfathers and grandmothers, uncles and aunts, underwritten by the blood, scars and wounds of many of our forebears.

The question before all of us today is; What is it that we can contribute to consolidate the gains of our hard-won Independence? What is our individual and collective sacrifice for the attainment of our national development aspirations and Vision 2030?

**Ngatizvibvunzei kuti tingaiteyi kuti nyika yedu isimuke, uye ibudirire iyende mberi.**

**Iwe neni, tose tine basa. Ndangariro dzedu ngadzive dzekuvaka nyika yedu, kwete kuputsa.**

Unity, Peace and Development remain our national guiding principle and moral compass. The late National Hero, Cde Bere never wavered from this beacon. He was persistent, consistent and a reliable and dependable cadre, right up to his demise.

## **Comrades and Friends;**

In 1981, the late Comrade Bere joined the Air Force of Zimbabwe as an Air-craftsman. He underwent Basic Military Training at Field Air Force Base, now Jason Ziyaphapha Moyo Air Base. Together, with others, these men and women took over institutions designed to oppress us and helped transform them into instruments for the development of our defence and security architecture, and the country as a whole.

He specialised in Explosive Ordnance Disposal, which skills he effectively deployed during his participation in the Mozambique and Democratic Republic of Congo campaigns.

The late National Hero, rose through the ranks, from Air Lieutenant in 1993 to retire as Air Commodore in 2024. Today, we sadly mourn him, but also celebrate a life of merit, hard-work, loyalty, patriotism, discipline, exemplary leadership, and results.

The late, Retired Air Commodore Bere also pursued studies at university level, where he attained qualifications in Political Science, Security and Strategic Studies as well as National Defence.

Given his background in commissariat work, the late National Hero was seconded to the Ministry of War Veterans in 2016. Following his promotion to Director War Veterans Affairs in 2020, he was instrumental in advancing programmes and projects being undertaken by the Second Republic, to improve the welfare of our veterans of the liberation struggle.

As we inter this gallant son of the soil, at this national shrine, let us remember that the people's revolution and the struggle continues, albeit in a changed terrain. The first Chimurenga was against colonial occupation and subjugation. The Second Chimurenga was for political independence. The Third Chimurenga was for our land.

Now we are in the Fourth Chimurenga, which must see us assume total control of every aspect of our national wealth and economic development. Under this quest, Vision 2030 is a stepping stone towards greater prosperity, industrialisation and modernisation.

**Nyika inovakwa, inotongwa, inonamatigwa nevene vayo/ ilizwe lakhiwa, libuswe, *likhu-le-ke-lwe* ngabanikazi balo.**

All of us have the weighty obligation to consolidate national unity and work with vision and focus to drive Zimbabwe to a higher economic status.

The environment and circumstances surrounding the protracted liberation struggle were different. Today, patriotism and loyalty, in the national interest must translate to increasing production and productivity.

It must also mean buying Zimbabwean products and services, building Zimbabwe, defending and speaking good over our nation as well as proclaiming and declaring the blessings of Almighty God over Zimbabwe.

As we implement National Development Strategy 2, therefore, our farmers are urged to be aware that our land, plots, agriculture business units, and horticulture fields, are the present-day trenches. In good and lean seasons, we must feed the nation and guarantee national food self-sufficiency as a critical component of national security and sovereignty.

To the Youth, you are reminded that you are the vanguard of our Independence, freedom and democracy. You are cadres of the contemporary Chimurenga. Your battleground is now the Digital Economy, Mining, Tourism and Manufacturing sectors, among others.

I urge you to occupy the domains of Artificial Intelligence, Robotics, and other modern fields of human endeavours. Never shy away from the challenges and opportunities before you. Embrace innovation, be the employers and entrepreneurs that drive our nation forward.

To the Women; you sustained the liberation struggle, today, you support the economy through Small and Medium Enterprises. By and large, you bear the brunt of climate change and the effects of economic sanctions imposed on our country, by some western countries.

To the Veterans of the Liberation Struggle, your new base is the community. I call upon you to deploy your strategic mindsets, discipline, loyalty and rich history to mentor the next generation of our country's patriots.

Equally, I challenge the civil servants, officers, men and women across the security sector, to continue wholeheartedly serving our nation with patriotism, urgency, humility and focus.

We have an obligation to deliver life-transforming results, that benefit all our people. These are the traits we must learn from our dearly departed heroes and heroines that fought for the Independence, freedom and democracy, we are enjoying to this day.

The late National Hero, Air Commodore (Rtd) Bere was in that mould of these yester-year cadres. He ran his race, and fought his fight. He has finished well.

To you, our departed Comrade, Air Commodore, I say; Your critical mission is accomplished. Us, who remain behind, will stay true to the ideals of the revolution. We shall continue the march, flying high the sacred flag of our motherland, Zimbabwe and forever safeguard the rich legacy bequeathed to us, by our many revolutionary forebears.

Go well, our National Hero. Go well, “Cde Garanewako Chimurenga”. **Lala ngokhuthula Qhawe lama Qhawe. Zorora murugare Gamba remaGamba.**

Long live our unity and peace.

Long live our National Vision.

**God bless you all.**

**God bless Zimbabwe.**

**I thank you.**