



The

MILESTONE

MAGAZINE

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Inside this issue:

7TH SADC
INDUSTRIALISATION WEEK
A MAJOR MILESTONE





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Editor's Note

As we reflect on our journey towards fostering industrial growth and economic development in Zimbabwe and the broader Southern African Development Community (SADC), we are excited to highlight some significant milestones that promise to shape our industrialisation agenda for years to come.

This year, Zimbabwe had the honor of hosting the SADC Industrialisation Week, a pivotal event that brought together leaders, policymakers, and industry stakeholders from across the region. This gathering not only showcased Zimbabwe's commitment to enhancing industrial capacities but also provided a platform for critical discussions on the integration of our economies.

In a momentous stride for regional leadership, Zimbabwe has taken over the chairmanship of the SADC Business Council, now led by the Confederation of Zimbabwe Industries (CZI). This transition signifies a renewed focus on collaborative efforts that aim to unlock economic potential and foster an enabling environment for businesses within SADC. The President of Zimbabwe, Dr ED Mnangagwa also now chairs the SADC, reinforcing our nation's commitment to regional integration and industrialisation.

These leadership positions present a unique opportunity to advocate for sustainable industrial policies, strengthen regional supply chains, and harness our collective resources to tackle challenges facing our industries. The alignment with the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) enhances this potential, opening doors for Zimbabwean businesses to access larger markets and foster intra-African trade.

We are optimistic that these milestones will not only spur economic growth but also enhance job creation and technological advancements, benefiting our citizens and businesses alike. As we move forward, our focus will remain on crafting policies that drive innovation, inclusivity, and sustainability in our industrialization efforts.

We invite everyone to join us in this exciting journey as we work together to shape a prosperous future for Zimbabwe and the SADC region.

"Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year"

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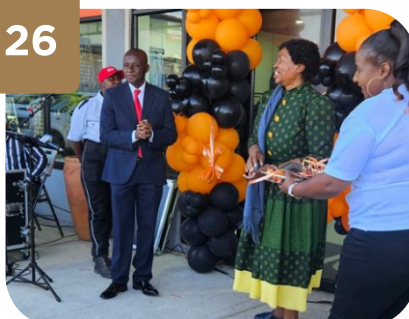
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**Ministry of Industry and
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Sports Festival**

President Mnangagwa Officially Opens the 7th SADC Industrialisation Week

President Emmerson Mnangagwa has called for increased efforts towards industrialisation and innovation in Southern Africa, emphasising the importance of intra-African trade and investment. He made these remarks whilst officially opening the 7th SADC Industrialisation Week in Harare, ahead of the SADC Heads of State and Government Summit.



SADC Chairperson, His Excellency, President Dr. E.D. Mnangagwa

The SADC Industrialisation Week serves as the region's largest public-private engagement platform, designed to foster opportunities for regional trade and investment. His Excellency, President Mnangagwa noted that this year's event highlights the critical need for the region to accelerate industrialization and job creation by adopting innovative solutions to enhance productivity and competitiveness.

"This year's Industrialisation Week amplifies the urgent need for Member States to embrace innovation as a way to boost industrial productivity and competitiveness," said President Mnangagwa. "Individually and collectively, we have a duty to spur sustainable growth through a sound and diversified industrial base, offering wide range of products and creating jobs for our people", he emphasised.

The President stressed the importance of fostering linkages, promoting regional integration, and developing value chains as part of the broader strategy to enhance export earnings and industrial development. "The present generation has a duty and obligation to foster environments and synergies that leap frog industrialisation, create more jobs, produce value added goods, as well as increase exports and export earnings."

"Equally, we must create the requisite linkages across all sectors of our economies to drive this noble and urgent agenda. For the SADC region to propel the industrialisation initiative, we cannot work in silos, both in terms of in-country and cross border cooperation," President Mnangagwa stated.



He further emphasized the need for cooperation across borders, underscoring that the region's industrialisation efforts require coordinated efforts both at the national and regional levels. "For the SADC region to propel the industrialisation initiative, we cannot work in silos, whether in-country or cross-border cooperation," he said. President Mnangagwa also underscored the importance of integrating ICT and digital technologies into industrialisation efforts, highlighting the need for cost-effective and modernised approaches to drive growth.

