

A trusted source of Zimbabwe's liberation legacy

The Liberation *Magazine*

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**Telling Zim's story,
the Zim way:**

PRESIDENT DR. ED. MNANGAGWA

LAUNCHES TRANSFORMATIVE ZIMBABWE MEDIA POLICY

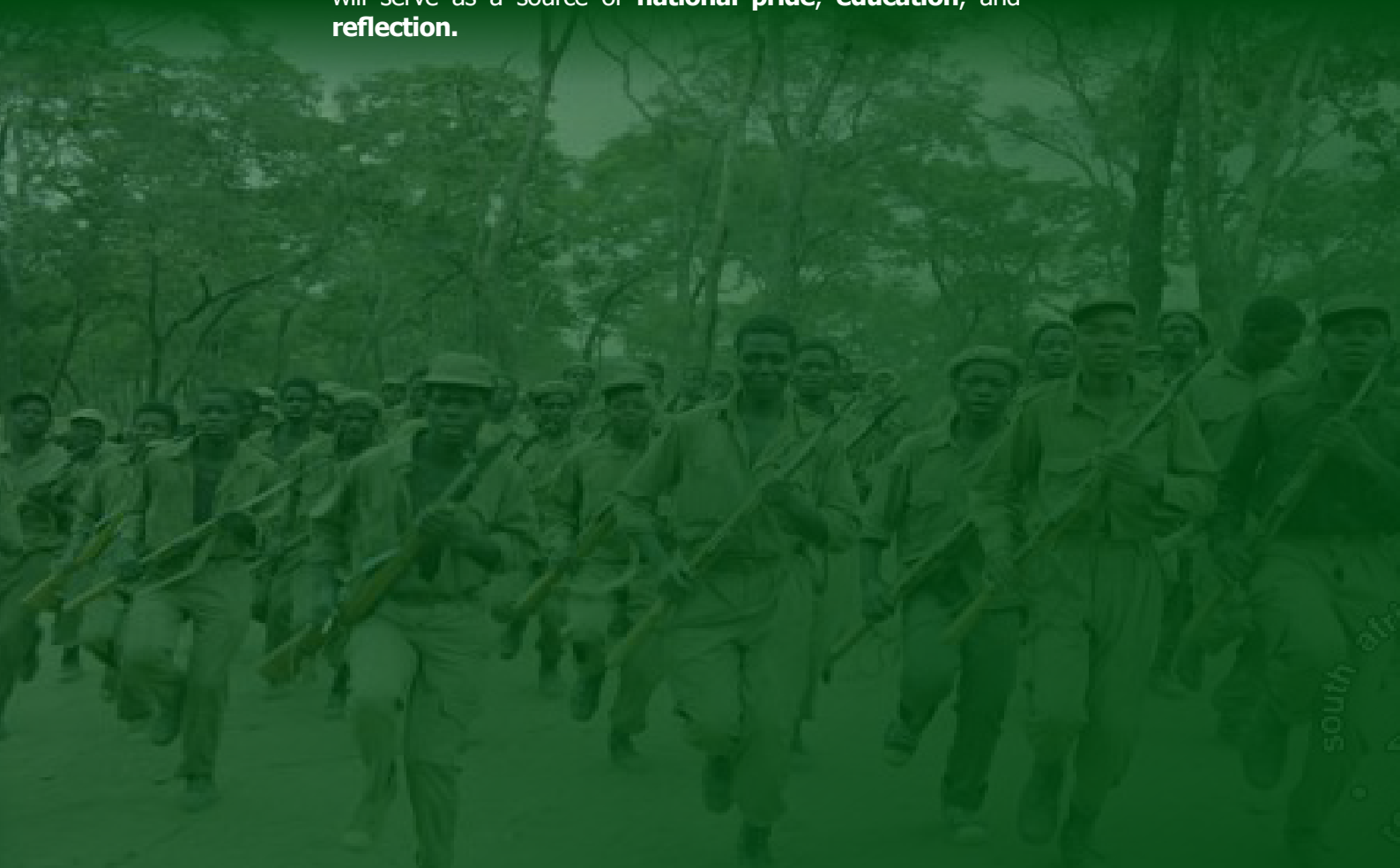
**MINISTER MAVHUNGA LAUNCHES
HEIFER PASS ON SCHEME**



Insight

...powerful first-hand narrations from Veterans of the Liberation Struggle and survivors who lived through some of the most decisive moments in Zimbabwe's armed struggle.

Their stories of **courage, strategy, pain, and triumph**, will serve as a source of **national pride, education, and reflection.**



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CHIEF EDITOR'S NOTE



In every issue, you can expect powerful first-hand narrations from Veterans of the Liberation Struggle and survivors who lived through some of the most decisive moments in Zimbabwe's armed struggle. Their stories of courage, strategy, pain, and triumph, will serve as a source of national pride, education, and reflection.

**Garikayi Chipfunde**

Welcome to the inaugural edition of The Liberation Magazine, a proud publication of the Ministry of Veterans of the Liberation Struggle Affairs.

This magazine is more than just a collection of articles, it is a living archive, a platform of honour, a celebration of resilience and a voice for the past, present, and future of Zimbabwe's liberation legacy.

We launch The Liberation Magazine at a time when the nation is deepening its commitment to honouring and empowering those who paid the ultimate price for our freedom, the gallant sons and daughters of Zimbabwe who gave their lives, sacrificed comfort, and endured unimaginable pain to liberate this nation.

This publication brings to light programmes, activities, and success stories spearheaded by the Ministry, from socio-economic empowerment initiatives to education and health services for Veterans of the Liberation Struggle and their dependants, War Victims and their dependants as well as Heroes dependants.

It showcases how the Ministry is implementing the national vision to ensure dignity, inclusion, and support for our Veterans of the Liberation Struggle and their families, including Heroes dependants and War Victims.

In every issue, you can expect powerful first-hand narrations from War Veterans and survivors who lived through some of the most decisive moments in Zimbabwe's armed struggle. Their stories of courage, strategy, pain, and triumph, will serve as a source of national pride, education, and reflection.

We also place a strong spotlight on gender mainstreaming and inclusivity, giving recognition to the women who fought on the frontlines and those who supported the war effort in unsung but vital ways. Their stories must be told with the same reverence and prominence.

Equally, The Liberation Magazine will not overlook the human side of our liberators and War Victims. We will explore their wellness, fitness,

and post-war reintegration journeys, celebrating their everyday resilience while addressing their challenges with sensitivity and purpose. In this category, we will also feature Ministry activities to the fitness and wellness of their staff.

From entertainment and cultural heritage, to rare glimpses into life in detention centres, restriction camps, and guerrilla training bases, we aim to document our liberation history not as distant folklore, but as lived reality. This magazine seeks to be a credible historical record that educates future generations, shapes national identity, and defends the truth of our struggle.

As we move forward, we call on all Zimbabweans, young and old, to engage with this platform. Let us read, reflect, and remember. Let us celebrate those still with us, honour the fallen, and ensure that the legacy of our liberation never fades.

On behalf of the editorial team, I welcome you to the exciting inaugural edition of The Liberation Magazine, where history breathes, heroes speak, and Zimbabwe remembers.

**Aluta Continua, The
Struggle Continues.**

**Pamberi nerusununguko
rweZimbabwe
Phambili ngeNkululeko
yeZimbabwe.**

**Living no one and
no place behind.**

Tose dzvamu, tose dzvamu





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LIBERATION

MIDLANDS PROVINCE, A SYMBOL OF RESILIENCE & FORTITUDE – **PRESIDENT**

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From the historic resilience of Gokwe to the unwavering vision of a united Zimbabwe, the President's message was clear: Nyika inovakwa nevene vayo/ilizwe lakhiwa ngabanikazi balo- A nation is built by its citizens.



His Excellence President Emmerson Mnangagwa lighting the independence flame in Gokwe

Staff Reporter

NEMBUDZIYA, GOKWE- President Emmerson Dambudzo Mnangagwa has hailed the people

of Midlands Province and Gokwe in particular for their economic contribution to the country saying they have demonstrated resilience and fortitude shown by the departed sons and daughters of the province

during the liberation struggle.

Addressing thousands of Zimbabweans gathered at Pfupajena Stadium, Nembudziya in Gokwe District, during Zimbabwe's 45th Independence Day celebrations



Veterans of the Liberation Struggle following proceedings during the 2025 Independence Celebrations.

President Mnangagwa praised the historical and present-day significance of the Midlands Province, describing it as an enduring symbol of the Zimbabwean spirit.

"In gathering here, from all the four corners of the country, we honour you, the people of the larger Midlands Province and Gokwe in particular. You shall forever stand as a symbol of resilience and fortitude," he said.

He paid homage to the revered sons and daughters of the Midlands who played pivotal roles in the liberation struggle. These included national heroes such as General Josiah Magama Tongogara, Cde Leopold Takawira, Cde Cephas Msipa, Cde Sibusiso Moyo, Cde Richard Hove and many others whose legacies continue to inspire the nation.

"It is because of their collective bravery, dedication and patriotism that today we are forever free, independent, peaceful and a sovereign people," said President Mnangagwa.

Reflecting on the historical injustices suffered by communities in Gokwe, the President acknowledged how

the area became a resettlement zone for many families displaced by the colonial regime. Despite being relocated to tsetse fly-infested lands, these communities not only survived but transformed the region into one of the most productive and populous districts in Zimbabwe.

"During the brutal colonial era, this area became home to many of our forefathers who were forcibly bundled out from various parts of the country by the racist white colonial regime

"They survived and thrived in these lands, which were then highly infested with tsetse flies, turning this area into one of the most populous and economically vibrant districts in our country," President Mnangagwa said. He commended Gokwe's unmatched contribution to national development through cotton production, mining, crop and livestock farming, highlighting its pivotal role in the post-independence economic landscape.

The President also reassured the nation that Zimbabwe remains on a steady path towards achieving Vision 2030, despite facing numerous

challenges including illegal sanctions, climate change and global economic shocks.

"The continuing sanctions, climate change-induced setbacks, global economic shocks, and machinations by detractors, desperate to see us divided, have not derailed our course.

"A higher quality of life and a prosperous upper middle-income society for many more of our people, in line with Vision 2030 is within sight. Together as one people, we are building our motherland, brick by brick and stone upon stone," he said.

This year's celebrations were held under the theme: 'Zimbabwe at 45: Devolve and Develop Together Towards Vision 2030', encapsulating the government's commitment to inclusive growth, decentralisation and community-driven development.

From the historic resilience of Gokwe to the unwavering vision of a united Zimbabwe, the President's message was clear: Nyika inovakwa nevene vayo/ilizwe lakhiwa ngabanikazi balo- A nation is built by its citizens.



ESTABLISH ROBUST INDUSTRIAL BASE FOR ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION – VP CHIWENGA

Staff Reporter

BULAWAYO- The Vice President of the Republic of Zimbabwe, Honourable General (Rtd) Dr Constantino Chiwenga, has underscored the need for the establishment of a robust industrial base from where the country's economic transformation will be built as Zimbabwe strives towards an upper-middle class economy by 2030.

In his keynote address at the International Business Conference (IBC) which ran on the sidelines of the 65th edition of the Zimbabwe International Trade Fair (ZITF) in Bulawayo recently, Vice President Chiwenga highlighted the urgent need to reinvigorate the country's industrial base in order to unlock economic potential and position Zimbabwe on both regional and global markets.

"Our collective quest to transform the Zimbabwean economy hinges on the establishment of a robust industrial base, one that serves as a cornerstone for sustained and inclusive economic growth," he said.

Drawing on global economic history, VP Chiwenga noted that no country had ever attained high-income status without a solid and diverse industrial foundation.

"Global economic history reminds us that no nation has ever attained high-income status without first laying the foundations of a strong, diverse, and competitive industrial sector", said VP Chiwenga.

He commended the strides made under the Second Republic, highlighting the implementation of the National Development Strategy 1



VP Chiwenga officially opening the International Business Conference (IBC) during the 2025 ZITF

(NDS1) as instrumental in stabilising the macroeconomic environment and driving national recovery.

"Under the Second Republic, Zimbabwe has made commendable progress in advancing industrialisation through the National Development Strategy 1, which has contributed significantly to economic recovery and macroeconomic stability," he said.

As the nation transitions into NDS2, the Vice President emphasised the importance of shifting from low-tech, low-value manufacturing towards high-tech, high-value and knowledge-intensive production systems.

"As we now transition into the implementation of National Development Strategy 2, our focus must shift decisively from low-value,

low-technology manufacturing toward high-value technology-intensive and knowledge-driven production systems.

"This transition is firmly anchored in the Zimbabwe National Industrial Development Policy (2024–2030) and the Zimbabwe Industrial Reconstruction and Growth Plan (ZIRGP).

"These strategic frameworks provide a clear roadmap for enhancing value addition, increasing industrial output and strengthening intersectoral linkages," he said.

VP Chiwenga further outlined the Whole-of-Government and Sector Approach introduced by President Mnangagwa as pivotal to advancing industrial transformation.



Delegates following proceedings during the International Business Conference, during 2025 ZITF.

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...I urge the private sector to deepen collaboration with academic and research institutions in commercialising science-based innovations.

The integrated approach calls for enhanced collaboration across government departments, industry and academia to develop sustainable long-term solutions.

“To achieve this vision, the President, His Excellency, Dr Emmerson Dambudzo Mnangagwa, has directed the adoption of the Whole-of-Government and Sector Approach, which emphasizes collaboration across Government departments, industry and academia. This integrated paradigm is essential for addressing current economic challenges and laying the foundation for sustainable industrial growth,” Vice President said.

The Vice President also challenged the private sector to increase partnerships with academic and research institutions to commercialise science-based innovations, stressing that Zimbabwe must emulate

successful economies that had built industrial strength through innovation and education.

“To strengthen the innovation ecosystem, I urge the private sector to deepen collaboration with academic and research institutions in commercialising science-based innovations. Zimbabwe must take inspiration from economies that have leveraged robust partnerships between universities and businesses to drive industrial competitiveness and structural transformation. In the face of evolving global geopolitical dynamics, the need for home-grown solutions has never been more pressing,” he noted.

Vice President Chiwenga noted positive milestones in the manufacturing sector emanating from Government’s successful implementation of local content

strategy.

“The Government has prioritised re-industrialisation through deliberate efforts to upscale key value chains in manufacturing, mining, agriculture and infrastructure development. In the manufacturing sector, average capacity utilisation has risen to over 50 percent, up from 36 percent in 2019.

“While this marks significant progress, Government remains committed to implementing policies that promote import substitution, local content development and the suppression of counterfeit goods. These policies aim to deepen value chain integration and increase industrial output,” said VP Chiwenga.

The International Business Conference, ran under the theme: “Revitalising Industrialisation for Zimbabwe’s Economic Resurgence.”

Zimbabwe Hosts 2025 National Disability Expo in Victoria Falls

Vice President Mohadi Champions Inclusion, Innovation and Action

Staff Reporter

Victoria Falls- Zimbabwe reaffirmed its commitment to promoting the rights and inclusion of persons with disabilities with the hosting of the 2025 Annual National Disability Expo at Chinotimba Stadium in Victoria Falls. Running under the theme "Accelerating Disability Inclusion Now: A Collective Responsibility," the Expo brought together Government Ministries, development partners, civil society organisations, the private sector, and persons with disabilities to showcase innovations and strategies aimed at fostering inclusivity.

The Expo was officially opened by the Vice President of the Republic of Zimbabwe, Hon. Kembo Campbell Dugish Mohadi, who praised the progress made in developing local innovations that empower persons with disabilities and reduce reliance on imported assistive technologies.

"It is impressive to see such innovations that promote inclusivity and self-reliance. These advancements will enable us to substitute imports of some assistive devices, saving the country valuable foreign currency," said Vice President Mohadi.

He called on all stakeholders to move beyond rhetoric and focus on actionable strategies that tangibly improve the lives of persons with disabilities.

"I urge all stakeholders to focus on tangible practical measures that improve the lives of persons with disabilities. Words without action are useless, just like faith without works is dead," he said.

The Vice President emphasised the need to ensure the full participation of persons with disabilities in all sectors of national development, noting that their inclusion is central to the country's vision for a prosperous and empowered society.

"The visibility, sensibility and audibility of persons with disabilities in all sectors of development is the hallmark of a progressively disability-inclusive society.



VP Mohadi officially opening the 2025 National Disability Expo at Chinotimba Stadium in Victoria Falls.

A disability-inclusive society is the epitome of the Zimbabwe we all want and envisions people who are fully empowered and prosperous," he added.

This year's Expo featured exhibitions of assistive technologies, skills demonstrations by people with disabilities, and policy dialogue platforms focusing on accessibility, education, healthcare, and employment. The event also served as a platform to strengthen partnerships among stakeholders committed to disability rights and

empowerment.

Zimbabwe continues to lead in advancing disability rights in the region, with the government taking significant steps towards the domestication and implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD).

As the country moves forward, the 2025 National Disability Expo stands as a reminder of the collective responsibility needed to accelerate disability inclusion and ensure that no one is left behind.



