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## Oppah Muchinguri

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**Oppah Muchinguri Kashiri** is a Zimbabwean politician and the current Minister of Defence and War Veterans. She is the former Minister of Water, Environment, and Climate. She is the former Minister of Higher and Tertiary Education. Muchinguri is a member of the [Zanu-PF](#) party where she is a member of [Central Committee](#) and [Politburo](#) representing [Manicaland Province](#). She is also a Member of Parliament for Mutasa Central Constituency. On the 15th of December 2017, she was appointed as the National Chairperson for the Zanu-PF party , she became the first woman to assume that position.

Oppah Muchinguri



Oppah Muchinguri

Born

Oppah Chamu Zvipange Muchinguri  
(1958-12-14) December 14, 1958 (age 60)

Nationality

[Zimbabwe](#)

Education

[University of Zimbabwe](#)

Occupation

- Former Minister of Higher and Tertiary Education.
- Politician
- Member of Parliament

Employer

Government of [Zimbabwe](#)

Organization

Ministry of Environment Water and Climate Change

Home town

[Manicaland](#)

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Political party	<a href="#">Zimbabwe African National Union Patriotic Front</a>
Spouse(s)	<a href="#">Anthony Kashiri</a> (m. 2015) <a href="#">Tapiwa Rushesha</a> ( <i>divorced 1990</i> )
Children	Tanya Rushesha, Natasha Rushesha

## Background

She was born **Oppah Chamu Zvipange Muchinguri** on the 14th of December 1958, and was raised up in [Mutasa District](#)'s Zongoro Area, in [Manicaland](#) Province in the then [Rhodesia](#) now [Zimbabwe](#). Muchinguri was married to [Tapiwa Rushesha](#) and they divorced in the 1990s after having two children together who are [Natasha Rushesha](#) and [Tanya Rushesha](#).<sup>[1]</sup> In 2015 Muchinguri announced her marriage to Bishop [Anthony Kashiri](#).<sup>[2]</sup>

## Education

Oppah did her Primary School at [St James Zongoro](#), an Anglican Institution. She graduated with a Master of Science degree in International Relations from the [University of Zimbabwe](#) in 2013.<sup>[3]</sup>

## Political career

Oppah received her military training in Mozambique and later joined the liberation war of the [Second Chimurenga](#) fighting in the [Josiah Tongogara](#)- commanded [Zimbabwe African National Liberation Army](#) (ZANLA).<sup>[4]</sup>

At independence, she was appointed as Private Secretary to the President between 1980 and 1981. She was Deputy Minister twice, first of State for External Affairs between 1989 and 1993 and of Environment and Tourism between 1993 and 1997. Her first ministerial post came in 1997 when she was appointed Minister of State in the President's Office, a post she held until 2000. Muchinguri was appointed Minister of Women's Affairs , Gender and Community Development in 2005.<sup>[5]</sup>

## Positions Held

- 2000-2003-Secretary to the President Governor of Manicaland Province
- 2005-2009 Minister of Women's Affairs, Gender and Community Development
- 2013- Politburo Member and Member of Parliament for Mutasa Central Constituency
- Secretary General of Zanu-PF [Women's League](#)
- 2014 -Secretary for Higher and Tertiary Education in the [Zanu-PF](#) party
- 2014 -Minister of Higher and Tertiary Education
- 2015- Minister of Water, Environment & Climate
- Central Committee Member<sup>[6]</sup>

## Invovement in Zanu-PF Factionalism 2009 to 2017

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## Push To Replace Mujuru - 2009 to 2017

In 2009, it was reported that the [Emmerson Mnangagwa](#) faction was to push for the election of Muchinguri as vice-president of the party to replace Mujuru who was accused of working with the [Morgan Tsvangirai](#)-led MDC-T. <sup>[7]</sup>

In 2014 when [Joice Mujuru](#) was Vice President it was reported again that the Mnangagwa camp was strategizing on how Mujuru could be challenged and Muchinguri would take over. The media reported that there were moves to push Women Affairs minister, Oppah Muchinguri to challenge Mujuru at the Congress so that they take her out of the succession race and pave way for the strategic positioning of Mnangagwa to ultimately take over the reins when the time comes. <sup>[8]</sup>

Muchinguri, however, dismissed the reports as baseless fabrications created by individuals with an agenda to divide [Zanu-PF](#).

