



ADDRESS

BY

**THE PRESIDENT AND COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF
OF THE ZIMBABWE DEFENCE FORCES,
HIS EXCELLENCY, CDE. E. D. MNANGAGWA,**

AT THE

**BURIAL OF BRIGADIER GENERAL SHADRECK
VEZHA, CDE. NYASHA DZIMIRI AND
CDE. GRACE TSITSI JADAGU**

**NATIONAL HEROES ACRE
29 APRIL 2024**

The Bereaved Vezha, Dzimiri and Jadagu Families,

First Lady, Amai A. Mnangagwa,

Vice President and Second Secretary of ZANU PF,
Hon. Gen. (Rtd) Dr. C. G. D. N. Chiwenga and Amai,

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

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

Minister of State for Provincial Affairs and Devolution,
Harare Metropolitan Province, Hon. C. Tavengwa;

Other Honourable Ministers here present;

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

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

The Chief Justice, Hon. L. Malaba;

President of the National Chiefs' Council, Hon. Sen. M. Khumalo;

Politburo and Central Committee Members;

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

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

Commander Zimbabwe Defence Forces; General P. V. Sibanda;

Service Chiefs;

Your Excellencies Members of the Diplomatic Corps;

Mayor of the City of Harare, His Worship, Councillor. J. Mafume;

Veterans of the Liberation Struggle;

Senior Government Officials;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

Comrades and Friends.

We gather once again at this solemn occasion to lay to rest two gallant sons and a daughter of our beloved motherland, Zimbabwe. The three National Heroes, Comrades Brigadier General Shadreck Vezha, a decorated General Officer in the Zimbabwe Defence Forces; Cde Nyasha Nash Dzimiri, a veteran of the armed war of liberation and Intelligence Director in my Department and Cde Grace Tsitsi Jagadu, a dedicated Party cadre and war collaborator, are being interred at this sacred shrine in recognition of their consistent, persistent and loyal service to our country.

Brigadier General Vezha passed on, on the 16th of April 2024, in Hospital, after sustaining serious injuries as a result of a fatal road traffic accident. Cde Dzimiri passed on, on the same day, in Harare after battling with Diabetes. Cde Amai Jagadu passed on, on 18 April 2024 in Chitungwiza, Harare.

Their passing on is a huge blow to our Nation, and particularly to the Defence, Intelligence and Security sectors as well as our revolutionary Party, ZANU PF.

On behalf of the Government and people of Zimbabwe, our Party ZANU PF, my family and indeed on my own behalf, I wish to express my deepest heartfelt condolences to the Vezha, Dzimiri and Jadagu families at this loss. The exemplary manner in which the departed National Heroes executed their given mandates shall serve as a beacon for future generations to come.

The late Brigadier General Vezha had a distinguished career as a decorated General Officer, strategist and an exceptional military trainer. Numerous commissioned and non-commissioned officers in the Zimbabwe Defence Forces passed through his mentorship. The late Cde Dzimiri, was an astute and dependable Intelligence and Security officer, while Cde Jadagu was a dedicated and reliable party cadre.

She was an ardent, firm believer and follower of our Party ideology and values. She worked hard in mass mobilisation for the Party, and women's empowerment, as well as popularising the founding ethos and ideals of the people's revolution. She was a female political commissar par-excellency. They all served our nation diligently with honour, distinction and sacrifice. May their souls rest in eternal peace.

Comrades and Friends;

The late Brigadier General Shadreck Vezha was born on 10 August 1961 in Chivi District, Masvingo Province. He did his primary education at Chihaya, Runesu and Chitanga schools from 1968 to 1975 and attended his secondary education at Lundi High School from 1976 to 1979. After completing his 'Ordinary' Level, the late Brigadier General joined the liberation struggle.

He proceeded to North Korea in 1980 for further military training at Kim Chong Ju Military Academy and later Kim IL Sung Military University until 1982. He was attested in the Zimbabwe National Army on the 1st of August 1982 and rose through the ranks, becoming a Lieutenant in 1984 and progressed until in 2018, when he was promoted to Brigadier General, the rank he held at the time of his death.

