



ADDRESS

BY

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

AT

**THE BURIAL OF THE LATE NATIONAL HERO
TINAYE ELISHA NZIRASHA CHIGUDU**

NATIONAL HEROES' ACRE

10 FEBRUARY 2025

The Bereaved Chigudu Family and Amai Chigudu;

First Lady, Amai A. Mnangagwa;

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

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

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

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

Other Honourable Ministers here present;

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

President of Senate, Amai M. M. Chinomona;

The Chief Justice, Hon. L. Malaba;

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

Politburo and Central Committee Members as well as
Leaders of other Political Parties ;

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

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

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

Service Chiefs;

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

Your Excellencies, Members of the Diplomatic Corps;

Veterans of the Liberation Struggle;

Senior Government Officials;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

Comrades and Friends.

We gather in solemn occasion, here at the National Shrine to lay to rest a gallant son of the soil, the late National Hero Cde Tinaye Elisha Nzirasha Chigudu, who passed on, on the 5th of February 2025 after a long illness. His passing is another huge blow to our Nation. We grieve over this sad loss.

On behalf of the Government, our revolutionary mass Party, ZANU PF, our Nation, my family and indeed on my own behalf, I wish to once again express my deepest heartfelt condolences to the Chigudu family at the sorrowful loss of their loved one and our dedicated patriot.

May your pain be eased by the distinguished and indelible role the late departed cadre played towards liberating our Nation from colonial bondage. His loyalty, and patriotism during his service to our country, and our ruling Party, ZANU PF, shall be forever cherished.

Fellow Mourners;

The late National Hero, Cde Tinaye Elisha Nzirasha Chigudu was born on the 13th of August 1942. He did his early education at Chigudu School and Cyrene Mission before proceeding to Harare Secondary School. In 1964, he was expelled, following his political activism.

He left the country in the same year and joined other patriotic cadres in Zambia.

Our late National Hero, Cde Chigudu, was among many brave, selfless sons and daughters of the soil who took a stand and fought for our Independence. He is honoured as one of the first combatants to be sent for training in North Korea under the Zimbabwe People's Revolutionary Army (ZIPRA), the military wing of the Zimbabwe African People's Union (ZAPU). He was deployed as an intelligence operative in the then Salisbury.

During that period, he undertook 'risky and critical mission tasks' which helped to gather information regarding the modus operandi of the racist Rhodesian forces. This was instrumental in assisting the guerrilla war command element in the planning and execution of special military operations.

As he continued to pursue his important mission, the late National Hero, Cde Chigudu, was unfortunately captured, detained and imprisoned for 12 years by the Rhodesian settler regime. This could never deter or hamper his bravery and revolutionary spirit, including the desire to see a free and independent Zimbabwe.

Upon his release from prison, he crossed into Zambia, re-united with comrades and resumed his duties as we waged the protracted armed war of liberation.

Fellow Mourners;

After the attainment of independence in 1980, the late National Hero, Cde Chigudu, joined the Government as an Assistant Secretary in the Ministry of Transport. Due to his hard work ethic and dedication to national service, he was promoted to Deputy Secretary in the Ministry of Home Affairs before his elevation to the position of Permanent Secretary in the same Ministry. Cde Chigudu also served as Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Mines, thereafter as Governor for Manicaland Province.

He also served as ZANU PF Chairman for the same Province, always accepting deployment with humility and without a sense of entitlement.

Our departed National Hero, Cde Chigudu was a principled and ideologically rooted cadre who actively participated within the ruling ZANU PF Party and Government, with unflinching allegiance, loyalty and commitment. He was a fountain of wisdom who offered sound counsel and advice in conducting both Party and Government business, drawing from his vast experience and institutional memory. He always exuded the virtues of straight-forwardness and frankness in every aspect of life. His integrity, sense of excellence, adherence to truth and honesty left an indelible mark on our body politic.

The late National Hero, Cde Chigudu's legacy of service anchored on humility and servant leadership, both before and after independence, must be emulated by us all in our party, ZANU PF and the country at large.

Comrades and Friends;

The late Cde Chigudu was a true patriot who respected and treated everyone with dignity across the social spectrum. This was one of his signature character traits. We will remember him as a cadre who embraced constructive criticism and dialogue. He was reliable and trustworthy, not a turncoat, but always gave timely feedback on tasks and responsibilities assigned to him, always by national and never personal interests.

I challenge us who remain to honour our departed hero, together with many other late cadres by continuously executing our different national assignments through upholding the principles of servant leadership, accountability, transparency and patriotism. These are critical guarantors for sustainable socio-economic prosperity for a higher living standard for our people.

Let us never forget that it is through the selfless sacrifices and dedication to duty demonstrated by the late National Hero, Cde Chigudu, and many other departed and living

cadres that Zimbabwe continues to enjoy peace, stability, unity and development as an independent, sovereign and democratic state. I, therefore, call upon all Zimbabweans to remain vigilant as we protect, preserve and consolidate the achievements realised in our beloved motherland, Zimbabwe.

Together, emboldened by our collective unity of purpose, let us modernise, industrialise and develop the Zimbabwe that we are proud of and for the benefit of future generations.

Nyika inovakwa, inotongwa, inonamatigwa nevene vayo / Ilizwe lakhiwa, libuswe, likhulekelwe ngabanikazi balo.

In every sector, province by province, let us remain focused, disciplined and work harder towards the attainment of Vision 2030.

No amount of economic chicanery, mudslinging and discord should be allowed or entertained to derail our irreversible course to modernise, industrialise and develop our country. We are marching forward ever, backwards never.

The long-enduring spirit of national pride and collective loyalty to the nation remains our cardinal beacon. As citizens of this country, wherever we are and whatever socio-economic activities we maybe undertaking, the interests of Zimbabwe must remain at the core of our focus as we build our country brick by brick, stone upon stone. **Zimbabwe inyika yechipikirwa.**

Meanwhile, let us continue to embrace unity, peace, love and tolerance, for those with divergent views. For these are the defining features of our country's national virtues. The late National Hero, Cde Chigudu, demonstrated unquestionable patriotism, loyalty, consistency and persistence.

These must always be guiding principles for every Zimbabwean as we undertake our different national responsibilities.

Much more work is still before us. We cannot tire or lose heart. Let us maintain our focus and discipline to build the Zimbabwe we all want. None but ourselves have this weighty obligation. We must, therefore, remain bold and confident in our abilities as a proud, truly independent African people with our national character embedded in a rich liberation heritage.

Our sacred national flag is a constant reminder of what we are as a people and our national anthem is our daily prayer to Almighty God as petition on behalf of our beloved motherland, Zimbabwe. As we honour and inter our national hero today, I call upon you, my fellow citizens in all the four corners of our country and those spread across the diaspora to pull in one direction as one people for the achievement of our national aspirations.

We have this duty, not only for the present generations but the future as well.

Together, under our watch, in Government, the private sector and the communities as a whole, moving forward hand in hand; in peace and unity; with one common objective, Zimbabwe shall be a beacon of prosperity which shines brighter and brighter.

Finally, as we lay to rest the late National Hero, Comrade Chigudu alongside his comrades and colleagues here at our revered National Heroes Acre, I say to you rest in peace our comrade, cadre and patriotic public servant. You fought a good fight. You finished the race. Go well son of the soil.

God bless you.

God bless Zimbabwe.

I thank you

