



Hurumende *on Sunday*

H Hurumende

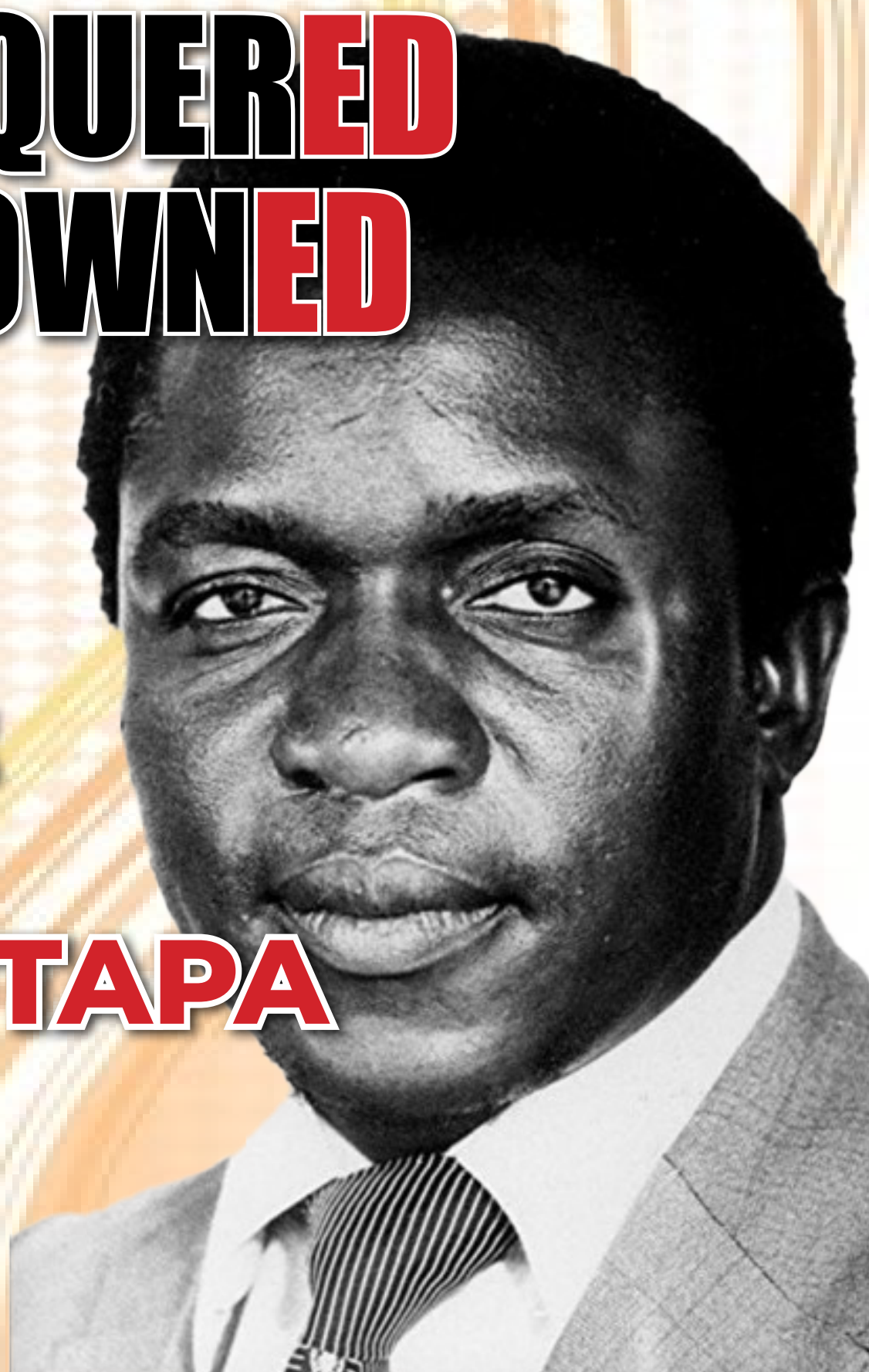
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FROM CONQUERED LANDS TO OWNED STANDS: Zimbabwe Marks First Official MUNHUMUTAPA Day



Abel Karowangoro

Zimbabwe will on Tuesday commemorate its first official Munhumutapa Day, with President Emmerson

Mnangagwa expected to lead national celebrations in Mvurwi, Mashonaland Central, and launch a major youth housing programme.

