



ADDRESS

BY

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

AT

THE INDEPENDENCE CHILDREN'S PARTY

MURAMBINDA A PRIMARY SCHOOL

17 APRIL 2024

Your Excellency, the Child President, Neville Mavu, and
Child Parliamentarians;

Child Representatives from our 10 provinces and those
at home;

Boys and Girls;

Comrades and Friends.

I am happy to be with you at this 2024 Independence
Children's Party as we celebrate our 44th Independence
anniversary. I officially welcome you all, the
representatives of all the children gathered here in
Buhera District, Manicaland Province, and those
following proceedings at home. I hope that as you
travelled here, you managed to get a better appreciation
of our beautiful country as well as its wildlife and tourist
attractions.

Our Independence celebrations are being held under the
theme **'Zimbabwe at 44: Unity, Peace, and
Development towards Vision 2030.'**

This means that we should embrace the values of our liberation, by always respecting and loving one another. Your language, culture and traditions might be different but you are all Zimbabweans. You are great, great grandchildren of Munhumutapa, we are a united people.

We fought for our Independence and freedom from colonial rule, now we are a free people. You, our children, must always be proud of being Zimbabwean, our rich history and national identity.

As you grow older, keep in mind that you must always play your part in building and developing our beloved motherland, Zimbabwe, brick by brick and stone upon stone. **Nyika inovakwa, inotongwa, inonamatigwa nevene vayo, ilizwe lakhiwa, libuswe, likhulekelwe ngabanikazi balo.**

Dear Children;

It gives me joy to witness the amazing hope and potential within every one of you.

Your displays and presentations, which we have seen today at this event reflect our diversity which is flourishing in our schools and communities across the nation. Well done, keep it up.

You, our boys and girls, will tomorrow ensure that our country reaches greater heights. The extraordinary talents together with the education you are getting are set to give you many career paths to choose from, for successful lives. The Government as well as parents and teachers are here for you so that you will grow up to be patriotic and disciplined adults who are able to transform Zimbabwe into a modern and developed country.

I want you to also grow up and become people who are aware of the wealth of our country, land, minerals and environment. These resources must be always used to develop our communities and the country as a whole. You must defend and protect this wealth.

I want you our children to know that long-lasting development will only be achieved when you live peacefully with each other, you must also have good character and always respect your elders. These are the values that will protect the independence and freedom we are celebrating today.

I am aware that our heritage-based school curriculum includes the lessons on Hunhu/Ubuntu, to help shape good character. You must take these lessons and other values which you are taught by elders very seriously.

Realising good grades in school and working hard in whatever jobs or businesses you choose is what will develop our country. Others who are gifted in the fields of sports, arts and culture should also practice hard and excel in these areas to be able to make a living and also make our nation proud.

Meanwhile, as we celebrate the 44th Independence Anniversary Day, I urge you to know that your generation will carry forward the torch of independence,

development and prosperity for our beloved motherland. Our country requires young people who have vision for the future, are hardworking, honest, well behaved, and demonstrate understanding.

I, therefore, call upon you to use your knowledge, talents and skills as well as create stronger connections between what you learn at school and your daily lives. You must be proud of being Zimbabwean by helping produce goods and services that we all need. Believe and respect yourselves and others around you. That way, you will be able to face challenges and solve problems that surround you, through innovative solutions that can positively change lives and our nation.


It is important to appreciate and celebrate the performance and achievements of others. Today some of you performed, another time, others will participate in sports, while others will excel in school work. Learn to clap for each other; that is how unity must be shown at the school level.

Unity is what helped the young people of the past to successfully fight in the liberation struggle and persevere until independence was attained. You must always protect our national unity.

My Dear Children;

The National Development Strategy recognises the role of education towards lifting many out of poverty into prosperity. Education is also a tool to develop skilled workers for the growth of our nation. Government has made a commitment to provide education that paves way for a brighter future for all of you. Our education system is focusing on Science, Technology, and Innovation, starting from Early Childhood Development.

We are transforming and establishing Science Laboratories across primary and secondary schools. This will promote the learning of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics.



In addition, we are rolling out mobile science laboratories and equipping our schools with centres for Information Communication Technologies.

In line with the Global Safe to Learn Commitments, comprehensive programmes are in place to make sure that all our learning institutions remain safe for both pupils and staff. These include safeguards for early reporting and response to all cases of bullying and the abuse of harmful drugs and substances.

I call upon school authorities to diligently carry out their duties and create safe and healthy spaces for our children. Similarly, I encourage you our young people to be responsible at your schools, homes and within the community in general. You must always listen and accept the guidance of your parents, teachers and those senior to you.

Engaging in harmful activities such as drug and substance abuse as well as the irresponsible use of ICTs, destroys the moral fabric of our country.

You should use social media, content creation and ICTs for good not to spread bad behaviour. Instead, focus on building a bright future for yourselves, your families and our nation, with education as a stepping stone.

Going forward, our national strategies will continue to focus on educating pupils and fostering a positive school environment as well as providing psycho-social support to have well rounded children in all our communities.

The Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education, is directed to work closely with parents and communities for the benefit of our children. Children should be taught, from an early age to say no to peer pressure, harmful behaviour such as substance abuse as well as bullying.

To you our children, I encourage you to seek help and communicate the challenges you face, be it at school or at home. In the same vein, parents and guardians are reminded of the importance of keeping open lines of communication with your children.

In conclusion, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to parents and guardians for allowing all the children representatives, here gathered, to participate in this joyous Children's Party to celebrate the 44th Independence of our country, Zimbabwe. I commend you all for your discipline and attention throughout this event. I wish you success in your studies.

May this Independence Children's Party be a reminder to all stakeholders of the importance of nurturing and supporting our young people, in the activities of nation building. Our children are the future of our beloved country, Zimbabwe, and should not be left behind as we build our country brick by brick and stone upon stone.

With these remarks, it is now my pleasure and honour to wish our children, throughout Zimbabwe and those in the diaspora, memorable national Independence Day celebrations.

God bless you.

God bless Zimbabwe, I thank you.