"ICT penetration in Africa and the SADC region must not be limited to enabling social interactions, but should extend to every sector of the economy," he said. "We must see greater efficiencies and cost savings in our modernisation and industrialisation processes through modern ICT hard and soft infrastructure", he added.

He urged the region to embrace emerging technologies associated with the Fourth Industrial Revolution, including artificial intelligence, robotics, biotechnology, and renewable energy, to remain competitive on the global stage.

*President of the Republic of Zimbabwe and Chairperson of SADC,
His Excellency, President Dr. Emmerson D. Mnangagwa*

“Promoting Innovation to Unlock Opportunities for Sustainable Economic Growth and Development Towards an Industrialised SADC.”

VP Chiwenga officially opens the SIW Investment Conference



Vice President, General (Rtd), Honourable Dr. C.G.D.N. Chiwenga

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) sixteen Member States contribute 27.78% to Africa's Gross Domestic Product (GDP), The Milestone Magazine can establish. This was revealed in a keynote speech by the Vice President of the Republic of Zimbabwe, General (Rtd), Dr Constantino Chiwenga, to mark the official opening of Investment Conference, which was recently held on the sidelines of the SADC Industrialisation Week at a local hotel in Harare.

"The SADC Region holds significant investment potential. According to SADC reports, its 16 Member States contribute to 27.78% of Africa's GDP and attracted 55.10% of total Foreign Direct Investment inflows to Africa in 2021", said VP Chiwenga.

VP Chiwenga reiterated that the SADC region's vast mineral resources offer investment opportunities in value addition and beneficiation.

"The region boasts of valuable mineral resources, offering investment opportunities in extraction, beneficiation and value addition. Recent lithium discoveries in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Zimbabwe present prospects for lithium battery manufacturing and electric motor vehicle production", he said.

VP Chiwenga added, "In view of these and other key resources, SADC adopted Regional infrastructure Master Plan (RIDMP) in 2021 at the 32nd Summit of SADC Heads of State and Government which was held in Mozambique, which upscaled the development of priority projects across six clusters such as energy, water, transport, meteorology, tourism and information and communication technology".



Vice President, General (Rtd), Honourable Dr. C.G.D.N. Chiwenga meets exhibitors whilst touring stands

He urged delegates to capitalize on the region's natural resources skilled workforce and favourable climate to exploit opportunities under the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

He underscored that the objective of the Investment Conference was to identify and showcase opportunities available in Africa and to accelerate the implementation of the SADC Industrialisation Strategy and Roadmap.

“Let us leverage our comparative advantage such as peace and stability, educated populace, natural resources, favourable climate and integrated transport infrastructure to boost productivity and seize trading opportunities under AfCFTA”,

said VP Chiwenga.

“This Conference should expedite the implementation of the SADC Industrialisation Strategy and Roadmap and identify industrialisation projects for joint implementation by the public and private sectors in Member States. It offers a platform to explore potential investment opportunities within the SADC region, network, establish collaborations and showcase transformative investment projects”, he said.

The National Disability Expo 2024

Persons with
disabilities must
be treated with
utmost dignity

- *President*



Vice President, Honourable K.C.D. Mohadi

Persons with disabilities deserve to be treated with dignity the same as any other human beings, President Emmerson Mnangagwa said in a speech read on his behalf by Vice President Kembo Mohadi, to mark the official opening of the 2024 National Disability Expo in Bindura, Mashonaland Central, recently.



We need to appreciate that Persons with disabilities are first and foremost human beings who have to be treated with utmost dignity as they strive to realise their rights,” said President Mnangagwa.

President Mnangagwa reiterated that Government is committed to ensure that the mainstreaming of disability in every sector of the economy is in line with the National Vision 2030 and other statutory provisions.

"Guided by Vision 2030, the National Development Strategy, the National Disability Policy and the relevant legislation, my Government will always walk the talk and enhance the inclusion and empowerment of persons with disabilities in national development.

