



ADDRESS

BY

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

AT

**THE BURIAL OF LATE BRIGADIER GENERAL
(RTD) SAMUEL MPABANGA,**

NATIONAL HEROES ACRE, HARARE

18 FEBRUARY 2026

Ngithanda ukuhlonipha imuli yako Mpabanga;

And;

The 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 ZAN PF,
Hon. Col. (Rtd) Dr. K. C. D. Mohadi;

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

Other Honourable Ministers;

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

President of the Senate, 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 E. Matatu;

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 Fellow Mourners.

We gather here, at this sacred National Heroes Acre to lay to rest Brigadier General (Retired) Samuel Mpabanga, who was known “*eMpini*” as Cde Moffat Nkomo”. He passed on, on 9 February 2026 at Gwanda Provincial Hospital at the age of 69.

A gallant son of Zimbabwe, distinguished patriot and dedicated revolutionary, he played his indelible part towards the liberation of our beloved great motherland, Zimbabwe. After independence he served within the Zimbabwe Defence Forces with courage, integrity and distinction, always putting our country above his self-interest. His leadership, commitment, and adaptability inspired many.

We befittingly inter him, at this revered National Shrine alongside many luminaries of our nation, Founding Fathers, Commanders of the Liberation struggle, brave freedom fighters, and others who contributed to the development of our country, in post-independent Zimbabwe.

On behalf of our revolutionary mass Party ZANU PF, Government, my Family and indeed on my own behalf,

I convey heartfelt condolences to his wife, children and the Mpabanga Family. The nation mourns with you, over this sad loss.

May you continue to draw solace and comfort from the knowledge that our departed General was a true patriot, whose life sets an undisputable example of consistency, persistency, sacrifice and service to Zimbabwe. His contributions to our nation's independence, security, peace and development will never be forgotten. May his soul rest in peace.

Comrades and Friends;

The late Brigadier General (Rtd) Mpabanga, was born in Gwanda, Matabeleland South Province in 1956 and grew up against a background of increasing colonial supremacy on one hand and the rapid decolonization of Africa, on the other. Discriminatory legislation such as the Land Apportionment Act of early 1930's and the Native Land Husbandry Act enacted in 1950/1951, had seen mass

evictions of Africans from their birth-lands and the creation of the so-called “native reserves”, along with other measures advancing political and socio-economic discrimination.

The late National Hero was only 9 years old doing primary education at Mapate Primary School when the racists Ian Smith-led government, without shame Unilaterally Declared Independence in 1965. After completing his junior school education at Beitbridge Primary school, proceeded for secondary education at Manama Mission from 1971 to 1972 and Matobo Secondary School from 1973 to 1974.

Many schools of yester-year, like those attended by our heroes, throughout the country, were the hot-beds of political education and awakening which saw many young people make the crucial decision to fight for the liberation, freedom and independence of our country. Such was the

centrality of schools as mobilisation grounds towards our liberation war efforts.

At the present time, there is a new kind of revolution, one that is driven by science, technology, digitization and innovation. Education institutions must rise to the occasion and produce young people that can effectively drive the development, prosperity and growth of our nation. I, further, challenge the sector, therefore, along with the youth and learners at every level, to be inspired by our rich liberation war history and leverage on our Heritage Based Education 5.0 to be the new heroes who propel a knowledge driven economy, anchored on new technologies, for the industrialisation and modernisation of our nation, beyond Vision 2030.

Fellow Mourners;

Against the many challenges and dangers associated with joining the liberation struggle, our late National Hero crossed the border via Botswana to join the liberation

struggle under ZIPRA, in 1977. Following perilous journey, which included imprisonment at Selibe Pikwe Prison, he was airlifted to Nampundwe camp in Zambia.

After undergoing training at Mulungushi Camp, the late “Cde Moffat Nkomo”, along with other trainees, left Zambia for further military training at Odessa, in the then USSR, until 1979. Upon his return from Russia, he was appointed instructor at Solwezi and later deployed, with other ZIPRA cadres, to Siabonga along the Zambezi River. He held the appointment of Military Commissariat, until he was attested into the Zimbabwe National Army in 1980.