Mr A. T. Chikondo, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Veterans of the Liberation Struggle Affairs (standing far right) speaking to exhibitors at Ministry stand, during the National Disability Expo in Victoria Falls.

No Veteran of the Liberation should be left behind - Minister Mavhunga

Staff Reporter

VETERANS of the Liberation Struggle Affairs Minister, Hon Senator Monica Mavhunga has reaffirmed the government's commitment to ensuring that all Veterans of the Liberation Struggle are included in the country's efforts to build an empowered, prosperous and upper-middle-income society by 2030.

Speaking at a recent event in Gweru, where 63 War Veterans received Lease Agreement Certificates for residential stands under President Mnangagwa's housing and land ownership scheme, Minister Mavhunga said the initiative was consistent with the provisions of the Constitution of Zimbabwe Amendment No. 20 of 2013 and the Veterans of the Liberation Struggle Act.

"This occasion marks the Second



Minister Mavhunga addressing Veterans of the Liberation Struggle in Gweru

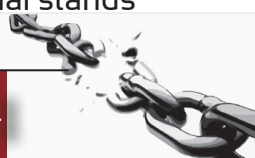
Republic's unwavering commitment to the welfare and empowerment of Veterans, as stipulated in the Constitution of Zimbabwe Amendment No. 20 of 2013 and the Veterans of the Liberation Struggle Act [Chapter 17:12],

which provides for settlement benefits as a means of acknowledging their immense contributions."

Minister Mavhunga highlighted that the Second Republic's dedication to improving the lives of veterans led to the establishment



Veterans of the Liberation Struggle signing Lease Agreement Certificates for residential stands in Gweru.



of the Ministry of Veterans of the Liberation Struggle Affairs.

"I extend my sincere gratitude to His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Zimbabwe, Cde Dr Emmerson Dambudzo Mnangagwa, for his visionary leadership in ensuring that veterans of the liberation struggle receive the recognition and support they so rightly deserve.

"Under the leadership of H.E. Cde Dr Emmerson Dambudzo Mnangagwa, the Second Republic established this Ministry to address the needs and welfare of those who sacrificed immensely for the freedom and independence of our nation," she said.

She further underscored the Ministry's mission to uplift and empower Veterans through economic opportunities, particularly in housing and land ownership.

"Ladies and gentlemen, ensuring homeownership and access to land is a fundamental step toward economic empowerment. Many of our Veterans have gone for years without proper housing and this initiative specifically targets marginalized comrades to ensure that no Veteran is left behind."

Minister Mavhunga stressed that national development cannot be fully realized without empowering those who fought for independence.

"This initiative forms a crucial part of our broader vision for Veterans' empowerment, which is integral to achieving Vision 2030, transforming Zimbabwe into an upper-middle-income economy.

"National development is not achievable without uplifting those who laid the foundation for our independence. Empowering Vet-

erans contributes directly to socio-economic progress, as they remain key stakeholders in nation-building."

She also highlighted the importance of a whole-of-government approach to ensuring that Veterans benefit across all economic sectors.

"In this regard, we will continue collaborating with other ministries to guarantee that Veterans receive their 20% quota across all sectors, including mining, agriculture and tourism. Additionally, we aim to facilitate connections between Veterans and investors to support the capitalization and operationalization of their projects."

Minister Mavhunga also underscored the government's commitment to ensuring that no Veteran was left behind in Zimbabwe's developmental agenda.

Deputy Minister Moyo Highlights Government Efforts to Empower War Veterans

Staff Reporter

Nkayi- The Hon Deputy Minister of Veterans of the Liberation Struggle Affairs, Senator Headman Moyo, has reiterated the government's commitment to improving the welfare and economic empowerment of Veterans of the Liberation Struggle, in line with President Dr. E. D. Mnangagwa's vision of "Leaving no one

and no place behind."

Addressing Veterans during a recent outreach programme in Nkayi, Matabeleland North Province, Sen Moyo outlined a series of initiatives spearheaded by the Ministry to enhance the livelihoods of War Veterans and their dependents.

"We have made various engagements with Veterans in their respective areas, conscientising them about the

role of the Ministry of Veterans of the Liberation Struggle Affairs," said Sen Moyo. "We are creating awareness amongst the Veterans about the statutory and non-statutory benefits the Ministry is providing to them and their dependents."

As part of efforts to reach all corners of the country, Sen Moyo revealed that the Ministry had visited remote areas such as Binga and Nkayi to implement



“We are currently working on modalities that will see all War Veterans benefiting from housing schemes. Recently, our Hon Minister, Sen Monicah Mavhunga, handed over housing stands in Midlands which saw a good number of Veterans benefiting

practical skills training. “We have been to remote places that include Nkayi, Binga and other remote places in Mat North to facilitate training programmes in welding to produce products such as scotch carts and window frames,” he said.

The Deputy Minister also announced ongoing efforts to provide decent housing for Veterans. “We are currently working on modalities that will see all War Veterans benefiting from housing schemes. Recently, our Hon Minister, Sen Monicah Mavhunga, handed over housing stands in Midlands which saw a good number of Veterans benefiting.”

In terms of economic empowerment, as Sen Moyo said, the Ministry is rolling out capacity-building programmes. “We are still in the process of facilitating more training workshops on bee keeping, as well as goat keeping until we empower all our Veterans,” Moyo noted.

He praised the President for leading by example in supporting Veterans through direct interventions. “Recently, we have seen His Excellency, President Dr. E. D. Mnangagwa distributing funds to Veterans of the Liberation Struggle across all provinces to enable them to run their own income-generating projects,” said Sen Moyo.

Furthermore, Sen Moyo highlighted community-focused development projects facilitated by the Second Republic, saying, “We have also witnessed borehole drilling projects by His Excellency, President Dr. E. D. Mnangagwa in various areas to help our communities with sources of clean water.”

The Ministry, according to Sen Moyo, is also engaging with Treasury to boost financial support. “We are engaging the Treasury to disburse more funds for effective performance and achievements of the Ministry’s Outcomes,” he said.



Hon Deputy Minister Sen Headman Moyo addressing Veterans during an outreach programme in Nkayi.

To further support their mission, the Ministry is seeking partnerships. “We are looking for well-wishers to assist us to improve the welfare of our Veterans and economically empower them,” he added.

Sen Moyo also expressed hope that the Ministry’s statutory boards will contribute meaningfully toward national development. “We are also hoping that our statutory boards will work tirelessly to create successful investments aligned with the achievement of His Excellency, President Dr. E. D. Mnangagwa’s Vision 2030 of an Empowered and Prosperous Upper Middle Income Society.”

The outreach comes at a time when the government is ramping up inclusive development programmes aimed at recognising and rewarding the sacrifices made by the country’s Veterans of the liberation Struggle.

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...President Dr. E. D. Mnangagwa distributing funds to Veterans of the Liberation Struggle across all provinces to enable them to run their own income-generating projects

Government Launches an Inter-Ministerial Committee to Develop a Unified Memorialisation Framework

“The draft framework is to be submitted to OPC on 17 July 2025. The Ministry of Veterans of the Liberation Struggle Affairs was tasked to coordinate this collective effort

Harare— The Ministry of Veterans of the Liberation Struggle Affairs recently convened a high-level stakeholder consultative workshop aimed at developing a Whole-of-Government Memorialisation and Documentation Framework.

Held at the Ministry's Headquarters at Batanai Gardens in Harare, the workshop brought together key representatives from Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies in a historic effort to forge a unified approach to preserving Zimbabwe's liberation heritage.

The Permanent Secretary for the Ministry, Mr Albert T. Chikondo, officially opened the workshop with a powerful address that underlined the gravity and urgency of the task at hand.

“We are gathered here today not as representatives of individual ministries, but as custodians of our shared national history, a history written in the blood, sweat and sacrifice of those who delivered our freedom,” Mr Chikondo told delegates.

He called for a whole-of-government approach to memorialise and document Zimbabwe's Liberation Struggle, as his Ministry could not fulfill this mandate in isolation.

“From the very beginning, it was evident that this responsibility could not be carried by one institution alone. The task of honouring our heroes and



Ministry of Veterans of the Liberation Struggle Affairs Permanent Secretary, Mr A. T. Chikondo officially opening a workshop to develop a unified framework on Memorialisation and Documentation

preserving the legacy of the Liberation Struggle is one that cuts across ministries, agencies, departments and indeed, across society itself,” he said.

Mr Chikondo candidly addressed the challenges the Ministry has faced in implementing its mandate, noting that fragmented and uncoordinated efforts



Delegates gathered to discuss Memorialisation and Documentation Framework at Batanai Gardens, Harare.

had resulted in missed opportunities and inadequate preservation of critical historical assets.

"In some instances, critical stakeholders have not participated in key memorialisation efforts, and valuable opportunities to preserve first-hand accounts, artefacts and sacred sites have been lost or delayed," he said.

He further revealed that the Ministry had often been called upon to support activities, such as grave-digging and flag provision, for which it had not budgeted.

"Despite engaging with sister Ministries, structural and operational challenges persisted, making it clear that a more strategic and harmonised framework was urgently needed.

"This realisation prompted consultations with the Office of the President and Cabinet (OPC), leading to holding a pivotal meeting of Government stakeholders. That meeting resolved that all relevant ministries and stakeholders must jointly develop a Memorialisation and Documentation Framework.

"The draft framework is to be submitted to OPC on 17 July 2025. The Ministry of Veterans of the Liberation Struggle Affairs was tasked to coordinate this collective effort," said

Mr Chikondo.

Mr Chikondo highlighted that they were going to hold another workshop that would include non-Government actors.

"This first session will focus on gathering input from government institutions, the 'core engine of the state', to draft the foundational elements of the framework. A second session, to follow, will expand the conversation to include non-governmental actors, researchers, Veterans' associations, community organisations and other key voices.

"These sessions will culminate in the production of a draft framework, which will then be refined further in consultation with OPC before its formal adoption and operationalisation," said the Permanent Secretary.

He warned that time was of the essence, as the ranks of first-person informants dwindle and oral histories risk being lost forever.

"Sacred sites are being disturbed. Artefacts are deteriorating. Shallow graves are being exposed to the elements, and with them, the dignity of those who rest within them is at risk," he said.

Mr Chikondo concluded by tying the memorialisation effort to the broader goals of national identity, heritage and

unity under the Second Republic.

"Memorialisation and documentation are not only historical duties, they are also pillars of national development, education, and reconciliation. Let us, therefore, approach this task with the seriousness and urgency it demands. Let us forge a practical, inclusive and sustainable framework that speaks not only to our past, but to the Zimbabwe we are building," he concluded.

The workshop was expected to lay the groundwork for a comprehensive and collaborative framework that would ensure the preservation of Zimbabwe's liberation history for generations to come.

Director National Archives of Zimbabwe (NAZ), Mrs Brenda Mamvura echoed the same sentiments saying collective efforts to come up with harmonised memorialization and documentation guidelines was a positive step to preserve and memorialise national history.

"There are different players amongst us, the reason why we need to have collective national approach to this matter," Mrs Brenda Mamvura said, adding that the efforts would also bring closure to families and communities affected by the liberation struggle.

Rich liberation history cements Zim/Mozambique bilateral relations: President Mnangagwa



President of the Republic of Zimbabwe, H.E. Dr E.D. Mnangagwa (right) at the State banquet hosted in honour of the President of the Republic of Mozambique, H.E. Mr. Daniel Chapo (left) during his visit to Zimbabwe for the official opening of ZITF 2025.

Staff Reporter

BULAWAYO- The President of the Republic of Zimbabwe, His Excellency Dr Emmerson Dambudzo Mnangagwa, has reaffirmed the enduring solidarity and historic comradeship between Zimbabwe and Mozambique, stating that the fraternal bond between the

two nations is rooted in a shared struggle for independence and deep revolutionary ties.

Speaking at a state banquet hosted in honour of the President of the Republic of Mozambique, His Excellency President Daniel Chapo in Bulawayo, President Mnangagwa paid glowing tribute to the sacrifices made by the people of both countries

during the liberation struggle.

"The exceptional relations and fraternal bond between Zimbabwe and Mozambique is cemented by a rich history engraved by the precious blood of many sons and daughters of our two countries," he said.

"These relations date back to our struggles for independence, freedom and democracy when we shared the

“ The banquet also served as a moment of celebration, with President Mnangagwa reflecting on the successful milestones and growing unity between the two nations

revolutionary trenches.”

President Mnangagwa lauded the Government and people of Mozambique for their steadfast solidarity during Zimbabwe's protracted liberation war, recalling how Mozambique postponed its own development journey to support Zimbabwe's path to sovereignty.

“During that period, the Government and people of Mozambique demonstrated unwavering comradeship, holding in abeyance, their own joy of independence and development, until us in Zimbabwe were also independent and sovereign. We, are forever grateful to the Government and people of Mozambique for these and many other acts of unwavering solidarity,” he said.

The President welcomed the growing momentum in bilateral relations, noting that economic cooperation between the two nations is yielding tangible results. He cited increased business-to-business exchanges and heightened investment efforts in key sectors including agriculture, energy, transport, tourism, manufacturing and mining.

President Mnangagwa also applauded the presence of a high-level Mozambican business delegation at the ZITF Business Roundtable.

“Efforts towards enhancing investment and trade between our two countries continue to yield intended results, with heightened Business-to-Business exchanges in the fields of agriculture, energy, transport, tourism, manufacturing and mining among others.

“Furthermore, the exhibitions from Mozambique-based companies demonstrate our joint quest to increase investment and trade volumes between our two countries. The presence of a high-level business delegation from Mozambique, at the ZITF Business Roundtable, is appreciated,” said President Mnangagwa.

He commended President Chapo for his visionary leadership since assuming office, expressing Zimbabwe's full commitment to deepening diplomatic, economic and political cooperation with Mozambique under his stewardship.

“We are committed to continually solidifying the fraternal relations between our two Revolutionary Parties, ZANU–PF and FRELIMO, as we remain masters of our own destiny,” he declared.

He further assured President Chapo of Zimbabwe's unwavering support within SADC, the African Union and other multilateral platforms, in promoting regional integration,

sustainable development, peace and prosperity.

“Mozambique and indeed SADC, can count on Zimbabwe as a reliable partner, with regards to the ongoing agenda to scale up the realisation of Sustainable Development Goals. Be assured, therefore, Your Excellency and Dear Brother, that Zimbabwe will always work closely with Mozambique at the regional, continental and multilateral fora, to advance common interests towards global peace and security as well as shared prosperity,” said President Mnangagwa.

The banquet also served as a moment of celebration, with President Mnangagwa reflecting on the successful milestones and growing unity between the two nations.

“This visit provides us an opportunity to reflect on our relations and common development aspirations. It is also an occasion to relax and celebrate the success milestones between our two countries,” said President Mnangagwa.

The event marked a continuation of the strong diplomatic and people-to-people ties between Zimbabwe and Mozambique, rooted in a revolutionary past and now forging a collaborative future.



SHARED HISTORY, ECONOMIC ASPIRATIONS DEEPENS ZIMBABWE AND MOZAMBIQUE COOPERATION-PRESIDENT CHAPO

“

President Chapo emphasised the crucial role of the Beira Corridor, which connects Zimbabwe and other inland nations to the Indian Ocean, enhancing regional trade integration.

Staff Reporter

The President of the Republic of Mozambique, His Excellency Daniel Chapo, officially opened the 65th Edition of the Zimbabwe International Trade Fair (ZITF) in Bulawayo, highlighting the enduring and strategic partnership between Zimbabwe and Mozambique, which he said is rooted in a shared history, mutual struggles and economic aspirations.

Delivering his keynote address, President Chapo emphasised the significance of bilateral cooperation, stating, “It is a fact that cooperation with the Republic of Zimbabwe is of great significance to Mozambique, not only because of our shared borders but also due to the deep historical ties of political, economic, and cultural coexistence that date back to the times of the national liberation struggle.”

The 65th edition of the ZITF, held under the theme “Industrialization: Creating an Integrated Economic Scenario,” is a milestone event that coincides with Zimbabwe’s recent celebration of its 45th independence anniversary. It also serves as a prelude to Mozambique’s upcoming 50th independence celebration and the 60th Maputo International Trade Fair (FACIM 2025), scheduled for August.

President Chapo pointed to the strategic economic potentials of both nations, noting Zimbabwe’s vast



Mozambican President Daniel Chapo officially opening the 2025 ZITF.

reserves of arable land, mineral wealth and global tourism attractions such as Victoria Falls, while emphasising Mozambique’s 35 million hectares of arable land, significant mineral and gas deposits and its strategic position as a maritime gateway for several landlocked SADC countries.

Despite this potential, President

Chapo acknowledged that trade and investment relations remain modest.

“Our commercial relations and investments are still incipient and consist of low value-added products, mostly commodities, without significant variation in their structure or composition over the years,” he acknowledged.