Mvurwi prepares for large gathering

Mashonaland Central authorities say roads leading to the venue have been upgraded and logistical preparations are almost complete.

Estimates of attendance vary. Provincial organisers expect more than 30,000 youths, while broader projections suggest the gathering could attract close to

100,000 people. Delegations are expected from Bindura, Mbire, Guruve, Mount Darwin, Rushinga, Shamva, Mazowe and Muzarabani. NewZimbabwe.com

The central message is being presented as one of historical continuity: an ancient title associated with control over territory and resources is being reinter-

preted through housing, infrastructure, industrialisation and youth empowerment.

In symbolic terms, the story moves "from conquered lands to owned stands"—from the territorial authority of the old Mutapa state to the ambition of giving a new generation legally recognised property.

“from conquered lands to owned stands”

Zimbabwe marks first official Munhumutapa Day

The commemoration follows the gazetting of Statutory Instrument 148 of 2026, which declares September 15 of every year a public holiday known as Munhumutapa Day. The legal instrument makes the observance permanent unless it is subsequently amended or repealed. Veritas Zimbabwe

Organisers say the inaugural event will combine historical remembrance, national identity and a practical programme intended to give young Zimbabweans access to residential land.

At the centre of the celebrations is the planned launch of the Munhumutapa Housing Scheme, under which approximately 2,000 young people in Mashonaland

Central are expected to benefit from residential stands.

The project reportedly covers a combined 259 hectares, including 59 hectares in Mvurwi, with the remaining land spread across the Centenary/Kimcourt and Bindura areas. Published descriptions of the precise allocation are inconsistent, however, and authorities should clarify the final hectare breakdown during the launch.

Government and ZANU PF Youth League officials say the initiative was first piloted in Masvingo before being expanded to all 10 provinces.

The title-deed component will be closely watched. While organisers have indicated that beneficiaries will receive secure ownership documents, the number of title deeds ready for handover,

the identity of beneficiaries and the servicing status of the stands had not been publicly detailed by the time of publication.

Authorities will also be expected to explain the selection criteria, payment terms, infrastructure obligations and whether the stands already have roads, sewer systems, electricity and reliable water.

President Emmerson Mnangagwa



A celebration carrying political debate



Munhumutapa Day falls on President Mnangagwa's birthday. He was born on September 15, 1942, in Shabani, now Zvishavane.

Government representatives say the shared date is coincidental and that the holiday honours Zimbabwe's founding civilisations, their perseverance, ingenuity and tradition of self-reliance.

Critics, however, have questioned whether placing the celebration on the sitting President's birthday risks personalising a national historical legacy.

Opposition politician Nelson Chamisa described the decision as self-serving and argued that national holidays should not be associated with the birthdays of sitting leaders. Separately, actor and cultural activist Zenzo Nyathi called for equal recognition of other precolonial leaders, including King Mzilikazi. New-Zimbabwe.com

These objections form part of a legitimate national conversation: whether Munhumutapa Day will become an inclusive commemoration of Zimbabwe's many histories or remain closely associated with the political leadership of the present period.

