



SPEECH

BY

**THE PRESIDENT, HIS EXCELLENCY,
CDE E. D. MNANGAGWA**

AT

**THE CENTENARY CELEBRATION OF
ARCHBISHOP PROFESSOR E. H. GUTI,
75 YEARS OF PREACHING THE GOSPEL AND
THE 63RD ANNIVERSARY OF ZAOGA FIFMI**

GLAMIS ARENA

14 MAY 2023

Director of Ceremonies;

Our Host, Founder and Leader of ZAOGA Forward in Faith Ministries International; Archbishop E. H. Guti and Amai Guti;

First Lady, Amai A. Mnangagwa;

Vice President and Minister of Health and Child Care, Hon. Gen. (Rtd) C. G. D. N. Chiwenga and Amai;

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

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

Other Honourable Ministers here present;

Senior Government officials;

Bishops, Apostles, Overseers, District, Regional and Student Pastors of ZAOGA Forward in Faith Ministries International;

Heads of other Christian denominations;

Elders, Deacons and Congregants;

Ladies and Gentlemen.

I greet you all in the name of our Lord and Saviour Lord Jesus Christ as we gather at this momentous and jubilant occasion in the history of our nation, Zimbabwe. I am indeed greatly privileged and honoured to join the ZAOGA Forward in Faith Ministries International, as we celebrate the Centenary Birth Anniversary of the patriarch of faith in our nation, Archbishop, Ezekiel Handinawangu Guti.

We are also commemorating his 75 years as a servant of the Lord Jesus Christ and the 63rd Anniversary of ZAOGA Church. The gift of life, as well as the historic feat and numerous milestones realised by the Church since its founding are a clear testimony of the unending greatness, favour and grace of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Today, as the nation of Zimbabwe, we join ZAOGA Forward in Faith Ministries in proclaiming praises and thanksgiving, according to **Psalms 107 Verse 1**, which says, “Oh give thanks to the Lord for He is good and His mercies endure forever”.

We are all witnessing this through the works of this great Church and across our beloved motherland, Zimbabwe.

On behalf of the people and Government of Zimbabwe, my family and on my own behalf, I congratulate you, Archbishop Baba Guti, on the centenary celebrations of your birth, 75 years of preaching the word of God and the Church's attainment of 63 years in the service of the Lord. This feat has seen ZAOGA Church realising unprecedented growth, with a footprint in over 168 countries.

Makorokoto, Amhlophe. The Almighty God has surely satisfied you with long life and shown unto you His salvation. **Psalms 91 Verse 16.**

I commend you, Servant of God, Archbishop Baba Guti and the ZAOGA family for fulfilling your divine purpose, of winning souls and spreading the everlasting word of God.

The humble beginnings of Archbishop Baba Guti from his birth place in Chipinge as well as life in Bindura, coupled with his 75 years doing the work of God, must continue to inspire us all. Particularly, the leadership of this Church should remain united and stay true and faithful to the vision of this Ministry.

I further urge the members of ZAOGA, to be guided by your mantra “**Fear Not, Sin Not**”, as you undertake the great calling. Continue as witnesses of the Almighty God across all communities and nations. So far, it is evident in the works of this mega Church, that ‘you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a Holy people, God’s own special people, proclaiming the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvellous light.’^{1st} **Peter 2 Verse 9**. I applaud you all.

Invited Distinguished Guests, Fellow Congregants;

I have gathered that these celebrations are anchored on the Church’s theme of the year:

‘Striving to be true disciples who are deeply rooted and grounded in the doctrine of the Church’. This is a timely exhortation. The theme and celebratory occasion amplifies the encouragement we are all given in **Psalms 1 Verses 1 to 3** which says ‘Blessed is the man, who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly ..., his delight is in the law of the Lord, and His law he meditates..., He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither and whatever he does shall prosper’.

We have seen this in the life and Ministry of Archbishop Baba Guti. You are truly an inspiration to our nation Baba Guti. In the spirit of **Colossians 3 Verses 23 and 24**, in all that you have done; you have worked at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord Jesus Christ and not for human masters. Since the days of your youth, it is the Lord Jesus Christ whom you are serving. The youth must emulate this selfless service to the Church and our nation at large.

No matter our endeavours across the socio-economic and political spectrum, let us use our God-given gifts for his glory and the prosperity of our nation. As a God loving, Christian nation, may we never tire seeking first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness trusting that all other things shall be added unto us. **Mathew 6 Verse 33.**

Allow me to applaud the Church in Zimbabwe for interceding for our land and all the people's in our motherland, including us in authority and leadership positions. This is appreciated. You continue to walk by faith and not by sight. I stand here and testify that many of your prayers are being answered in a mighty way. Concerning our nation, God is indeed watching over his word and performing it. **Jeremiah 1 Verse 12.**

We are experiencing peace and unity, unprecedented growth milestones in agriculture, mining, manufacturing, infrastructure development, tourism, education, ICTs and SMEs, among other sectors. It is the doing of the Lord and it is marvellous in our sight.

Dear Fellow Congregants;

The land that falls between the mighty Zambezi and Limpopo; Plumtree and Mutare; Beitbridge and Chirundu, was given to us by the Almighty God, in his sovereign wisdom. It is not an accident that we are Zimbabweans. **‘Nyika inovakwa nevene vayo, Ilizwe lakhiwa ngabanikazi balo.’** Let us, therefore, unreservedly continue to modernise, industrialise and grow our economy. None but ourselves have this weighty responsibility.