Between 2020 and 2024,



His Excellency, President of the Republic of Zimbabwe, Dr E. D. Mnangagwa (3rd from right), His Excellency, President of the Republic of Mozambique, Mr Daniel Chapo (2nd from right), Industry and Commerce Minister, Hon Nqobizitha Mangaliso Ndhlovu (far right) and Mr Sibusiso Moyo, ZITF Board Chair, touring stands during the 2025 ZITF.

Mozambique exported goods worth USD 804 million to Zimbabwe, while importing goods worth USD 134.9 million. He also cited that from 2015 to 2024, 37 investment projects from Zimbabwe were approved in Mozambique, totaling approximately USD120 million, primarily in aquaculture, tourism and industry.

"Mozambique-Zimbabwe Trade Balance: From 2020 to 2024, Mozambique's exports to Zimbabwe totaled USD804 million, while imports totaled USD134.9 million, despite a 4% decrease in exports and a 66% increase in imports during the period under review.

"From 2015 to 2024, 37 projects were approved, likely to create 1,649

jobs, involving private investors from Zimbabwe, with a total value of approximately USD 120 million, of which about USD35 million constitutes direct investment," he said.

President Chapo emphasised the crucial role of the Beira Corridor, which connects Zimbabwe and other inland nations to the Indian Ocean, enhancing regional trade integration. He noted that Mozambique's infrastructure and favorable location position it as a vital economic conduit for Southern Africa.

"In the transport and logistics sector, Mozambique plays a crucial role as an access route to the hinterland countries in the SADC region, namely Zimbabwe, Zambia,

Malawi, Eswatini, South Africa, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Botswana through key connecting infrastructure such as railways, roads, ports and airports, integrated into the main corridors located in the central and northern parts of the country, namely Nacala and Beira, which are viable alternatives to the ports of Dar es Salaam and Durban.

"The Beira Corridor, through the Port of Beira, railway and road network, and the pipeline, plays an important role in the international trade of our brother countries, especially Zimbabwe, Zambia and Malawi," said President Chapo.



MINISTRY OF VETERANS OF THE LIBERATION STRUGGLE AFFAIRS CELEBRATES SUCCESS AT ZITF 2025

Staff Reporter

Bulawayo - THE Ministry of Veterans of the Liberation Struggle Affairs showcased an impressive and engaging exhibition stand at the 2025 Zimbabwe International Trade Fair (ZITF), drawing a flood of visitors eager to learn, reflect and appreciate the sacrifices of Zimbabwe's liberation heroes.

Visitors expressed overwhelming positivity about the Ministry's display,

highlighting its informative and innovative nature.

One attendee remarked, "Informative, innovative and very creative," while another appreciated the effort to honor history, noting, "the appearance of the stand and the presentation of the history of fallen heroes is good."

The stand's well-organized layout and warm reception earned praise, with visitors describing it as "well prepared," "welcoming," and "well organised."

Many visitors acknowledged the educational value of the exhibition.

A guest shared, "I learnt so much today and realized the Ministry is doing a lot of empowerment activities that have huge potential to uplift the lives of Zimbabweans."

Others appreciated the opportunity to reflect on our history, with comments like, "Thanks for bringing to my remembrance our days of toil for our freedom," and "very informative and a



Hon VP Kembo Mohadi admiring products from Burtrol during his tour of the Ministry of Veterans of the Liberation Struggle Affairs ZITF Stand



Hon Minister of Veterans of the Liberation Struggle Affairs, Sen Monicah Mavhunga (2nd from left), speaking to visitors to the Ministry ZITF Stand, accompanied by Hon Deputy Minister of Veterans of the Liberation Struggle Affairs, Sen Headman Moyo (left) and Mrs Dorothy Mutsimbi, PSO to the Hon Minister wearing black cap.

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As one visitor summarized, “The exhibition is quite marvelous. It gives a full picture of the efforts being put by the Republic of Zimbabwe in making sure that the nation preserves its history.

good initiative to teach young people about our history.”

The exhibition also highlighted the Ministry’s commitment to supporting War Veterans and their families. Visitors praised the efforts in this regard, with one noting, “I am a beneficiary of educational assistance. We thank Government for support on our parents,” and another emphasising the importance of legacy.

“I suggest that testimonials of success stories of such children be documented for records and legacy sake.”

The display’s depiction of Veterans contributions resonated deeply with attendees.

“Beautiful exhibition of the contributions by our Veterans of the Liberation struggle,” said a visitor. “It was good to see a capacitated dependent of the Veterans exhibiting. That’s total empowerment.” Many called for similar initiatives at district levels to instill pride and historical knowledge among young Zimbabweans.

Reflecting on the importance of preserving history, a participant stated, “We wish this to be replicated at district level so that many of our children know their history.”

Others expressed pride in the sacrifices made, with comments like, “The honour of a soldier never fades,” and “The

struggle our forefathers had to go through for us to be standing tall today.”

Overall, the Ministry’s stand at ZITF 2025 was hailed as a platform of excellence, education and empowerment.

As one visitor summarized, “The exhibition is quite marvelous. It gives a full picture of the efforts being put by the Republic of Zimbabwe in making sure that the nation preserves its history.”

The Ministry of Veterans of the Liberation Struggle Affairs continues to demonstrate its commitment to honoring the past while empowering future generations, an effort that clearly resonated with all who visited its stand at this year’s trade fair.



GUARD THE RICH LIBERATION HERITAGE JEALOUSLY - PRESIDENT MNANGAGWA.

“

We are committed to continually solidifying the fraternal relations between our two Revolutionary Parties, ZANU–PF and FRELIMO, as we remain masters of our own destiny,” he declared.

Staff Reporter

GWERU, Midlands Province – THE President of the Republic of Zimbabwe and Commander-in-Chief of the Zimbabwe Defence Forces, His Excellency Dr Emmerson Dambudzo Mnangagwa has called for the uniformed forces to guard the country's rich liberation heritage.

He made the call while presiding over the graduation of the Regular Officer Cadet Course Number 3/40/23 at the Zimbabwe Military Academy in Gweru.

The ceremony marked a significant milestone with the graduation of 202 officers, 54 females and 148 males, representing the Zimbabwe National Army, Air Force of Zimbabwe and two officers from the Umbutfo Eswatini Defence Force.

In his remarks, President Mnangagwa emphasised the vital role of the Zimbabwe Defence Forces (ZDF) in safeguarding the nation's hard-won independence and sovereignty.

“This graduation ceremony is yet another demonstration by the Zimbabwe Defence Forces to continually inject new officer corps into our Forces, well equipped to play their part in safe-guarding our hard-won Independence, freedom, sovereignty and territorial integrity,” he said.



President Mnangagwa presiding over the graduation of the Regular Officer Cadet Course Number 3/40/23 at the Zimbabwe Military Academy in Gweru

The President highlighted the importance of regional and continental solidarity, applauding the inclusion of officers from the region such as Eswatini in the training programmes.

“To this end, the presence of graduands from the Kingdom of Eswatini at this 40th Commissioning Parade of the Regular Officer Cadet Course is applauded. It reflects the role of institutions of the Zimbabwe Defence Forces as effective tools for our country's military diplomatic endeavours,” said President Mnangagwa.

He further underscored the enduring unity within the Southern African Development Community (SADC), recalling the shared struggles against colonialism, oppression and apartheid.

“By the same token, members of the South African National Defence Forces are part of Regular Officer Cadet Course 3/42/24 that is currently underway. This not only affirms the quality and depth of programmes offered by the ZDF, but resonates with the long-standing unity of the peoples of SADC, including in the



President inspecting the parade during the graduation of the Regular Officer Cadet Course Number 3/40/23 at the Zimbabwe Military Academy in Gweru.

defence and security sector. This dates back to the days when we fought against racist colonialism, oppression and apartheid, for the freedom and independence of our respective countries,” he explained.

A call was made to the younger officer corps and all service members across SADC to uphold this heritage.

“I, therefore, call upon the younger officer corps, as well as service men and women across the defence forces of SADC, to continue guarding jealously this rich liberation heritage of cooperation and unwavering solidarity,” President Mnangagwa urged.

He emphasised the critical responsibility of the new officers to promote peace and regional security.

“You, the new crop in our militaries, have the weighty duty to be guarantors of regional peace and security. Never take this lightly and remain guided by our long standing regional mantra, ‘an injury to one, is an injury to all,’ he said.

The President also highlighted the importance of remembering the sacrifices made during the liberation

struggles.

“The visit by officer cadets to liberation war sites, locally and in the region, such as Kamungoma Battle Site in Gutu and Freedom Camp Shrines in Zambia, must serve as a reminder of the selfless sacrifices made by veterans of the liberation struggle to attain the freedom and Independence which we all enjoy today,” he stated.

“This history and the protracted war for our Independence demonstrates the resilience and bravery of our people and should inspire future generations to always guard, protect and defend our motherland, Zimbabwe,” he added.

Drawing parallels from global history, President Mnangagwa referenced the 80th Anniversary of the victory in the Great Patriotic War (World War II), emphasising the importance of unity and peace.

“Last week, I attended the 80th Anniversary of the victory in the Great Patriotic War by the then USSR (1941-1945) which was, a significant milestone in the end of the Second

World War. This is commemorated in the Russian Federation and many other progressive nations such as Belarus. The loss of millions of lives during that dark period of world history forever reminds us of the need to pursue national unity and to seek peace,” he remarked.

President Mnangagwa challenged the new officers and regional forces to prioritize peace.

“As the ZDF and sister defence forces here represented, I, thus, challenge you to jealously guard the peace and security of our region towards silencing the guns on the African continent. This is key to leaping forward our collective development aspirations, as well as the realisation of the Africa we all want,” he said.

The graduation ceremony not only celebrated the achievements of the officers but also reaffirmed Zimbabwe’s commitment to regional peace, unity, and the preservation of its liberation heritage, a legacy that President Mnangagwa emphasised must be jealously guarded by the next generation of military leaders.



The ball is in your court to realise the Africa we want - President Mnangagwa tells the youth

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Reflecting on the historical sacrifices made by young people of the liberation era, President Mnangagwa called on today's youth to uphold and safeguard Zimbabwe's liberation heritage. "We have a chance to chart and refine the journey we are taking for a brighter future, particularly the role of you, our young people. Remain emboldened by the virtues of courage, selfless sacrifice and bravery," he urged, recalling the armed struggle that brought independence.

Staff Reporter

PRESIDENT Emmerson Mnangagwa has emphasised the role that the youths play in shaping Africa's future urging unity, patriotism and moral uprightness to be the guiding principles in their endeavours.

He called on the youths to harness the transformative power of technology at their disposal to innovate and unleash their entrepreneurship skills to create wealth, jobs and contribute to the country's economic growth.

Addressing thousands of young people gathered in Bulawayo for the National Youth Day Commemorations, President Mnangagwa welcomed delegates from across the continent, highlighting the unity and solidarity that binds the people of Africa and the SADC region.

"Your presence here is a testament of the unity and solidarity that defines us, the SADC region and indeed the continent of Africa. I urge you, our young people, to guard jealously this long-standing tradition of unity, solidarity and peaceful co-existence," he stated.

He challenged the youth to take ownership of their role in national and continental development.

"The prosperity and future of our region and Africa is in your hands. We, the older generation, played our part to bring about independence, freedom and peace.



President Mnangagwa and Vice President Chiwenga singing National Anthem during the official opening of the 2025 National Youth Day at ZITF in Bulawayo.

The ball is now in your court. You must deliver. In unity, the youth of Africa can do more for the realisation of the Africa we want and deserve," he said.

The President praised the awareness and patriotism of the youth, urging them to continue working diligently for Zimbabwe's progress while resisting divisive influences.

"I urge you to continue working hard for our great motherland, Zimbabwe, with unflinching patri-

tism and loyalty. Resist and reject machinations of those who would want to divide you, and divide our nation," said President.

Reflecting on the historical sacrifices made by young people of the liberation era, President Mnangagwa called on today's youth to uphold and safeguard Zimbabwe's liberation heritage. "We have a chance to chart and refine the journey we are taking for a brighter future, particularly the role of you, our young people. Remain emboldened by

the virtues of courage, selfless sacrifice and bravery,” he urged, recalling the armed struggle that brought independence.

President Mnangagwa stressed the importance of discipline, commitment and patriotism, emphasising that the unity and peace currently enjoyed are a direct inheritance of the liberation struggle. “I, further, call upon you the young people of this great nation, to continue displaying uttermost, discipline, commitment, and hard-honest work for the collective good of our country. In doing so, you must be aware that the unity and peace we enjoy today is a fundamental inheritance of the liberation struggle. No one must jeopardise or endanger these critical national aspects,” he said.

The President highlighted the strides made by the current government to empower youth in leadership roles, calling on young leaders to exemplify servant leadership and actively participate in socio-economic development.

“You must take the initiative, develop synergies, build partnerships and advance the aims of our people’s revolution and development,” he challenged.

President Mnangagwa further emphasised the importance of embracing technology and innovation.

“In this digital age, you must be equipped with the necessary skills to navigate the complex global ecosystem,” he said.

“Harness the transformative power of technology, innovate and unleash your entrepreneurship skills to create wealth, jobs and contribute to our economic growth”, he added.

He also addressed societal vices, calling for a collective effort against drug and substance abuse. “Some of our young people continue to fall victim to drug abuse. Drug lords must be flushed out and supply chains destroyed”, he said.

He added, “Communities must



Ms Joyce Pikinini, Director War Veterans and Non Combatant Cadres, addressing students at the Ministry stand during the 2025 National Youth Day. Looking on is Ms Sandra Zhou-Machivenyika, the Provincial Field Officer.

work hand in hand with security agencies to deepen community-led crime detection and foster a drug-free society that is the Zimbabwe we all want.”

During his address, President Mnangagwa also reminded the youth that “the future of our country lies in your hands,” invoking the national development mantra: “Ilizwe lakhiwa, libuswe, likhulekelwe ngabanikazi balo,”/“Nyika inovakwa, inotongwa inonamatigwa nevene vayo”, Ndebele/Shona terms for “the nation is built, governed and maintained by its own people”.

He urged the young generation to be vigilant, patriotic and committed to safeguarding Zimbabwe’s independence, sovereignty and rich liberation heritage.

“The National Youth Day must be a platform of hope, social cohesion, unity and a reminder of the weighty responsibility we all carry,” he said.

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The President highlighted the strides made by the current government to empower youth in leadership roles, calling on young leaders to exemplify servant leadership and actively participate in socio-economic development.



Minister Mavhunga encourages good work ethics to improve service delivery

Staff Reporter

VETERANS of the Liberation Struggle Affairs Minister, Hon. Sen. Monica Mavhunga, has emphasised the importance of hard work, dedication and a good work ethic as critical ingredients of improved service delivery in the Ministry.

She made the remarks during a workshop organised for the Ministry's Provincial Field Officers (PFOs) at Batanai Gardens in Harare recently, to outline their clear roles and responsibilities to ensure smooth coordination and collaboration.

During her address, Minister Mavhunga said the workshop was a crucial platform for fostering mutual understanding and collaboration within the Ministry.

"This workshop is important as it brings together the drivers of policy planning and implementation strategies to have a mutual understanding of the operations of the Ministry and agree on operational modalities. Such workshops are necessary and healthy for organizational growth and strength and should continue as we progress into the year," she said.



Hon Minister Sen Monica Mavhunga

She further noted that although the Ministry had traditionally focused on providing statutory benefits to veterans and their families, its mandate had since broadened to encompass a wider range of support initiatives.



It therefore follows that the Ministry should deliver on its mandate, as failure to do so would be to fail the President, the clients and the nation at large.

“The Ministry’s deliverables now incorporate investment and project management initiatives, as well as the preservation of Zimbabwe’s rich Liberation War history,” she explained adding that by safeguarding the legacy of the war of liberation, the Ministry aimed to honor and commemorate the sacrifices made by the heroes, ensuring that their stories inspire and educate future generations.

Minister Mavhunga acknowledged that the creation of the Ministry had raised the hope of its clients and the public, with expectations for effective and efficient service delivery. She added, “It therefore follows that the Ministry should deliver on its mandate, as failure to do so would be to fail the President, the clients and the nation at large.”

She reaffirmed the Ministry’s commitment to enhancing the welfare and empowerment of veterans, their dependents, and war victims, with the vision of becoming “the leading welfare service provider for the Veterans of the Liberation Struggle Community by 2030.”

She urged provincial field officers to fully understand and align with the Ministry’s strategic

outcomes.

“I want provincial field officers to clearly understand the Ministry’s outcomes and outputs as they are spelt out in our Strategic Plan and Annual Plan.”

She added that all staff members must work towards achieving their performance targets, as the success of their individual efforts contributes to the overall success of the Ministry. Minister Mavhunga also underscored the importance of uniformity across the Ministry’s operations in all provinces, particularly regarding the interpretation of Acts, Statutory Instruments, and standing instructions.

“I am expecting uniformity in all provinces in terms of interpretation of the Act, Statutory Instruments, and standing instructions in the implementation of the Ministry’s programmes and projects,” she said.