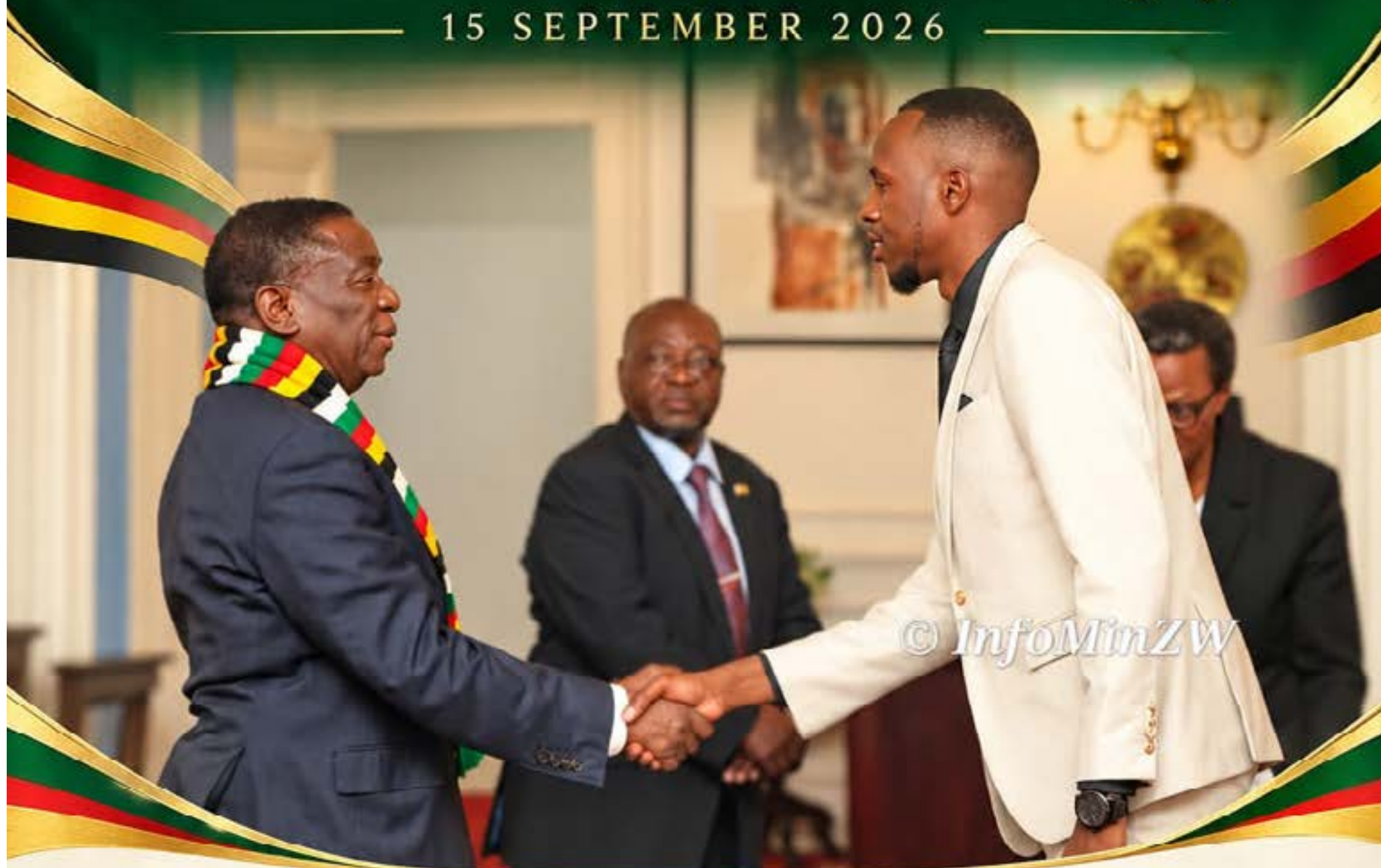
The long-term significance of the holiday will therefore depend on what it delivers beyond ceremony. For the housing programme, that means transparent beneficiary selection, serviced land, affordable building finance and title documents that give families genuine security.

If those promises are fulfilled, the inaugural celebration could establish a practical connection between historical sovereignty and modern ownership. If they are not, the stands risk becoming another allocation on paper without habitable communities on the ground.

HAPPY 84th BIRTHDAY

His Excellency
President Emmerson D. Mnangagwa

15 SEPTEMBER 2026



*Wishing you good health, wisdom and
many more years of service to Zimbabwe.*

HON. ALBERT MAVUNGA, MP

Deputy Minister of Local Government and Public Works
Responsible for Local Authorities and Traditional Leadership
Member of Parliament for Nketa Constituency



**MUNICIPALITY OF
CHEGUTU**

*Towards a Functional, Vibrant
and Prosperous City by 2030*

Happy Birthday, Your Excellency



The Municipality of Chegutu and the entire community warmly wish His Excellency President Emmerson Dambudzo Mnangagwa a happy birthday.

We salute your visionary leadership and commitment to national development. May Almighty God grant you wisdom, good health and strength as you continue to lead our nation.

Happy Birthday, Your Excellency!



