



ZIMBABWE'S FIELD EVENT REVOLUTION: RISING GIANTS CLOSE THE GAP ON AFRICA AND THE WORLD

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Zimbabwe's field athletes delivered a powerful statement at the National Athletics Association of Zimbabwe (NAAZ) Junior and Senior Championships, signalling a quiet but undeniable revolution in the country's throwing and jumping disciplines—long overshadowed by track dominance but now rapidly rising toward regional and global competitiveness. From explosive jumps to commanding throws, the championships revealed a generation knocking firmly on Africa's door—and beginning to whisper on the world stage.



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THE STANDOUT PERFORMANCES – A NATION ON THE RISE

The men's high jump produced one of the most electrifying performances of the championships, with Tatenda Chindowa clearing 2.10m, a mark that places him firmly within striking distance of Africa's elite.

In the long jump, Panashe Mutenure soared to 7.53m, while in the triple jump, Takunda Mutizwa dominated with 15.19m—figures that signal serious continental intent.

In the throws, Prosper Zimbango led the charge, winning:

- Shot Put (14.20m)
- Discus (45.46m)

Meanwhile, in the senior ranks, Nayoya Sisamu unleashed a 65.38m javelin throw, one of the most impressive marks of the competition and a strong indicator of Zimbabwe's growing technical depth in field events.

On the women's side, rising stars such as:

- Ruvimbo Vengesai (5.41m – Long Jump)
- Vanessa Masikamu (11.37m – Triple Jump)
- Azile Tshuma (1.63m – High Jump)

demonstrated both consistency and potential to transition into continental contenders.

REGIONAL COMPARISON – CLOSING THE SOUTHERN AFRICA GAP

When benchmarked against Southern African standards:

- High Jump (Men):
 - o Zimbabwe: 2.10m
 - o Regional elite (South Africa, Botswana): ~2.20m–2.30m

Gap: Narrowing significantly

- Long Jump (Men):
 - o Zimbabwe: 7.53m
 - o Regional elite: 7.80m–8.20m

Within competitive reach

- Triple Jump (Men):
 - o Zimbabwe: 15.19m
 - o Regional elite: 16.50m–17.00m

One development cycle away from contention

- Javelin (Men):
 - o Zimbabwe: 65.38m
 - o Regional elite: 75m–85m

Strong base, technical refinement needed

- Discus (Men):
 - o Zimbabwe: 45.46m
 - o Regional elite: 55m–65m

Emerging discipline with growth potential

Analysis: Zimbabwe is no longer far behind—particularly in jumps. The country is now firmly in the development-to-competition transition phase within the Southern African region.

GLOBAL CONTEXT – THE NEXT FRONTIER

Comparing with global standards:

- World-class benchmarks:
 - o High Jump: 2.30m+
 - o Long Jump: 8.20m+



- o Triple Jump: 17.00m+
- o Javelin: 80m+
- o Discus: 65m+

Zimbabwe's athletes are:

- 2-3 performance tiers below world elite
- BUT within global junior development pipelines

Key Insight:

Zimbabwe is beginning to produce technically sound athletes—a crucial foundation for future breakthroughs at World Championships and Olympic level.

WHAT THIS MEANS - A STRUCTURAL SHIFT IN

ZIM ATHLETICS

The rise in field events reflects:

- Improved grassroots identification
- Better coaching structures across provinces
- Increased competition exposure
- Stronger national coordination under NAAZ

For the first time in years, Zimbabwe is building a balanced athletics ecosystem—track AND field.

PRESIDENT TENDAYI TAGARA SPEAKS

NAAZ President Mr. Tendayi Tagara hailed the progress as a turning point:

“What we are witnessing is not accidental—it is the result of deliberate investment in the full spectrum of athletics. For years, Zimbabwe was known for track, but today we are building throwers and jumpers who can stand shoulder to shoulder with the best in Africa.”

“These performances show that our systems are beginning to work. With continued support, exposure, and technical refinement, Zimbabwe will soon not just participate—but compete—for medals in field events at continental and global level.”

THE BIG PICTURE: FROM POTENTIAL TO

PODIUM

Zimbabwe's field athletes are emerging contenders.

- The gap to Africa is closing fast
- The foundation for global competitiveness is forming
- And most importantly—the pipeline is young, deep, and growing

This is the beginning of Zimbabwe's field event era