She stressed the critical role of provincial field officers in ensuring the visibility of the Ministry’s initiatives across the country.

“Provincial field officers must participate in all our programmes and projects in

their provinces, whether these are exhibitions, exhumations or reburials, memorialisation, or war victims and heroes dependents assistance,” she said, quoting President Mnangagwa’s mantra, “leaving no one and no place behind.”

Minister Mavhunga called for a renewed work culture, centred on service and public welfare.

“I call for a new work culture informed by the greater need to offer services to the veterans’ community and public at large,” she said.

The workshop concluded with a strong commitment to fostering unity, collaboration and a renewed dedication to the ministry’s mission of serving Zimbabwe’s liberation war heroes and their families.



Minister Mavhunga called for a renewed work culture, centred on service and public welfare.



Minister Mavhunga meets War Veterans in Midlands Province

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I want to start by sincerely thanking His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Zimbabwe and Commander-In-Chief of the Zimbabwe Defence Forces, Cde. Dr. E. D. Mnangagwa, for creating a fully-fledged Ministry of Veterans of the Liberation Struggle Affairs.

Staff Reporter

Veterans of the Liberation Struggle Affairs Minister Hon Sen Monica Mavhunga engaged in a productive meeting with Veterans of the Liberation Struggle at the Winery Convention Centre in Gweru recently.

The gathering marked an important milestone in the Ministry's ongoing efforts to connect with and serve Zimbabwe's Veterans of the liberation Struggle, their dependants and other stakeholders.

In her speech, Minister Mavhunga expressed deep gratitude, saying, "I want to start by sincerely thanking His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Zimbabwe and Commander-In-Chief of the Zimbabwe Defence Forces, Cde. Dr. E. D. Mnangagwa, for creating a fully-fledged Ministry of Veterans of the Liberation Struggle Affairs. This will ensure that holistic attention is given to issues relating to the welfare and empowerment of the brave men and women who brought about the Independence that we enjoy today."

Highlighting the purpose of the outreach programme, the Minister said, "This meeting is part of my national outreach programme that began in Mashonaland Central Province on 08 June 2024. I then went to Mashonaland West Province on 13 July 2024. I could not, however, visit the other provinces due to other pressing issues. I therefore intend to cover the remaining provinces in the



Minister Mavhunga addressing War Veterans at Winery Convention in Gweru.

course of the year, starting with this province."

The Minister also touched on other key issues affecting veterans, including the vetting process for war collaborators and non-combatant cadres.

"The vetting exercise for war collaborators and non-combatant cadres took place during the period

17 March 2022 to 06 April 2022. A total of 110,645 war collaborators and 10,022 non-combatant cadres were provisionally successfully vetted. A mop-up exercise was conducted from 25 September to 04 October 2024, where over 30 000 individuals presented themselves for vetting. Ultimately, 27,777 war collaborators and 958 non-



War Veterans following Hon Minister Mavhunga's address at Winnery Convention, Gweru.

combatant cadres were successfully vetted. The combined total from both exercises now stands at 152,064 and 10,937 respectively."

On benefits, she outlined the support available, noting, "Statutory benefits payable include monthly pensions, education benefits for veterans and their children enrolled in Government institutions and medical benefits at Government hospitals or private referrals when necessary. In 2024, 5,434 applications for medical assistance were processed, a significant increase from 3,320 in 2023."

Minister Mavhunga also stated, "In 2024, funeral benefits were paid to 517 families, so far, in 2025, to 51 families. The current rate of USD500 (converted to ZWL at the official exchangerate)...and discussions with Treasury are ongoing for an increase. Payment remains decentralized due to staffing challenges."

She also highlighted recent efforts to honor Veterans' contributions, saying, "In 2023, the Government began awarding medals to deserving Veterans, with an additional 2,000 medals awarded in 2024. We are committed to ensuring that all eligible veterans receive their medals, which symbolise our profound gratitude."

Touching on memorialisation, she stated, "Many Veterans still lie in unmarked graves, both locally and abroad. The Ministry is responsible for administering the National Heroes Act and we are working on processes to bring closure to families through repatriation and reburials."

Sen Mavhunga also outlined ongoing empowerment initiatives, including land and mining claims support and the Presidential Veterans of the Liberation Struggle Residential Stands Programme, which aims to benefit 50,000 veterans across the country.

"Amendments to the Veterans of the Liberation Act are underway to extend the 20 percent quota policy to other sectors of the economy," she added.

She emphasised, "Our commitment is to continue supporting our veterans through comprehensive welfare programmes, empowerment initiatives and recognition of their sacrifices. We are working tirelessly to ensure that their legacy endures and that they live with dignity and respect."

The gathering in Gweru reaffirmed the Government's dedication to honoring its Veterans of the Liberation Struggle and ensuring their well-being. The Minister's outreach visit was warmly received, reinforcing the Ministry's resolve to serve and empower Zimbabwe's Veterans of the Liberation Struggle.



MINISTRY MAKING STRIDES IN MEMORIALISING AND HONOURING FALLEN HEROES

IN a bold step towards national healing and historical preservation, the Ministry of Veterans of the Liberation Struggle Affairs has established a Section for Memorialisation and Documentation with the aim of preserving the memory and honouring the sacrifices of Zimbabwe's liberation war heroes and heroines.

In an interview with this magazine, Mr. Davet Muzwidziwa, the Director for Ex-Political Prisoners, Detainees and Restricttees, War Collaborators, Memorialisation and Documentation in the Ministry of Veterans of the Liberation Struggle Affairs, painted a sobering picture of the war of liberation that lasted from 1962 to 1980.

He noted that during that period, thousands of young Zimbabweans crossed borders into neighbouring countries like Mozambique, Zambia and Tanzania to receive military training with a strong determination to end colonial rule.

"Tragically, many never returned. Thousands were killed in cross-border raids and some perished in combat. Their remains lie in mass graves across the regions and in unmarked sites within Zimbabwe," said Director Muzwidziwa.

He added, "For 44 years, families have waited for their sons, daughters,



Mr Davet Muzwidziwa, Director War Collaborators, Ex-Political Prisoners, Detainees and Restricttees, Memorialisation and Documentation

spouses and parents to come home. That hope has faded, but the pain of uncertainty still lingers on."

He explained that survivors of the war had made solemn promises to return for their fallen comrades once the war was over. This moral obligation, coupled with the need to properly document the war's history, inspired the establishment of the Memorialisation and Documentation

Section in mid-2024, aligning with national efforts to preserve the legacy of the liberation struggle.

"Those who survived carried promises to their fallen comrades that they would one day return for them. It is our moral responsibility to honour them. The purpose of the Memorialisation and Documentation Section is to accurately record, document and preserve the history





Mr Davet Muzwidzwa (second from left) with stakeholders during the identification of shallow graves in Masvingo.

of the liberation struggle and to bring closure to families through processes such as repatriation, exhumation and reburial of deceased veterans. To neglect them is to dishonour our national legacy," he said.

Director Muzwidziwa highlighted that while some objectives are still in developmental stages, notable milestones have already been achieved. These include the recording of war stories and battle histories, as well as the exhumation and reburial of fallen combatants.

He said, "Among the section's early achievements is the effort at Matumba Six in Mutasa District, Manicaland, where 44 liberation fighters were reburied in 2024. The site now stands as a solemn tribute to the lives lost and sacrifices made

for independence."

To expedite the process and continue achieving their objectives, Muzwidziwa emphasised outreach programmes and collaboration with other ministries and institutions such as the National Archives and the National Museums and Monuments to enhance documentation and reburial efforts.

"Our current focus is on capacitating our human resources. However, we are actively engaging other ministries, including the National Archives and the National Museums and Monuments, as part of a collaborative strategy for reburials and documentation. During the course of the year, we also intend to produce educational materials for distribution in schools, alongside

developing a comprehensive outreach strategy," he said.

Despite the section's ambitious goals, it faces significant challenges, chiefly limited funding and human resource constraints.

"Right now, even beginning to consider regional repatriations of remains, like what South Africa has done is beyond our current means," Director Muzwidziwa explained.

However, he expressed hope that with increased Government support and continued public interest, the department would rise to meet its mandate.

Director Muzwidziwa concluded, "We are not just writing history; we are fulfilling a promise and healing a nation."



MINISTER MAVHUNGA LAUNCHES HEIFER PASS ON SCHEME TO EMPOWER WAR VETERANS

Staff Reporter

IN a significant move to empower Zimbabwe's Veterans of the Liberation Struggle, the Minister of Veterans of the Liberation Struggle Affairs, Hon Sen Monica Mavhunga, officially launched the nation's first-ever Heifer Pass-on Scheme during a ceremony held at Mswelangubo Cattle Ranch in Umuza District, Matabeleland North Province.

The event also marked the formal handover of a 50-heifer livestock project from Power Zimbabwe (Pvt) Ltd to the newly established Veterans Investment Corporation (VIC), both entities under the Ministry's purview.

Minister Mavhunga emphasised the strategic importance of the initiative, stating, "Ladies and gentlemen, the event we are gathered for today is not just a ceremonial activity, it is a manifestation of the President's strategic vision, built on strong policy foundations and guided by an enduring commitment to Veterans' empowerment."

The Minister provided a historical context for the development of the scheme, noting that Power Zimbabwe was established in 2015 with the mandate to generate income through viable business ventures to finance welfare and empowerment programs for Veterans of the Liberation Struggle.

In 2020, the Government recognised the need for a more cohesive legal framework, leading



Hon Minister Sen M. Mavhunga addressing the media during the Heifer Pass-on Scheme launch at Mswelangubo Cattle Ranch.

to the repeal of the War Veterans Act and the Ex-Political Prisoners, Detainees and Restrictes Act, replaced by the unified Veterans of the Liberation Struggle (VLS) Act. This legislation broadened the recognition and inclusion of all categories of Veterans.

Under the VLS Act, the

Veterans of the Liberation Struggle Board was established as the apex body to oversee the economic empowerment, recognition and welfare of all Veterans. In 2021, the Veterans Investment Corporation was formed to continue the work initiated by Power Zimbabwe. The transfer of assets from Power



Signing ceremony of handover takeover of Mswelangubo Cattle Ranch project from Power Zimbabwe to Veterans Investments Holdings Corporation. Mrs Sandra Mabika, Acting Director Investments, Ministry of Veterans of the Liberation Struggle Affairs (far left) guiding the signing ceremony.

Zimbabwe to VIC was sanctioned by President Emmerson Mnangagwa, ensuring a streamlined approach to Veterans' empowerment.

The Heifer Pass-on Scheme, a long-awaited initiative, aims to provide Veterans with livestock to enhance their agricultural productivity and financial independence. Fifty Veterans from Matabeleland North, Matabeleland South and Midlands Provinces received a heifer each, marking the beginning of a sustainable empowerment model.

Minister Mavhunga urged the recipients to care for the animals diligently and to pass on a heifer to a fellow comrade once their herd has grown, fostering a cycle of communal investment and empowerment.

She added, "We expect you to care for these animals diligently, to ensure they become productive assets and in due course, you shall pass on a heifer to a fellow comrade. This chain of giving, this communal investment model, will eventually result in an empowered, economically active and self-sustaining

Veterans community across the country."

The Minister also expressed gratitude to the trainers who equipped the Veterans with the necessary skills to manage the livestock, acknowledging their role in the success of the program.

She concluded by calling on all stakeholders to continue supporting the veterans, stating, "I wish to urge all stakeholders, from Government agencies to private partners, to continue walking this journey with us. Together, we can ensure that our Veterans are not only honoured for their past but are also empowered for their future."

This initiative aligns with the Government's broader efforts to empower War Veterans through various programs, including the allocation of urban stands and interest-free loans for business ventures, as part of the Presidential War Veterans Fund. These efforts aim to integrate Veterans into the mainstream economy and ensure they receive the recognition and support they deserve.



MINISTRY RAISES AWARENESS ON STATUTORY BENEFITS FOR HEROES' DEPENDENTS



...to promote accountability, the Board has also established a structured complaints and appeals process.

Staff Reporter

MATABELELAND NORTH- The Ministry of Veterans of the Liberation Struggle Affairs, through its Heroes Dependents Assistance Department, recently concluded a week-long outreach campaign aimed at raising awareness among heroes' dependents and marginalised communities on the benefits they are entitled to under the National Heroes Act [Chapter 10:16].

The campaign, which covered Lupane, Tsholotsho, Bubi and Umguza districts in Matabeleland North Province, sought to bridge the information gap that has left many deserving dependents unaware of their statutory entitlements.

"Heroes Dependents Assistance Department under the Ministry of Veterans of the Liberation Struggle Affairs recently embarked on a week-long outreach programme to educate marginalised communities about benefits provided under the National Heroes Act [Chapter 10:16]," said Commissioner Gladys Moyo, the Commissioner responsible for Heroes Dependents Assistance Department.

Commissioner Moyo emphasised the motivation behind the campaign, saying,

"The programme was initiated after realising that many beneficiaries were unaware of the statutory benefits and



Ms Gladys Moyo Commissioner Heroes Dependents Assistance addressing Heroes Dependents during heroes dependents awareness campaigns at Umguza District, Matabeleland North Province.

assistance available to them." She added,

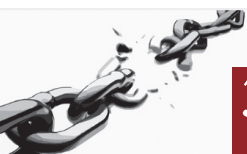
"The objective of the programme is to improve the well-being and welfare of heroes' dependents, aligning with Vision 2030."

She reiterated that through community engagements, radio broadcasts in local languages and one-on-one sessions, the campaign aimed to ensure that every eligible dependent could access the

assistance due to them.

"By empowering marginalised communities with knowledge about the National Heroes Act, the department is taking a significant step towards improving the lives of heroes' dependents and promoting inclusive development," said Commissioner Moyo.

She reaffirmed the Ministry's commitment to inclusivity and service delivery.





Heroes dependents following proceedings during the Heroes Dependents Awareness Campaign in Umguzu District,

“Through this outreach, the department aims to ensure that heroes’ dependents are aware of and can access the benefits and assistance they deserve,” she said.

The Heroes Dependents Assistance Board Chairperson, Mrs Beauty Sibanda, also spoke on the crucial role her board plays in ensuring fair distribution of benefits and transparency in the process.

“One of the Board’s core responsibilities is maintaining a register of heroes and their dependents. The register is kept in a database with all relevant details of heroes and heroines dependents information, heroes’ status and their benefits,” said Mrs Sibanda.

She noted that the Board collaborates closely with the Ministry’s Provincial and District Field Offices to verify the authenticity of each claim.

“The Board works closely with the Ministry of Veterans of the Liberation Struggle Affairs’s Provincial and District Field Offices to confirm the accuracy of information provided,” she said.

On the claims assessment process, Mrs Sibanda stressed that the Board prioritises fairness. “Each claim is reviewed clearly and fairly, as outlined in the National Heroes Act [Chapter 10:16],” she said. “We consider the nature of the request, be it educational, medical or state assistance and measure it against set criteria.”

She further noted that the Board ensures thorough vetting and transparency: “Every claim goes through a review panel before being recommended for final approval, ensuring that benefits only go to those who deserve them.”

To promote accountability, the Board has also established a structured complaints and appeals process.

“We have a complaints and appeals process built on fairness, accountability and confidentiality. All grievances must be submitted in writing,” said Mrs. Sibanda.

“Dependents have the right to present evidence and can be accompanied by a representative.”

Addressing misinformation that often

discourages some dependents from applying, she added: “One common misunderstanding is that benefits only apply to certain categories of dependents or that the application process is too complicated. Another is confusion about the dependents of Veterans who died before being vetted.”

To counter these issues, Mrs Sibanda said, “We have increased direct engagement with our stakeholders through meetings, community forums, radio programmes in local languages. We’ve also strengthened feedback services. Our goal is to build trust and make sure every eligible person knows their rights and can easily get the help they deserve.”

During the awareness sessions, Col Bheki Maphosa, Legal Advisor to the Ministry, issued a stern warning to would-be fraudsters.

“Stakeholders are warned against false claims that they are heroes’ dependents when they are not,” he cautioned.



Minister Urges Children of War Veterans To Uphold Legacy



■ We expect you to be patriotic and responsible citizens who carry forward the values of the liberation struggle

Staff Reporter

VETERANS of the Liberation Struggle Affairs Minister, Sen Monicah Mavhunga has called upon children of War Veterans to be exemplary citizens, shun drug abuse, preserve the liberation war legacy and actively participate in the country's economic and national development.

In a passionate and wide-ranging address, the Minister outlined several initiatives being undertaken by the Government to empower the children of War Veterans while also calling on them to use their skills and voices to defend the gains of independence.

"We expect you to be patriotic and responsible citizens who carry forward the values of the liberation struggle," said the Minister.

"Social media must be used responsibly. No children of War Veterans must be seen using social media to attack leadership or to spread messages that are anti-Government."

She underscored the Government's commitment to providing statutory benefits to children of War Veterans, including educational assistance.

"Statutory benefits such as educational benefits have to be paid," she said.