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Vision: Towards a Functional, Vibrant and Prosperous City by 2030



The Epworth Local Board



Happy Birthday, Your Excellency

The Epworth Local Board and the community
of Epworth warmly wish His Excellency
President Emmerson Dambudzo Mnangagwa
a happy birthday.

We salute your leadership and commitment
to national development. May Almighty God grant
you wisdom, good health and strength.

Happy Birthday, Your Excellency!



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MUNHU- MUTAPA WAS MORE THAN A KINGDOM: Inside an African Commercial Power

Kelvin Matore

Long before modern borders divided Southern Africa, the Mutapa state exercised influence across a vast area between the Zambezi and Limpopo river systems.

Known variously as Mutapa, Mwene Mutapa, Monomotapa and Munhumutapa, the state emerged during the 15th century following the decline of Great Zimbabwe’s political dominance.

The title Mwene Mutapa is commonly translated as “lord of the conquered lands.” Some interpretations connect it to authority over mines, minerals and productive territory. Because historical spellings were recorded by foreign travellers, traders and colonial writers, translations are not always uniform.

What is clear is that Munhumutapa referred both to the ruler and, eventually, to the political system over which he presided.



Heir to Great Zimbabwe

The Mutapa state developed within the broader civilisation that produced Great Zimbabwe and other stone-built settlements across the Zimbabwe plateau.

Great Zimbabwe's most famous walls were constructed

from carefully shaped granite blocks laid with-out mortar. However, it would be historically inaccurate to say that the Mutapa rulers themselves built the main Great Zimbabwe complex. Most of its monumental construction predates the rise of Mutapa.

Mutapa should instead be understood as one of the successor states that inherited and extended im-portant political, cultural and commercial traditions associated with Great Zimbabwe



ISO-CERTIFIED SECURITY EXCELLENCE ACROSS AFRICA



Happy Birthday, *Your Excellency*

Real Star Security joins the nation in warmly wishing
His Excellency President Emmerson Dambudzo Mnangagwa
a happy birthday.

We salute your visionary leadership and commitment
to peace, security and national development.
May Almighty God grant you wisdom, good health and strength
as you continue to lead our nation.

Happy Birthday, Your Excellency!

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Gold, ivory and international commerce

The empire's strength did not rest on military power alone. It was supported by agriculture, cattle, min-ing, tribute and long-distance trade.

Gold and ivory moved from the interior towards ports such as Sofala on the Mozambican coast. From there, goods entered Indian Ocean trading networks connecting East Africa with Arabia, Persia and In-dia.

This does not necessarily mean Mutapa mer-chants personally travelled to every distant market. Trade frequently passed through



African and Swahili inter-mediaries before reaching merchants from other parts of the Indian Ocean world.

Imported cloth, glass beads, ceramics and other prestige goods travelled in the opposite direction.

The trade demonstrates that the region was neither isolated nor econom-ically inactive be-fore European colonisation. It belonged to an extensive commercial sys-tem with its own routes, institutions, taxes and centres of authority.



A regulated economy

The ruler and royal court sought to regulate foreign commerce, tribute and access to mineral-producing areas.

Foreign merchants could be required to pay taxes or tribute for permission to trade. One levy associated with Portuguese commercial activity was known as kuruva. The court also exercised influence over mar-kets, weights and measures.

This made Mutapa more than a loose collection of chiefdoms. It was a

business-oriented African state that understood the relationship between political authority, natural resources and trade.

But comparisons with modern economies must be made carefully. Mutapa did not practise industrial "value addition" in today's technical sense. It nevertheless supported mining, metalworking, specialised production and regulated commercial exchange centuries before formal European colonial rule.



Women and authority

Women were present with-in the political and spiritual structures surrounding the royal court. Royal wives, mothers, female relatives and spirit mediums could exercise influence, although the extent of their power varied between periods and rulers.

Their presence challenges versions of history that por-tray precolonial governance as an exclusively male institution. More research is

still required before broad claims about a single fixed role for women throughout the empire can be made.

Munhumutapa's most en-during lesson is that Zim-babwean statecraft, com-merce and diplomacy did not begin with colonisation. The challenge for the pres-ent is to draw inspiration from that history without turning a complex civilisa-tion into a political slogan.

The Ophir legend

European fascination with Mutapa was intensified by the biblical story of Ophir, the source from which King Solomon was said to have obtained gold.