"As we all accelerate the attainment of Vision 2030 earlier than envisaged, in 2028, let us endeavour to practically include disability across all the thematic sectors of the National Development Strategy," he said.

He said the Government has made great strides and would remain committed to the inclusion and empowerment of persons with disabilities.

"The Second Republic has made remarkable progressive strides towards empowering persons with disabilities through the policy of "leaving no one and no place behind".



Vice President, Honourable K.C.D. Mohadi touring exhibition stands

"The presence of Senators representing persons with disabilities in Parliament and my appointment of persons with disabilities in senior decision making positions confirms the unwavering political commitment my government has towards inclusion and empowerment of persons with disabilities in Zimbabwe.

"Government will continue to set the tone and take the lead in empowering and including persons with disabilities in social, economic and political development," he said.

He added, "Ladies and gentlemen, my government will continue to embrace the principle of universal design from the family level to the national level. Plans and designs of architecture, infrastructure, transport, communication, technology and social amenities must be accessible by persons with disabilities.

The National Disability Expo 2024 ran under the Theme: **"Accelerating the attainment of Vision 2030 disability empowerment targets for enhanced inclusive sustainable development"**, which the President said was premised on a developmental approach which called for social inclusion, social development, social accountability and social participation by everyone.



Vice President, Honourable K.C.D. Mohadi hands over wheelchairs to persons with disabilities

SIW visit to Precabe Farm

"An eye opener"

SADC Secretariat DES

The recent visit to Precabe Farm near Kwekwe, Midlands Province, during the SADC Industrialisation Week (SIW), left a lasting impression on delegates, including members of the SADC Secretariat. The delegation was captivated by the modern, mechanized farming activities on display, showcasing Zimbabwe's efforts towards agricultural innovation and sustainability.

Precabe Farm is a testament to the dedication and vision of the President, His Excellency Dr. E.D. Mnangagwa, in promoting food security and self-sufficiency. These efforts align with global and regional development goals, including Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 1, 2, and 3, which focus on ending poverty, eliminating hunger, and promoting health and well-being, as well as the African Union Agenda 2063 Goals 1, 3, and 5.



Industry and Commerce Minister, Honourable N.M. Ndhlovu (centre) and other delegates inspect the wheat crop at Precabe farm

Speaking during the visit, SADC Secretariat Deputy Executive Secretary, Ms. Angele Makombo N'tumba, commended President Mnangagwa for leading by example, particularly in the face of the economic sanctions imposed on Zimbabwe by Western countries. She noted that his commitment to large-scale farming is a model that other SADC Member States should emulate.

"We truly admire the leadership of Zimbabwe and the resilience of its people in overcoming sanctions by focusing on agriculture. We commend President Mnangagwa for his leadership because the first responsibility of a leader is to feed his people. He walks the talk. In his speech to officially SIW, he emphasised that the development of a country depends on its people," said Ms. Makombo N'tumba.

She highlighted her admiration for the mechanized irrigation system at Precabe Farm and expressed her intention to share Zimbabwe's innovative agricultural model with other SADC member states and her home country, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). "What I saw here is remarkable, and I will take these lessons back to Botswana, where SADC is based, and to the DRC," she said.

Ms. Makombo N'tumba also reiterated the SADC Secretariat's stance against sanctions on Zimbabwe, revealing that at every international forum they attend, especially in Western countries, they advocate for the lifting of sanctions. "As the SADC Secretariat, we continue to call for the removal of sanctions against Zimbabwe," she affirmed.

Additionally, she praised Zimbabweans for their resilience under sanctions. "To the people of Zimbabwe, we say it's a blessing in disguise because it has built resilience. Look at where you are now," she added.

Agriculture remains the backbone of Zimbabwe's economy, supporting various sectors, including manufacturing and agro-value chains. During the visit, Zimbabwe's Industry and Commerce Minister, Nqobizitha Ndhlovu, emphasized the government's commitment to ensuring food security and developing agro-value chains.