"We will continue to engage Treasury so that they are given



Hon Minister of Veterans of the Liberation Struggle Affairs, Sen Monicah Mavhunga addressing Children of War Veterans at Batanai Gardens, Harare

special treatment."

The Minister also revealed that her ministry is exploring other empowerment initiatives to complement Government support.

"We have other initiatives that we are working on to augment the funding we are getting from Treasury for statutory benefits and empowerment," she said.

She also revealed plans and the possibility of establishing a referral hospital where War Veterans and their children will receive

medical attention.

"Amongst our children of War Veterans, there are medical doctors, so I see no reason why we cannot successfully establish it and get medical assistance for our comrades and our children," she said.

She also emphasised the need for legal representation for War Veterans, in times of need, noting that some children of War Veterans were practicing lawyers.

"I do not expect to see our



Hon Minister of Veterans of the Liberation Struggle Affairs, Sen Monicah Mavhunga (seated centre) and Mr A. T. Chikondo, Permanent Secretary (seated left) posed for a group photo with Children of War Veterans at Batanai Gardens, Harare.

Veterans failing to get legal representation in the courts of law, yet amongst our children, we have lawyers,” she said.

Funeral assistance was also on discussion with the Minister revealing plans to establish a Funeral Services Company to ensure dignified burials for Veterans.

“We might also face challenges, but we hope to establish our own Funeral Services Company. I know we can do it successfully because we have innovative ideas amongst our children,” she noted.

On land and housing issues, the Minister announced the formation of a new lands committee, co-chaired by her ministry and the

Ministry of Lands. The committee is tasked with resolving land disputes affecting War Veterans and facilitating the transfer of land ownership to widows and children after the death of a Veteran.

“This is to ensure they benefit from programs like the Presidential Agricultural Input Scheme,” she explained.

She further announced that the President has approved a proposal to acquire land for housing stands for Veterans in all provinces. Additionally, areas have been pegged for mining projects aimed at fundraising for the welfare and empowerment of War Veterans.

The Minister concluded by

urging unity among children of War Veterans and encouraging them to acquire relevant skills to become employable and economically active.

“You must unite so that you speak with one voice to protect the liberation war legacy,” she said.

The engagement was part of ongoing efforts by the Ministry to build closer ties with the dependents of War Veterans and ensure that the sacrifices of liberation fighters continue to bear fruit for future generations.

FIELD OFFICERS CHAMPION WELFARE AND ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF WAR VETERANS



Beyond healthcare support, the DFO has been active in helping Veterans unlock the potential of their mining claims. Mr Mukwindidza accompanied Veterans affiliated with the Trust Mining Company...

Staff Reporter

MUTASA DISTRICT- Ministry of Veterans of the Liberation Struggle Affairs' Field Officers are playing a critical role in transforming the lives of Veterans of the liberation struggle through both social and economic empowerment initiatives.

A recent interview with District Field Officer (DFO) for Mutasa District, Manicaland Province, Mr Lenin Mukwindidza, indicated several success stories that demonstrate how his work is improving the welfare of Veterans and opening up opportunities for sustainable livelihoods.

Amongst his recent interventions, Mr Mukwindidza recounted a case where he assisted a sick Veteran who had been injured and admitted to hospital.

"One of our Veterans got injured and admitted to hospital. I recently

visited him to assist him get treated. I engaged our Ministry's War Veterans Welfare Department and I managed to get his medical bills paid. He managed to recover. It is one of the statutory benefits that Veterans are entitled to," he said.

Beyond healthcare support, the DFO has been active in helping Veterans unlock the potential of their mining claims. Mr Mukwindidza accompanied Veterans affiliated with the Trust Mining Company on a site visit to assess abandoned mining shafts and tunnels across Mutasa District.

"We went with War Veterans of the Trust Mining Company in Mutasa District to have an appreciation of the old disused mining shafts and tunnels in the district with a geologist to see if Veterans could be able to operate the mine without challenges," he explained.

Mr Mukwindidza also indicated that site inspections accompanied by a geologist, yielded encouraging results.

"The first mining shaft accessed was recommended as strong and workable by the geologist. The geologist highlighted that samples need to be taken as a matter of urgency to establish whether there are enough deposits of the gold ores," Mr Mukwindidza added.

Mr Mukwindidza also shared other inspiring milestones. He said some War Veterans had already formed some mining syndicates that were operating the Quagga 7 Mine in Penhalonga, approximately 51 kilometres from the district office. The mining syndicate had already drilled a 300-meter-long tunnel into a mountain prior to their visits, and preliminary assessments suggested that the samples were very promising.

"Upon visiting the site, we





DFO Mutasa, Mr Lenin Mukwindidza (far left) visiting a client at Hospital.

noted some great strides in the progress of the mine,” Mr Mukwindidza said. “The mine has taken samples to the University of Zimbabwe Department of Geology, and they have reported that the samples are good. The geologist also highlighted that the mine is very strong and does not pose any threat of collapsing or harming anyone,” he added.

Mr Mukwindidza’s proactive approach exemplifies how Field Officers are more than administrators, they are vital change agents working on the ground to uplift the lives of Veterans Community. From ensuring access to statutory benefits such as healthcare to supporting economic empowerment through mining, their efforts continue to

leave a lasting impact.

As more Veterans seek to transition into sustainable livelihoods, particularly in sectors like mining, the support from Field Officers will remain essential in navigating regulatory requirements, accessing technical expertise and forming viable business partnerships.



The new CEO for the VIHC outlines new vision



In the agricultural sector, our main thrust is to develop horticulture capacity for export and to serve the local market through synergies with other stakeholders already in the industry.

Staff Reporter

HARARE, The newly appointed CEO of Veterans Investment Holdings Corporation (VIHC), Mr Cougan Matanhire, has unveiled his strategic vision that is largely premised on building a skilled team and leveraging key sectors to achieve both short-term gains and sustainable long-term growth. . Mr. Matanhire shared his vision during an interview with The Liberation Magazine.

When asked about the targeted sectors, Mr Matanhire highlighted the agricultural industry as one of the low-hanging fruits. “In agriculture, our main focus is to develop horticulture capacity for export markets while supporting local consumption through strategic partnerships within the industry. On some of our farms, we plan to develop infrastructure

for animal husbandry, with an aim to expand the herd at Mswelangubo Cattle Ranch and replicate this model on other properties,” he said.

Mr Matanhire also underscored the significant role that mining plays in the VIHC’s portfolio, with an emphasis on value addition and future potential. “We have a significant mining portfolio that requires proper technical evaluation to prove economic viability and determine the most suitable investment model. We will continue to expand our mining asset base through the acquisition of additional mining ground, with a strategic focus on rare earth minerals,” he said.

He further expressed interest in developing Zimbabwe’s tourism sector.

“In tourism, we plan to

develop infrastructure through the Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) model, aiming to boost the industry’s growth and contribute to economic diversification,” he said.

He added that VIHC is also exploring opportunities in financial services, aligning with the broader national vision. “Our investments are always future-oriented, supporting sectors that ensure long-term sustainability and contribute to Zimbabwe’s Vision 2030, a roadmap to transform the country into an upper-middle-income economy,” he noted.

He reaffirmed commitment to the welfare of War Veterans saying a key element of VIHC’s mission remains that of economic empowerment of War Veterans nationwide. “Supporting our veterans of the



The newly appointed CEO of the Veterans Investment Holdings Corporation (VIHC), Mr. Cougan Matanhire

liberation struggle is central to our efforts. We prioritise opportunities that involve their participation, depending on their capacity and willingness,” Mr Matanhire affirmed.

He added, “We are currently aggregating land for horticulture

projects and Veterans interested in joining our highly rewarding out-grower scheme are encouraged to participate”

Mr Matanhire emphasised VIHC’s role in building sustainable wealth and capacity building amongst Veterans of the Liberation

Struggle.

“VIHC aspires to be a trusted partner, providing technical, financial, and advisory support to our Veterans’ investment initiatives. Our goal is to develop their capacity for generational wealth creation,” he added.



Ministry of Veterans champions inclusion and empowerment at 2025 National Disability Expo



Mr Albert T. Chikondo, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Veterans of the Liberation Struggle Affairs (third from right) stressing a point to Mr Trymore Magijo, the Provincial Field Officer Matabeleland North Province (second from left), whilst Commissioner Nceda Moyo, Commissioner War Victims Compensation (far right), Ms Grace Machakaire, General Manager Talent Management Public Service Commission (second from right), Ms Gracious Ndwere, Acting Deputy Director Administration (third from left) and Mr Evans Mdimba, District Field Officer, Binga (far left) look on.

Staff Reporter

Victoria Falls - The Ministry of Veterans of the Liberation Struggle participated in the 2025 National Disability Expo held recently at Chinotimba Stadium in Victoria Falls, demonstrating its commitment to empowerment, inclusivity and wellness for Veterans and their dependents with disabilities.

The Ministry's exhibition stand was a major highlight of the event,

featuring displays by members of the Veterans community who were injured during the liberation struggle and are now actively engaged in various income-generating projects. These initiatives are a result of skills development and rehabilitation programmes implemented by the Ministry, aimed at improving the livelihoods and dignity of Veterans.

Permanent Secretary for the Ministry, Mr Albert T. Chikondo, toured the exhibition stand and ap-

plauded the exhibitors for their confidence and for effectively articulating the Ministry's vision and for the impressive quality of their displays.

"Your work speaks volumes about the progress we are making in supporting the welfare and economic empowerment of our Veterans," said Mr Chikondo.

Among the standout participants was a veteran from the rural community who showcased freshly baked loaves of bread, produced



Cde David Shakiwa Ncube, a Veteran with disabilities riding his single pedal bicycle during the National Disability Expo at Chinotimba Stadium in Victoria Falls

as part of his small-scale bakery business. The initiative is a testament to the Ministry's success in equipping veterans with practical skills that translate into sustainable livelihoods.

Another powerful showcase came from Dube, a dependent of a National Hero and a beneficiary of Ministry support, who exhibited her art and sculpture.

Her pieces included a striking portrait of the President of Zimbabwe, His Excellency Dr. E.D. Mnangagwa, highlighting not only her talent but also the Ministry's role in nurturing creativity and self-expression among youth from Veteran families.

Adding an inspiring touch to the entertainment segment of the Expo, Mr Ncube, a Veteran with disabilities, made exciting performance by riding his uniquely designed single-pedal bicycle. His act

captivated audiences and served as a moving reminder that "disability is not inability."

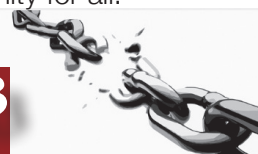
Beyond the exhibitions, the Ministry used the platform to highlight its broader efforts toward gender mainstreaming, inclusion and wellness, particularly through the War Victims Compensation Department. The Department plays a critical role in supporting persons with disabilities resulting from the liberation war, ensuring that no one is left behind.

This support aligns with National Development Goals as well as regional and international disability inclusion frameworks such as the National Disability Policy, Constitution of Zimbabwe Amendment No. 20 of 2013, African Union Protocol on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD).

Speaking on the sidelines of the event, Commissioner Nceda Moyo, the Commissioner responsible for the Ministry's War Victims Compensation Department reaffirmed the Ministry's commitment to ensuring that disability issues are fully integrated into all programmes and policies.

"We are working to ensure that Veterans with disabilities and their families, are given equal opportunities and recognition in our development agenda," said Commissioner Nceda Moyo.

The 2025 National Disability Expo provided a powerful platform for the Ministry to showcase real-life success stories of resilience, empowerment and inclusion and reaffirmed its dedication to honouring the sacrifices of liberation War Heroes by improving their quality of life and promoting dignity for all.





President Mnangagwa officially launching the Zimbabwe Media Policy

Telling Zimbabwe's story, the Zimbabwean way: **PRESIDENT MNANGAGWA LAUNCHES TRANSFORMATIVE ZIMBABWE MEDIA POLICY**

Staff Features Writer

IN a move meant to redefine the narrative of Zimbabwe and reposition its media industry as a catalyst for national pride, unity and development, the President

of the Republic of Zimbabwe, H.E Dr Emmerson Dambudzo Mnangagwa, officially launched the Zimbabwe Media Policy, a landmark initiative aimed at empowering local voices and preserving national sovereignty in an evolving global

information landscape.

Speaking at a high-level event held in the capital, President Mnangagwa emphasised the crucial role of the media in shaping public consciousness and national identity.

“

Let us, therefore, move forward with determination and unity, empowering our media industry to be a shining beacon for inclusivity and national pride

“As the media industry and media practitioners, you should inform, scrutinise and influence socio-economic development for the betterment of our country,” he said.

“Your responsible operations should also foster an informed, engaged, constitutional and democratic Zimbabwe,” he added.

The new Zimbabwe Media Policy serves as a blueprint for local media to champion national values, document development milestones and preserve the country’s cultural and historical heritage. It is a strategic shift from the past, where colonial and Western-dominated narratives often portrayed Zimbabwe in a negative light.

“The past trends where media practitioners competed for prominence on the degree to which they demonised our country, has no place in the Zimbabwe we fought for, we are building and we

all want,” President Mnangagwa declared to resounding applause.

This shift is not just rhetorical, it signals a realignment of national media priorities with the country’s vision under the Second Republic.

“We are the custodians of our own stories and narratives. For far too long, our narrative has been deconstructed, distorted and misrepresented. As we implement the Media Policy, let us reclaim and correct this anomaly,” said the President.

The Zimbabwean media, under the new policy, is encouraged to play an active role in promoting the country’s liberation legacy, ongoing development efforts and national resilience. From celebrating post-independence successes to honoring Veterans of the Liberation Struggle, the policy aligns storytelling with national identity and development.

“A truthful, coherent and positive story of Zimbabwe will consolidate our national peace, unity and accelerate our development.

The time has come for the world to hear the authentic story of who we are and what we stand for, from our own eyes, from our own mouths and from our own media,” President Mnangagwa said.

Acknowledging the powerful impact of Artificial Intelligence and digital platforms on modern media, President Mnangagwa cautioned

against the erosion of facts and ethics in the age of algorithms and instant information.

“Through this policy, my Government seeks to ensure protection against the significant ever-looming threats to facts, ethics, diversity and cultural plurality by the global tech infrastructure.

“Our regulatory efforts, content and platform accountability, as well as support for Zimbabwe’s independent content ecosystem, will be enhanced,” he said.

In a world where misinformation can rapidly erode public trust and national cohesion, the President stressed the importance of a responsible, ethical media rooted in the country’s cultural values.

“We are a nation strongly rooted in our value systems, dignity and integrity. These cardinal values must result in ethical journalism,” he said.

President Mnangagwa further warned that harmful and divisive content has no place in Zimbabwe’s democratic framework.

“Content that harms our country and fellow citizens has no space in our constitutional democracy. The law and justice system will take its course on all those who infringe on the rights of others on media platforms,” he cautioned.

The Zimbabwe Media Policy also places emphasis on the African philosophy of Ubuntu/Hunhu,



a guiding principle for collective harmony, dignity and respect.

“The values of Ubuntu/Hunhu must always inspire us to balance our individual and collective rights,” said the President.

In line with the country’s development aspirations under Vision 2030, the media is expected to be a constructive partner in promoting economic growth, tourism, culture and innovation.

“I call upon our content creators and all the stakeholders in the sector to help create and showcase our natural and cultural treasures. Riding on modern technologies, as well as leveraging digital platforms, I urge you to craft appealing messaging and imagery that attracts both local and foreign capital, investments and tourism,” he said.

The President also underscored the media’s vital role in building Zimbabwe’s international image.

“The media must influence Zimbabwe’s national brand and strategic image... I challenge our media to be also aware of the role it plays in advancing our national interests within the comity of nations through purposeful and focused engagements, guided by our Foreign Policy,” he said.

As Zimbabwe steps into a new media era, the President urged unity, innovation, and national pride. The policy is a call to action, for media professionals, policymakers, and citizens alike, to build a vibrant, ethical, and inclusive media space.

“Let us, therefore, move forward with determination and unity, empowering our media industry to be a shining beacon for

inclusivity and national pride,” said President Mnangagwa. “I reiterate that a responsible, modern and accountable media is vital for a vibrant constitutional democracy, nation-building and the promotion of people-centred development.”

“Through this Zimbabwe Media Policy, we have taken a bold decision to ensure that the sector remains a source of enlightenment, empowerment, progress, unity and the sustainable development of our motherland, Zimbabwe,” he added.

With the Zimbabwe Media Policy now in motion, a new chapter begins, one that entrusts Zimbabwe’s media with the responsibility and honor of crafting, protecting and elevating the nation’s story, for generations to come.



HONOURING THE PAST, SHAPING THE FUTURE: ZIMBABWE'S BOLD STEP TO EMPOWER LIBERATION VETERANS IN LINE WITH GLOBAL TRADITIONS

Staff Features Writer

ACROSS the world, veterans of the liberation struggle are revered, empowered and given pride of place in national memory and development.

For instance in Rwanda, the Patriotic Army Veterans are honoured through National Liberation Day commemoration of their victory and sacrifice as well as through economic empowerment, education for their children and healthcare among others.

