



SPEECH

BY

THE PRESIDENT, HIS EXCELLENCY

DR.E.D.MNANGAGWA

AT THE

**THE MEMORIAL SERVICE OF THE LATE COMRADE LIEUTENANT
GENERAL (Rtd). Dr. S. B. MOYO**

4 DECEMBER 2021

**MOYO HOMESTEAD
MBERENGWA DISTRICT**

MIDLANDS PROVINCE

Today we gather here at the Moyo Homestead as we remember and celebrate the life and sacrifices made by our late Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Trade and Member of the Party's Politburo, Retired Lieutenant General Cde. Dr. Sibusiso, Busi Moyo. He succumbed to COVID-19 related complications on the 20th of January 2021.

On behalf of the Ruling Party, ZANU PF, Government and the people of Zimbabwe, my family, and indeed on my own behalf, I wish to take this opportunity to express our heartfelt gratitude to the Moyo family, for having allowed us to share with them their son, Cde S. B. Moyo.

Our collective memories of him shall always serve as a reminder of what it means to be patriotic, loyal and a true servant, compatriot, hard-working cadre of one's nation.

Today, we thus, join together to remember his life and legacy as family, friends and the entire nation along with other friends within the broader global family.

Fellow Comrades, Family and Friends,

The late Cde S. B. Moyo made the priceless sacrifice to join the armed struggle at a very tender age of 15 years when he was in form three. The personal choice to join his contemporaries to confront the white settler regime's oppressive system was not an easy one and was, in itself, a demonstration of courage, bravery and selflessness.

Together with other fearless comrades of the liberation struggle, theirs was an invaluable contribution that gave birth to a people-oriented Zimbabwe, which we must proudly cherish for posterity. They bequeathed to us a nation founded on unshakable revolutionary heritage with strong traditions of unity, peace, as well as the dignity of hard honest work. Emboldened by their collective vision, we must all draw from this rich value system in pursuit of our National Vision 2030.

As you are aware, the late Cde Sibusiso Busi Moyo was born in 1961 at Mnene Mission Hospital here in Mberengwa. While studying at Manama Mission School, together with 410 other students from the school, he abandoned his studies and left the then Rhodesia to join the liberation struggle in 1977, travelling to Zambia through Botswana.

Manama Mission School, like many schools throughout the country, was a springboard from which many cadres of the liberation struggle were recruited. As we immortalise our liberation war heritage and remember our gallant liberation heroes, it is important to make deliberate efforts for various education institutions to have monuments or roll calls of their former students who participated in the liberation struggle.

This will ensure that the future generations of learners remain forever conscious of the road walked by their forebears, for the freedom and democracy we enjoy to this day.

I exhort our young people to take a leaf from the sacrifices made by the likes of the late Cde S. B. Moyo and others like him to liberate this country. I call upon the youth to love and hold in high regard their country, communities and families. Never be led astray by the virtual and often non-existent world created on social media. Hold on tightly to our rich cultural heritage, and Zimbabwean value system; never allow detractors to drive you to hate or denigrate your motherland. The country called Zimbabwe was given to us at a cost of blood let us all protect it from neo-colonial plunderers and supremacists.

In Zambia, Comrade S. B Moyo joined the Zimbabwe's People Revolutionary Army (ZIPRA) and received his first military training at one of the Communist Guerrilla Training Bases where Commander Defence Forces, General P.V. Sibanda was the Camp Commander. He trained with the current Commander Air Force of Zimbabwe, Air Marshall Elson Moyo, Major General Hlanganani Dube, Major General (Rtd) Chancellor Diye, Air Commodore Masera and Albert Nguluvhe, among others. He also undertook training in the then Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USR) in 1978 where he did his Company Commanders Course.

Equipped with the military training and socialist-communist ideology, he returned to Zambia and became an instructor at a number of ZIPRA training camps. At cease fire he went to Romeo Assembly point and subsequently integrated into the Zimbabwe National Army at the rank of Captain.