High delegate turnout for the farm visit

"We cannot talk about industrialisation without focusing on primary production, which is why we are here. It's a complete ecosystem, from the farm to the factory for processing, and what returns from the factory feeds back into the farm to support livestock production," said Minister Ndhlovu.

He further highlighted the government's efforts to expand irrigation systems, with more than 10,000 hectares being irrigated annually over the past six to seven years, underscoring the importance of food security and agro-value chains for Zimbabwe's industrialisation agenda.



Herd of Ankole Cattle at Precabe Farm

Minister Ndhlovu Launches the Zimbabwe Industrial Reconstruction and Growth Plan in Mutare

Industry and Commerce Minister, Honourable Minister Nqobizitha Mangaliso Ndhlovu officially launched the Zimbabwe Industrial Reconstruction and Growth Plan (ZIRGP) at a breakfast meeting in Mutare, Manicaland Province, marking a key milestone in Zimbabwe's path towards industrial and economic renewal.

In his speech, Minister Ndhlovu described ZIRGP as a transitional plan designed to guide the growth of Zimbabwe's industrial and commercial sectors. "This launch marks a pivotal moment in our journey to rebuild and strengthen Zimbabwe's industrial base, ensuring sustainable economic growth and development", he said.

The Minister emphasised that the ZIRGP aims to tackle core challenges in manufacturing and commerce, and streamline policy frameworks to better support these sectors. "We've listened to business, and we recognize that a collaborative approach is essential as we work towards a prosperous, upper-middle-income economy. This plan is intended to address operational hurdles and drive an accelerated growth phase under ZNIDP 2," he said.

Minister Ndhlovu outlined that the Zimbabwe Industrial Development Policy (ZNIDP) 1 concludes in December 2023, with ZNIDP 2 slated to align with the National Development Strategy 2 (NDS) 2 for 2026-2030. "ZNIDP 2 will build upon the successes of its predecessor while supporting the goals of Vision 2030," he explained, adding that ZIRGP will provide a critical bridge until ZNIDP 2 is fully launched in 2025.

The Minister also highlighted Cabinet's recent approval of the roadmap for drafting NDS 2, which will focus on achieving an upper-middle-income society. He expressed confidence that ZIRGP will enable a structured transition, paving the way for a robust industrial development policy in line with Zimbabwe's national priorities.

Minister Ndhlovu underscored ZIRGP's focus areas, including improving business competitiveness, reducing operational costs, and enhancing access to key resources. He noted that achieving these goals will require considerable effort. "Innovation, research, and strong linkages with SMEs, academia, and the private sector will be critical to our success," he stated.

A key area of focus for ZIRGP, according to Minister Ndhlovu, will be addressing the negative trade balance through import substitution and export development. "Our dependency on raw material exports, while importing finished products, undermines our economic potential. We will set up a team to collaborate with industry stakeholders on strategies to reduce imports and boost exports, and I will closely monitor trade numbers in 2025 to assess our progress," he said.



*Industry and Commerce Minister,
Honourable N.M. Ndhlovu officially launching the ZIRGP*

Minister Ndhlovu also announced the imminent inauguration of an interim Local Content Committee (which is now in place) to support local production and increase the use of domestic resources, building on the Local Content Strategy launched in 2019. "This committee is composed of committed professionals who will lay a solid foundation for a robust local content policy under ZIRGP," he said.

Minister Ndhlovu expressed optimism that ZIRGP, in collaboration with business member organizations and industrial leaders, will drive Zimbabwe toward achieving its industrial and economic goals. "This journey to industrial recovery and growth will not be easy, but with determination and a shared vision, we can build a prosperous industrial sector that contributes significantly to Zimbabwe's socio-economic development," he said.



Seated centre-Minister, Hon N.M. Ndhlovu, flanked by Chairperson of Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Industry and Commerce, Hon N. Mudekanye (right), Industry and Commerce Secretary, Dr T.U. Wushe (left), Immediate past President of CZI, Mr Kurai Matsheza (far left) and Buy Zimbabwe General Manager, Mr Alois Burutsa, posed for a group photo with delegates drawn from Ministry of Industry and Commerce, OPC and some Public and Private sectors.

