



SPEECH

BY

THE PRESIDENT, HIS EXCELLENCY

DR.E.D.MNANGAGWA

**AT THE OCCASION OF THE SITE VISIT OF THE MUSEUM OF AFRICAN
LIBERATION**

HARARE

21 DECEMBER 2021

I am honoured to address you all at this momentous and historic occasion as we launch the Zimbabwe Defence Forces' Heritage Monument here at the Museum of African Liberation. The monument serves to immortalise and memorialise the supreme sacrifices made by our gallant sons and daughters to liberate our great country and Continent. This monument by the Zimbabwe Defence Forces and the Institute of African Knowledge also contributes to the realisation of Aspiration number 5 of the African Union's Agenda 2063, 'an Africa with a strong cultural identity, common heritage, values and ethics'.

Zimbabwe remains privileged to be host of the Museum of African Liberation, which provides Africa space to collectively write and tell its liberation story in its own way and perspective. The museum enables us to secure, preserve and promote our rich collective heritage, arts, culture and heritage as levers for building the Africa 'we all want'. As Africa, none but ourselves, has the responsibility to build our own Continent.

The construction of the wall of honour, which is part of the Zimbabwe Defence Forces Monument, is commended as it consists of names of Africa's illustrious veterans of the liberation struggle. It takes into account the fact that Africa's liberation struggle and freedom was a culmination of synergies, collaboration, cooperation and solidarity of various nations.

The Monument will therefore, go a long way towards engraving the unity that exists within Africa. It further * stands as a reminder of the Ubuntu philosophy which says, 'I am, because we are', and 'We are, because I am'.

Progress that has been realised since the ground-breaking in December 2020 is in keeping with my Administration's focus and resolve to implement and complete development projects and programmes. I, thus, commend the Zimbabwe Defence Forces, the Institute of African Knowledge and other stakeholders for the unity of purpose, good workmanship and determination, which has seen the results achieved to date.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen;

As you may recall, the work we are witnessing today, begun with the publication and joint launch of the first Africa Fact-book in September 2020. Thereafter, on 6 May this year, I, endorsed the architectural designs for this Project.

This led to the commencement of the construction works which we are witnessing here today. To-date, various liberation heritage artefacts have been put on display. These include materials from the late National Hero, Cde General Josiah Magama Tongogara; Father Emmanuel Ribeiro; Cde Leopold Takawira and late Vice President, Cde Dr. Simon Vengai Muzenda. In addition to these, we have received

artefacts of our Founding Father and National Hero, Vice President, Cde Dr Joshua Mqabuko Nyongolo Nkomo, “Chibwe-chitedza”.

Meanwhile, my Administration welcomes the commitment by the President of the Republic South Africa, His Excellency Cde Cyril Ramaphosa and his Administration, to facilitate the repatriation of artefacts that were removed from Zimbabwe by the Smith regime. More artefacts are also expected from across Africa and beyond.

To this end, I once again make the emphatic call for the return of the remains of our iconic heroes, including Chief Makoni, Chief Chinegundu Mashayamombe and Chief Chiwashira, and other artefacts held hostage in foreign museums and private galleries.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

I want to express my gratitude to the Government of the Swiss Confederation for their generous donation of ICT equipment for the Museum of African Liberation Project. This will enable the digital archiving of documents and other artefacts. I equally appreciate and acknowledge the support the project is receiving from the Governments of the People’s Republic of China, Russian Federation, the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, the Republic of Namibia as well as the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

This Museum site, which spans 101 hectares, will be renamed the Liberation City. The City is envisaged to accommodate a host of facilities, including the museum itself, the Zimbabwe Defence Forces Exhibition Park, a five-star hotel and a shopping mall, among other facilities. Investors in the tourism, hospitality and real estate sectors, from across Africa, are invited to come and be part of this landmark project.

It is also pleasing that the National Social Security Authority (NSSA) has indicated its investment in the shopping mall. The decision to call the shopping mall, the Liberation Mall is apt and encapsulates the spirit behind this project. I also exhort the Ministry of Local Government and Public Works together with City of Harare to consider renaming Golden Quarry Way, along which this Museum is located in a manner that resonates with the liberation of Africa.

As I conclude, allow me to once again urge the nation to remain on guard and adhering to the COVID-19 public health protocols and guidelines. All those who are yet to be vaccinated must get vaccinated. This is not only good for Zimbabwe and our economy, but for Africa and beyond. No one is safe until everyone is safe.

Finally, I applaud the Chairman of the Institute of African Knowledge, Professor Simbi Mubako and his team for the commendable milestones achieved to date on this project. Hard honest work and a results-

oriented culture must continue to guide you, as you stay the course in the implementation of this strategic Continental project.

With these remarks, it is now my pleasure and honour to declare the Zimbabwe Defence Forces' Heritage Monument officially launched and to wish you all Merry Christmas and a Prosperous 2022.

God bless you all.

God bless Zimbabwe.

I thank you.