



**ZIMBABWE**

**REMARKS AND INTRODUCTION OF THE  
GUEST OF HONOUR**

**BY THE**

**MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE  
DR. SEKAI. I. NZENZA**

**ON THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE  
2022 ZIMBABWE INTERNATIONAL TRADE  
FAIR**

**29 APRIL 2022**

It is my singular honour to welcome you all and give my remarks at this auspicious event. We are happy to witness the success of the 62<sup>nd</sup> Edition of the Zimbabwe International Trade Fair under the Theme ***“Rethink, Reimagine, Re-Invent Value Chains for Economic Development”***, a theme which is directly aligned to His Excellency’s call for industrialisation.

**Your Excellency**, we started off the ZITF at PPC, a company which has been in existence for over a 100 years in Matebeleland, for the ground breaking of the 30mgw Solar Plant which will increase efficiencies in the operations of the company. **This is attests** not only to the **historical ability** of the province to produce but also to the **investor goodwill which is manifesting in these key investments**.

**What distinguishes this year’s trade fair is that the role of ZITF is expanding to support nation branding regional integration** in line with Your Excellency’s mantra, **Zimbabwe is Open for Business**.

**Your Excellency**, we are indeed leveraging the gains that have been sustained under your stewardship to bolster Zimbabwe’s comparative, competitive and adaptability advantages to move the economy up the value chains.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

In the course of dialogue during this ZITF, including Connect Africa and the International Business Forum, what has emerged

is that private sector has heeded His Excellency's call for a private sector and investment led growth. **The convergence in the mutual aspirations** between Government and Private Sector is evident in the **increase in investment, exports, production and capacity utilization.**

As I close, Your Excellency I would like to assure you 3 things:

1. The value chains are indeed undergoing **structural transformation** leveraging on the **Whole of Government** approach and the **Private Sector collaboration.**
2. We are conscious of and consistently working on **removing barriers to trade under the ease of doing business agenda.**
3. As we **aggressively pursue re-industrialization**, the consumer remains at the core of the strategy to ensure **availability, affordability and high quality products** on the Zimbabwean shelves and beyond.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I now have the honour and privilege to introduce our Guest of Honour, His Excellency, the President and Commander-in-Chief of the Zimbabwe Defence Forces, Dr. E. D. Mnangagwa.

Please allow me to present to you a brief history of His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Zimbabwe.

His Excellency, the President is a lawyer by profession. He has served in Government since 1980 and has over the years, held a wide range of portfolios.

He has previously served as Minister of National Security, Minister of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs, Speaker of Parliament, Minister of Rural Housing and Social Amenities and Minister of Defence.

He previously served as Vice President and Second Secretary of the ruling ZANU PF Party. He is a seasoned farmer and a great states man who lately led a successful **Special Programme on Maize Production for Import Substitution, widely known as Command Agriculture, now known as the National Enhanced Agricultural Productivity Scheme.**

### **Ladies and Gentlemen;**

His Excellency, the President believes that sustainable economic recovery and development can be enhanced through appropriate incentives across the entire economic spectrum, and by urgently addressing the various challenges affecting businesses operating in Zimbabwe. The developmental programmes and projects we are witnessing in this country are an atomy of his visionary and pragmatic leadership.

His Excellency, the President has successfully championed the re-engagement process and created a conducive business environment for both local and foreign investors. He has ensured that Zimbabwe is positioned to leverage on its resource endowments and plays its pivotal role in the sphere of domestic, regional and international trade.

**Distinguished Guests; Captains of Industry and Commerce; Ladies and Gentlemen;**

It is now my pleasure and honour to invite His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Zimbabwe, Dr. E. D. Mnangagwa to deliver his address.

**Your Excellency, Sir.**