In unity and peace we are succeeding. Let us find assurance in that, with God all things are possible. Brick by brick, stone upon stone and step by step, we are building the Zimbabwe we want.

I, thus, challenge ZAOGA Forward in Faith Ministries to ride on its ‘Working of Talents’ philosophy - **Kushanda Matarenda** and scale up production and productivity at

both individual and collective levels. I challenge you to take up the opportunities in agriculture, mining and manufacturing, among other critical sectors of the economy. After all, **Proverbs 10 Verses 4 and 5** says “He who has a lazy hand becomes poor, but the hand of the diligent makes rich. He who gathers in summer is a wise son; He who sleeps in harvest is a son who causes shame’.

Going forward, my Administration stands ready to facilitate the work of your African Christian Business Fellowship Ministry, among other ministries. This must see us nurturing self-sustaining, productive, hardworking and economically empowered Church leaders and citizens in general. Together as Government and the Church, we have a duty to lift many more of our people out of poverty into prosperity.

The scripture in **Genesis 3 Verse 19** says ‘in the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, until your return to the ground.’ ‘**Neziya rechiso chako, uchadya zvekudya zvako, kusvikira wadzokera kuguruva**’. Hard work,

production and productivity are biblical. Let us all be doers of the word.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Comrades and Friends;

The partnership and synergy between the State and Church is inseparable and dates back to the days of our protracted armed liberation struggle. At cottage 953 in Harare Highfields, ZAOGA was nurtured to ultimately occupy the space that was predominantly a preserve of missionaries from beyond our borders.

Our host Archbishop Baba Guti, remained consistent and persistent, overcoming many challenges characteristic of the oppressive colonial period. Against all odds, he established many churches. **Vakatsungirira, vakapfuurira mberi nevhangeri kusvika nhasi.**

He remained unwavering in his call to preach the gospel and serve our country. **Tinozvitenda, Tinozvikudza.**

The slogan of ZAOGA Church ‘Forward in Faith’ resonates with the exhortation of our forebears who

waged the struggle for our liberation and never looked back. Today we enjoy independence, freedom, unity and peace because of their sacrifice.

I want to assure the Church fraternity that under the Second Republic, freedom of worship is constitutionally guaranteed. My Government will further facilitate an enabling environment for the Church to carry out the great commission and to win souls, heal the sick and proclaim the good news of our Lord Jesus Christ. Equally, orphans, widows, the disabled and elderly must be taken care of.

Together, as the State and Church, let us also nurture a citizenry, especially the youth, who are patriotic, disciplined, morally upright and loyal to our country Zimbabwe.

It is commendable, that to date, the Church fraternity has remained a beacon of Ubuntu/Hunhu as well as accelerating social development. Specifically, your ZAOGA Churches, Education Institutions and Bible

Schools are churning out graduates, who are ably serving in our national institutions, across Government and in the private sector.

Furthermore, the Mbuya Dorcas Hospital, Zimbabwe Ezekiel Guti University, Ezekiel Television, and the Dress Making Training Centres as well as Primary and Secondary Schools are impacting positively on the lives and livelihoods of our communities. These and other life transforming projects you have undertaken as a Church are praiseworthy. Accordingly, in 2021 my Government saw it befitting to honour and confer to Archbishop Baba Guti, with the Order of the Star of Zimbabwe.

As the bible says in **Matthew 7 Verses 16-17**, ‘you will know them by their fruits... every good tree bears good fruit’. The tree of ZAOGA is good and bearing good fruits. As you carry on with the work and mission of the Church, I urge ZAOGA above all to remain in the vine who is Jesus Christ, for apart from Him we can do nothing.

As I conclude, I call upon the nation to remain guided by **1 Peter 3 Verses 8 to 10** which says, ... let us seek to be of one mind, loving one another, and refraining from evil and deceit, pursuing peace at all times. More-so ahead of our country's Harmonised General Elections which will be held in August. The Church, like other entities across our nation, must continue preaching the everlasting gospel of unity, peace, love and harmony.

The exercise and expression of our democratic right to vote must never be associated with violence, conflict, disunity and chaos.

I, therefore, call upon the Church, through platforms such as the 'National Day of Prayer', to pray without ceasing for our beloved motherland, Zimbabwe. For we know that Almighty God hears us when we make our request, hence we know that he will give us what we have asked of him. Indeed he is forever faithful.

With these remarks, I once again congratulate you, Archbishop Baba Guti, on your Centenary Birthday Celebrations as well as 75 years of service in the work of our Lord Jesus Christ. I equally congratulate the entire ZAOGA Church community for the 63rd Anniversary.

Makorokoto, Amhlophe, Congratulations. I wish you all memorable celebrations. May the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God and Fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all, now and forever more. Halleluiah.

God bless you.

God bless Zimbabwe.

I thank you.

Bible Verses

- **Psalms 107 Verse 1**
- **Psalms 91 Verse 16**
- **1st Peter 2 Verse 9**
- **Psalms 1 Verses 1-3**
- **Colossians 3 Verses 23-24**

- **Mathew 6 Verse 33**
- **Jeremiah 1 Verse 12**
- **Proverbs 10 Verses 4 and 5**
- **Genesis 3 Verse 19**
- **Matthew 7 Verses 16-17**
- **1 Peter 3 Verse 8 to 10**