

ADDRESS

BY

**HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZIMBABWE AND
COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE ZIMBABWE**

DEFENCE FORCES,

COMRADE R.G. MUGABE,

ON THE OCCASION OF

ZIMBABWE'S NATIONAL HEROES DAY

CELEBRATIONS,

NATIONAL HEROES' ACRE,

HARARE, 8TH AUGUST, 2016.

**Honourable Vice President, Comrade Emmerson
Mnangagwa and Amai,
Honourable Vice President, Comrade Phelekezela
Mphoko and Amai,
Honourable President of the Senate, Mai Edna
Madzongwe,
Honourable Speaker of the National Assembly,
Advocate Jacob Mudenda,
The Chief Justice, Honourable Godfrey
Chidyausiku,
Families of National Heroes,
Honourable Minister of Metropolitan Province of
Harare; Mai Miriam Chikukwa,
Honourable Ministers,
Honourable Members of Parliament,
Service Chiefs,
Families of Heroes of the Zimbabwe National
Liberation Struggle,
War Veterans, War Collaborators, Ex-Detainees
and Restrictes,**

**Our Traditional Leaders,
Your Excellencies, Members of the Diplomatic
Corps,
Esteemed Foreign Guests and Visitors,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Comrades and Friends.**

Today, as per our tradition, we are gathered here at the National Heroes Shrine and at various shrines throughout the country and in neighbouring countries. We continue to honour our heroes and heroines of the liberation struggle, the gallant sons and daughters of Zimbabwe, who fought fearlessly to dislodge the racist settler colonial regime. They sacrificed their lives and brought freedom and independence to the people of Zimbabwe.

Fellow Zimbabweans, Comrades and Friends,

In order to consolidate the sacrifices made by our freedom fighters, Government is implementing various strategies and measures to boost economic performance and to empower its people. In spite of the challenges we face due to the liquidity crunch, current economic performance indicates some modest milestones, with growth being driven by key sectors, such as agriculture, mining, tourism, industry and construction.

Economic activity in the Agriculture-related sectors remained subdued, owing to the El Nino weather phenomenon which was characterised by low and erratic rainfall. This resulted in reduced agriculture production, thereby negatively affecting the food and nutrition security situation in the country. In view of this, Government is committed to pursuing strategies that guarantee food security in rural and urban households. Government will continue to

import grain, enough to feed our people. No Zimbabwean citizen will starve.

With regard to cropping, beginning with the 2016/2017 agricultural season, Government will pursue command agriculture in order to ensure food security and maize supply self-sufficiency. The programme targets producing a minimum of 2 million metric tonnes of maize, from 400 000 hectares of irrigated land. Prompt payments for grain delivered by farmers to the Grain Marketing Board (GMB) will continue so as to assist farmers to prepare for the oncoming season.

The revival of the Manufacturing sector continues to be pursued by Government, through the implementation of various measures such as the management of imports, investment approvals, fiscal incentives, and resource mobilization.

My Government is fully aware that the economy is operating under very challenging conditions. As such, we recently gazetted Statutory Instrument 64 of 2016, which seeks to manage the importation of certain products, as a way of supporting and resuscitating the local industry. The manufacturing sector's capacity utilization is expected to remain generally stable on the back of these measures which will be reviewed from time to time. Already, some notable investments have been made in edible oils, milk powder, drinks and beverages, and clothing and footwear.

Comrades and Friends,

While the Mining sector is critical to the economic development of Zimbabwe, it remained subdued during the first half of the year. This is mainly due to the declining international prices, inadequate capital, and the high cost of power. The situation is

