

PRIME MINISTER MUGABE
OF ZIMBABWE



Mr. Robert Gabriel Mugabe was born at Kutama Mission, Zvimba in 1924. He was educated by Canadian Marist brothers at Kutama, and in 1941 qualified as a primary school teacher. During the 1940's and 1950's Mr. Mugabe taught in Zimbabwe, Zambia and Ghana.

Mr. Mugabe entered politics full time in 1960, when he joined the National Executive Committee of the National Democratic Party (NDP) as Secretary for Publicity. When that organization was banned, he became Secretary for Publicity in its successor party, the Zimbabwe African People's Union (ZAPU). Following the split of the

ZAPU leadership and subsequent formation of the Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU) in August 1963, Mr. Mugabe was elected Secretary-General of the newer organization.

Mr. Mugabe was arrested in 1964 and spent the next ten years in Rhodesian prisons. He holds degrees in English, History, Economics, Law and Administration. Most of these were obtained during the time he was incarcerated.

It was while he was in prison that Prime Minister Mugabe emerged as the leader of ZANU. Upon his release he left Rhodesia to reorganize the Party and reactivate its military wing, the Zimbabwe African National Liberation Army (ZANLA) operating from Mozambique. In 1976 he led ZANU into an alliance with ZAPU in order to co-ordinate the independence struggle.

Mr. Mugabe was elected the country's first Prime Minister in 1980. His first term was a politically contentious period during which he had to face violent opposition in Matabeleland. In Zimbabwe's second general elections held in 1985, Mr. Mugabe was returned to power with an increased majority.