



**SPEECH**

**BY**

**THE PRESIDENT, HIS EXCELLENCY**

**DR.E.D.MNANGAGWA**

**AT THE 2021 NATIONAL THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION SERVICE**

**BULAWAYO**

**26 DECEMBER 2021**

I greet you all in the Mighty and Precious Name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. The Bible in Hebrews 10 verses 23- 25, read in part and I quote;

**“Let us seize and hold tightly the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is reliable and trustworthy and faithful to His word; And let us consider how we may encourage one another to love and to do good deeds; Not forsaking our meeting together, as believers for worship and instruction to encourage one another”**

It is against this exhortation that I am delighted to be with you once again at this year’s end of year Thanksgiving Service.

This is the 5<sup>th</sup> consecutive year that we have gathered here in Bulawayo in one accord, to give thanks to the Lord for the mercies He continuously bestows upon our Nation, communities and families. Today, we also take this time to re-dedicate and consecrate our Nation and our hearts to the Lord; **For in Him we live and move and exist; In Him we actually have our being. (Acts 17 verse 28)**. He is our Master and Lord, outside of Him we have no good thing.

As was the case last year, we meet under the public health protocols of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, we recognise that ultimately, we look to God to help us. As Psalm 23 verse 4 says, *“even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me”*.

We know that it is God who has given my Government the wisdom to handle this pandemic, in a manner that greatly reduced the number of fatalities.

In our response to this pandemic and drawing from Daniel **2verse 23**, today let us also say, **“I thank and praise you, God: You have given me wisdom and power, you have made known to me what we asked of you”**. God gave us wisdom; He blessed us with the requisite financial resources for vaccine procurement as well as friends from both within and from far afield like the People Republic of China, Russia and India, to help us. All gave generously to our National Response in cash, kind and through donations of vaccines.

Sadly, during the course of this year, we lost many members of our families, friends, colleagues and colleagues in faith. I am particularly saddened that Baba Apostle Dr. Abel Sande is not in our midst today, having been called to our Heavenly home at an advanced age.

At the same time, we equally remember Father Emmanuel Ribeiro who was with us at all of the four previous National Thanksgiving and Dedication Services. I invite you now to join me on this occasion in observing a minute of silence in remembrance of these two generals of faith. May their souls continue to rest in eternal peace.

## **Ladies and Gentlemen;**

As 2021 draws to an end, our nation has so much to be thankful for. God answered our supplication for His help made a year ago at the 4<sup>th</sup> National Thanksgiving and Dedication Service held on 29 December 2020. As the bible urges us in **Isaiah 12 verses 4 and 5**, “**make known among the nations what he has done, and proclaim that His Name is exalted. For he has done glorious things; let this be known to the entire world**”.

Our nation has continued to enjoy peace and tranquility. We have been favoured by the Lord with abundant rains and through hard work, we realised an unprecedented bumper harvest which contributed to an upturn in our economy.

Under the mantra, “**Nyika inovakwa navene vayo**” we are developing our national infrastructure, through our own resources. This includes roads, dams, irrigation, water and sanitation infrastructure, schools, clinics and other projects. The Pfumvudza/Intwasa Programme has undeniably contributed to food security in our nation. The Devolution Policy is accelerating development from the grassroots upwards.

The prudent utilisation of Devolution Funds is leading to the implementation of numerous projects, identified by local communities themselves. This has in-turn enhanced participatory governance across the Provinces, Districts and Wards. These projects are evident for all to see, bringing unprecedented improvements in the quality of life of our people as we march towards Vision 2030.

We are, thus, thankful to God Almighty for his endless grace and for granting my Government the wisdom to pursue our policies and implement projects successfully, even in the face of COVID-19 pandemic and the illegal economic sanctions.

### **Fellow Congregants;**

The theme of this 5<sup>th</sup> National Thanksgiving and Dedication Service, which reads, “**Pursuing Nation Building Initiatives in the Spirit of Godly Patriotism, Ownership, Unity and Inclusiveness**”, must inspire all of us to roll up our sleeves in 2022 and beyond, to develop our mother country. We can indeed **do all things through Jesus Christ who gives us strength. (Philippians 4 verse 13).**

I commend the efforts by the Church in Zimbabwe to reverse the damage done to the economy and the livelihoods of our people through biased doctrines and religious systems of the colonial period. Gone are the days when we accepted a theology that taught us that our economic fortunes here on earth, are of no consequence, as happiness is reserved in Heaven.