Portuguese writers and

explorers speculated that Zimbabwe's goldfields and stone structures might be connected to Solomon's mines. There was no credible evidence for this theory, but the myth helped stimulate European exploration and competition for control

of inland trade.

Later colonial writers also promoted claims that Great Zimbabwe could not have been built by Africans. Archaeological scholarship has firmly established its indigenous African origin.

The Ophir story is therefore important not because it is true, but because it shows how European myths shaped exploration, conquest and the misrepres-entation of African history.



Customs of Peace, Independence and National Unity

MUNHUMUTAPA DAY
TUESDAY, 18 SEPTEMBER 2024



PATRON - INLWVA
His Excellency Cde Dr. E. D. Mnangagwa

Happy Birthday

**Cde Dr. Emmerson Dambudzo
Mnangagwa**

PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZIMBABWE
COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE ZIMBABWE DEFENCE FORCES
PATRON OF THE ZNLWYA

The Chairman, Cde Alderman Moffat Elias Marashwa, the National Executive Council, our Provincial and District structures and the entire membership of the Zimbabwe National Liberation War Veterans Association join the nation in wishing our Patron a happy 84th birthday on this Munhumutapa Day.

Comrade President, you have led this nation by example. **Precabe Farm** is the lesson itself — that the land we fought for is not a trophy to be admired, but a field to be worked, and worked well. What you ask of the farmer, you have first done yourself.

We Salute You, Comrade Patron

THE SECOND REPUBLIC — A RECORD OF WORK

- ◆ **Roads and interchanges** carrying our people and our produce to market.
- ◆ **Airports** expanded and new ones opened, putting Zimbabwe on the world's flight path.
- ◆ **Bumper wheat harvests** — the nation feeding itself from its own soil.
- ◆ **A maize surplus** that has lifted Zimbabwe off the roll of food-distressed nations.
- ◆ **Currency stability**, restoring confidence in what a Zimbabwean earns.
- ◆ **Title deeds** for houses and for land — ownership placed in the people's own hands.
- ◆ **Vision 2030** — an upper middle-income economy, built by its owners, for its owners.

Nyika inosakura nevene dango | Ilizwe lakhiwa nonbanikazi bala

MAKOROKOTO - AMHLOPHE - CONGRATULATIONS

Long Life. Good Health. Steady Hands.

The comrades who went to the bush did so for **peace, independence and national unity**. In the Second Republic we have watched those ideals take the shape of roads, of dams, of runways, of harvests and of title deeds. May the Almighty grant you many more years to finish the work.

Serve the people. Build the nation. The struggle continues.

Cde Alderman Moffat Elias Marashwa

NATIONAL CHAIRMAN — INWYA

ON BEHALF OF THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AND THE ENTIRE MEMBERSHIP



 WE CELEBRATE YOU.
COMRADE PATRON

CUSTODIANS OF PLACE,
INDEPENDENCE & NATIONAL UNITY

FROM DAMBUDZO TO EMMERSON: The Personal Journey Behind the Presidency

Takudzwa Karowangoro

President Emmerson Dambudzo Mnangagwa's public image has long been associated with patience, discipline and political survival—qualities supporters connect to his nickname, Ngwena, meaning the Crocodile.

Born on September 15, 1942, in Shabani, now Zvishavane, Mnan-gagwa grew up in a mining district whose economic life was shaped by minerals and migrant labour.

He was originally known as Dambudzo Mnangagwa.

Biographical accounts say that while attending school in Northern Rhodesia, now Zambia, he came across the work of American writer Ralph Waldo Emerson and adopted the name Emmerson. According to the story, his family only discovered the change when his school results were announced.

The account captures an early willingness to shape his own identity—an attribute that would repeatedly appear during his political life.

The road to armed struggle

Mnangagwa became involved in African nationalist politics while living in Northern Rhodesia. He later received military training abroad, including in Egypt and China.

He became associated with the Crocodile Gang, an early nationalist unit whose activities in the 1960s formed part of the opening phase of Zimbabwe's armed liberation struggle.

The historical details surrounding particular operations remain contested. Biographical accounts link Mwangagwa to sabotage involving a train near Fort Victoria, now Masvingo, while the Crocodile Gang is also remembered for the killing of white farmer Pieter Oberholzer in 1964.