Comrades;

We have a rich and diverse culture as well as an intricately woven history. These, along with the regional and international solidarity we enjoyed during the liberation struggle, together with our country’s experiences under heinous Western sanctions, inform our national character and shape our values and beliefs.

As the people of Zimbabwe, we know the strength of our unity, the pain of war and the power of resilience.

The story of our forefathers under colonialism, culminating in the armed liberation struggle, must be told in its entirety, from the narratives of all participating voices. The unitary and indivisibility of our state must be jealously defended. Likewise, our development, industrialisation, modernisation and prosperity should continue to be all-encompassing, no person, place or region must be left behind.

It is in this spirit that the 2nd Republic is accelerating the devolution and decentralization agenda. Our departed National Hero has passed on at a time when preparations for the hosting of this year's Independence Day celebrations, in his home province of Matabeleland South are at an advanced stage.

In addition, numerous progress are ongoing in various districts of the province to improve road infrastructure, water availability, agriculture productivity and energy access. To improve access to training and skills development for the youth and women, the construction of a Vocational Training Center in Matobo District has commenced.

The Second Republic is scaling up policies and programmes that will see the full realization of the aspirations that inspired many of the sons and daughters of Zimbabwe to wage the protracted war of liberation. National unity, peace, development and social cohesion remain at the core of all activities of Government.

Similarly, the solidarity and support that helped us in our war for independence, and endure the years under sanctions inform our choices. We remain forever an independent, free and sovereign people, “a friend to all and an enemy of none”, driven by our national interests.

Zimbabwe is eternally grateful to our friends and allies who stood by us.

We share our vision of a just and equitable world and will continue to build bridges, not walls, as we work within the comity of nations towards global peace, security and shared development for all.

This is the long standing spirit and ethos that sustained liberation war fighters such as our National Hero, the late Retired Brigadier General Mpabanga.

He served our country, in the military with diligence and utmost professionalism. He had a traceable and illustrious career, in the Zimbabwe Defence Forces, systematically undertaking military career courses in accordance with his rank. An outstanding General Officer, he was awarded medals which include the Liberation Medal, Independence of Zimbabwe Medal, Ten Years' Service Medal, Long and Exemplary Service Medal, Mozambique Campaign Medal,

DRC Campaign Medal, Grand Officer of the Zimbabwe Order of Merit Award.

The late Retired Brigadier General Mpabanga never sought preference or special recognition, and dutifully performed in appointed designations without grumbling or bickering always remaining loyal, trustworthy and reliable. He never exhibited a sense of entitlement or an attitude of superiority, he was a humble officer and son of Zimbabwe. These are the character traits demanded of the current and future crop of leaders in public service as well as in the security sector.

In my capacity as the President and Commander-in-Chief of the Zimbabwe Defence Forces, I promoted our late National Hero to the rank of Brigadier General, upon his retirement in August 2022. He remained unquestionably loyal, patriotic, disciplined and dedicated to serving our motherland, until his demise.

His legacy is a shining example to future generations, of the power of courage, conviction and selfless patriotism.

I call upon all Zimbabweans, from across the political divide and the younger generation in particular, to draw life-lessons from these departed heroes of our nation. Let us always remain true to ourselves, as Zimbabweans, our identity and the right to chart our own destiny and future, as the times demand. We are a sovereign people and should never revoke this absolute right to please illusionary entities or cyber-societies. We say No to such trends.

Zimbabwe is an independent country. We shall do that which is right and necessary for us, so that our people can enjoy a higher quality of life and well-being. **Nyika inovakwa, inotongwa, inonamatirwa nevene vayo. Ilizwe lakhiwa, libuswe, *li-khu-le-ke-lwe* ngabanikazi balo.**

Fellow Mourners;

As we lay to rest our National Hero, the late retired Brigadier General Mpabanga, I say to him; you fought the good fight, you ran a good race and served our beloved motherland, Zimbabwe, with exemplary devotion.

Hamba kahle mntwana wenhlabathi; Lala ngokuthula qhawe lamaqhawe.

**Famba Zvakanaka Mwana Wevhu, Zorora Murugare
Gamba Redu,**

Go well Son of the Soil. May your soul rest in eternal peace.

God bless you all.

God bless Zimbabwe.

I thank you.