



ADDRESS

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
BRIGADIER GENERAL (RTD) DONALD
SILUNDI TSHUMA**

NATIONAL HEROES' ACRE

27 MAY 2026

The Bereaved Tshuma Family;

First Lady, Amai A. Mnangagwa;

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

Vice President, 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. Tawengwa;

Honourable Ministers;

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

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

Chief Justice, Hon. E. Gwaunza;

Politburo and Central Committee Members;

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

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

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

Commander Zimbabwe Defence Forces;
General E. Matatu;

Service Chiefs;

Your Excellences, Members of the Diplomatic Corps;

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

Veterans of the Liberation Struggle;

Senior Government Officials;

Fellow Mourners;

Comrades and Friends.

We gather at this sacred shrine, the National Heroes' Acre, to inter a loyal, patriotic, gallant Son of the Soil and veteran of the Liberation Struggle, Brigadier General (Rtd) Donald Silundi Tshuma, 'Cde Henry Silundi', as he was known during the liberation struggle. He passed on, on 15 May 2026 at the age of 71.

The late National Hero, served our beloved motherland, Zimbabwe, with honour and distinction prior to independence, and thereafter, in the Defence Forces, until his retirement. He was a disciplined, and distinguished military officer who provided exemplary leadership within our armed forces.

On behalf of our revolutionary mass Party, ZANU PF, the nation, Government, and on my behalf, I once again express my deepest and heartfelt condolences to the Tshuma Family.

As we mourn with you the loss of a beloved son, father and relative, we collectively honour his heroic contribution to Zimbabwe. He endured the weighty responsibility of our liberation struggle and national assignments with bravery and steadfast commitment. It is, therefore, befitting that we inter our National Hero alongside luminaries of our country, at this sacred national shrine.

Fellow Mourners;

The life of Brigadier General (Rtd) Donald Silundi Tshuma is a template of persistent patriotism and loyalty, which should be emulated. Born on 12 July 1955 in Nkayi District, the late National Hero faced the perilous conditions at the height of Rhodesian brutalities. He made a life-threatening decision to fight the oppressive colonial regime, by joining Zimbabwe African People's Union (ZAPU).

In no time, his leadership traits were evident which resulted in his appointment as the District Organising Secretary for Gwabalanda in the ZAPU Youth League. He played a critical role towards mobilising the youth to join the Liberation Struggle. His activities made him a person of interest and a target of the Rhodesian Special Branch. In 1976, he escaped, through Botswana enroute to Zambia, to join the Liberation Struggle.

He completed his initial military training at Mwembeshi where he learnt the art of war as well as and reality that freedom would not be given on a silver platter but earned through blood and sacrifice. At the end of his training, he was deployed along the Zambezi River, on our border with Zambia, with duties that included reconnaissance and surveillance operations, as well as route-protection for cadres crossing into and out of Rhodesia.

In 1978, the late General Officer was part of cadres led by the late National Hero, General Lookout Masuku, that were sent to Libya for further military training.

Whilst acknowledging and respecting all forms of religions, but conscious of their identity, the group could not undertake the training owing to a set pre-conditions. This was a bold statement which demonstrated that we are a people with our own culture, norms, values and identity.

Colonialism tried to belittle our languages and peddle narratives that claimed our history begun in 1890, as the white supremacist disregarded that we were a proud and self-reliant and sophisticated civilization prior to their invasion and theft of our land. The late Cde Tshuma and his generation deconstructed such falsehoods. Their fight restored our history, dignity, identity and destiny.

Under the Second Republic, we continue to honour our rich liberation war heritage by recognizing our heroes, teaching our customs and promoting our languages, as well as protecting the sacred sites of this country.

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

Nation-building entails daily patriotic acts, by all of us. Province by province, community by community, let us always remember that a nation without an identity and culture, is like a tree without roots.

In 1979, the late National Hero, Brigadier General (Rtd) Tshuma went to the then **USSR** for further military training. At ceasefire, he returned home, to serve. He was attested into the Zimbabwe National Army and posted to 1.9 Infantry Battalion. During his illustrious service, he fought in the Mozambique and DRC campaigns. Under a United Nations Mission, he was deployed to South Sudan, as an Observer.

In honour of his service and leadership, the late General Officer was awarded the Liberation Medal; Independence Medal; the Ten Years' Service Medal; the Long and Exemplary Service Medal; the Mozambican

Campaign Medal; the DRC Campaign Medal; and, the Commander of the Zimbabwe Order of Merit.

In his remembrance and that of other departed heroes and heroines, I challenge us all to give the best service to our beloved motherland, Zimbabwe. Their sacrifice is the foundation upon which Zimbabwe stands as a truly independent state, controlling its resources and charting its own destiny.

Our late National Hero, Brigadier General (Rtd) Tshuma stayed the course and together with his generation, they remained committed to see a prosperous Zimbabwe, where our communities have a higher quality of life. In this regard, it is critically important that sector by sector, we must take pride and celebrate the evident success milestones.

The prevailing macro-economic stability is not accidental. It is a result of our collective discipline, resilience, focus and unity of purpose.

Our economy remains on an irreversible growth trajectory, expected at 5% in 2026, following a 6.6% rebound in 2025. The IMF, World Bank, and United Nations Economic Commission for Africa all confirm this trend. The positive results of our policies are undeniable, as we continue with our transition from recovery to acceleration. Energy, transport, water and information communication technology infrastructure is growing at a steady pace.

Mining is the backbone of our economy with earnings reaching US\$7 billion in 2025 and while focus has now shifted to local beneficiation and value addition. Let me reiterate that, my Administration will continue to implement responsive policies for broad-based empowerment and wealth creation.

Reforms in the Mining sector, particularly with regards the small-scale mining of gold, will see the participation of more locals in the sector.

Our Agriculture sector is growing and improving national food security and sovereignty.

Fellow Mourners;

To the youth, I want to highlight that the late National Hero, Cde Tshuma was your age when he crossed into Zambia to liberate our country. We are now enjoying peace, independence and freedom, as a result of the sacrifices of our forebears. I challenge you therefore, to defend our revolution and reject those who want to use you as tools to denigrate your country.

Choose to be part of those building our nation as entrepreneurs across all sectors including the digital space and in laboratories and on our God given land. The modernisation, industrialisation and the realization of Vision 2030 is ours together.

To Brigadier General (Rtd) Donald Silundi Tshuma, I say, go well son of the soil, you served our motherland, Zimbabwe, you ran a good race and fought a good fight.

Today, Zimbabwe says, thank you. Your professional and exceptional patriotism, loyalty, consistency and persistency are praise worthy of emulation. The flag you defended shall continue to fly high and the flame of the people's revolution shall burn eternally.

As Zimbabweans, from Plumtree to Mutare, Beitbridge to Chirundu, we are clear of this weighty obligation. Under my leadership, this sacred path will never be abandoned. Under the current 4th Chimurenga, the revolution continues.

Lala ngokuthula Qhawe lama Qhawe.

Zororai murugare Gamba ramaGamba.

Go well, go well Son of the Soil.

May your dearly departed soul rest in eternal peace.

God bless you all.

God bless Zimbabwe.

I thank you.