The man we remember and celebrate today, the late Cde S. B. Moyo held various portfolios in the Zimbabwe Defence Forces. These include General Staff Officer Grade Two at Army Headquarters (1981-1983); at the Zimbabwe Military Academy he served as Course Officer, Officer Commanding Foundation Training and then Deputy Chief Instructor. He was later posted to the Zimbabwe Staff College as a Directing Staff (1985-1989).

In 1992, he was promoted to the rank of Colonel and Commander of Six Infantry Brigade until 1995 when he returned to the Zimbabwe Military Academy as Commandant and was promoted during that period to Brigadier General. Between 1997 and 2014, the late Rtd Lieutenant General S. B. Moyo served as Brigadier General Administration Staff: Senior Personal Officer to the then Commander Defence Forces, the late Vitalis Musungwa Gava Zvinavashe; Director General Military Strategic Planning at ZDF Headquarters; Deputy Inspector General and Director General Economic Development Department. He was later promoted to the rank of Major General in 2014. Upon his retirement in 2017, he was again promoted to the rank of Lieutenant General.

Fellow Comrades and Friends;

The late National Hero, Cde S. B. Moyo, served in the Zimbabwe Defence Forces with unflinching conviction and distinction. He always exhibited an appetite to broaden his own knowledge and equally understood the importance of the deployment of relevant and appropriate knowledge for national development.

As such, the man we celebrate and remember today spearheaded the transformation of the National Defence College into the Zimbabwe National Defence University as the President of the Board, and was later appointed the Chairman of the Zimbabwe National Defence University Council.

The late Cde S. B. Moyo held strong views on the importance of a peaceful Africa and the need to Silence the Guns on the Continent. He was thus a reliable and conscientious member of the Defence Forces who was always available to deployment with regards to peacekeeping and peace-building.

The late National Hero was a brave, dedicated, fearless, soldier, great strategist, decorated General and Commander par excellence. This saw him serve as Brigade Commander in the Mozambican Campaign and also as Deputy Chief of Staff during the United Nations Mission in Somalia (UNOSOM11). He was also a key figure during Operation Sovereign Legitimacy in the Democratic Republic of Congo. He, therefore, made positive contributions and left lasting impressions at all international campaigns which he dutifully served.

His selfless deeds must forever inspire and embolden the new generation of officers, in our Defence Forces as they discharge their responsibilities internally as well as within the broader peace and security architecture of the region, African Union and the United Nations.

A dedicated and committed public servant, Comrade Moyo's wide ranging dedication to his country, beyond the military sphere is evident in his exceptional accomplishments while executing special assignments.

In the agriculture sector, he was one of the key members during the formative implementation stages of the Command Agriculture Programme. At a time when our nation experienced a severe drought, he chaired the External Grain Importation Task Force from 2016 to 2017, a task he executed with timely precision, to mitigate the impact of previous drought, while concurrently ensuring food sufficiency and a bumper harvest.

Fellow Comrades, Ladies and Gentlemen;

The late, Cde S. B. Moyo was a man with a big heart and a true friend to many, who was always prepared to go an extra mile. He was indeed a trusted and loyal soldier. Whether during operations or undertaking administrative and political duties; he put 100 percent into everything he did.

He had an enviable sense of dedication to his country, work and colleagues. When times got tough, the late General S. B. Moyo, would be one of those still standing at the end.

He was never a coward, and never backed out of difficult tasks, even if the risks had far reaching consequences. In November 2017, he was a key player in the peaceful transition from the Republic to the Second Republic, and indeed became the face of what was dubbed **“Operation Restore Legacy”**.

During that defining historic period in our country, together with his colleagues in the Zimbabwe Defence Forces, the late Cde. S. B. Moyo demonstrated his respect and commitment to constitutionalism democracy and the rule of law. This ensured that Zimbabwe remained under a civilian, democratic and Constitutional order.

This is what the Retired Lieutenant General Cde, Dr Sibusiso Busi Moyo and his contemporaries fought for and worked hard to entrench in our independent, sovereign and great nation of Zimbabwe. In him we remember a true patriot, colleague and son of the soil emerging from this part of our beautiful country, Mberengwa District.