The late National Hero, Brig Gen Vezha had a decorated military career and attended several military courses within our jurisdiction and abroad. Apart from these military courses, he also attained academic qualifications in Defence and Security Studies as well as in Defence and Security Management and Business Intelligence.

As a result of his hard work, discipline, loyalty, trustworthiness and dependability, the late General Officer held several appointments which included: Platoon Commander, General Staff Officer Grade 3 (Staff Duties), Company Second in Command, Personal Staff Officer

to Chief of Staff General Staff, Directing Staff at the Zimbabwe Staff College, Brigade Major, Chief Instructor Zimbabwe School of Infantry, Commanding Officer 5.1 Infantry Battalion and Personal Staff Officer to Commander Zimbabwe National Army. He was a Senior Personal Staff Officer to the Commander Zimbabwe Defence Forces from 2017 up to the time of his untimely death.

For exemplary service to the nation, the late Brigadier General Vezha was awarded the medals for Liberation and Independence; Ten Years' Service, Long and Exemplary Service; as well as the Mozambique Campaign, the Democratic Republic of Congo Campaign medals; the United Nations Angola Verification Mission III Medal (UN), Syrian Observer Mission Medal and the Grant Officer of the Zimbabwe Order of Merit Award.

Men, women and officers of the Zimbabwe Defence Forces are challenged to emulate the professional ethic and character exhibited by the late Brigadier General Vezha. **Ange ari munhu akavimbika, anoda uye akazvipira kushandira nyika yedu.** Having been exposed to various military and academic training, the late Cde Vehza applied his knowledge for the good of our country. I urge those deployed in peace support operations and seconded for various trainings in other parts of the world to continue raising our country's flag high.

On return, they are challenged to apply the skills and knowledge acquired for the betterment of our country and people alive to our philosophy that **'Nyika inovakwa, inotongwa, inonamatigwa nevene vayo, ilizwe lakhiwa, libuswe, likhulekelwe ngabanikazi balo'**.

Comrades and Friends;

The late Cde Nyasha Dzimiri whose chimurenga name is 'Tambaoga Mwanangu' was born on 24 June 1958 in

Shurugwi District, Midlands Province. He attended Kwarire and Matamba primary schools between 1966 and 1967, while from 1971 to 1972, enrolled at Hanke Mission. He later attended Lower Gweru College (now Lower Gweru Adventist High School) for his secondary education between 1973 and 1976.

Outraged by the racial segregation in the then Rhodesia, Cde Dzimiri left the country for Mozambique in 1976 to join the liberation struggle. Upon crossing into Mozambique, Cde Dzimiri stayed at Nyadzonia camp and received political orientation that was to become the compass for his future political journey. In August 1976, he survived the callous, racist and brutal attack by the Rhodesian Security Forces at Nyadzonia Camp.

Following the Nyadzonia massacre, the late Cde Dzimiri was selected to undergo training in Security and Intelligence at the Nanking Military Academy in the People's Republic of China.

The Nanking Military Academy is one of the renowned military institutions where many liberation war cadres including myself and the late ZANLA Chief of Defence, General Josiah Magama Tongogara, were trained.

The late National Hero, Cde Dzimiri was deployed in Gaza Province where he operated until February 1977 and was later withdrawn from the front after sustaining life-threatening injuries. In June 1977, Cde Dzimiri was again sent to the People's Republic of China for further training in Intelligence. Upon completion, he returned to Mozambique and was appointed Military Instructor at Chaminuka Security and Intelligence Camp in Chimoio. He was amongst the survivors of the 1977 Chimoio massacre.

Thereafter, Cde Dzimiri was re-assigned to the Protection Unit as a Senior Protection Officer (Chief Aide) to the ZANLA Chief of Defence, General Magama Tongogara.

Due to his unquestionable commitment to the liberation struggle, tried and tested loyalty, he was appointed to be a member of the National Security Analysis group. It was during this assignment that Cde Dzimiru made several incursions into Rhodesia, primarily on Intelligence and Security missions, which included reconnaissance on Rhodesian camps.

