

**REMARKS BY THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND
COMMERCE HONOURABLE DR. S. I. NZENZA AT THE 2020
NATIONAL RETAILERS AND WHOLESALERS AWARDS ON
04 DECEMBER 2020 AT THE HICC; HARARE**

**His Excellency President of the Republic of Zimbabwe and
Commander-in-Chief of the Zimbabwe Defence Forces Dr. E. D.
Mnangagwa;**

**Vice President of the Republic of Zimbabwe, Honourable K. C. D.
Mohadi;**

**Minister of Finance and Economic Development, Hon. Prof. Mthuli
Ncube;**

**Minister of Information, Publicity and Broadcasting Services, Hon.
M. Mutsvangwa;**

**Minister of Women's Affairs, Small and Medium Enterprises, Hon.
Dr. S. Nyoni;**

Permanent Secretary for Industry and Commerce, Dr. M. Sibanda;

Permanent Secretaries here present;

Governor of the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe; Dr. J. P. Mangudya;

Members of the media:

Distinguished Guests;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

It is an honor and a privilege to be invited to the 6th Confederation of Zimbabwe National Retailers and Wholesalers Awards that are running under the theme **“Retail Business in the new normal”**. I am informed that the purpose of these awards is to honor and reward retailers and wholesalers who have excelled and put in hard work under a very challenging environment. Indeed, we need to motivate organisations that excel so that they continue to improve and most importantly inspire others to also raise the bar.

Ladies and Gentlemen

The theme of the event dovetails with the epoch that the whole world is experiencing, given the impact of the COVID 19 pandemic on business and YES, the world has to learn to live with the new normal brought about by this pandemic. It is during such times when business viability is threatened that business cuts corners and short-changes customers. I have noted that major retailers globally have been experiencing serious operational challenges but here in Zimbabwe I am happy that business has continued though under difficult environment. I urge your membership to continue adhering to the highest health standards so as to avoid a second wave of infections that will necessitate another lockdown and consequently impact negatively on business.

Let me hasten to remind you that hard honest work is the bedrock for economic and social growth, not only in Zimbabwe but globally. That is why my Ministry is happy to see the Confederation of Zimbabwe Retailers rewarding membership for a job well done.

Distinguished Guests

I am informed that the Confederation of Zimbabwe Retailers (CZR) has gone on an awareness campaign to inform retailers of the need to adhere to the national legal requirements and comply with the foreign currency exchange rate system in the conduct of their business. I call on the business community in general and retailers and wholesalers in particular, to support the foreign currency auction system through responsible pricing and compliance. This should include pegging prices in both local and foreign currency with clear exchange rate boards displayed in each retail outlet. Government published Statutory Instrument 185 of 2020 on 24 July 2020 that mandates all retailers and providers of any goods and services to display dual pricing of both ZWL and USD price which is payable at the ruling exchange rate.

Recent surveys by my Ministry have shown that most retailers are not adhering to SI 185 with big and established retail outlets mostly indicating the ruling exchange rate at the point of sale only. It has also been observed that most pharmacies are discounting the US dollar price, which makes the ZWL more expensive in defiance of SI 185.

Businesses are urged to adhere to government regulations and complement government efforts so as to ensure price stability in the economy.

Distinguished Guests

Zimbabwe's 2030 Vision is to move **“Towards a Prosperous & Empowered Upper Middle Income Society by 2030”**. This vision calls for a fair, efficient and transparent marketplace for consumers and business in the country.

To support that Vision, government promulgated the Consumer Protection Act in December 2019. The purpose of the Consumer Protection Act is to protect the consumer of goods and services by ensuring a fair, efficient, sustainable and transparent market place for consumers and business; to provide for the establishment of the Consumer Protection Commission and its functions; to provide for the regulation of Consumer Advocacy Organisations; to provide for alternative dispute resolution among others.

It is important to promote consumer rights, provide for improved standards of consumer information so as to mitigate uncompetitive behaviour and unfair business practices in the wake of globalisation and digitalisation. My Ministry is now in the process of setting up a Consumer Protection Commission that will play a key role in addressing consumer issues.

Government will continue to work with all stakeholders in the spirit of inclusivity in addressing constraints and opening up new opportunities.

Distinguished Guests,

At this juncture, let me take this opportunity to introduce the Vice President of the Republic of Zimbabwe, Honourable K. D. Mohadi who has a very important responsibility at this special event;

The Honourable Vice President is a distinguished cadre of the liberation struggle which ushered in our political and economic independence. He was born in Beitbridge and did his primary education in the same area and secondary education in Gwanda at Manama High School. The Vice President holds a number of business qualifications including Bachelor of Business Administration attained at the Africa University of Zambia. He is currently studying for a PhD in Leadership.

Hon. Vice President left for the liberation struggle in Zambia in December 1971 through Botswana and was selected for training in the Union of Soviet Army, the first ever group to be conferred with that rank in the Zimbabwe Peoples' Revolutionary Army (ZIPRA).

In 1974 upon completion of training and studies in the USSR, he returned to Zambia where he operated under the late National Hero Ethan Dube who was later kidnapped and disappeared in Botswana.

In 1975, he was ambushed in Bulawayo and got arrested. He served in Khami Maximum Prison and was released in April 1980 for Juliet Assembly Point. He was emobilized in 1981 and further assigned to help co-ordinate MK operations in the Northern Front. During that period he successfully contested in the BeitBridge Constituency and was duly elected as Member of Parliament. During his tenure as Member of Parliament he served in Parliament's Estimates of Expenditure Committee and the Public Accounts Sub-Committee which he chaired.

Honourable Mohadi has previously served in various Ministerial portfolios in government before his elevation to the position of Second Secretary in the Party ZANU (PF) and Vice President of the Republic. Some of the portfolios he has held include that of Deputy Minister of Sport, Recreation and Culture in 1995 and in the Ministry of Local Government, Public Works and National Housing from 2000.

He was subsequently elevated to substantive Minister of Home Affairs from year 2002 to 2015 and then Minister of State for National Security for the Department of National Security in July 2015.

In December 2017, Vice President K. C. D, Mohadi was appointed Minister of Defence, Security and War Veterans and subsequently Vice President of the Republic of Zimbabwe in the Second Republic.

Without further a-do, allow me to invite the Honourable Vice President of the Republic of Zimbabwe to the podium.

I Thank You!