



**ADDRESS**

**BY**

**THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZIMBABWE  
HIS EXCELLENCY, DR. E. D. MNANGAGWA**

**AT**

**THE BURIAL OF NATIONAL HERO,  
BRIGADIER GENERAL ROMEO DANIEL  
MUTSVUNGUMA**

**NATIONAL HEROES ACRE  
1 JULY 2024**

The Bereaved Mutsvunguma Family;

First Lady, Amai A. Mnangagwa;

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

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

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

Speaker of Parliament, Hon. Adv. J. F. N. Mudenda;

President of the Senate, Hon. M. Chinomona;

Chief Justice, Hon. L. Malaba,

Cabinet Ministers;

Members of the Politburo and Central Committee;

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

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

President of the National Chiefs' Council, Chief Mtshana Khumalo;

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

Your Excellences, Members of the Diplomatic Corps;

Commander Defence Forces, Gen. P. V. Sibanda;

Service Chiefs;

Veterans of the Liberation Struggle;

Senior Government Officials;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

Comrades and Friends.

On 19 June 2024, the nation was robbed of yet another gallant son of Zimbabwe, a distinguished patriot, veteran of our liberation struggle and a long-serving General Officer in the Zimbabwe Defence Forces, the late Brigadier General (Rtd) Romeo Daniel Mutsvunguma. He passed on, in Rusape at the age of 67 years.

He was a consistent, persistent, committed and dedicated cadre who selflessly served our beloved motherland, Zimbabwe. This earned him the recognition and honour to lay here at our sacred National Heroes Acre, besides the Founding Fathers, luminaries, his comrades and heroes of our nation. We grieve over this sad loss.

On behalf of the nation, Government, the revolutionary mass Party, ZANU PF, my family and indeed on my own behalf, I wish to once again express my heartfelt condolences to the Mutsvunguma family for this sorrowful loss. May you take comfort in that the Nation he diligently served, mourns with you.

### **Comrades and Friends;**

The late Brigadier General (Rtd) Romeo Daniel Mutsvunguma, whose Chimurenga name was ‘Comrade Mapfumo Moyo,’ was born on 6 March 1957 in Makoni District, Manicaland Province.

He studied at St Augustine's Secondary School until he left school to join the liberation struggle in September 1975.

The late Retired Brigadier General led a group of 17 students from St Augustine's Secondary School and crossed the border into Mozambique. He stayed at Nyadzonia Refugee Camp where he was assigned Security duties responsible for screening recruits. He later received military training at Morogoro Camp under ZIPA from 1975 to 1976.

After training, the late General Officer was deployed in Manica Province, Tangwena Sector, before undergoing a Political Course at Chimoio. On completing the Course in 1976, he was deployed to Nachingweya at the Mapinduzi Base, as the Base Security Officer, Detachment Level.

He was subsequently withdrawn to Mozambique in 1977 and assigned to Takawira Base II at Chimoio, as overall Detachment Base Political Commissar.

During the same year, he was re-assigned back to Nachingweya in Tanzania to oversee the integration of ZANLA and ZIPRA Regular Training in April 1977.

In 1978, the late Brigadier General was deployed to Pasichigare ZANLA High Command Base as a Political Instructor. In that capacity, at the ZANLA Headquarters, he reported to me, when I was the Head of Intelligence and Security. It was during this period that he undertook special duties of political re-orientation. His role as an analyst on worldwide news for the ZANLA High Command and members of the General Staff as well as drafter of political lessons for Cadres and Instructors, proved insightful and perceptive at a crucial time in the perpetration of the liberation struggle.

Additionally, the late national hero, Cde “Mapfumo Moyo” was key in the setting up of the News Analysis Department. This proved a strategic vehicle in reaching out to the world

to explain our cause and quest for independence and freedom.

The late General Officer was also part of the production team of our wartime mouth piece, The Zimbabwe News Magazine. In February 1980 he was elevated to be a member of the General Staff. In this role, he was tasked to oversee the first integration of Forces forming the new Army 21 Infantry “Pioneer” Battalion.

### **Comrades and Friends;**

The late national hero, Retired Brigadier General Mutsvunguma was a distinguished and astute military Officer. Attested into the Zimbabwe National Army in March 1980, he completed the Company Commander Standardisation and the Platoon Commanders’ Course in 1981 and 1982, respectively, at the Zimbabwe Military Academy. He also attended the Company Group Commander’s Course at the Zimbabwe Military Academy

and the Joint Command and Staff Course at the Zimbabwe Staff College.