In Namibia, through the Ministry of Veterans Affairs, the People's Liberation Army of Namibia (PLAN)'s Veterans are honoured with grants, land and housing.

Similar efforts are found in South Africa. Under the Military Veterans Act, former liberation fighters are entitled to pensions, healthcare, housing and memorialisation accessed through the Department of Military Veterans.

In Asian countries for instance, China, Veterans receive preferential treatment, including employment schemes, housing and recognition ceremonies. The role of revolutionary martyrs is taught in schools to preserve their legacy.

South Korea also offers subsidies,



President Mnangagwa cutting ribbon to officially hand over brand new tractors and motor vehicles to the Ministry of Veterans of the Liberation Struggle Affairs during the launch of the Veterans Empowerment Scheme, looking on is Vice President Hon Kembo Mohadi (right), Cde Obert Mpofu ZANU PF Secretary for Administration (left) and Hon Minister of Veterans of the Liberation Struggle Affairs, Sen Monica Mavhunga.

education and employment opportunities to war Veterans, particularly those who fought in the Korean War. Monuments and dedicated museums are also used to preserve their contributions.

In the West, for instance, United States, through the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Veterans also have Veterans Day as a national holiday to celebrate their sacrifices. The United Kingdom on the other hand honours its Veterans through the Royal British

Legion, providing financial aid, housing and mental health services. Armistice Day and the Poppy Appeal serve as annual tributes to fallen soldiers. Same applies with Germany, Veterans are entitled to generous pensions, rehabilitation programmes and commemorations through military cemeteries and national remembrance days. These examples highlight a global consensus: those who fought for freedom deserve to live with dignity.



Similarly, Zimbabwe has taken significant strides under the Second Republic to honour and empower its veterans of the liberation struggle. In a symbolic gesture that blends history with progress, President Emmerson Dambudzo Mnangagwa, recently launched the Presidential War Veterans Empowerment Scheme, placing Zimbabwe alongside global nations which have long enshrined the dignity and welfare of their War Veterans in National Policy.

During the launch which was held under the theme “Honouring, Respecting, Recognising the Past: Shaping the Future”, President Mnangagwa declared that Zimbabwe’s Veterans of Liberation are not only national heroes but vital pillars in shaping the future of the country.

“The theme of this event dovetails with the commitment of our ZANU PF Government to ensure that the state and all its institutions and agencies accord due respect, honour and recognition to Veterans of the liberation struggle,” said President Mnangagwa.

Echoing this international standard, Zimbabwe has taken a definitive stand. The launch of the Presidential War Veterans Empowerment Scheme is a historic and ambitious response to decades-long calls for comprehensive Veteran of the Liberation Struggle welfare.

“We will forever honour all of you, the brave men and women... who took up arms to fight and dismantle the white colonial regime. Some of our comrades never made it back. Indeed, their precious blood is etched in our national flag,” said President Mnangagwa.

President Mnangagwa also acknowledged that the efforts of War Veterans are not relegated to history but are recognized as active drivers of the country’s development:

“Under our ruling ZANU PF Party in the Second Republic, us, the Veterans who fought to liberate our great motherland remain critical and important actors in advancing our national vision.”

Under the Second Republic, Zimbabwe’s support measures include

the disbursement of US\$3.5 million towards income-generating projects for Veterans, their widows, war collaborators, ex-detainees, and non-combatants. There is also an allocation of 50 tractors for agricultural empowerment, one of the largest ever support packages for War Veterans.

The ongoing housing projects, borehole drilling, and solar installations across all ten provinces and a dedicated Fund for children of War Veterans, are also efforts to ensure the legacy continues through future generations.

President Mnangagwa stated, “Since the inception of the Second Republic, some War Veterans have been considered and appointed to strategic areas of governance. It is pleasing that those deployed have executed their duties with exemplary commitment and patriotism.”

Veterans of the Liberation Struggle Affairs Minister, Hon Sen Monicah Mavhunga praised the visionary leadership of President Mnangagwa and reaffirmed her ministry’s commitment to improving the Veterans’ welfare and empowerment.

She made the remarks whilst officiating at the handover of 63 residential stands to Veterans of the Liberation Struggle in Gweru, Midlands Province,

“This momentous occasion signifies the Second Republic’s unwavering commitment to the welfare and empowerment of Veterans of the Liberation Struggle, in line with the Constitution and the Veterans of the Liberation Struggle Act.

“Allow me, first and foremost, to extend my sincere gratitude to His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Zimbabwe, Cde. Dr. Emmerson Dambudzo Mnangagwa, for his visionary leadership in ensuring that Veterans receive the recognition and support they so rightly deserve. Through his guidance, the Second Republic established the Ministry of Veterans of the Liberation Struggle Affairs, dedicated to addressing the concerns and welfare of those who sacrificed immensely for the freedom and

independence of our great nation,” said Minister Mavhunga.

She noted that housing and land ownership remain crucial for economic dignity.

“Many of our comrades have remained without proper housing for years. This initiative ensures that no veteran is left behind,” she said.

The Minister emphasised that the 20% quota for Veterans in land, housing and economic opportunities was being implemented across ministries.

“We are working with the Ministries of Agriculture, Mining, SMEs, and Local Government to ensure veterans benefit from support in farming, vending and access to mining facilities,” said Minister Mavhunga.

In view of the foregoing, it is important to note that the liberation of Zimbabwe was not just a political milestone; it was a generational sacrifice that altered the fate of a nation. Today, as Zimbabwe moves toward Vision 2030, it is fitting that those who laid the foundation of freedom are empowered to benefit from the fruits of that freedom.

President Mnangagwa affirmed, “Our hard-won independence, democracy, and ongoing accelerated development under the Second Republic form a solid foundation from which we are building our country,”

Zimbabwe’s efforts through the Second Republic’s reforms, from housing projects and agricultural equipment, to funding and education for Veterans’ children, represent not only a national healing process but also a moral obligation.

As the nation reclaims its narrative and forges ahead with development, the empowerment of its Veterans stands as a powerful testament to the philosophy that ‘freedom earned must also be freedom shared’.

The legacy of Zimbabwe’s liberators is no longer a story of sacrifice alone, it is now one of empowerment, participation and national pride.



The Reburial of Fallen Heroes: Lufuno's Parents

By Terry Ncube

The dust, a fine ochre powder, coated everything. It clung to Lufuno's threadbare trousers, settled on the cracked mud-brick walls of their hut, and softened the edges of the thorn bushes that dotted the parched landscape. The sun, a brutal eye in the blue sky, beat down with relentless intensity. A fly buzzed, a persistent, irritating drone, around the rim of the empty water bucket. Lufuno's stomach growled, a low, guttural rumble that echoed the emptiness within the small dwelling.

He glanced at his aunt, MaMoyo, huddled on a woven mat in the corner, her body a frail curve beneath a faded blanket. A shallow cough, a dry rasp, escaped her lips, shaking her thin frame. She was like a brittle twig, ready to snap with the slightest breeze. Her breath came in ragged gasps, each one a testament to the years of toil, the unending struggle to keep them both alive since the war had stolen his parents. He was three then, a small, bewildered shadow clutching at her skirt as the news, cold and sharp as a spear pierced their fragile world. His mother, his father, gone. Vanished into the red earth, victims of a liberation they would never see.

A sudden chill, not of the air but of something unseen, prickled the hairs on Lufuno's neck. The hut, already dim, seemed to deepen its shadows. A faint whisper, like dry leaves skittering across a rock, brushed against his ear.

"Reburial... reburial..."

It wasn't the first time. The whispers had started subtly, a barely perceptible hum in the quiet moments, growing steadily louder over the past few months. Now, they were almost a chorus, a persistent plea from the unseen.

"Are you alright, Gogo?" Lufuno's voice was a rough whisper, afraid to disturb the fragile peace.

MaMoyo's eyes, milky with age and illness, fluttered open. "Just tired, mwanangu. Always tired." She coughed again, a deep, rattling sound that

seemed to tear at her chest. "The spirits are restless today, aren't they?" Her voice was barely audible, a papery rustle.

Lufuno's jaw tightened. She knew. She had always known. It was the unspoken truth that hung in the air between them, heavier than the dust. He had never spoken of the whispers, the fleeting, disembodied spirit in the corner of his eye, the sudden drops in temperature. But MaMoyo, with her ancient wisdom and proximity to the veil between worlds, felt it too.

"They want something," she continued, her gaze fixed on a distant point beyond the hut's entrance. "They have always wanted something. Peace. Rest. A proper burial."

"But they were heroes, Gogo," Lufuno protested, the words feeling hollow even to him. "They died for this land. Their graves are sacred, where they fell."

MaMoyo slowly shook her head, a slow, deliberate movement. "Not sacred enough, my boy. Not in the unmarked earth. Not without the proper rites. They call to you, Lufuno Sinqobile Siziba. You, who were born of the struggle, whose name means 'we have conquered.'" Her eyes, despite their cloudiness, held a startling intensity. "They call to their son. They want to come home."

That night, the dream came again, clearer, more vivid than ever before. He stood in a field of tall, whispering grass, the air thick with the smell of gunpowder and blood. Two figures, shrouded in mist, stood before him. They were his parents, their faces indistinct, yet their presence undeniable, a powerful ache in his chest.

"Lufuno..." his mother's voice, a mournful sigh, echoed in his mind. "Our bones cry out for the soil of our ancestors. We cannot rest. Not here. Not like this."

"Find us, son," his father's voice, a deep, resonant rumble, urged. "Bring us home. Only then will the suffering end. Only then will the land heal."

A guttural moan, a sound torn from his very soul, escaped Lufuno's lips, ripping him from the nightmare. He sat bolt upright, sweat slicking his skin, the taste of dust and fear in his mouth. The hut was dark, silent save for MaMoyo's shallow, rattling breaths. He knew, with a certainty that chilled him to the bone, that he could no longer ignore the summons.

The next morning, Lufuno knelt beside MaMoyo, tracing the lines of her emaciated hand. Her skin was like parchment, translucent and fragile.

"Gogo," he began, his voice thick with resolve, "I will go. I will find them. I will bring them home."

A slow smile, a fragile bloom, spread across MaMoyo's lips. "Good, mwanangu. The spirits will guide you. They always do." She reached out, her hand trembling, and cupped his cheek. "Be strong. Be brave. It is a long journey, and a difficult one."

"But... where do I start?" Lufuno asked, the enormity of the task suddenly pressing down on him. The war had ended decades ago. The battlefields were now overgrown, their secrets buried deep.

"The old ones," MaMoyo whispered, her eyes closing. "The ones who remember. The ones who fought alongside them. Seek out Gogo Zondi, in the next valley. She nursed your mother back from a bullet wound, once. She might remember." Her voice trailed off, her breathing growing shallower.

Lufuno rose, his heart a drumbeat against his ribs. He gathered the few bare possessions they had: a small, worn pouch containing a few precious coins, a tattered blanket, a calabash for water. He looked back at his aunt, her face peaceful in sleep, or perhaps something more. A wave of profound sadness washed over him, but also a fierce determination. He had to do this. For them. For her. For the restless dead.

ZIMBABWE PAYS TRIBUTE TO DECORATED LIBERATION STRUGGLE DUO

Staff Reporter

HARARE- His Excellency Dr E.D Mnangagwa, President of the Republic of Zimbabwe and Commander-in-Chief of the Zimbabwe Defence Forces recently led the nation in paying tribute to two esteemed liberation war heroes, Cde Walter Basopo and Cde Victor Tapiwa Chashe Rungani (Brigadier General Rtd), at the National Shrine.

In his heartfelt eulogy at the National Heroes Acre, President Mnangagwa described the fallen heroes as “decorated sons of the soil who served our motherland, Zimbabwe, with honour and distinction”, emphasising their profound contributions to the liberation and subsequent development of the country.

“The late Cde Walter Basopo, whose Chimurenga name was ‘Cde Gerry Dzasukwa’, was a distinguished security and intelligence guru who rose through the ranks in the President’s Department to become Director

of Counter Intelligence. He passed on, 22 April 2025,” said President.

He recounted Cde Basopo’s early life, noting that “he was born on 23 February 1959 in Gutu District, Masvingo Province,” and highlighting his brave decision to join the liberation struggle. “In June 1976, Cde Basopo was among the youths from Gutu District who refused subjugation by the Rhodesian settler administration and left the country to join the Zimbabwe National Liberation Army (ZANLA) in Mozambique,” he said.

President Mnangagwa detailed his perilous journey, military training, and subsequent service in ZANLA’s security and intelligence units, noting his resilience despite sustaining serious injuries in a traffic accident that led to the amputation of his arm.

“His unwavering dedication exemplifies a life lived in total devotion to our country,” President Mnangagwa said.



President Mnangagwa presiding over the burial of the the late Cde Walter Basopo and Cde Victor Tapiwa Chashe Rungani (Brigadier General Rtd), at National Heroes Acre

“No matter personal circumstances, Cde Basopo never wavered from his conviction to see a liberated, independent, and democratic Zimbabwe. I challenge more officers within the President’s Department to demonstrate similar patriotism and selfless service,” he added.

Turning to the late Brigadier General (Rtd) Victor Tapiwa Chashe Rungani, who once served in the Zimbabwe Defence Forces and later on in the Ministry of Veterans of the Liberation Struggle Affairs, the President paid homage to his distinguished military career and service to Zimbabwe’s liberation and nation-building.

“He was born on 29 June 1949 in Chinobva Village, Bikita District,” he remarked, recalling his early education and political consciousness that led him to join ZANLA in Mozambique in 1976.

President Mnangagwa highlighted the Brigadier General (Rtd) Rungani’s military trajectory, including his leadership roles in various units, his involvement in sabotage operations and his significant contributions in the Zimbabwe Defence Forces after independence.

“His professional conduct was always underpinned by integrity, humility, loyalty, enthusiasm and visionary leadership,” the President noted.

He emphasised Rungani’s ingenuity in the automobile sector, which helped Zimbabwe maintain effective force mobility during campaigns in Mozambique, Somalia and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

“The dedication and commitment of gallant sons like Brigadier General (Rtd) Rungani and Cde Basopo have propelled Zimbabwe towards its goals, even during times of adversity,” he stated. “Today, we enjoy our independence and are witnessing sustained economic growth, with Vision 2030 within reach,” added President Mnangagwa.

He underscored the importance of unity and vigilance, saying, “Much more work remains. We can only sustain our progress if we remain united, focused and vigilant against those who wish harm over our motherland, Zimbabwe.”

The President invoked his national development philosophy, “Nyika inovakwa, inotongwa, inonamatirwa nevene vayo,” urging Zimbabweans to uphold the legacy of sacrifice and patriotism.

“This heritage must continue to inspire generations to come,” he affirmed.

As Zimbabwe mourns its heroes, the nation reaffirmed its commitment to honoring those who sacrificed everything for its freedom and prosperity. Their legacy of resilience, patriotism and selfless service continues to inspire Zimbabwe’s journey towards a brighter future.



Cde Walter Basopo



Cde Victor Tapiwa Chashe Rungani (Brigadier General Rtd),



Behind the

A Conversation with Lt Col Shumba

VETERANS of the Liberation Struggle occupy a revered place in the history of the country and the Ministry of the Liberation Struggle Affairs will continue to play a pivotal role in ensuring that they, along with Heroes' dependents and War Victims, receive the statutory benefits they are rightfully entitled to.

At the heart of this process is the Inter-Ministerial Investigations Team (IMIT), a dedicated department tasked with the critical responsibility of vetting individuals seeking recognition as Veterans of the Liberation Struggle. This vetting process ensures that all claims are verified and that the integrity of the benefits system is upheld.

In an effort to shed light on the often misunderstood yet essential work of the IMIT, the Chief Editor (CE) of this Magazine an in-depth conversation with the Head of the Department, Lieutenant Colonel Exekiel Shumba (Lt Col E.S.). What follows is a candid question-and-answer session that unpacks the procedures, challenges, and importance of the vetting process.

CE: Can you briefly describe the core mandate of the Inter-Ministerial Investigations Team (IMIT) and your role as its Head? What are some of the major challenges you face in vetting and verifying veterans across the country, especially in remote provinces? How does IMIT ensure that the vetting process remains transparent, fair, and free from political or personal bias?

Lt Col E.S.: The core mandate of Inter-Ministerial Investigations Team (IMIT) is to ascertain the liberation credentials



Lieutenant Colonel Ezekiel Shumba Head of Inter-Ministerial Investigations Team.

of any person claiming to be a veteran of the liberation through a systematic vetting process. My role as the Head is to lead and command the process of vetting by ensuring strict compliance to the guiding Act.

The major challenges that the team faces is the dissemination of information to particularly, outlying remote areas. Hence we still have outstanding number of un-vetted genuine Veterans cases. However, suffice to say, these cases are not only applicable in rural areas but in towns and cities as well and the diaspora community.

As IMIT carries out its vetting tasks these operations are guided by the Veterans of the Liberation Struggle Act Chap: 17:12. The composition of IMIT is made up of seasoned tried and tested battle hardened Veterans of the lib-

eration war, over and above these are security experts in their own right and are drawn from security Ministries.

