



SPEECH

BY

THE PRESIDENT, HIS EXCELLENCY,

DR E. D. MNANGAGWA

AT

**THE SEND OFF CEREMONY OF THE LATE
NATIONAL HERO ARCHBISHOP PROFESSOR**

EZEKIEL HANDINAWANGU GUTI

5 AUGUST 2023

NATIONAL SPORTS STADIUM

Director of Ceremonies;

Archbishop Amai E. Guti and the Guti Family;

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;

Speaker of the National Assembly, Adv. J. F. Mudenda;

President of the Senate, Amai M. M. Chinomona;

The Chief Justice, Hon. L. Malaba;

Politburo and Central Committee Members;

Honourable Ministers here present;

Our Esteemed Traditional Leaders;

Chief Secretary to the President and Cabinet, Dr. M. J.
M. Sibanda;

Chairman of the Public Service Commission, Dr. V. Hungwe;

Service Chiefs;

Senior Government Officials;

Veterans of the Liberation Struggle;

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

Heads of other Christian denominations;

Elders, Deacons and Congregants;

Fellow Citizens;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

Comrades and Friends.

On behalf of the Government and the people of Zimbabwe, the ruling Party ZANU PF, as well as on my own behalf, allow me to once again express my heartfelt condolences to the Guti family, in particular, Amai, Archbishop, Prophetess Eunor Guti and the children, for

their sad loss. The message of the passing on of Archbishop Ezekiel Guti, on the 5th of July 2023 gripped our nation with a solemn sense loss. May you all find comfort in that our nation and many others from across the world mourn with you.

I was personally humbled and privileged to join him in May this year, on the celebration marking his Centenary birthday and Seventy-Five years of preaching the word of God. We will forever cherish that momentous event.

In our dearly departed National Hero, Baba Ezekiel Guti, we have lost a faithful servant of God, a great leader, and an advocate of peace and justice. He has left ‘footprints on water’ here in our beloved motherland, Zimbabwe and indeed beyond. He was a unifier and a man of deep faith and conviction, whose life was a testament to the power of love, compassion, and forgiveness.

Born on 5 May 1923, the late National Hero, Archbishop Guti grew up in Ngaone, Chipinge in Manicaland

Province. It was at this village where he was called to serve the Lord Jesus Christ at the tender age of fifteen. He grew up to be an embodiment of apostleship, an academic and scholar who held a number of qualifications in religion and ministering the word of God.

His distinct commitment to the work of the Almighty God distinguished him as one of the pioneers in leading indigenous churches as the founder of Zimbabwe Assemblies of God Africa-Forward in Faith Ministries International, which has grown around the world. The people and Government of Zimbabwe are deeply grateful for the legacy he has bequeathed to the church community as a whole. Tinotenda Baba Guti.

Fellow Citizens and Dear Congregants;

Today at this Home Going” celebrations, we remember a life well lived and the many ways in which our late National Hero impacted and influenced countless people in our nation and beyond. We are gathered here to send

off an ambassador of hope, a beacon of light and a voice of reason, a man who lived out his life with love, courage, humility and grace.

Our late National Hero established many Churches across continents and shepherded several leaders and servants of God. Zimbabwe will forever cherish his tireless efforts to promote unity both within the religious sector and across the societal spectrum.

The late Baba Guti was a true champion in promoting the welfare of the vulnerable, disabled, women and youth. His unflinching devotion to the well-being of fellow compatriots and the body of Christ in general has left an indelible mark in our nation. He stood as a prophet, evangelist and marriage counsellor with deep-seated wisdom which reflected an understanding that social justice and economic development were two sides of the same coin.

Under the leadership of the late National Hero, Archbishop Guti, the ZAOGA Forward in Faith

Ministries International became a powerful force for progress, empowerment and spiritual upliftment. He championed countless initiatives to empower many families, promoted education and healthcare, and created opportunities for all, particularly the marginalised.

The Forward in Faith Children's home, Dress making schools, Zimbabwe Ezekiel Guti University, as well as Mbuya Dorcas Hospital and Health Centre were established by the late National Hero. In so doing, he ensured that the Church played its part towards a higher quality of life for our people.

In his honour, I challenge Ministers of the gospel of God to remain alive to the fact that, for a society to truly develop and prosper, our people must be uplifted from poverty into prosperity.