The Minister further pointed to the ongoing National Economic Census by ZIMSTAT as a vital tool for economic planning. "Data from the 2025 Economic Census will shed light on industrial interdependence and local value chain linkages, informing NDS 2 and contributing to the creation of a supportive business environment," he noted.

Reflecting on the challenges facing Zimbabwe's industrial sector, Minister Ndhlovu cited issues like smuggling, the informalisation of commerce, power shortages due to climate change, and high business costs. He emphasised the need for unified efforts by government, industry, and consumers to tackle these obstacles. "Our economy faces complex challenges, but by working together, I am confident we can overcome them," he said.

The Minister concluded by quoting President Mnangagwa's recent remarks at the ZANU PF Annual Conference in Bulawayo, where the President stressed the importance of revitalising Zimbabwe's manufacturing sectors. "The President has set a clear vision for a thriving economy driven by industry and commerce. ZIRGP provides us with the roadmap to achieve this vision, and through collaboration with key stakeholders like the Confederation of Zimbabwe Industries (CZI) and the Zimbabwe National Chamber of Commerce (ZNCC), we can turn this plan into a reality," he concluded.

Zimbabwe-China Ties Crucial for Industrial Development

– Deputy Minister Modi

Zimbabwe and other SADC member states should strengthen their ties with China to boost industrialisation and economic growth in the region, says Industry and Commerce Deputy Minister Rajeshkumar Modi.

Speaking during an interview with the media on the sidelines of the recent SADC Industrialisation Week held in Harare, Deputy Minister Modi highlighted the opportunities for collaboration with China to accelerate industrial and commercial growth.

"Zimbabwe and SADC member states can work with China to fast-track industrialisation and commercialisation. Through strong bilateral relations, Ministry of Industry and Commerce can play a leading role in achieving the National Development Strategy (NDS1), which focuses on moving the economy up the value chain and fostering economic transformation," said Modi. "This economic cooperation will benefit not only Zimbabwe but the entire region", he added.

Deputy Minister Modi also emphasised China's significant role in supporting Zimbabwe's industrial agenda.



Deputy Minister of Industry and Commerce, Honourable Rajeshkumar Modi

He further underscored the importance of value addition to Zimbabwe's natural resources to maximize the country's economic gains.

"We must enhance value addition to our mineral wealth to derive more benefits from finished products instead of exporting raw materials. China's support in this regard will be instrumental in helping Zimbabwe achieve Vision 2030, and I am confident they have the capacity to assist us", said Dep Minister Modi.

Zimbabwe and China share strong diplomatic ties that date back to the pre-independence era, and their collaboration continues to play a key role in Zimbabwe's industrial development trajectory.

"China is already playing a major role in our industrialisation efforts, and we are grateful for their support. This will lead to the creation of more local employment opportunities, benefiting our economy,"



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Ministry of Industry and Commerce staff sign Integrity Pledge

Ministry of Industry and Commerce staff emulated their principals by signing the Integrity Pledge recently, a promise as servants of the people, to uphold ethical standards when executing their duties. The Ministry is among the first Government Ministries to pledge their commitment to self-discipline and work ethics whilst maximising efforts towards the achievement of Vision 2030 of An Empowered, Prosperous Upper Middle Income Society.



Permanent Secretary, Dr. T.U. Wushe

The Integrity Pledges which were administered by Zimbabwe Anti-corruption Commission (ZACC) require anyone who signs them to lead by example in the fight against corruption and to ethically render services with integrity.

Speaking before the signing of the pledges by his staff, Industry and Commerce Permanent Secretary, Dr Thomas Wushe said they were heeding the call by the President of Zimbabwe, Dr E.D Mnangagwa to build a workforce that is professional, ethical, judicious and work focused for the good of our people.

"As your leadership, we already signed the pledges and we have taken the next step to have you also do same. So today you are going to pledge to be true to yourselves, and true to your Government, true to your leadership, so that as we do our jobs we will behave in a manner which is expected of us," said Dr Wushe.