From April to September 1978, Cde Dzimiru worked as an Intelligence and Security Instructor where he trained several cadres who later served in the then Prime Minister's Department at Independence. In December 1979, he was selected to train in the Republic of Yugoslavia in Advanced Military Science at the Higher Military Academy of Yugoslav National Army.

After the ceasefire in 1980, Cde Dzimiru was the Second in Command at Buffalo Range Assembly Point where he played a critical role during the integration of ZANLA combatants into the Zimbabwe National Army.

He was briefly attested into the Air Force of Zimbabwe before being re-assigned to the then Ministry of Social Services. He also worked at the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe.

Following our country's Independence in 1980, I formed the Central Intelligence Organisation into a truly Zimbabwean strategic and key security national institution, moving away from the notorious Rhodesian Special Branch. In this regard, I needed reliable, effective, astute and unflinchingly patriotic and loyal Intelligence Officers.

It was during this period, in 1983 that I attested our National Hero Cde Dzimiri into the President's Department. Owing to his professionalism, exemplary work ethic and dedication to duty, he rose through the ranks, sharing his wealth of experience and grooming young intelligence officers recruited into the Department.

Our late National Hero was promoted to the rank of Divisional Intelligence Officer in 1996.

In this capacity, he continued to mentor junior officers who worked under him into reliable, efficient and effective Intelligence and Security Officers.

In 2001, the late Cde Dzimiri was transferred to the Internal Branch and appointed Principal Intelligence Officer for Mashonaland East Province. He played a critical role, together with other officers from the security services in the coordination of our historic land reform programme which begun in Mashonaland East Province, under Chief Svosve.

His consistency and persistency as well as dedication to duty and exceptional fluidity in the execution of delicate assignments, our late National Hero was further promoted to the rank of Assistant Director and re-deployed to the Counter Intelligence Branch.

In September 2007, the late Cde Dzimiri was posted to our Embassy in Havana, Cuba, as a Liaison Officer, a task he performed with diligence.

At the end of his diplomatic tour of duty, Cde Dzimiri was re-appointed Internal Branch Assistant Director of Operations in June 2015, and in 2018 he was promoted to Director Counter Intelligence. His wealth of experience and professional versatility saw him being trusted to a specialised Unit within the President's Department as Director in December 2019, a post he held at the time of his death.

In the late Cde Dzimiri, we had a committed cadre of our country, who was always ready for any deployment and assignment. This trait must continue to be emulated by officers in the security sector as well as the civil service as a whole.

Comrades and Friends;

The late National Heroine Cde Grace Tsitsi Jadagu was born on 11 March 1943 and went to Murehwa Mission in 1959 for her education. She trained as a police officer and later enrolled for primary school teachers' training at Nyadire Mission in 1960.

She started her political career at the age of 17 in Mangwende Village, in Murewa. During that time, her family, led by Chief Mangwende, had a conflict with the Rhodesian Native Commissioner over national politics. Eventually, the whole family was forced out of the village which resulted in them seeking refuge in Old Highfield.

It was during this period that Cde Jadagu became a member of the Youth in ZAPU together with other comrades such as the late Sabina Mugabe, Tsitsi Munyati, and Ruth Chinamano among others. We honour her for the indelible role that she and other women played in our country's protracted fight for freedom and independence.

She is the epitome of female revolutionaries, who endured and never gave in to the brutal and racist oppression of the Rhodesian regime. She will be remembered for her bravery, courage and determination as she acted as a courier for the provision of vital information and intelligence to the liberation war fighters.

Her role and contribution as a war collaborator coupled with her illustrious political work in post-independent Zimbabwe, should serve as an inspiration to the important role of women as we continue to build our country, brick by brick, stone by stone towards vision 2030.

After Independence, the late Cde Jagadu served as a Councillor for Chitungwiza Ward 16 and was later appointed Special Interest Councillor in 2013. She was appointed Senator in 2014 and became a member of the Peace and Security Committee which played an oversight role on the welfare of defence and security services.

