



SPEECH

BY

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

AT

**THE NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER AND
THANKSGIVING**

HARARE

24 JULY 2023

Director of Ceremonies for the 2023 National Day of Thanksgiving, Rev A. Wutawunashe;

First Lady Amai A. Mnangagwa;

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

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;

Honourable Ministers;

Patron of the Zimbabwe Indigenous Interdenominational Council of Churches and Head of the Zion Christian Church, His Grace Bishop N. Mutendi;

The Chairman of the Zimbabwe Heads of Christian Denominations;

The President of the Evangelical Fellowship of Zimbabwe, Bishop N. Muparutsa;

The President of the Zimbabwe Council of Churches, Bishop I Makumbe;

Other Heads of Religious Organisations and Denominations;

Members of the Clergy here present;

Senior Government Officials;

Fellow Citizens and all those participating in this National Thanksgiving Day Service;

Ladies and Gentlemen.

Fellow Zimbabweans.

I greet you all in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, as I formally welcome you all to State House as we convene for an Inter-denominational and multi-faith Service of Prayer and Thanksgiving unto God Almighty for the well-being and progress of our beloved motherland, Zimbabwe, brick by brick, stone upon stone. The whole nation has been invited to participate via live broadcast and on various virtual platforms.

The word of God in Isaiah 12 verses 4 and 5 says;
“Give thanks to the Lord call on His name; make known His deeds among the peoples, make them

remember that His name is exalted. He has done glorious things; let it be known throughout the earth.”

Hence, we gather from different denominations, faith backgrounds and as different communities, united in faith and under one unitary state of Zimbabwe, to bow down before our Almighty God and Creator who has blessed and kept us this far, “Ebenezer”. In our diversity we acknowledge the supremacy of Almighty God and solely implore for guidance and support as we build our Zimbabwe.

Allow me to invite you all to join me in a moment of silence in honour and memory of our dear departed spiritual father and patriarch of faith, Apostle Professor Ezekiel Handinawangu Guti, founder of Zimbabwe Assemblies of God Africa Forward in Faith International Ministries. He was indeed an accomplished General of the Lord in our nation, an astute teacher of the Word of God and a man who lived and touched many

lives in his humble, simple, and unassuming way. May his soul rest in eternal peace.

Distinguished Guests;

I applaud our Church leaders, from the various umbrella church bodies and denominations, who are here to lead us through thanksgiving remarks and prayers. As a God fearing and loving nation, we humble ourselves before Almighty God to acknowledge with gratitude the many milestones and achievements we have realised as we journey towards attainment of Vision 2030 and the realisation of Sustainable Development Goals.

On the outset, I acknowledge all the people of Zimbabwe, who are able to bear testimony today in thanksgiving. **Nyika inovakwa, inotongwa, inonamatigwa nevene vayo/ ilizwe lakhiwa, libuswe, likhulekelwe ngabanikazi balo.** Together as one people we have attained targets set out in the National Development Strategy.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Distinguished Guests;

I am inspired to be proclaiming this Special Thanksgiving Day by the word of God in Daniel **4 verses 2-3**, the king declares: **“I thought it good to declare the signs and wonders that the Almighty God has brought toward me. How great are His signs and how mighty are His wonders, His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and His dominion is from generation to generation.”**

Additionally, King David tells us in **Psalm 92 verse 1** that: **“It is a good thing to give thanks unto the LORD...”** Furthermore, the Apostle Paul in **Ephesians 5 verse 20** enjoins us to, **“Give thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.”**

This is the spirit in which, I call upon us all as a nation, in unity and one accord, to bow before Almighty God today and to give Him the glory and thank Him for the gracious hand, counsel and blessings he has granted us as a nation.

I have persistently emphasised that we need to be visionary, practical and a hard-working people who spare no effort as we seek to build and prosper our nation in the spirit of self-reliance. As we do so, however, we must remain guided by **Psalm 127: verse 1**: which says: **“Except the LORD builds the house, they labour in vain who build it: Except the LORD keep the city, the watchman stays awake in vain.”**

Our hard work and determination should, thus, continue to be anchored on trust and favour of the Almighty God. As we work hard in nation building, we must pray for God to grant us wisdom and strength to accelerate progress and the success of our efforts.

Surely, it is evident that our labours and prayers were not in vain. Our most fervent prayer has been for peace, love and unity in our nation. We have kept and safeguarded our national unity and peace. This is commendable. We must celebrate the prevailing peaceful, harmonious and tranquil environment.