Dr Wushe exhorted Ministry staff to pledge to respect their clients and provide them with a full measure of their service. "The most important person we deal with is our client. We will deal with our client in a most diligent and transparent manner and that is the pledge you are going to sign today," he said.

He added, "It has already been mentioned that we might be one of the pioneers if not the first Ministry across all levels within the hierarchy of the Ministry to sign the pledge. It is very important to sign the integrity pledge and live to our promises so that others emulate."

In an interview with the ZACC Chairperson, Mr Michael Reza described integrity pledge as a social contract that obliges public servants to fight corruption and build a better image and trust for their respective organisations.



Ministry of Industry and Commerce officials reciting the Integrity Pledge

"The signing of the Integrity Pledge is part of the strategies spelt out in the National Anti-Corruption Strategy (NACS). We believe it is important for public sector officials to sign the Integrity Pledge so as to underwrite improved public confidence, governance, corporate image, promotion of high ethical standards, transparency, accountability and honesty," said Mr Reza.

Explaining how the Integrity Pledge had been embraced by different Government departments and agencies, Mr Reza said some senior Government officials had taken the lead by signing the Integrity Pledge which gave opportunity to every rank and file to emulate. "The signing of Integrity Pledges has also been embraced by senior government officials who include the Chief Secretary to the President and Cabinet, Deputy Chief Secretaries, down to the Directors.

"There are ministries that have embraced the pledge and facilitated the signing for its employees. These include; the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, Ministry of Defense; Ministry of Transport and Infrastructural Development, Ministry of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs; Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Rural Development; Ministry of Mines and Mining Development, Ministry of Finance, Economic Development and Investment Promotion; Ministry of Higher and Tertiary Education, Science and Technology Development and some parastatals", he said adding that ZACC had entered into an agreement with Public Service Commission to have all MDAs' employees sign Integrity Pledges.

"The Integrity Pledge is a social contract through which individuals announce their commitment to act against corruption".



Ministry staff pose for a photo after signing the integrity pledge

Jet Stores opens another branch in Hogerty Hill

The Chief Director of the Industrial Division in the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, Ms. Florence Makombe, has praised the Edgars Group of Companies for its expansion efforts and its role in creating employment opportunities for Zimbabweans. She made these remarks during the official opening of a new Jet Store branch at Hogerty Hill in Harare recently. Jet Stores, a retail brand under the Edgars Group, rebranded from Express Mart in November 2011 to offer more value and variety to customers. The Edgars Group has a rich history, having acquired the Carousel Clothing factory in 1974 and the Jeans Company in 1993. It introduced the Express brand in Harare in 1984, which later rebranded to Jet Stores. In her speech, Ms. Makombe expressed her appreciation for the Edgars Group, particularly for its contributions to the Cotton-to-Clothing Value Chain. She highlighted the importance of the Carousel Clothing factory in Bulawayo, noting that it employs local Zimbabweans and produces products using locally sourced materials.

"I am very grateful to the committed team at Edgars, especially in their efforts within the Cotton-to-Clothing Value Chain. The Carousel factory in Bulawayo is not only employing local Zimbabweans but also using locally available materials in its production," she said.

Ms. Makombe also encouraged Zimbabweans to support locally manufactured products, emphasizing the positive impact this has on employment and downstream industries. "By buying locally manufactured products, you are contributing to the development of the value chain and creating employment for our people, including in downstream industries. This aligns with our Vision 2030 goal of becoming an empowered, prosperous, and upper-middle-income society."

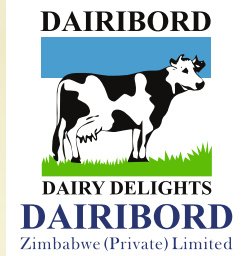


Chief Director of the Industrial Division, Ministry of Industry and Commerce, Ms. Florence Makombe cuts the ribbon to officially open the Jet Store Hogerty Hill Branch in Harare

She reiterated the importance of supporting the local content strategy and value addition, urging consumers to take pride in wearing locally made clothes. "The Ministry of Industry and Commerce has always encouraged people to buy and wear local products. You should be proud to wear clothes made in Zimbabwe and, when asked where you bought them, say from Jet Store Hogerty Hill or any branch across Zimbabwe."