*“In Zanu PF, we don’t work like that. We have clear rules and regulations and established structures in place,” said Muchinguri.* <sup>[8]</sup>

In October 2017 the team [Lacoste Faction](#) was reportedly backing Muchinguri for vice presidency in the event that Mnangagwa did not succeed. <sup>[9]</sup>[Lacoste Manoeuvring To Have Oppah Muchinguri Nominated For Female Vice President](#)

## Support of War Vets -2011

In 2011 Muchinguri threatened to expose [Zanu-PF](#) officials who do not appreciate the sacrifice the War Veterans made and how hard it was for them to liberate the country. Muchinguri reportedly said [Zanu-PF](#) was infiltrated by crooks who were abusing their positions to amass wealth through corruption and underhand dealings and that she was not afraid to expose them despite being in top positions. <sup>[10]</sup>

## Alleged ties to Emmerson Mnangagwa

Muchinguri has been generally viewed as a Mugabe loyalist and also closely linked to [Emmerson Mnangagwa](#) and [Jonathan Moyo](#). In 2013 battle for succession for Presidency between [Joice Mujuru](#) and [Emmerson Mnangagwa](#), who both denied that they harbour presidential ambitions at that time, reportedly spilt over to Zanu PF’s provincial structures. Muchinguri was one of the members accused of causing divisions and belonging to the Mnangagwa camp in Manicaland. <sup>[11]</sup>

After Mnangagwa was dismissed in early November 2017 by [Robert Mugabe](#), Muchinguri was largely accused of being the 'godmother' of team Lacoste and being an accomplice to remove Mugabe from presidency. <sup>[12]</sup>

## Stepping Down As Secretary of Women's League - 2014

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Muchinguri made headlines in 2014 when she stepped down from her position as the Secretary of the [Women's League](#) in the Zanu-PF party. The stepping down was received as a calculated move to bring [Grace Mugabe](#) into the mainstream Zimbabwean political arena. However, in November 2017 Muchinguri revealed that she had been forced to resign from her position,

*It's unfair to say I handed it over. I was pushed to surrender that position. Grudgingly, I surrendered that position because some women approached me to say I should give it up for the first lady. I don't know what benefits they were looking for, so I had to do so reluctantly.*

[\[13\]](#)

## Appointment in Cabinet - 2014

During the period of the Zanu- PF People's Congress in 2014 Oppah Muchinguri and [Grace Mugabe](#) went on a crusade denouncing what they called divisive elements in the Zanu- PF party. Muchinguri together with [Grace Mugabe](#) openly accused the then vice president [Joice Mujuru](#) of fanning factionalism in the party and also plotting to unseat [Robert Mugabe](#). Soon after, Muchinguri was one of the people appointed by [Robert Mugabe](#) in the cabinet reshuffle later that year. The appointment came after the Zanu- PF congress which also saw the demotion of some senior members and cabinet ministers. Muchinguri was given the post of Minister of Higher and Tertiary Education which was previously led by [Olivia Muchena](#) who was dismissed on allegations of factionalism. [\[14\]](#)

## Trivia

The late musician [Simon Chimbetu](#) sang a song titled *Oppah* which talks about his love for such a woman, was widely believed to be dedicated to Muchinguri. Muchinguri was passenger in a car crash that killed Tongorara on the eve of independence in December 1979 and it was reported the two were in a romantic relationship. [\[15\]](#)

## Picture Gallery



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## About Pindula

Pindula is a place to find information about local things on the internet. We do it a lot like Wikipedia, except everything is hyper-local. We started work on Pindula because we needed something like it. There's so little useful information about local things online and we're working to change that

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