Now we know that the Word of God teaches us that **Christ came that we may have life and have it more abundantly. (John 10 verse 10).**

Furthermore, Ephesians 1 verse 3 assures us that God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ has blessed us with every spiritual blessings. As a nation, we should never be apologetic about desiring prosperity in all its facets, even as our soul prospers.

Zimbabwe is our nation bestowed to us by God, with all its land, that which is on it and under it. It is the God of war who strengthened our arms for war and gave us victory during the protracted armed struggle for Independence. We now have an obligation and responsibility as outlined in **Genesis 1 verse 28 to be fruitful and to multiply** that which God has entrusted under our care.

As true patriots and good stewards, let us assume total responsibility for developing this great land given to us by Almighty God.

We are stewards of God's immense wealth found with the boundaries of our country called Zimbabwe. Even as **1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 4 verse 2** says emphasises that, **“it is required in stewards that one be found faithful”**. Let us be diligent and committed to working for our nation.

Our mantra **“Nyika inovakwa nevene vayo”** identifies each and every one of us as an owner and equally, a builder of our mother country. Brick by brick and stone upon stone, let us therefore strengthen our resolve to build our beloved motherland. **Tisu vene venyika ino, ngativakei nyika yedu** towards the attainment of an upper middle income status by 2030.

On its part, my Government is pursuing a new inclusive development model which is entrenching the Godly values of unity, love, harmony as well as patriotism and inclusiveness among all Zimbabweans.

The multi-pronged development agenda is being prioritised and accelerated, especially in marginalised rural areas and communities. The rural industrialisation programme is underway. Recently, we rolled out the new programme for modernising and empowering all of Zimbabwe's thirty-five thousand villages.

This will see the drilling of boreholes to provide clean water in rural communities, around which horticulture economic activities will be stimulated; communities empowered; young people employed and grassroots incomes improved.

As President, I have also committed to consult and work with our Chiefs throughout the country to address issues that have historically disadvantaged our rural communities. Their feedback has enriched policy formulation and project prioritisation.

In urban areas, we are committed to continue improving social amenities; accelerating infrastructure development; facilitating industrialisation as well as the creation of innovation and knowledge driven ecosystems for our young people to thrive. Through the numerous policies and projects being implemented by my Government, no-one and no place will be left behind as we journey towards Vision 2030.

**Ladies and Gentlemen;**

Under the Second Republic, all of us have a role to play. As we go into 2022, I call upon the church to re-double its development initiatives and focus on projects that will augment my Government's efforts to lift many

of our people out of poverty and into prosperity. Faith without works is dead. The Church must therefore entrench a culture of hard honest work among its congregants.

Beyond the church and Government, at individual level, we all have a duty to pursue initiatives that will modernise, industrialise and grow our country's economy for sustainable development.

In doing so, let us remain emboldened by the fact that our Father **God is the one who gives us power to get wealth. Deuteronomy 8 verse 18.**

As I conclude, I want to highlight that in 2022, the country will be holding various electoral processes. I appeal to the church and each and one of us in general, to play an active role in ensuring that peace and stability prevails in our country. We must love our neighbours as ourselves because this is after all the greatest commandment. Let 2022 be about greater love; greater peace; stronger unity and greater hard work.

In this spirit, allow me to recognise the heroism shown by Mr Sirizani Butau in his efforts to save the lives of passengers in the recent bus disaster that occurred in Mutare, on 24<sup>th</sup> December. He demonstrated Christ like selflessness, bravery and love, even at the risk of losing his own life. May God fill us as a nation, with this kind of love.

We pray that Mr Butau and other passengers from the accident receive healing and speedy recovery.



## **Fellow Congregants;**

As we dedicate our Nation unto the Almighty God, let us equally scale up efforts to mould a morally upright, God-fearing and hardworking generation. We must never surrender our children and young people to the whims and caprices of this world. Our young people are the solid foundation and future upon which we must build our great country.

Let us therefore, love them, guide them, nurture and develop them to be patriotic and hardworking national assets.

We also pray for men and women in our governance and politics; as well as in every sector of the economy who are upright and who walk in integrity and the fear of the Lord. **“For it is righteousness that exalts a nation and sin that condemns any people”.** Proverbs 14 verse 34.

With these remarks, I wish you all a Happy and Prosperous New Year. May we as individuals, families, communities and a nation, experience God’s goodness and unconditional favour as we embark on various initiatives in 2022.

May the Lord continue to cause His face to shine upon our nation, Zimbabwe throughout the year 2022 and beyond.

**God bless you all.**

**God bless Zimbabwe.**

**I thank you.**