Ms. Makombe concluded by reaffirming the Ministry's commitment to promoting the development of local value chains in line with the National Development Strategy 1 (NDS1), which focuses on Value Chains Development and Structural Transformation. Edgars Group CEO also addressed the gathering, saying Edgars Group was committed to offering products that cater to all income levels. "Edgars Group provides quality and affordable products, catering to both low and upper-income earners. Our vision is to inspire and empower our people through fashion and deliver an exciting fashion experience to our customers," he said. The opening of the Jet Store Hogerty Hill branch marks another milestone in Edgars' continued growth and commitment to local manufacturing and employment creation.

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Ministry Trains ZIMRA Officials On CBCA Programme



Participants of the CBCA training

Consignment Based conformity Assessment (CBCA) programme has gained traction since its introduction in Zimbabwe in 2015. Many people especially importers of goods and other related agencies are now aware of CBCA through various awareness programmes undertaken by the Ministry of Industry and Commerce in conjunction with other key stakeholders.

Four companies; SAZ, EAA, Cotecna and Bureau Veritas were contracted by the Government of Zimbabwe to carry out conformity assessment on general cargo, consolidated goods, new and used motor vehicles and Motor vehicles spare parts and to conduct destination assessment of goods which might have been shipped without the necessary Certificate of Conformity.

Recently, the Ministry of Industry and Commerce organised some training seminars for the ZIMRA Officials in the country's border towns to acquaint them with the operations of the CBCA Service Providers and the laws relating to the programme. Speaking during the training workshop, the Deputy Director Quality Assurance in the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, Ms Riyana Chibanda explained the historical background, legal provisions and the importance of CBCA programme as it relates to trade, standards and consumer welfare.

"The Consignment-Based Conformity Assessment (CBCA) is a process through which selected goods imported to Zimbabwe are assessed to conform to national or international standards as well as to technical regulations. "CBCA is a trade facilitation programme which was first introduced in Zimbabwe in 2015 through the promulgation of Statutory Instrument 132 of 2015. "In 2020, Statutory Instrument 124 of 2020 was also introduced which resulted in the expansion of the list of products requiring CBCA certification before being imported into the country," said Ms Chibanda.

She further highlighted some of the changes that were made to the regulated products under CBCA by SI 35 of 2024. "In 2024, following the completion of a wider consultation process, the government promulgated a consolidated CBCA regulation, S.I 35 of 2024. "The promulgation of SI 35 of 2024, repealed all the previous CBCA regulations that is SI 132 of 2015, SI 124 of 2020, SI 186 of 2023 and SI 187 of 2023.

"Under SI 35 of 2024, all motor vehicles and motor vehicle spare parts are now regulated by the Programme. Additional food items were added to the programme covering finished products such as cooking oil and tea whether or not flavoured," she said.

In his presentation during the training workshop, Standards Association of Zimbabwe (SAZ) Manager Destination Inspection, Mr Cyprian Muchechemera explained how conformity certificates were issued and accessed by stakeholders that included ZIMRA. "Certificates of Conformity (CoCs) are issued to goods that comply with standards. This information is shared on the SAZ portals to be easily accessed by ZIMRA.

"ZIMRA then uses these certificates for consignment clearance. CoCs are valid for 3 months and Non-Conforming Certificates are issued to goods that do not comply with standards. Consignments issued with Non-Conformity Certificates shall be either seized by ZIMRA and destroyed or re-exported at the importers cost", said Mr Muchechemera.

EAA Manager, Mr Ishmael Chisora from Harare stressed the importance of compliance to environmental sustainability and safety standards.

"EAA strives to ensure that exporters meet the environment and safety standards of the importing country. We carry out high quality pre-shipment inspection and issue certificates as proof of compliance and assurance to the importing country authorities and end users", said Mr Chisora.