Due to his exemplary and disciplined conduct, he was selected to attend an Advanced Refresher Course at the National Defence University, in the People's Republic of China, in 1996. To add diversity to his military acumen, he was sent for an International Defence Management Course at the Naval Postgraduate College, Monterey, California, USA, in 1999.

The late General Officer was a holder of various professional courses in the areas of information technology, peace keeping operations, national security, conflict management and defence diplomacy.

During his career in the Zimbabwe Defence Forces, the late General Officer held command and staff appointments, notably, Company Commander, Brigade Major, Directing Staff, Battalion Second in Command,



Commanding Officer, Defence Attaché, Director Policy and International Affairs, as well as an executive position at the Zimbabwe Defence Industries.

As a result of his hard work, selflessness, continued dedication and exemplary service to the nation, the late Brigadier General Mutsvunguma was awarded the Liberation Medal; Ten Years' Service Medal; Long and Exemplary Service Medal; Mozambique Campaign Medal; Democratic Republic of Congo Campaign Medal; and Commander of the Zimbabwe Order of Merit Award.

**Fellow Mourners, Comrades and Friends;**

As we lay to rest our departed national hero, Retired Brigadier General Mutsvunguma, and also honour many other heroes and heroines, let us once again pledge to protect, defend and consolidate the unity, peace, freedom, independence, and sovereignty of our great country.

Under our watch, and in our hands, Zimbabwe shall continue to prosper and thrive as we march forward towards Vision 2030. **‘Nyika inovakwa, inotongwa, inonamatigwa nevene vayo/ ilizwe lakhiwa, libuswe, likhulekelwe ngabanikazi balo’.**

Zimbabwe is “a friend to all and an enemy to none”, however, we remain vigilant and ready to defend, our rich liberation heritage, territorial integrity, peace, security and the hopes and aspirations of the people of our motherland, Zimbabwe. This is who we are as the descendants of the Great Emperor Munhumutapa. The people of Zimbabwe shall forever be masters of their destiny. **Tichavaka nyika yedu; Tichatonga nyika yedu; Tichanamatira nyika yedu; Tisu vene vayo.**

As we continue building Zimbabwe and playing our part in regional and continental affairs, we reject hegemonic tendencies and intrusive foreign maneuverers by some

western countries bent on sabotaging the rights of the people of Africa to true independence and sovereignty.

The spirit of Pan-Africanism and the flame of African independence remains alive.

This is what the likes of our late national hero, Cde Mutsvunguma and his peers in other Liberation Movements achieved through their selfless sacrifices. No amount of neo-colonial machinations or attacks will blunt our ability to pursue programmes of empowering our historically disadvantaged communities.

Next month, our Nation will be hosting the SADC Summit, where Zimbabwe will assume the Chairmanship of SADC. This will see us consolidating, expanding and diversifying the socio-economic development agenda of our region as envisioned in the SADC Industrialisation Agenda.

Let us ready ourselves to welcome our guests to ***“Zimbabwe, the World of Wonders”***, with wide open arms

and exhibit warm hospitality, enduring friendship, unity and solidarity.

### **Fellow Mourners;**

The late National Hero, remained patriotic and committed to his country and people. I, therefore, call upon all Zimbabweans, especially our youths, to draw lessons from the patriotism, loyalty and selfless-hard-honest work, that was exhibited by the late Retired Brigadier General Mutsvunguma and other heroes and heroines of his generation.

In doing so, let us remain ourselves. We are Zimbabweans and we are Africans. We must be proud of who we are, and in the dignity of our identity. Equally, we should believe in our capabilities as an independent and free people. I particularly urge you, the young people of Zimbabwe, to know that you too, are the descendants of the Great Munhumutapa. No matter where you go or what you experience, never ever look down on yourselves. Let us

carry on transforming, modernising and industrialising our motherland, Zimbabwe. The results are evident across all sectors of our economy, Vision 2030 is achievable. Forward ever, backward never.

Finally, as we lay to rest the late National Hero, Brigadier General (Rtd) Mutsvunguma alongside his comrades at this National Shrine, I say to you my dear Comrade:

**Go well Son of the Soil; Fambai Zvakanaka Gamba remaGamba; Hamba Kahle, Qhawe Lama Qhawe.**

Rest in Eternal Peace our Hero, **Zororai murugare Gamba redu; Lala ngokuthula Qhawe lethu.** We will continue to defend our sovereignty and advance the prosperity of our motherland, Zimbabwe.

**God bless you all.**

**God bless Zimbabwe.**

**I thank you.**