CE: What criteria does IMIT use to determine the eligibility of individuals to be recognized as Veterans of the Liberation Struggle? How does your taskforce coordinate with other ministries and security agencies during investigations and field exercises? What measures are in place to safeguard the integrity of the Veterans' register during updates or modifications?

Lt Col E.S.: The criteria we use to determine the eligibility of an individual applicant seeking to be recognized as a Veteran of the liberation struggle varies according to the category one belongs to. However, the system remains transparent and clear as water.

e Process:

The need for coordination with other Ministries is simplified in the sense that IMIT is made up of individuals representing a particular security Ministry and we have always enjoyed the coordination process with other security Ministries and Associations.

An individual's information and records are treated as confidential whilst records are kept in secure cabinets with limited access throughout the entire process.

CE: You are currently conducting vetting exercises in the provinces—what has been the general response from communities and individuals? Can you share some of the most common misconceptions or issues encountered during provincial vetting exercises? How do you manage cases where records are incomplete, lost, or disputed by communities?

Lt Col E.S: The fieldwork we are currently undertaking, are based on request through the Ministry's Provincial offices for the vetting services to be held at a central point for the remnants of War Veterans and Ex-Political Detainees and Restricttees. Other than that, our offices are open throughout the week dedicated for the individuals with issues to be attended by IMIT. However, your question refers to the recent outreach in Matabeland region. The response was overwhelming, as you are aware that in this part of the region, that is where you find a sizeable number of the Veterans who chose for personal security to migrate to neighbouring countries and as such the majority remains un-vetted. Our Provincial offices did a good job to disseminate information on the vetting exercise to in their respective provinces, hence the response was quite positive.

As we navigate our vetting journey we

experience problems especial with the ZEPDRA, a number of these members appear for vetting alleging that they were arrested for political reasons without supporting documents and this is an issue that needs to be addressed by the Association and come up with a policy decision.

Management of incomplete records are referred to the individual applicant with advice on where action is required and what needs to be done and by who as a means to address the incomplete record. In instances where records or information is being disputed remember the Team is composed of security experts we institute a security enquiry to ascertain the obtaining situation.

CE: What systems or technologies are being used to streamline the vetting and ID card production process? How is IMIT ensuring the long-term digital archiving and security of veterans' data?

Lt Col E.S: Upon qualification a member is issued with a confirmation receipt with a distinct clear marking of an individual category. We also record the interview though the video camera is too old. The ideal situation is as one qualifies as a veteran of the liberation struggle upon being issued with a confirmation receipt should immediately be issued with an Identity card a resource machine that we do not have at present.

At the onset of the vetting of the veterans the card printing machine was and still remains a President's office property this was then acceptable as it was, then now there is a noticeable problems associated to this kind of arrangement justifying the need for the Ministry to purchases its card printing machine for the issuance of new cards and replacement of defaced ones. IMIT

keeps making efforts that it be digital equipped and that it be digital compliant.

CE: What internal checks and audits are in place to verify the work done by field officers during vetting missions? How do you handle cases where individuals are found to have fraudulently claimed veteran status?

Lt Col E.S: The Head is also part of the vetting Team, the composition is as required by the Act. Thus then checks and balances are made there and there.

In the case of a fraudulent activity the fraudster appear before IMIT who upon convinced beyond doubt that there has been an element of fraud will institute legal proceedings against the offender.

CE: What impact has IMIT had on improving the welfare and recognition of legitimate war veterans? Looking ahead, what are your strategic priorities for IMIT in the next five years?

Lt Col E.S: By vetting and conferring liberation status to a veteran of the liberation struggle it's an act of placing an individual in the correct category, a way of recognizing historical role that the individual played, also opening avenues for statutory benefits for the individual concerned and the family. In that way the wellbeing of a veteran dramatically improves and the operating instrument of the Ministry is IMIT credit goes to the Ministry.

Our strategic plan for IMIT is to ensure that every genuine veteran has been conferred with his or liberation credentials. That we be resourced to the level of being able to produce personal Identity cards to the veterans' community.



Exclusive Interview with Brenda Nyaradzai Katanda

THE Ministry of Veterans of the Liberation Struggle Affairs is mandated to empower and improve the lives of the Veterans' community where one of the key stakeholder groups within this community is the children of War Veterans

The Chief Editor (CE) of this magazine had the opportunity to interview Brenda Nyaradzai Katanda (BNK), the General Manager of Internal Human Resources Management at the Public Service Commission, and daughter of War Veteran Cde Ishmael Spearhead Katanda, whose Chimurenga name was Cde Gamanya. In this exclusive conversation, she reflects on a journey shaped by legacy, purpose and patriotism, and how that heritage has influenced her values, leadership, and commitment to public service.

Below is the full interview:

CE: Can you tell us about your background and your journey growing up as a child of a War Veteran in Zimbabwe? What unique challenges did you face?

BNK: Growing up as a child of a war veteran instilled in me values that I carry to this day, discipline, resilience, and unwavering love for our nation. My parent, like many liberation fighters, taught me that the country always comes first. We didn't have much materially, but we were rich in values, respect for others, integrity, and duty. The journey was not always easy; we faced economic hardships, social stigmas at times, but we were taught to rise above circumstances and remain focused. That sense of purpose built a strong foundation for who I am today.

CE: What specific government initiatives or support mechanisms did you benefit from as a child of a



Brenda Nyaradzai Katanda

war veteran? How did these shape your educational or professional path?

BNK: I am immensely grateful for the government's deliberate efforts to empower children of war veterans through education assistance and professional mentorship programs. Through the Ministry of Veterans of the Liberation Struggle Affairs, the Government offers statutory benefits to War Veterans and Children of War Veterans. I personally could not make use of the Government support in terms of education, to

give space for others in dire need of Government support because of much more poor background. My parents were able to cater for my education. The access to education by those in dire need I found out that it was life-changing. It wasn't just about getting a degree, to many beneficiaries, it was about recognizing that the sacrifices of our parents were not in vain, and that we had a duty to contribute meaningfully to our society. Some are policy makers and some are contributing to society in several different ways. That's a great

milestone by the Ministry of Veterans of the Liberation Struggle Affairs, by the Government of Zimbabwe.

CE: What motivated you to pursue a career in public service, and how has your family's liberation war legacy influenced your professional values and leadership style?

BNK: My motivation to serve in the public sector was deeply rooted in the values my War Veteran parent passed down to us. Their commitment to Zimbabwe's freedom showed me that service to the nation is the highest calling. That spirit of selflessness shaped my leadership style, I lead with integrity, I prioritize national interest over personal gain, and I believe in teamwork and inclusivity. Leadership is about nation-building, and in public service, that philosophy finds its full expression.

CE: Can you share some of the key milestones in your career that you feel were directly enabled by the support you received from War Veterans-related programs?

BNK: Like I said, I work for the Government of Zimbabwe, the Public Service Commission as a General Manager. I am proud of what the Government is doing to empower its citizens especially women. This is not only for War Veterans but for whole of Zimbabwe. Leaving no-one and also no Veteran behind. That has had a positive influence of who I am today.

CE: Looking back, how significant do you think these support programs have been for other children of war veterans? Do you think enough is being done today?

BNK: The support programs have had a profound impact, not just in individual lives but in the very fabric of our communities. We have seen many children of War Veterans become lawyers, doctors, engineers, and leaders. These are people who are shaping the future of Zimbabwe. While the efforts are commendable, there is always room to scale up these programmes, especially in rural and underserved areas. Continuing this

legacy ensures we build a patriotic, skilled, and unified generation.

CE: As a General Manager in the Public Service Commission, how do you apply the lessons and values passed down from your parent(s) who served in the liberation struggle?

BNK: Every day, I approach my work with the mindset that I am serving something greater than myself. The lessons of humility, perseverance, and unity that I inherited are now the bedrock of how I lead. I foster a work culture where everyone respects one another, where ethics are not negotiable, and where teamwork is prioritized over personal ambition. The success of the organisation is the success of the country. This is the perspective I encourage in my team.

CE: What role do you think children of War Veterans should play in preserving the legacy of the liberation struggle in today's Zimbabwe?

BNK: We are the torchbearers of a great legacy. It is our responsibility to ensure that the values of patriotism, selflessness, and national unity are passed down to the next generation. This means becoming role models, giving back to our communities, and continuously reminding our youths of the sacrifices made for our independence. If we all play our part, we create a Zimbabwe that is strong, united, and resilient. The Zimbabwe we all want.

CE: How do you personally honour the memory and sacrifices of your War Veteran parent(s) in your daily work and leadership approach?

BNK: I honour their memory by working with integrity and putting the needs of the nation first. I also create platforms to uplift others, particularly children of War Veterans, so they too can realise their potential. For me, every decision I make, every policy I help implement, must reflect the values of sacrifice, inclusion, and service. This is how I keep their legacy alive, through action, not just words.

CE: What policies or programs would you recommend to further empower and uplift children of War Veterans, especially those still struggling economically?

BNK: I would advocate for enhanced access to education through dedicated bursaries, vocational training opportunities, and mentorship networks. In addition, policies that prioritise children of Veterans for internships and civil service placements can level the playing field. It's also crucial to strengthen entrepreneurship support, access to capital and markets, so that these young people become job creators. We must be intentional about ensuring no child of a Veteran is left behind.

CE: What message would you give to young children of War Veterans who may be facing hardship today, yet dream of one day serving their country as you have?

BNK: To every young person facing challenges today, remember, your heritage is one of strength and sacrifice. You come from a lineage of heroes. Do not let temporary struggles define your future. Keep your eyes on the bigger goal. Work hard, remain patriotic, stay humble, and never lose hope. The nation believes in you, and with continued support from the government, your dreams are valid and attainable. Let us build Zimbabwe together, with honour, dignity, and pride.

Arm yourself with knowledge, with skills, with resilience. Find others like you and lift each other as you climb. Ask hard questions, challenge injustice, and believe unapologetically in your potential. Your story is not one of pity, it is one of power. One day, people will look to you and say, "Because of them, Zimbabwe stands taller."

And when you do serve your country, whether as a teacher, a nurse, a soldier, a farmer, a lawyer, or a policymaker, you'll carry forward a legacy not just of war, but of hope, healing, and transformation.



The Battle of Mavhonde

.....eye witness narration

By **Stanford Kavhumbura**

My name is Stanford Kavhumbura, alias Captain Blood. I was actively involved in the Battle of Mavhonde in September 1979, during the time of the Lancaster House Talks.

I was seconded to the ZANLA Chief of Operations, Cde Rex Nhongo (the late General Solomon Mujuru), who commanded that battle. I was in the Security and Intelligence Section, or simply, Close Security.

There were indications that a confrontation was imminent, as the Commanders had been advised by the svikiro (spirit medium), vana sekuru, two days before the day of the attack. Reconnaissance planes had also been noticed two weeks prior to the day in question.

On the day of the attack, the Chief of Operations, Cde Rex Nhongo, was planning to go to Tete Province for a meeting with Cde Josiah Tungamirai, the ZANLA Political Commissar. So we left Base One, which was the Command Base, for Base Three, where trained comrades were in transit. We were going there to inspect AK-47 rifles from Korea, which had just arrived that morning.

On our way, before we reached Base Three, two jet fighters dropped bombs around 0815 hours, incapacitating one of the 14.5mm anti-aircraft guns that had been deployed on top of one of the hills—later nicknamed Mt. Cassino. That was how the battle started. We left the Land Cruiser we were using and walked into Base Three. Immediately, Cde Rex



Cde Stanford Kavhumbura

Nhongo instructed the distribution of the new Korean AK-47 rifles, which were used throughout the four-day battle. Cde Rex Nhongo then moved around the four bases, encouraging the forces to fight.

It was tough moment for Close Security and for decision making by the commanders. Some high-ranking officials and commanders tried to persuade Cde Rex Nhongo to leave Mavhonde and be escorted to Chimoio town, but he refused, saying: “Handisiye vana vevanhu, kana tichifa tinofa tose” (“I will not leave anyone behind; if we are going to die, we will all die”). He stayed and commanded the battle until the last day.

The Battle of Mavhonde was intense and brutal because it was

the ZANLA Headquarters, which had been well designed and heavily armed. Heavy weapons were mounted, including 37mm anti-aircraft guns, 20mm, 14.5mm, and 12.7mm anti-aircraft guns. There were also 82mm mortars, which pounded the Rhodesian ground forces.

The sacrifice and bravery shown by our comrades during the Battle of Mavhonde were highly commendable. Even the enemy, after the battle, acknowledged that it was a man-to-man fight. They admired the person who had designed the base.

At Mavhonde, ZANLA forces did not suffer heavy casualties compared to the Chimoio, Tembwe, and Nyadzonya attacks.

The comrades actually celebrated after shooting down 12 Rhodesian fighter planes.

On the third day, ZANLA forces began running out of ammunition because the two bridges linking Mavhonde and Chimoio had been blown up by the Rhodesians to prevent re-supply and reinforcements from the FPLM forces. Cde Nhongo instructed the fighters to make a tactical withdrawal and move away from the bases, paving the

way for FPLM forces to bomb the Rhodesians who had occupied our positions. The Rhodesians suffered heavy losses, leaving behind most of their equipment as the survivors fled toward the Rhodesian (now Zimbabwean) border for safety. We immediately returned to occupy the same bases, celebrating the victory.

We value dearly the support, friendship, and solidarity shown to us by Ethiopia, Libya, Tanzania, China, the USSR, Yugoslavia, Romania, Syria, Mozambique,

and other countries. During the liberation struggle, they expressed their solidarity through concrete assistance, providing training programs and supplying large quantities of artillery and ammunition, which enabled us to withstand the Rhodesian onslaught at Mavhonde.

My last words to all Zimbabweans, especially the youth: 'war is not a dinner party. We must guard jealously our hard-won independence.'

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SHORT STORY

REBURIAL

The Reburial of Fallen Heroes: Lufuno's Parents

The journey to Gogo Zondi's homestead was gruelling. The sun beat down, turning the path into a shimmering mirage. Thorns tore at his clothes, and his feet, accustomed to the soft earth around their hut, ached with every step. He passed small villages, their inhabitants going about their daily routines, oblivious to the spiritual burden he carried. He felt like a ghost himself, moving through a world that didn't quite see him.

Finally, as dusk painted the sky in shades of orange and violet, he saw the faint glow of a cooking fire. An old woman, her face a roadmap of wrinkles, sat stirring a pot outside a small hut. This had to be Gogo Zondi.

"Salibonani, Gogo," Lufuno greeted, his voice hoarse from the dust and the journey.

Gogo Zondi looked up, her eyes, though ancient, sharp and assessing. "And who might you be, young man, wandering so far from home at this hour?"

"I am Lufuno Sinqobile Siziba," he said, his voice gaining strength. "Son of Themba and Nomusa Siziba. I was told you knew my parents—that you might remember where they fell."

A gasp, a sharp intake of breath, escaped Gogo Zondi's lips. Her spoon clattered against the pot.

"Themba and Nomusa? Ah, the brave ones. The fierce ones. They were like my own children." Her eyes filled with a distant sorrow. "They died so young, so full of fire." She looked at him, truly looked at him, and her gaze softened. "You have their eyes, mwanangu. And their spirit. Come, sit. You must be

hungry."

Over a meagre meal of sadza and wild greens, Lufuno recounted his story: the haunting, MaMoyo's failing health, the urgent need for reburial. Gogo Zondi listened, nodding occasionally, her expression grim.

"They fell near the Great Babab, the one with the lightning scar," she said, her voice low and solemn. "It was a fierce battle, Lufuno. A true massacre. We barely escaped with our lives. Your mother, Nomusa, fought like a lioness. Your father, Themba, a true warrior. They died protecting the others, buying us time to flee." She sighed, a deep, shuddering breath. "Their bodies... we had to leave them. There was no time. The enemy was upon us. We marked the spot as best we could, but time erases all marks."

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REBURIAL

The Reburial of Fallen Heroes: Lufuno's Parents

"The Great Baobab with the lightning scar," Lufuno repeated, the words a lifeline. "Is it far?"

Gogo Zondi shook her head. "No, not so far. But the path is treacherous. And the spirits there... they are not always welcoming." She looked at him, a glint in her ancient eyes. "Are you truly ready for this, Lufuno? To disturb the resting places of the fallen? To face what might remain?"

"I have to, Gogo," Lufuno said, his voice firm. "They call to me. Their restless spirits torment my aunt. There will be no peace until they are home."

The next morning, with Gogo Zondi's blessing and a small pouch of dried herbs for protection, Lufuno set off again. The sun was already a fiery ball in the sky, but a sense of purpose, a fierce determination, propelled him forward. The landscape grew wilder, the paths less defined. He navigated by instinct, by the faint memories of his parents' voices in his dreams, and by the ancient wisdom that pulsed in his veins.

