



Cde Munashe Mtutsa:

Good evening Ladies and Gents.

*Welcome to the *Second Installment* of *the Roundtable*.*

The Roundtable seeks to dissect topics around political, economic and social issues in Zimbabwe.

We will have panelists that will discuss given topics and soon after we will open the floor for all to give their input or questions.

Tonight I want to welcome Cde V. Banhire aka Simpleton Banny who will help us dissect the topic for the day.

Cde Bans:

Good evening Cdes

Cde Munashe Mtutsa:

Let's shoot Cde Bans

The topic today is:

WHAT IS A NATIONAL HERO IN THE ZIMBABWEAN CONTEXT?

- 1. What is a National Hero?*
- 2. What does it take to be a National Hero?*

Cde Bans:

Thank you Cde Munashe

In Zimbabwe a National Hero is a person who would have sacrificed himself and served the country selflessly at the highest level.

The person would have served pre independent or post independent Zimbabwe and would have remained consistent till death.

In his numerous speeches at the National Shrine HE Cde Robert Mugabe has repeatedly said to lie at the National Shrine one does not need to be a Saint but a gallant son of the Soil.

Cde Munashe Mtutsa:

I see from your opening statement you posit that a hero is one who has served the country at the "highest level"

Cde Bans:

What is the "highest level?"

To be a National Hero 1 has to have served the Country consistently and selflessly at the National and International levels.

Initially the Status was reserved for those who would have served in the Liberation Struggle but it was later revised to be given to those who would have served the Country even after Independence only.

One of the Beneficiaries of the revision is Cde George Nyandoro who despite serving as a Minister in the Zimbabwe Rhodesia government was declared as a National Hero for his contribution after Independence

Pvt Munhumutema1:

Just to add...The National Heroes Act chapter 10:16, the designation is one by the President "where the President considers that any deceased person who was a citizen of Zimbabwe has deserved well of his country on account of his outstanding, distinctive and distinguished service to Zimbabwe, he may, by notice in the Gazette, designate such a person a national, provincial or district hero of Zimbabwe."

National hero status is the highest honour that can be conferred on an individual and the recipients are entitled to be buried at the National Heroes Acre.

The other statuses are liberation war hero (formerly provincial hero) and liberation hero (formerly district hero). The former are buried at the National Heroes Acre while the latter are buried at provincial and districts shrines with concurrence of their families.

Cde Munashe Mtutsa:

So you are saying if one desires to be declared a hero..they will have to "serve" the country. I will ask a question. Is that service limited to government or what?

Cde Bans:

The Service is not only limited to Government Service only.

It includes any sphere of life you are involved in and you have served outstandingly.

Just after Independence the Nation lost a giant and a great Philanthropist Jairos Jiri who was known for helping the disabled.

He was declared a National Hero although his family opted to have him buried in his home area of Bikita.

We have Cadres like the Late Naison K Ndlovu who died recently and was declared a National Hero. He did not serve in Government positions but was a Nationalist and was rewarded for his fight for a free Zimbabwe

Cde Munashe Mtutsa:

Loud and clear.

There has been talk around on the conferment (sp) of hero status. Who should determine if a person is a hero or not? Is it the Politburo or should it be Parliament.

Cde Bans:

Legally HE Cde RG Mugabe is the one who should decide whether one is a National Hero or not.

Politically HE has on most occasions allowed the PB to discuss and advise him before he makes the final decision.

But although HE has been consulting the Politburo there are times he did not even consult them. Recent cases in Mind are declarations of Gen Mujuru, Cde VP J Msika, and Cde NK Ndlovu.

In these cases I think HE saw that these are people who have served more than those who sit in the Politburo and the Politburo has not standing to discuss on these seniors!

It has to be the Politburo. Anyone can just wake up being a Member of Parliament but not the Politburo.

The decision has to be made by mature Nationalists not just ordinary people.

Zimbabwe is Zimbabwe because of the Liberation Struggle and that part has to be put into account so the Politburo not Parliament can make such discussions

Cde Munashe Mtutsa:

As enshrined in the Act of Parly.

Year Anniversary
*Can you help us understand what is *"consistency"* in the context of Zim*

Cde Bans:

The foundation of the History of Modern Day Zimbabwe is the Liberation Struggle.

A Cadre who is considered Consistent has to have served the Country from the liberation struggle to present day without going against the ethos of the revolution

Cde Munashe Mtutsa:

So I once asked a question. If cde Mugabe or any of the VPs where to leave Zanu PF does? it make them less a her Does it make them less a hero?

Cde Bans:

We have seen Cdes leaving Zanu PF and be declared as National Heroes.

You do not need to be a Member of Zanu PF to be a National Hero.

We have Cde Tekere former President of ZUM (although he had been admitted back into Zanu PF) declared as a National Hero

The fearless Cde Enos Nkala had long left Zanu PF but was declared a National Hero.

We also had Justices Mutema and Chidyausiku not members of Zanu PF being buried at the National Shrine.

Military and Intelligence Supremos are lying at the National Shrine

Cde Munashe Mtutsa:

So in your calculations can we consider Cde Mutasa or Cde Dabengwa living heroes?

Cde Bans:

Cde Dumiso Dabengwa is a National Hero at present. He is the Black Russian,

**But
but
but**

He has to be careful so that he does not get excited by Opposition politics that he will go against Revolutionary principles.

Cde Munashe Mtutsa:

Okay.... now outside politics and gvt don't we have heroes. In sport or music?

