

SECOND GOLD FOR ZIMBABWE! PANASHE MUTENURE SOARS TO LONG JUMP GLORY IN MAURITIUS

6 June 2026 – Zimbabwe's medal haul at the 2026 Southern African Confederation of Athletics (SACA) U18 & U20 Championships in Mauritius continues to grow after Panashe Mutenure produced a magnificent leap of 7.28 metres to win gold in the Under-20 Men's Long Jump, leading a memorable Zimbabwean one-two finish.

In what turned out to be one of the most exciting field events of the championships at the Côte d'Or National Sports Complex, Mutenure rose to the occasion when it mattered most, unleashing a championship-winning jump that left the rest of Southern Africa chasing shadows.

Adding to Zimbabwe's celebrations was fellow Zimbabwean star Takunda Mutizwa, who secured the silver medal with an impressive 7.08 metres, ensuring Zimbabwe completely dominated the podium positions and delivered another major statement to the region.

The gold medal is Zimbabwe's second of the championships following Tanatswa Nyamukondiwa's sprint success earlier in the day, underlining the country's growing strength across both track and field events.

A Champion Answering The Call

For Panashe Mutenure, the victory is the reward for years of dedication and consistent performances on the regional stage.

Before arriving in Mauritius, Team Zimbabwe coach Aaron Whyte had identified Mutenure as one of the team's experienced international competitors capable of delivering medals. The faith shown by the coaching staff has now been repaid in spectacular fashion

Competing against some of the best young jumpers from Southern Africa, Mutenure displayed remarkable composure throughout the competition. His winning mark of 7.28m demonstrated both technical excellence and competitive maturity, qualities that have increasingly made him one of Zimbabwe's most reliable field-event athletes.

Zimbabwe's Dynamic Duo

While Mutenure claimed the gold, Takunda Mutizwa's silver medal performance was equally significant. Known primarily for his exploits in the triple jump, Mutizwa showed his versatility by producing a superb long jump series that culminated in a best leap of 7.08m.

The Zimbabwean pair effectively turned the competition into a national showcase, with no other athlete able to separate them from the top two positions.

Their combined performance highlights the quality of Zimbabwe's current junior athletics programme and reinforces the country's reputation for producing world-class jumpers.

Coach Whyte's Dream Start

The double podium finish validates the confidence expressed by Team Zimbabwe leader Aaron Whyte before the championships began.

Whyte had described Zimbabwe's squad as balanced, experienced and capable of challenging the region's strongest nations, including South Africa, Botswana, Zambia and the host nation Mauritius.

With two gold medals already secured and several key events still remaining, Team Zimbabwe's campaign has begun in the best possible fashion.

Eyes Now on Oregon

Beyond regional glory, performances such as Mutenure's 7.28m and Mutizwa's 7.08m send an important message ahead of the upcoming World Athletics U20 Championships in Oregon later this year.

Both athletes continue to demonstrate that Zimbabwe possesses the talent capable of competing not only in Southern Africa but also on the continental and global stage.

For now, however, the focus remains on Mauritius, where Panashe Mutenure has etched his name into the championship history books and helped raise the Zimbabwean flag for the second time.

Gold: Panashe Mutenure (Zimbabwe) - 7.28m

Silver: Takunda Mutizwa (Zimbabwe) - 7.08m

Team Zimbabwe continues to fly high in Mauritius.