He walked for hours, the heat unrelenting, the silence broken only by the chirping of insects and the occasional rustle of unseen creatures in the bush. The whispers intensified, not just in his mind, but seeming to emanate from the very earth beneath his feet.

"Closer... closer..."

Then he saw it. A colossal baobab tree, its trunk scarred by a jagged lightning strike, stood sentinel

against the horizon. It was an ancient giant, its branches reaching like crooked fingers toward the sky. A shiver ran down Lufuno's spine. This was it, the place where his parents had made their final stand.

As he approached, the air grew heavy, thick with an unseen presence. A cold wind, though there was no breeze, swept through the dry grass, making it hiss and sigh. He could feel eyes on him, countless unseen eyes. The ground felt different here, somehow softer, as if it held a deep, old wound.

He began to search, his heart pounding in his chest. He moved slowly, methodically, his gaze sweeping the ground, searching for any sign, any disturbance. The whispers grew louder, more urgent, almost a mournful moan. He felt a profound sadness, a crushing weight of grief for the lives lost here.

Suddenly, his foot snagged on something. He stumbled, catching himself before he fell. He looked down. A small, rusted metal button, half-buried in the soil. His mother's uniform had had buttons just like that. His breath hitched. He knelt, his fingers trembling as he began to clear away the earth around it.

The ground was surprisingly yielding. He dug with his bare hands, the dirt clinging to his skin, mixing with his sweat. He unearthed another button, then a shard of what looked like a belt buckle. And then, a small, polished stone, the kind his father had always carried for luck. A cry, a raw, guttural sound, ripped

from Lufuno's throat.

"Baba! Mama!"

As he dug deeper, the faint outlines of bones began to emerge from the earth, intertwined, as if even in death, they clung to each other. A thigh bone. A rib cage. A skull. Two skulls. His parents. Here. After all these years. Tears streamed down his face, blurring his vision, but he didn't stop. He worked with a fierce, almost frenzied determination, carefully unearthing each bone as if handling the most precious of treasures.

The air around him hummed with a strange energy. The whispers had ceased, replaced by a profound silence, a sense of anticipation. He felt their presence, strong and tangible, not mournful now, but watchful. He carefully placed the bones, one by one, into the blanket he had brought, wrapping them with reverence.

He found a small, rusted tin box buried beside them. He opened it carefully. Inside was a faded photograph of his parents, young and smiling, before the war took their innocence. And a small, handwritten letter, water-stained but still legible. It was his mother's elegant script.

"My dearest Lufuno," it began. "If you ever read this, know that your father and I loved you more than life itself. We fight for your future, for a free Zimbabwe where you can grow up without fear. If we do not return, know that our spirits will always be with you. Find us, my son. Bring us home. Let our bones rest in the

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land we fought for, in the village we loved. Do not mourn, but celebrate the freedom we helped secure. Live for us. Live fully."

A sob tore through him. His mother's voice, clear and strong, filled his mind. The letter was a final, loving embrace from the grave.

He finished his sacred task, carefully covering the disturbed earth. He stood, the bundle of bones clutched to his chest, the weight of them a tangible connection to his past, to his lineage. The silence around the baobab was no longer heavy with sorrow, but with a profound peace. The wind whispered through the leaves, a gentle, soothing sound. He felt them, his parents, finally at rest, their spirits rising, ascending.

The journey back was different. The path, though still long and arduous, felt lighter. The sun still beat down, but it no longer felt oppressive. He walked with a sense of purpose, of completion. The whispers were gone, replaced by a quiet hum of contentment that resonated deep within him.

He arrived back at his village as the first stars began to prick the night sky. The small hut, usually so quiet, was surrounded by a gathering of elders, their faces etched with concern. A small fire crackled in the yard, casting dancing shadows.

He pushed through the crowd, his eyes fixed on the hut. MaMoyo.

He entered, the bundle still clutched to his chest. MaMoyo lay on her mat, her breathing shallow,

almost imperceptible. Her eyes were closed, her face pale.

"Gogo," he whispered, his voice cracking with emotion. He knelt beside her, gently placing the bundle on the mat beside her head. "I found them. I brought them home."

Her eyes fluttered open. A faint smile touched her lips as she saw the bundle. She reached out a trembling hand and touched the blanket, her fingers brushing against the precious contents. A deep, shuddering sigh escaped her lips, a sound of profound relief.

"Thank you, mwanangu," she whispered, her voice surprisingly strong. "Thank you. They can finally rest." She closed her eyes again, and a profound peacefulness settled over her face. Her breathing, which had been so laboured, grew softer, more even. A gentle hum, a low, contented sound, emanated from her. It was a sound Lufuno had never heard from her before, a sound of utter composure.

The next day, the entire village gathered. Lufuno, with the help of the elders, prepared a proper burial site beneath the sacred msasa tree near their hut. The ground was soft, hallowed. He dug the grave with reverence, each shovelful of earth a prayer.

They laid his parents' bones to rest, wrapped in the blanket, deep in the soil of their ancestral land. The village sang ancient songs of remembrance, their voices rising and falling in a mournful yet celebratory rhythm. Lufuno poured

libations, speaking the names of Themba and Nomusa Siziba, their full names, their clan names, welcoming them home.

As the last handful of earth settled over the grave, a profound silence fell over the gathering. The air, which had felt heavy with unspoken sorrow for so long, now felt light, cleansed. Lufuno looked at the newly mounded earth, a simple, dignified resting place. He felt a deep, abiding peace settle over him, a sense of completion.

He looked toward his hut. MaMoyo, though frail, had insisted on being present, watching from her mat. Her eyes, still cloudy, held a newfound clarity, a quiet joy. Her breathing was steady. Her face was serene. The deep cough that had plagued her for so long was gone. The burden, the haunting, had lifted.

That night, Lufuno slept soundly, the first truly peaceful sleep he had known in years. No whispers. No chilling presence. No mournful cries. Just the gentle hum of the night, and the quiet comfort of his ancestors, finally, truly, at rest. He had fulfilled his duty. He had brought his parents home. And in doing so, he had brought peace not only to the restless dead, but to the living as well.

The dust still coated everything, but now, it felt like the dust of a new beginning.

ESTATE PLANNING

Frequently asked Legal Questions by Zimbabweans in the Diaspora: A series by Zenas Legal Practice.



**ARTICLE BY
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1. WHAT IS ESTATE PLANNING?

ZENAS LEGAL PRACTICE 2025 TEAM

Estate planning is the process of anticipating and arranging, during a person's life, for the management and disposal of that person's estate during the person's life or in the event the person becomes incapacitated and after death.

Your estate basically means your assets and liabilities. Most people tend to believe that an estate only comprises of assets but this is wrong. It can actually distort your estate plan if you do not make arrangements for your liabilities (debts) as well.

The estate planning includes the bequest of assets to heirs. Estate planning includes planning for incapacity as well as a process of reducing or eliminating uncertainties over the administration of a probate and maximizing the value of the estate by reducing taxes and other expenses.

The ultimate goal of estate planning can only be determined by the specific goals of the estate owner and may be

as simple or complex as the owner's wishes and needs directs.

2. WHAT ARE THE OPTIONS AVAILABLE TO ME IN CONSIDERING TO PLAN MY ESTATE?

i) Advance instructions

An estate plan may include the creation of advance directives (instructions), documents that direct what will happen to a person's estate and in relation to their personal care if the person becomes legally incapacitated. For example, an estate plan may include a healthcare proxy, durable power of attorney, and living will.

ii) Wills

Wills are a common estate planning tool, and are usually the simplest device for planning the distribution of an estate. This tool helps ensure that the owner decides who inherits their property. However, assets that transfer through a will still pass through the probate process, which can be time-consuming and expensive. It is therefore important that a will be created and executed in compliance with the laws of the jurisdiction where it is created. (In Zimbabwe such is governed by the Wills Act). Given the strict requirements of a valid will it is recommended to get assistance by a legal practitioner in preparing a valid will.

iii) Trusts

A trust is a legal structure that allows the "grantor" or "founding trustee" to give up ownership of any property, houses, company shares or vehicles into the name and control of the trust. The trust is created with specific benevolent objectives to benefit identifiable beneficiaries. Examples can be a family trust or community trust. The founder can retain control over these assets during their lifetime, as well as specify exactly how and when their assets pass to their beneficiaries. Trusts may be used to provide for the distribution of funds for the benefit of minor children or developmentally disabled children.

Trusts offer

A high degree of control over management and disposition of assets. But this can only be done through the conditions set out in the trust deed.

The founding trustee may elect a board of trustees to administer the trust or work with or avoid participating at all. Furthermore, certain types of trust provisions can provide for the management of wealth for several generations past the founding trustee. Typically referred to as dynasty planning, these types of trust provisions allow for the protection of wealth for several generations after a person's death.

3. CAN I AVOID HAVING ANY ASSETS IN MY NAME BUT WITH CONTROL OVER THEM?

This is a slippery slope. But the law does have legal instruments that effectively answer the question in the affirmative. It is possible for one to not have his or her properties in their names and still have control over them. One possible way for attaining such is by having such assets placed under a trust to which he or she would have registered in terms of the law in the form of gifting or donation to the trust. Once an asset has been placed under a trust, the owner prior to the donation or gifting of a particular property thus forfeits the title to the trust hence the property will no longer appear under their name but the rather the name of trust though they will still have control over such as grantor and trustee to the trust. Such control is not absolute but practical circumstances will make it appear as such.

The most common reasons for removing one's name from owning properties is to avoid tax, to avoid liability for debt/loan repossession, to avoid property distribution at divorce and to avoid the potential of a disastrous winding up process of the estate at death.

N.B: the authors of this article do not

encourage in any way the circumvention of lawful obligations and lawful expectations.

4. CAN I DICTATE WHAT HAPPENS WITH MY PROPERTY AFTER I DIE?

It is very much possible as it is legal for one dictate what happens to their property in the event of their death. For one to be able to 'rule' from the grave, inheritance laws in Zimbabwe allows for the drawing up of wills where one has the discretion to direct what happens to their property and how it has to be done after they die.

A will can be filled with obligations dictating specific things that must be done by a particular person before they receive any property as inheritance. For instance one can indicate that their child must be married/attain a university degree before they get a house. The creation of trusts is another option available which also gives one the chance to leave their properties under that particular trust with a directive which will operate as the primary objective of the trusts to which dictates what happens to the properties as per the wish of the trustor after his/her death.

5. IS THERE ANY RESTRICTION AS TO WHOM I CAN GIVE MY PROPERTY WHEN I DIE?

Freedom of testation is the legal concept that states the right for a person to determine his/her heir to property upon his/her death. A property owner is allowed to modify the rigid rules of the intestacy laws so as to adapt them to the particular situation of his/her family by preference. Freedom of testation also implies the freedom of making provision for charity.

However, freedom of testation will be subjected to a check in the event that there is reason to believe that the person in exercising their freedom of testation was of unsound state of mind, was acting in a fraudulent manner or was simp

6. I HAVE SHARES IN VARIOUS COMPANIES IN DIFFERENT COUNTRIES, CAN I MAINTAIN MY STOCK WITHOUT USING MY NAME?

In scenarios where one has shares in various companies in different jurisdictions, it is very much possible as it is legal to maintain such stocks and or shares without using their name.

The only caveat in such scenarios is that one has to establish or have actual ownership or interests in such assets that recognizable at law. Depending on the jurisdiction, your tax liability may also be affected significantly.

7. I HAVE ACQUIRED CITIZENSHIP OUTSIDE OF ZIMBABWE ALTHOUGH I AM STILL A CITIZEN OF ZIMBABWE. DOES THAT AFFECT MY ESTATE PLANNING OPTIONS?

The citizenship act of 1984 strictly prohibited dual citizen but however, the constitution of Zimbabwe amendment No 20 Act, 2013, ushered in a new dispensation in the legal area by decriminalizing dual citizenship. By virtue of the constitution being the supreme law of the land, the citizenship act was automatically superceded and therefore realigned with the constitution to allow for and recognize dual citizenship. Due to the fact dual citizenship is a right enshrined within the constitution, having dual citizenship therefore bears no effect on one's estate planning options. Having said that, it is important to appreciate that not all desired estate planning methods may be practicable based on which jurisdiction the asset or liability is derived and the legal framework for appointing each appointee to the estate. Find a legal practitioner to assist you in making the appropriate decision in your estate planning.

It is possible for one to put their share of a co-owned property in an estate planning option be it will or trust.

This follows the recently decided case of Chigwada Chigwada SC188/20, where a five-judge panel of the Appeals Court unanimously concurred that the law governing the property rights of married persons in Zimbabwe is the Married Persons Property Act [Chapter 5:12], which provides that since 1929, marriages in Zimbabwe are out of community of property.

To that effect, the court ruled that a spouse in a marriage out of community of property has no right to inherit the other spouses' property until he or she has by will disposed of the property to him or her. In simpler terms, the proposition that a person married out of community of property may not dispose of his or her estate by will to whomsoever he or she chooses, being bound to leave the property to the surviving spouse, is inconsistent with the law.

8. I CO-OWN A HOUSE/FARM/ LAND

IN ZIMBABWE WITH MY SPOUSE. CAN I PUT MY SHARE IN ANY ESTATE PLANNING OPTIONS AVAILABLE TO ME WITHOUT AFFECTING MY SPOUSE'S SHARE?

It is possible for one to put their share of a co-owned property in an estate planning option be it will or trust. This follows the recently decided case of Chigwada v Chigwada SC188/20, where a five-judge panel of the Appeals Court unanimously concurred that the law governing the property rights of married persons in Zimbabwe is the Married Persons Property Act [Chapter 5:12], which provides that since 1929, marriages in Zimbabwe are out of community of property. To that effect, the court ruled that a spouse in a marriage out of community of property has no right to inherit the other spouses' property until he or she has by will disposed of the property to him or her. In simpler terms, the proposition that a person married out of community of property may not dispose of his or her estate by will to whomever he or she chooses, being bound to leave the property to the surviving spouse, is inconsistent with the law.

9. WHEN I CHOOSE THE ESTATE PLANNING MODELS WHICH DO NOT INCLUDE OWNERSHIP OF PROPERTY IN MY NAME, ARE TAX OBLIGATIONS STILL THERE?

If one puts assets in a trust then, provided certain conditions are met, they no longer belong to them. This means that when one dies, their assets value normally won't be counted when the inheritance tax bill is worked out. Instead, the cash, investments or property belong to the trust. In other words, once property is held in trust, it's outside anyone's estate for inheritance tax purposes. Since the assets would have been transferred to the trust, one is relieved of tax liability on the income generated by the trust assets although distributions will typically have income tax consequences. In short choosing trusts in estate planning does not fully take away tax obligations, rather they have the effect of just mitigating such.

ANY FURTHER QUESTION? CONTACT US FOR MORE INFORMATION.

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Hon Minister of Veterans of the Liberation Struggle Affairs, Sen Monicah Mavhunga (right) stressing a point to Dr. Martin Rushwaya, Chief Secretary to the President and Cabinet (second from right) whilst Reverend Paul Bayethe Damasane, Deputy Chief Secretary to the President and Cabinet, Social Services (left) looks on.



Ms Tariro Musiyarira, Legal Services (exhibitor) explaining the Zimbabwe history to Col July Badza, Director Military History from Zimbabwe Defence Forces whilst Mr Terry Ncube, Chief Photographer and Graphic Designer looks on, at Ministry Stand during ZITF 2025.



Hon Minister of Veterans of the Liberation Struggle Affairs, Sen Monicah Mavhunga (left) chatting with Dr Paul Tungwarara, Special Advisor to the President of the Republic of Zimbabwe, H.E Dr. E.D. Mnangagwa, during the launch of the Children of War Veterans Empoerment Scheme.



Commissioner Gladys Moyo, Commissioner Heroes Dependents Assistance, Ministry of Veterans of the Liberation Struggle Affairs (far left), posed for a photo with Miss Tinei Nyoni, Producer/Presenter ZBC News (second from left), Miss Retsepile Sitoboli, Producer/Presenter ZBC Khulumani FM (second from right) and Ms Miriam Chembedzi, Office Orderly, Ministry of Veterans of the Liberation Struggle Affairs (far right) at the Ministry Stand during ZITF 2025



Hon Minister of Veterans of the Liberation Struggle Affairs, Sen Monicah Mavhunga (5th from left), Mr A. T. Chikondo Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Veterans of the Liberation Struggle Affairs (far left) pose for a group photo with trainers from War Veterans widows and widowers platform after a successful training of War Veterans in households detergents making in Nembudziya, Gokwe, during the 2025 Independence Celebrations.



Hon Minister of Veterans of the Liberation Struggle Affairs, Sen Monicah Mavhunga (centre, wearing green attire) leading Ministry staff during the tour of the African Museum, recently to appreciate the African History. In front, is a representative of the African Museum explaining the African history to the Ministry staff.



Mr Albert T. Chikondo, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Veterans of the Liberation Struggle Affairs (centre) accompanied by Mr Joel Matsvai, Director Finance and Administration talking to a visitor to the Ministry Stand during ZITF 2025.





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our Zimbabwe
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