

ADDRESS

BY

**HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZIMBABWE,**

COMRADE R.G. MUGABE,

**ON THE OCCASION OF ZIMBABWE'S
36TH INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATIONS,**

HARARE, 18TH APRIL, 2016.

Honourable Vice President, Comrade Emmerson

Mnangagwa and Mrs Mnangagwa,

Honourable Vice President, Comrade Phelekezela Mphoko

and Mrs Mphoko,

Honourable President of the Senate, Mai Edna Madzongwe,

Honourable Speaker of The National Assembly,

Advocate Jacob Mudenda,

The Chief Justice, Honourable Godfrey Chidyausiku,

Honourable Ministers,

Honourable Members of Parliament,

Service Chiefs,

Families of Heroes of the Zimbabwe Liberation Struggle,

War Veterans, War Collaborators, Ex-Detainees and

Restricttees,

Your Excellencies Members of the Diplomatic Corps,

Esteemed Foreign Guests and Visitors,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Comrades and Friends.

May I welcome you all to the National Celebrations of 36 years of our hard won freedom and sovereignty. Celebrations are indeed taking place throughout the country, signifying that we are now a people fully enjoying the right of self-determination and self-actualisation. We should, however, always remember that our Independence did not come on a silver platter, for many lives were lost and many were maimed or scarred for life during the bitter liberation struggle.

As we continue to recognize the importance and crucial role played by the war veterans in the bitter struggle for freedom, Government has now established a full Cabinet Ministry to oversee and manage the provision of their welfare, including that of former political detainees and restrictees. As you are aware, only 11 days ago I had the pleasure of meeting about ten thousand of them to hear and discuss their concerns and assure them of Government welfare assistance to alleviate their social situation.

