



**TALKING NOTES FOR THE  
MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE**

**HON. DR. SEKAI NZENZA (MP)**

**ON**

**“OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES FOR INDUSTRY  
AND COMMERCE IN ZIMBABWE”**

**FOR THE**

**FIRST CAPIAL BANK LIMITED WEBINAR**

**10 JUNE 2022**

**9.45 AM TO 12 NOON**

**Director of Ceremonies**

**Captains of Industry**

**The Media here present**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

## **INTRODUCTION**

I would like to commend First Capital Bank Limited for creating this platform to discuss opportunities and challenges for industry and commerce in Zimbabwe.

Platforms like these provide us, both Government and Private Sector an **opportunity to introspect** on our policies, strategies and identify what's working well and what is not working well. What COVID 19 and other shocks have shown us is that we have no choice but to work together to **build a resilient and sustainable manufacturing sector,**

## **Overview of the Industrial and Commercial Sector**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,** as we explore the opportunities in both the industrial and commercial sector **the key word from me to you today is VALUE ADDITION.**

Whilst we are indeed **leveraging the gains that have been sustained** under **His Excellency, the President's** stewardship to bolster

Zimbabwe's comparative, competitive and adaptability advantages the real success story is in moving the economy up the value chains as espoused in the NDS1. This is anchored on Government's strategic drive towards a **private sector led growth**.

## **OPPORTUNITIES IN THE INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL SECTORS**

### **Industrialization through Vision 2030 and NDS1**

The **productive sector** in Zimbabwe undergoing **structural transformation**, increasing investments in **retooling** and **refurbishment** which will ultimately see the **regeneration of the Zimbabwean economy**. Synonymous to the regeneration of the productive sector, we have witnessed an increased investment by multi-national companies in Zimbabwe – a targeted strategy for private sector led growth.

I am informed by CZI in the 2021 Annual Manufacturing Sector Survey Report that there are **distinctive positive signs of sustained growth of the manufacturing sector**. This is quite evident given that Capacity large-scale manufacturing sector firms was 62.7% whilst SME's are at 54%.

The growth witnessed is borne out of His Excellency, Dr E. D Mnangagwa's economic blue print, the National Development Strategy 1. To this end the Government of Zimbabwe has undertaken:

1. A dual strategic thrust towards private sector led economic growth & export led growth
2. Related to this - Creation of a favorable operating environment through ease of doing business reforms
3. International re-engagement on all fronts prioritizing economic diplomacy as we boost not only intra-Africa trade but penetration of global value and supply chains
4. Increased productivity and production as the country prioritizes value addition and beneficiation under the Zimbabwe Industrial Development Policy

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

On that note, **in order to unlock the potential in the various economic sectors, the Ministry of Industry and Commerce has undertaken sector specific strategies** to develop selected value chains.

**Captains of Industry**, therein lies the potential for investment, cooperation and growth in industry and commerce. For the purposes of my remarks today, I will simply highlight the value chains which Government has prioritised under the NDS 1 namely:

1. **AGRO PROCESSING**
2. **PHARMACEUTICALS**
3. **BUS & TRUCK ASSEMBLY**
4. **IRON AND STEEL AND**
5. **PLASTIC VALUE CHAIN.**
6. **LEATHER VALUE CHAIN**
7. **COTTON – CLOTHING**
8. **MINERAL BENEFICIATION**

Against this, Zimbabwe is leveraging on the bumper harvest, a consequence of the **Agricultural Recovery Plan**. I therefore invite investors, to take advantage of the existing and emerging opportunities in **agro-processing utilising the agricultural throughput** available in Zimbabwe.

The key words here as I said in my introduction, Distinguished Guests, are **value addition and beneficiation**. There is massive potential for lucrative partnerships as we invest in innovation and technology in pursuit of the 4<sup>th</sup> Industrial Revolution. **In the year 2021 alone we witnessed an investment of over USD\$145 million by local firms into technology.**

The Regional Integration Agenda, Government signed and ratified the AfCFTA Agreement which entered into force on 01 January 2021. This has created an open market worth US\$1.35 billion in Africa. **The implications of the market liberalisation is an increased opportunity to access a bigger market** however, local payers should also gear up and match increased competition from other countries. The industrial and commercial linkages herein are very clear, so are market opportunities provided by Zimbabwe as an investment destination.

**As I close, I would like to challenge the members of the private sector here present to leverage against the positive gains** made under the **Second Republic** to secure sustained growth in Industry and Commerce.

The challenges experienced are a threat to our mutual aspirations between Government and the Private Sector and **the solution is found in constructive dialogue**, such as the one created by First Capital on this platform. I therefore wish you all fruitful deliberations and my Ministry will be actively participating in this dialogue in order to take note of the key take aways.

**I thank you**