Mnangagwa was arrested, tortured and prosecuted by the Rhodesian authorities. Accounts say the abuse damaged hearing in his left ear.

He escaped execution after his lawyers successfully argued that he was below the minimum age for the death penalty. He subsequently spent approximately a decade in prison, where he continued studying.

After his release and deportation to Zambia, he pursued legal studies and later qualified in law.

Patience and political survival

The crocodile metaphor became central to Mnangagwa's political identity. He has described the animal as patient—remaining still while studying its surroundings before acting at the appropriate moment.

That image has been used positively by supporters to portray him as strategic and resilient. Critics have employed the same nickname to describe a secretive and hard-edged political operator.

After independence, Mnangagwa held several senior government positions, including national security, justice, defence and parliamentary affairs portfolios. He became Vice President in 2014 and succeeded Robert Mugabe as President in November 2017.

A balanced account of his life must also recognise contested parts of his record. As State Security Minister during the 1980s, he has faced long-running questions about the role of security institutions during Gukurahundi. Mnangagwa has denied personal responsibility, while victims, researchers and human-rights organisations continue to demand truth, accountability and national healing.

His victories in the 2018 and 2023 presidential elections were challenged by the opposition. The 2023 result gave him another term, but election observers raised concerns about aspects of the electoral environment.

The Munhumutapa comparison

Supporters compare Mnangagwa's patience, survival and resource-focused development policies with the qualities required to hold the old Mutapa commercial state together.

The comparison is symbolic rather than historical. Mnangagwa is an elected republican leader, while the Mwene Mutapa ruled through hereditary and tributary systems.

The test of his modern legacy will not be the titles or historical imagery attached to his administration. It will be whether policies bearing those names improve living standards, widen opportunity, strengthen institutions and leave durable infrastructure for the next generation.

Building the “Next Mutapa”:

What the Second Republic’s Projects Must Deliver

Hurumende News Hub

The name Munhumutapa is increasingly visible across Government-linked programmes—from housing and national honours to football and cultural initiatives.

Taken together, the projects present a deliberate political narrative: the Second Republic is seeking to connect Zimbabwe’s precolonial sovereignty with contemporary development under the philosophy Nyika inovakwa nevene vayo—a country is built by its own people.

The modern economic pillars are no longer primarily gold and ivory. They are electricity, steel, lithium, water, grain storage, transport, housing and human skills.

Energy as the foundation

Hwange Thermal Power Station Units 7 and 8 added 600 megawatts of installed capacity to the national system. The expansion is one of the administration’s largest completed energy projects.

Its impact, however, must be measured against continuing electricity shortages, ageing generation infra-structure, transmission constraints and reduced output at Kariba during periods of low water levels.

New generating units can only support industrialisation if they are properly maintained and accompanied by investment in the wider electricity network.

Steel and mineral beneficiation

The Dinson Iron and Steel Company project at Manize is presented as a cornerstone of Zimbabwe’s return to large-scale steel production.

Government expects domestic steel production to reduce imports, stimulate engineering and construction, and create opportunities for downstream manufacturers.

Similar expectations surround lithium. Zimbabwe has attracted substantial investment into lithium extraction and processing as global demand for battery minerals grows.

Yet mineral wealth does not automatically produce broad prosperity. The country must secure fair taxation, environmental safeguards, transparent contracts, community benefits, local processing and skilled employment. With-



out these, a mining boom can reproduce the old pattern of exporting natural resources while importing higher-value finished products.

Food security and technology

Government’s agricultural programme increasingly emphasises irrigation, mechanisation, water harvesting, climate-smart farming and modern grain-storage systems.

The Agriculture, Food Systems and Rural Transformation Strategy for 2026–2030 is expected to build on

recent gains while confronting drought, climate variability, post-harvest losses and the high cost of agricultural inputs.

Technology—including digitally monitored or AI-supported silos—can improve stock management and reduce losses. But technology must be supported by dependable electricity, skilled operators, transparent grain accounting and timely payment of farmers.

Housing and ownership

The Munhumutapa Housing Scheme gives the wider development narrative a

household-level test.

Allocating land is only the first stage. A viable settlement requires surveyed stands, roads, drainage, water, sewerage, electricity, schools, health facilities and affordable finance.