Cde Bans::

Yes we have Heroes in Sport and Music.

In football we have had Peter Ndlovu, Moses Chunga, Sunday Chidzambwa and others as Football Heroes.

In tennis we have the Black Family

In arts we have Leonard Musorowenyoka Dembo, Jimmy Chimombe Tongai Moyo, Tuku, Cde Chinx, Cde Chimbetu and others

These are heroes in their fields.

In Business we can talk of Strive Masiwa, Shingi Mutasa and others as Heroes in that regard.

However in their categories there ways of celebrating them.

We have Halls of Fame and other accolades like Lifetime Achievement like the one that was given to Cde Chinx by ZIMA.

Cde Munashe Mtutsa:

So these have no place pachikomo...

My last question will be... in the next 20 years who will be buried at the Heroes Acre considering that the Liberators will mostly have gone?

Cde Bans::

Amongst my first post I alluded to the fact that the Shrine was first designed for those who participated in the Liberation Struggle only but went on to say it was revived to accommodate those who are serving the Country exceptionally after 1980.

Justice Chidyausiku and Cde George Nyandoro members of Muzorewa's UANC are resting at the National Shrine

Cde Madzibaba Border Gezi is also there.

Cde Charles Utete is also at the National Shrine

These are people who are considered as have worked exceptionally after independence

Cde Munashe Mtutsa:

Loud and clear...

So as we are about to open the floor, what is your message to Zimbabweans and Patriots alike who felt that cde Chinx should have been declared a Nat Hero considering he was consistent all his life. May his soul RIP.

Cde Bans:

I agree with you that Cde Chinx was consistent all his life!

He was declared a Liberation War Hero because of that Consistency.

People need to understand that we have 3 layers of Heroes that are declared by HE.

1. National Hero

- 2. Liberation War Hero (formerly Provincial Hero)
- 3. Liberation Hero (formerly District Hero)

To be declared in any of these categories you have to be consistent and the level you have served then determines the Status

Cde Munashe Mtutsa:

Thank you Cde Bans for that clear outline of what and who is to be considered a hero... we now open the floor to all patriots for contributions and questions

Cde Bans:

My pleasure

the godFather:

Thank you very much Simpleton Banny for that flawless presentation

During the declaration of heroes, from your own observation, has there been a follow up on precedence or each case is handled differently ?

Pvt Munhumutema1:

National heroes are decided by the ruling class and this is legislated under the laws of the land. They are the ones who define who is a hero at a particular time and who is not!

Cde Lance:

Ok I get you. But considering that after Cde Chinx died it became a National outcry almost everyone wanting Cde Chinx to be on the National Heroes Acre. Is that also not considered when conferring the status

Pvt Munhumutema1:

The buck stops with the ruling class...

Cde Bans:

Each case is dealt with differently CIC.

Many people have argued about the Contribution of Cde Madzibaba Border Gezi to guarantee him to sleep at the National Shrine.

Personally I believe emotions surrounding his death could have played a role in his declaration like how the suffering of Cde Chinx in his last days could have persuaded PB as it has persuaded the masses to recommend him National Hero Status

Cde Munashe Mtutsa:

Cde Bans was clear that Zanu PF remains the custodian of the liberation story.

Can we open this for a referendum in the conferment of hero status?

Pvt Munhumutema1:

Yes it remains the custodian of the liberation discourse...however the current selection process has been seen as faulty for it allegedly left out deserving Cadres for example Sheba Tavarwisa who was the ZANU Central Committee during the war

Cde Bans:: After Independence what was Cde Sheba Tavarwisa contribution to National Development?

Cde Munashe Mtutsa: *Well the question remains; deserving in whose context*

Pvt Munhumutema1: *One can argue that during that time..patriarchy was at play ! The first female cadre to be interred at the national heroes Acre was Cde Sally Mugabe !*

Cde Bans:: We have Cde Simpson Mutambanengwe a Member of Dare reChimurenga who was given State assisted funeral when many including myself were thinking of National Hero Status.

Cde Bans:: This got me thinking and I asked around and got that he was amongst those who rebelled in Mozambique and that's why he was not elected in the Central Committee at Mpagao in 1977. He and Rugare Gumbo were requested by Mozambique's Machel to return to Zimbabwe and he came back and worked in the Judicial Sector

Pvt Munhumutema1: *After independence she lived with her hubby kumusha And she occupied various. party positions in Masvingo Province She was also a Central Committee Member*

Cde Bans: So vakagumira panzira probably.

Adv Kuda: Cde Bans

I have often heard that at the National Shrine we have Nationalists, Technocrats and Soldiers. It is said that these cadres lie in different sections of the National Shrine. Any comments on these

the godFather: *The selection of heroes might have challenges but should we say because one or two cadres who are not "deserving" are interred at the National Heroes Acre then the whole process is flawed?*

Pvt Munhumutema1: *The best response will be...it's not perfect !*

the godFather: *Like any other system which is managed by humans*

Cde Bans:: Yes I have noticed that too.

Cde Bans:: I do not know the reason and let me not guess Before we close. Just for information that some MDC Goons have tried to challenge the way the National Hero Status is conferred.

Cde Munashe Mtutsa:

Cdes... let me take the opportunity to officially draw the curtain on the second installment of The Roundtable.

I want to thank Cde Simpleton Banny for his clear and candid elaboration of the topic of the day. Thank you Cde Bans.

I want to thank all who contributed... let's meet next week!

ZANU PF
PATRIOTS



Year Anniversary