In this regard, the Church must preach production, production and productivity, across all social and economic endeavours right from the household and

village levels, upwards. Our people must be encouraged to work. **Nyika Inovakwa, igotongwa, igonamatirwa nevene vayo, Ilizwe lakhiwa, libuswe, likhulekelwe ngabanikazi balo.**

It is commendable that in the ZAOGA church, Baba Guti introduced and domesticated the values of discipline, the standard of continuous improvement, hard honest work, production and productivity. The school of talents, “**matarenda**” is one of his signature philosophies which nurtured self-reliance at household and family level.

We, the remaining generations, must come forward with our talents to serve our families, communities and the nation at large as we build our motherland, Zimbabwe.

As we celebrate the home going of the late National Hero, collectively, let us never give up in our quest for a brighter future, through modernising, industrialising and growing our economy. The late National Hero, Archbishop Guti, was indeed an epitome and champion of entrepreneurship, par excellence.

It was due to his vast contribution that in August 2021, my Government awarded our late National Hero the prestigious Order of the Star of Zimbabwe Gold. This is the highest honour in our country. The many other awards from religious, commercial and academic bodies are a reflection that the late Baba Guti involved in all aspects of everyday life.

The awards include the following: Kingdom Service Award by the Evangelical Fellowship of Zimbabwe; Kingdom Statesman Award by the International Third World Leaders Association of the Bahamas; Career and Leadership Legacy Builder Award, and Lifetime Achievement Award from the Zimbabwe National Chamber of Commerce; and the Gospel Veterans Award from South Africa, among others.

I exhort the congregants and leadership of ZAOGA Church to remain true and committed to the vision of our late Apostle. His teachings and publications, as well as the Rules and Policy of the Church, coupled with the

incorruptible word of God in the Bible, should forever remain your beacons as the next generation of worshipers. Equally, the rallying mantra **‘Fear Not, Sin Not’** should be a constant guide to you as a Church.

Going forward, it is our expectation that the Church will continue to feel and carry the weighty responsibility of safeguarding, preserving and promoting the rich influence of our National Hero, Professor Guti.

Fellow Congregants and Citizens;

The late National Hero, Archbishop Guti did not teach how best to live, he simply lived by example.

Throughout his life he remained a man who exemplified the Fatherly heart of Almighty God; a fervent intercessor as well as passionate soul winner preaching the true and undiluted Gospel of God. He knew no tribe or race he bequeathed to all, love.

As today’s Christians it is crucial that we be unapologetic hearers and doers of the word of God. This is important

in these times of the growing defilement and onslaught against our Christian faith. As we do so, may the life of our late National Hero be a source of inspiration and encouragement for us all.

In bidding farewell to this humble man of God, let us honour his legacy by emulating and following in his footsteps and continuing the work that he passionately pursued. The values of peace, unity, humility, love and respect that he held so dearly should continue to be inculcated and nurtured as indispensable national character.

The Church ZAOGA Forward in Faith International Ministries must continue to be exemplary ambassadors. Just as Jesus Christ and other luminaries of faith in our nation, such as Baba Guti, let us be the transformation that we wish to see in our motherland, Zimbabwe and the world as a whole.

The ball and weighty obligation is now in our court. From Zambezi to Limpopo, Plumtree to Mutare, we have

the task to continue to build our great mother-land Zimbabwe. Brick by brick, stone upon stone, step by step; with God nothing is impossible.

Fellow Congregants;

As you are all aware, our nation goes to the polls on 23rd August 2023. I call upon us all to continue preaching peace, unity and love. As the people of Zimbabwe, we reject violence, hate speech, division and disunity. These have no place in our God fearing and Christian, democratic country.

We want peace and unity before, during and after the Harmonised General Elections. Development and prosperity can only be accelerated when we are united and when we love one another.

Elections come and go, but Zimbabwe and our family ties remain forever. Let us never tire of preaching unity, peace and love.

In conclusion, I commend you all for coming to bid farewell to our late National Hero, Archbishop Professor

Ezekiel Handinawangu Guti. This is a befitting send-off for a trailblazer of faith in our nation. He fought a good fight and has finished his race; he kept the faith.

To him we say, **Fambai Zvakanaka**, Great Man of God. Your indelible works are evident here on earth and more importantly, before our Almighty God and Father, in Heaven.

Go well, Son of the Soil. **Zororai murugare Mwana Wevhu; Gamba rema gamba. Hamba kuhle qhawe lama qhawe.**

Rest in eternal peace our dear departed National Hero, general and patriarch of faith.

God bless you all.

God bless Zimbabwe.

I thank you.