Beneficiaries also need secure tenure. Title deeds can unlock long-term security and, where financial systems permit, help owners use property as an economic asset.

For that reason, Government should publish beneficiary lists, allocation criteria, development timetables

and the responsibilities of councils, developers and stand holders.

The ancient Mutapa state derived authority partly from control over land, resources and trade. A democratic state must go further: it must administer those resources transparently and distribute opportunities fairly.

That is how a historical name becomes a measurable development programme rather than ceremonial branding.



ZIMBABWE PRESS STATEMENT



CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT, DR. EMMERSON DAMBUDZO MNANGAGWA, ON HIS 84TH BIRTHDAY

On the occasion of your 84th Birthday, Your Excellency, your two Vice Presidents, the Chief Secretary to the President and Cabinet, Deputy Chief Secretaries, Advisors, Permanent Secretaries, Chief Directors, Directors and all Officers in your esteemed Office join the First Lady and the Mnangagwa Family in wishing you a Happy Birthday, and praying for many more years of excellent health and visionary leadership to our Nation.

In marking and celebrating this milestone, your Office and the whole Nation acknowledge a life of struggle, sacrifice, service, commitment and transformative leadership which you embody and personify. From very humble beginnings in rural Colonial Southern Rhodesia, your life exemplifies defiance of all manner of odds, including surviving the dire threat of execution by the colonial regime, to rise to the helm of our Nation.

Under your leadership, Zimbabwe has transformed from sanctions-related arrested growth and development, into a dashing, prospering and forward-looking Nation which is poised to attain an Upper Middle-Income Status by 2030. This phenomenal transformation, barely a decade later, owes largely to your able and far-sighted stewardship, as well as your ability to galvanise our Nation through sheer example back to full agency through the mantra "*Nyika inovakwa nevene vayo*". Today Zimbabwe baulks the Continent's history of dependent development by charting a novel model and trajectory of self-driven growth and development based on her own endowments and effort.

As you open yet another year in your eventful life, the Office remains staunchly and steadfastly behind your efforts and initiatives, all of them trained towards the attainment of Vision 2030, through the instrumentality of the Second National Development Strategy, NDS2.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY CDE PRESIDENT, SHUMBA MURAMBWI!


Dr. M. Rushwaya

Chief Secretary to the President and Cabinet

15 /09/2026



Film Project Seeks to Reclaim Munhumutapa History From Colonial Myths

Hurumende News Hub

Zimbabwean filmmakers are turning to cinema to retell the story of Munhumutapa from an African perspective.

The proposed Munhumutapa production seeks to trace the movement of Bantu-speaking communities, the rise of early states

on the Zimbabwe plateau and the development of the Mutapa political and commercial system.

Filmmakers behind the project say colonial accounts distorted the country's past by questioning the African authorship of Great Zimbabwe and presenting civilisation as something introduced from outside the

continent. NewsDay

The project offers an opportunity to popularise history among younger audiences. It also carries a responsibility to distinguish documented evidence from legend.

The relationship between Great Zimbabwe and Mutapa, the meaning of royal titles, the role of women and

the extent of international trade remain areas where historians sometimes differ.

A credible production should therefore involve archaeologists, historians, traditional leaders, linguists and communities connected to the heritage sites.

Correcting Eurocentric history should not mean

replacing one simplified narrative with another. The strongest film would portray Munhumutapa as a complex African society—with achievements, rivalries, trade, diplomacy, belief systems and internal political struggles.

Period	Development
11th–15th centuries	Great Zimbabwe develops into a major political and commercial centre, with monumental dry-stone architecture.
15th century	The Mutapa state emerges north of Great Zimbabwe and expands towards the Zambezi region.
15th–16th centuries	Gold and ivory move through Indian Ocean trade networks, including Sofala and other East African ports.
16th century onward	Portuguese merchants and political actors increase their involvement in Mu-tapa affairs.
19th–20th centuries	Colonial writers promote false theories denying the African origin of Great Zimbabwe.
1960s–1970s	Zimbabwe’s liberation struggle intensifies; Mnangagwa joins the nationalist move-ment and is imprisoned by Rhodesian authorities.
1980	Zimbabwe attains independence.
November 2017	Mnangagwa becomes President.
2023	Hwange Units 7 and 8 are commissioned as major additions to national power generation.
2024–2026	Munhumutapa-branded cultural, sporting and empowerment programmes expand.
March 2026	The Munhumutapa Challenge Cup is launched with a reported US\$25 million five-year package.
September 2026	Statutory Instrument 148 declares September 15 an annual public holiday.
September 15, 2026	First official Munhumutapa Day commemorations and housing-scheme launch scheduled for Mvurwi.