Augmenting his impeccable military astuteness, was Cde S. B Moyo’s intellectual agility and general good nature. Following the advent of the Second Republic, I was pleased to appoint him as Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Trade. His task was to advance the national interest, economic diplomacy and the Pan African agenda, guided by our Engagement and Re-engagement Policy as well as the Zimbabwe is Open for Business mantra.

Following my change of the nomenclature of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs by incorporating the International Trade element, Cde “SB” swiftly weaved through the intricate diplomatic field with the dexterity of a true soldier. This was in spite of the continuing illegal economic sanctions on our country.

The late National Hero was, thus, instrumental in shifting our foreign policy paradigm to one that gives pre-eminence to partnerships and investments as our country advanced “our quest to be friend to all and an enemy to none”.

Within the Ministry, the late Minister S.B Moyo astutely tackled the lukewarm acceptance by some, to the broadened Ministry mandate, and the strategic shift to a result-oriented and an investment-promotion focused, diplomatic **corps**.

He, thus, ensured the deployment of competent and adaptive officers with a sound appreciation of investment and international market knowledge.

Furthermore, it was during the tenure of the late National Hero, Cde S. B. Moyo that we witnessed the robust engagement of the Zimbabwean Diaspora. The many sons and daughters of Zimbabweans abroad begun to be more positive and actively involved in the national development discourse of our beloved motherland. In honour of the life of our diplomat par excellence, I urge fellow Zimbabweans in the Diaspora to work even harder and

engage more comprehensively with us here back home, for the development and prosperity of our beloved country. Wherever you are and whatever challenges you may face; you will always be welcome back, Zimbabwe is your home.

Under the leadership of the late Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Lt. General (Rtd) Moyo, ZimTrade was transformed to be an anchor of Zimbabwe's exports and trade strategy. This saw that entity shift to focus on export promotion and export market led production and productivity. Most recently, ZimTrade led a successful trade promotion campaign during the Intra-Africa Trade Fair held in Durban South Africa.

Together with his colleagues in Industry and Commerce; Lands, Agriculture and Rural Resettlement Ministries, they toured exporting companies in a bid to grow our trade and exports portfolios.

Going forward, Zimbabwean Embassies must continue to play a proactive facilitation role for potential investors and markets from across the world as we consolidate our Export Strategy navigate into the Africa Continental Free Trade Area, as well as implement the Bilateral Investment Protection and Promotion Agreements and other Protocols.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Comrades and Friends;

We remember and honour a fiercely dedicated and loyal member of Team Zimbabwe. He received the comradeship of life in the Army and public office. Lt General (Rtd) Moyo, was a result oriented cadre

who could be depended on to complete a job without complaint or hesitation.

These traits are indeed required for us to achieve Vision 2030 and the goals set out in the National Development Strategy. **Nyika inovakwa nevene vayo, Tisu vene vayo, tava kuivaka.**

The nation is eternally grateful to the Moyo family who gave us a realisable, dependable patriot; and illustrious soldier and dedicated public servant.

As we celebrate the life of our national hero, we recall that he was robbed from by the menacing and ugly head of the COVID-19 pandemic. The war against this present arch-enemy of mankind continues.

I call upon all of us to remain on very high alert, moreso against the emerging threat of a fourth wave with its Omicron Variant.

Going forward, adherence to the World Health Organisation COVID-19 protocols and Lockdown measures must never be negotiable order. Meanwhile, I commend our Research community for their responsive interventions towards research aimed at crafting measures to manage the virus.

Finally, to you our National Hero, the late Lieutenant General (Rtd) Cde Dr. S. B. Moyo, I say; Your Life was a blessing, your memory is a treasure, your legacy and contribution to our great country Zimbabwe, shall forever be cherished.

Zororai murugare gamba remagamba! Lalani ngokhuthula qhawe lamaqhawe; Continue to rest in eternal peace our beloved National Hero.

God bless you all.

God bless Zimbabwe

I thank you.