In today's prayer service we have made practical our pledge of *acknowledging the supremacy of Almighty God in whose hands our future lies. We also come to implore for his guidance and support as we build Zimbabwe*, as etched in the Preamble of our Constitution. There is no blessing in division, there is no prosperity and development without unity and peace. The blessing of life comes to the place where there is unity, love, and peace.

I would like to reiterate that under my watch and the ZANU PF Government, there shall be freedom of worship and religion. We leave no one and no place behind.

The scriptures in **Proverbs 14:34**, teach us that *“Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people.”* In righteousness is peace; in righteousness is justice; in righteousness is unity and all ingredients for a prosperous nation. The scripture also states in **Proverbs 24:3-6** *“ Through wisdom a house is built, and*

by understanding it is established; by knowledge the rooms are filled with all precious and pleasant riches”.

We thank Almighty God and all our people that so far, our electoral process has preceded without incident. I appeal to all political leaders and actors to keep the peace, unity and love prevailing in our nation. Peace must continue to endure, before, during and after elections.

We give thanks for the great harvest and for the unprecedented self-sufficiency in wheat and other crops which the Lord has helped us achieve.

We have continued to work hard on infrastructural development to cover both rural and urban areas. The Lord has surely blessed our policy of leaving no one and no community behind. More will be done going into the future. The construction of schools, clinics, bridges, and other projects, mainly through the use of devolution funds is bringing services, renewed life and opportunities to our communities.

Health delivery is making upward strides in the nation. I want to thank you, the religious organisations for playing your part in the delivery of health and education. The Church has always been a strong actor in social delivery.

Equally outstanding is our programme of constructing dams, clean water supply systems and irrigation schemes. These are changing the agricultural and service provision landscape of our urban and rural and other areas.

The Second Republic has made remarkable progress in upgrading the country's power generation capacity. Blackouts and load shedding are now a thing of the past. More continues to be done in the area of renewable energy, so our accelerated economic growth is matched by adequate energy supply.

The recovery and growth of our tourism sector underpinned by the upgrading and modernisation of airports, and buoyed by recovery in national and

international tourism is there for all to see. Tourism celebrates what God has given our Nation: the flora, the fauna and the sites. As a nation we thank God for all these successes.

An added advantage to our already growing mining sector has been the new worldwide demand for lithium, a resource with which the Lord has abundantly blessed our country. We continue to discover more resources, until now hidden in the grounds of our sacred land.

The fruits of our international Engagement and Re-engagement Policy continue to see a steady growth.

Let me also take this opportunity to ask for your continuing prayers for peace and God's hand of blessing in our forthcoming harmonized elections. Let us maintain the peace and cultivate harmony. Violence has no place among our people and nation.

Let me conclude this thanksgiving by drawing from the great Priest, Samuel:

“Then Samuel took a stone, and set it between Mizpah and Shen, and called the name of it Eben-ezer, saying, Hitherto hath the LORD helped us.”

1 Samuel 7:12

The Lord has helped us as a nation, and today we confess together and say ‘Ebenezer’.

I now invite you to please rise and join me as I offer on behalf of our Nation this prayer of Thanksgiving, with your responses being; **“For this we thank You, O Lord”**.

His Excellency; ∴ “Almighty God and Father you have been our Creator, Helper, Saviour and dwelling place in all generations.”

Response: *“For this we thank You, O Lord”*.

His Excellency; “You helped us free ourselves from oppression and to become a free nation, Zimbabwe “.

Response: *“For this we thank You, O Lord”*.

His Excellency; You have helped us to be a nation at peace.

Response: *“For this we thank You, O Lord”*.

His Excellency; You have helped us survive the sanctions, the economic assault of the strong and mighty.

Response: *“For this we thank You, O Lord”*.

His Excellency; You have blessed us with wisdom and strength to build our nation thus far.

Response: *“For this we thank You, O Lord”*.

His Excellency: You have granted us abundant rain and harvest.

Response: *“For this we thank You, O Lord”*.

His Excellency: The LORD has done great things for Zimbabwe. LORD, you have done great things for us;

Response: *“For this we thank You, O Lord”*.

His Excellency: We have sown in tears and reaped in joy. We are they that have gone forth weeping, bearing

precious seed, and we come again today with rejoicing, bringing our harvest with us.

Response: “*For this we thank You, O Lord*”.

Finally, I call upon you all to take this same spirit of unity to your congregations and membership. Encourage them to love one another, to respect one another, pray for and with one another. Teach them to see a brother or a sister in every other person.

As the people of Zimbabwe, let us reject the spirit of division, hatred, anger and malice. Our portion shall forever be peace, joy and love in the Lord Jesus Christ, now and forever more.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God our Father and the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen

God bless you all.

God bless Zimbabwe.

I thank you.