Fact Box: Five Things Many People Do Not Know

- 1. Munhumutapa was a title: It referred to the ruler and was later used for the state over which he presided.
- 2. The Ophir connection was a myth: Europeans speculated that Zimbabwe’s goldfields were linked to King Solomon, but credible archaeological evidence does not support the claim.
- 3. Trade was regulated: The royal court exercised authority over markets, tribute, trade permissions and, at different times, weights and measures.
- 4. Great Zimbabwe and Mutapa are connected but not identical: Mutapa emerged from the civilisa-tion and political traditions associated with Great Zimbabwe, but it did not construct the main Great Zimbabwe monuments.
- 5. Trade with India was largely indirect: Zimbabwean gold and ivory entered Indian Ocean networks through coastal and Swahili intermediaries.





A CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT OF THE
REPUBLIC OF ZIMBABWE, CDE DR. EMMERSON DAMBUDZO MNANGAGWA,
ON THE OCCASION OF HIS BIRTHDAY

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

The Board, Management and Staff of NetOne Cellular (Private) Limited extend their heartfelt congratulations and warmest birthday wishes to

His Excellency, Cde Dr. Emmerson Dambudzo Mnangagwa.

We honour a patriotic leader whose vision and steadfast leadership continue to drive Zimbabwe's transformation, development and progress towards a digital 2030.

May His Excellency be blessed with good health, wisdom, strength and continued success in service to the nation.

Happy Birthday, Your Excellency.

The NetOne Family & The Board





To Another Year Of Excellence And Success

The Prevail Group Chairman, Dr T.P Tungwarara, Chief Executive Officer, Directorate, Management, and Staff join the nation in wishing His Excellency the President of the Republic of Zimbabwe, Dr Emmerson Dambudzo Mnangagwa, a happy birthday.

Your Excellency's unwavering dedication to Zimbabwe's development and prosperity continues to inspire the nation. We wish Your Excellency continued good health, wisdom, and strength as you lead our great nation to greater heights Happy Birthday, Your Excellency!

H.E PRESIDENT DR ED MNANGAGWA

HURUMENDE SPORT

ON SUNDAY



US\$25 Million Munhumutapa Cup Puts Youth at Centre of National Project

Hurumende News Hub

The Munhumutapa Challenge Cup has emerged as one of the most ambitious investments in Zimbabwean domestic football, with organisers announcing sponsorship of US\$25 million over five years.

The package translates to US\$5 million annually and extends beyond senior men's football. The programme incorporates women's football, junior competitions, futsal and beach soccer. Munhumutapa Challenge Cup

Its scale gives the tournament the potential to strengthen clubs, improve player development and create new pathways for young athletes.

The critical issue will be how the money is administered.

Zimbabwean football has historically struggled with weak governance, inadequate facilities, poor player welfare and inconsistent sponsorship. For the Munhumutapa investment to produce a lasting transfor-

mation, organisers must disclose how funds are divided among prizes, administration, broadcasting, development and infrastructure.

Independent auditing and regular public reporting would strengthen confidence in the project.

Beyond football

The tournament sits within a broader youth programme carrying the Munhumutapa identity.

In Mvurwi, the Munhumu-

tapa Half Marathon preceded the official national commemoration. Organisers linked the event to physical fitness, health screening, first-aid awareness and the campaign against drug and substance abuse.

The housing programme is intended to address another major youth challenge: access to land and affordable accommodation.

Together, football, athletics and housing suggest a model built around participation and ownership.

But the programmes must reach youths beyond political structures and urban centres.

Selection should be transparent, inclusive of women and persons with disabilities, and open to young Zimbabweans from different political and social backgrounds.

A national programme earns legitimacy when access depends on clear public rules rather than proximity to power.