



**Z A P U**  
ZIMBABWE AFRICAN PEOPLES UNION



<https://zapu.org>

18 April 2026

## INDEPENDENCE COMMEMORATION AND STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS



“Taking Back Our Independence”

Fellow Zimbabweans, BoMama laboBaba, Youth of our great nation, Today we gather to celebrate independence, but we must also ask a difficult question: Are we truly independent — or are we simply surviving under a new system of control?

👉 THE PROMISE VS THE REALITY

Our people did not fight for independence so that: hospitals have no medicine, schools have no teachers, roads destroy our vehicles, water does not come from the taps, and young people have no jobs.

This is not what our liberation heroes died for.

👉 THE REAL PROBLEM: POWER HAS BEEN TAKEN FROM THE PEOPLE

Zimbabwe today is not just struggling — it has been restructured in a way that removes power from the people. Let us speak clearly. Your local councils — the closest government to the people — have been stripped of their power.

⚠️ A PARALLEL GOVERNMENT OVER YOUR LIFE

Today:

Your environment and health → controlled by EMA

Your water → controlled by ZINWA

Your electricity → controlled by ZESA

Your roads money → controlled by ZINARA

Your procurement → controlled by PRAZ

Even:

Your forests are taken; your parks are taken; your local revenues are taken — and sent to Harare.

### WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

It means:

- ☞ Councils are blamed — but have no power
  - ☞ Communities pay — but do not benefit
  - ☞ Decisions are made far away from the people
- This is not devolution. This is centralisation of power.

### 🏛️ CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT BILL NUMBER 3 — THE SILENT REVERSAL

Fellow Zimbabweans, the 2013 Constitution was a victory for the people. It promised: Devolution; accountability; and limits on power.

But today, that Constitution is being butchered piece by piece.

### ⚠️ CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT BILL 3 IS NOT REFORM — IT IS A REVERSAL

It is reversing the gains of independence. It is: concentrating power; weakening institutions; and silencing the voice of the people. When you weaken the Constitution — you weaken the people.

### 🌾 LAND — FROM LIBERATION TO UNCERTAINTY

Let us speak honestly about land. Land reform was necessary. Land reform was just. But today, a new danger has emerged.

### ⚠️ TITLE DEEDS — A NEW STRUGGLE

Farmers were given land.

Now they are being told:

- ☞ Pay for title deeds
- ☞ Take loans from banks

But ask yourself:

How will a poor farmer afford this?

🚫 THE REAL RISK if the farmer fails to pay: ☞ The bank takes the land and that land returns — not to the people — but to the powerful and connected elites.

This is not empowerment. This is a quiet reversal of land reform.

## 💰 THE MONOMUTAPA (MUTAPA) INVESTMENT FUND

At the same time, national assets are being placed into structures:  
without transparency; without accountability; without full parliamentary oversight.  
We are witnessing the movement of national wealth away from the people — into the hands of a few.

## ✂ A STATE THAT ABUSES NATIONAL RESOURCES

Fellow Zimbabweans, we must talk about how your money is being used.  
Today, we have a government where:

- ☞ The Office of the President and Cabinet is overfunded
- ☞ The Transport sector receives priority contracts

While:  
health is underfunded  
education is underfunded  
local authorities are starved

## 🏠 WHAT IS HAPPENING?

The President is now:  
drilling boreholes; building school laboratories; doing the work of ministries — while those ministries are not funded.

At the same time:

selected companies receive contracts; payments are prioritised for a few; corruption is now open.  
This is not governance. This is control of resources for political power.

## ⚔ HEALTH — A SYSTEM COLLAPSING

No medicines  
No equipment  
Nurses and doctors leaving  
A nation where mothers die giving life is a nation that must confront itself.

## 📖 EDUCATION — A BROKEN FUTURE

Teachers are leaving  
Schools lack resources  
Parents cannot afford fees  
Education was our weapon of liberation — today it is being destroyed.

## ROADS, FUEL AND THE COST OF LIVING

Zimbabweans are paying:

high fuel taxes; road levies; blending components

But still: roads are broken; fuel is expensive — even in the region

You are paying more — and receiving less.

## OUR MINERALS — NO BENEFIT TO THE PEOPLE

Zimbabwe exports: lithium, gold, chrome and several other minerals.

But: no local industry; no jobs; no value addition.

We export wealth — and import poverty.

## GUKURAHUNDI — THE WOUND THAT REMAINS

Fellow Zimbabweans,

We cannot speak about the nation without speaking about truth.

Gukurahundi remains unresolved.

It is a lingering pain; a wound; and a national scar.

## ZAPU AND ZPRA PROPERTIES

ZAPU and ZPRA properties were taken under false accusations.

And today, we are told:  “Let us discuss compensation.”

## OUR POSITION IS CLEAR

You do not compensate injustice — you correct it.

We demand: return of all ZAPU properties, return of all ZPRA properties

Justice begins with restoration — not negotiation.

## WHOSE GOVERNMENT IS THIS?

So we must ask: Why is power centralised? Why are resources controlled by a few?

Why are citizens suffering? Whose government is this?

## THE ZAPU ALTERNATIVE

ZAPU stands for one thing:

Return Zimbabwe to its people.

🗝 WE WILL:

Restore devolution and power to local authorities  
Protect land from elite capture  
Fix health and education  
End corruption and abuse of resources  
Ensure minerals benefit the nation  
Restore justice — including ZAPU/ZPRA properties  
Address Gukurahundi with truth and dignity

💧 FINAL CALL

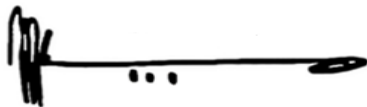
Fellow Zimbabweans,  
Independence was not the end of the struggle. It was the beginning. We did not fight to change rulers — we fought to control our own destiny. Today, that destiny has been taken away from the people.

💧 AND NOW — THE TIME HAS COME

To: reclaim our Constitution, reclaim our land, reclaim our resources, and reclaim our dignity.

Zimbabwe belongs to its people. And the people must take it back. Only then will Independence Day be celebrated with jubilation and pride, by all Zimbabweans at home and abroad.

I thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized name followed by a horizontal line and three dots.

Michael Sibangilizwe Nkomo

President: Zimbabwe African People's Union (ZAPU)