As the Second Republic, we have deliberately implemented bold policy decisions to ensure that women and the youth occupy strategic positions in the governance architecture of our country. Against this background, I urge women and the youth in leadership positions across all levels, in both the public and private sectors to champion transformative initiatives to propel and help drive socio-economic and political advancement. I challenge you to avail yourself for accelerating our national development agenda, for the betterment of our communities and the nation as a whole.

Fellow Mourners;

Let us never forget that it is through the selfless consistent and persistent sacrifices of heroes such as the late Brigadier General Vezha, Cde Dzimiri and Cde Jadagu as well as many other departed and living cadres that Zimbabwe continues to enjoy independence, freedom and sovereignty.

In the face of neo-imperialist machinations, we all have a duty across our respective sectors and individually to defend our motherland and work hard for a more prosperous future for all.

Our focus remains on the attainment of Vision 2030 and to build Zimbabwe, brick by brick, stone upon stone. The national development philosophy '**nyika inovakwa, inotongwa, inonamatigwa nevene vayo/Ilizwe lakhiwa, libuswe, likhulekelwe ngabanikazi balo**'; remains our guiding compass. We must never lose focus of our economic development thrust, to modernise and industrialise our country.

As we strive to achieve our national economic developmental goals, we are bound to encounter challenges. Let us pull in one direction, as a united and peace-loving people. The burden to develop our own country falls with us.

The heroes we are laying to rest today played their part, we must keep marching forward and do our part.

I commend all Zimbabweans for the manner we have adopted and are protecting the use of our own currency, the Zimbabwe Gold (ZiG). **Congratulations, Makorokoto, Zimbabwe.** This is our National Currency and part of the symbols of our national identity and dignity.

Meanwhile, I call upon all Zimbabweans, especially our youths, women, and young officers in the rank and file of our Intelligence, Defence and Security Sector to draw up good traits of patriotism and selflessness which were exhibited by the late Brigadier General Vezha, Cde Dzimiri, and Cde Jadagu.

The three departed heroes remained honest, humble and trustworthy cadres who were always ready to avail themselves to serve their country.

Sadly, in the case of the late National Hero, Brigadier General Vezha, before the tragic accident, he was set to assume his new role as the Defence Attaché to Tanzania and Kenya on 23 April 2024.

Equally, I urge the Zimbabwe Defence Forces and Intelligence and Security Training establishments, to be part of the mainstream research, science, innovation and technology development ecosystem underpinned by the Heritage-Based Education 5.0 model. The provision of knowledge and skills to address both emerging and traditional security threats and for the production of quality goods and services as well as for technological advancement remain key priority areas.

Over the weekend, I was pleased to host, His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Kenya, Dr Ruto for state visit, during which he officially opened the Zimbabwe International Trade Fair.

This was held under the theme, **“Innovation; a catalyst to Industrialisation and Trade”**. This highlights the centrality we must accord science, technology and innovation as we develop every facet of our country.

Finally, as we lay to rest our gallant departed heroes, I urge our Intelligence, Defence and Security sectors to remain vigilant and effective on matters of national security and interests. Honour the legacy of dear departed Senior Officers by inculcating and entrenching the professional traits which made them patriotic, loyal and dependable Officers.

Comrades and Fellow Mourners;

As we lay to rest the late National Heroes and Heroine, Brigadier General Vezha, Cde Nyasha Dzimiri ‘Tambaoga Mwanangu’ and Cde Amai Grace Tsitsi Jadagu alongside our Founding Fathers and other gallant sons and daughters of our beloved motherland Zimbabwe, here at the National

Shrine, for remembrance and eternal reverence, we say to them;

Go well Sons of the Soil; Go well Daughter of the Soil;
Zororai murugare magamba edu;

Lalani ngokuthula maqhawe ethu;

Rest in eternal peace our dear Comrades.

God bless you all.

God bless Zimbabwe.

I thank you.