ZIMRA officials during the training

Trade Measures Department Rebrands



Industry and Commerce Minister, Honourable N.M. Ndhlovu officially handing over vehicles to Trade Measures Inspectors

On Monday, September 2, 2024, the Ministry of Industry and Commerce's Trade Measures Department underwent a significant transformation, unveiling a new corporate identity. Industry and Commerce Minister, Honourable N.M. Ndhlovu commissioned a modern weighbridge and handed over a fleet of new operations vehicles for Trade Measures Inspectors.

He added,

"The rebranding initiative aims to enhance the department's efficiency, professionalism, and effectiveness in regulating and controlling trade activities across the country. The new uniforms, designed to reflect this updated image, will serve as symbols of identity and authority for department personnel", said Minister Ndhlovu.

"The state-of-the-art weighbridge is expected to streamline the weighing of goods, ensuring accurate measurements and facilitating trade compliance. The new fleet of vehicles will enable Trade Measures Inspectors to carry out their duties more efficiently, reaching remote areas and responding promptly to trade-related issues".

During the launch, Minister of Industry and Commerce, Honourable Mangaliso Ndhlovu, proudly donned the new Trade Measures Inspectors uniform, impressing attendees with his leadership. He stated, "The work of the Ministry through the Trade Measures Department directly contributes to promoting fair trade practices, standardizing measurements, and protecting consumers." He emphasized that, "the fleet of vehicles is not just a means of transportation but a symbol of the Ministry's dedication to excellence and continuous improvement."

Minister Ndhlovu expressed his Ministry's commitment to ensure a fairly competitive market by upgrading the skills of Trade Measures Inspectors. "My Ministry is working tirelessly to equip Trade Measures Inspectors with mobile laboratories for testing in remote areas, ensuring that no one is left behind. He also announced the development of a diploma qualification in Legal Metrology in collaboration with the Ministry of Higher and Tertiary Education.

"The upcoming Legal Metrology reforms are set to strengthen Trade Measures and create a fairer market for all Zimbabweans, said Minister Ndhlovu, adding that the rebranding of the Trade Measures Department reflects the Ministry of Industry and Commerce's commitment to achieving Vision 2030. Deputy Chief Secretary for Policy, Analysis, Coordination, Devolution, and Development Planning in the Office of the President and Cabinet,

Mr. Willard Manungo who also echoed President Dr. E.D. Mnangagwa's call for amplifying and empowering regulatory agencies, praised the Ministry for enhancing the presence and efficiency of regulators to tackle rampant business malpractices.

"With the shelf occupancy of locally manufactured goods now around 80 percent, it is crucial that these goods meet the right quantity and quality standards to ensure value for our citizens and access to export markets, particularly within the framework of the African Continental Free Trade Area," he noted. In an interview with this magazine, Engineer Macheka Muchumairi, Director for Quality Assurance and Trade Measures, stated that, "The decision to revitalize the Trade Measures Department aims to protect consumers from unfair business practices and the Ministry's goal is to improve the visibility and efficiency of inspectors, emphasizing their crucial role in ensuring fair measurements".

Currently, the Trade Measures Department employs around 23 inspectors nationwide, with representation in all provinces, including Harare, Masvingo, Bulawayo, Mutare, Gweru, Lupane, Gwanda, Chinhoyi, Bindura, and Marondera. Engineer Muchumairi noted that while the rebranding was a significant step forward, the Ministry's ultimate goal was to "modernize the Trade Measures department with plans to establish a state-of-the-art Excellence Centre housing the Legal Metrology Bureau". In recent months, joint blitz operations by the Trade Measures Department and the Consumer Protection Commission have resulted in the confiscation of underweight goods, including sugar, rice, and mealie meal, being sold to the public.

The Ministry of Industry and Commerce is dedicated to consumer education and to dispatch Consumer Awareness Officers to conduct consumer awareness campaigns across Zimbabwe. These efforts aim to educate the consuming public of their rights and their responsibilities to check expiry dates, proper labeling, and verify product weights.



Industry and Commerce Minister, Honourable N.M. Ndhlovu inspecting a new weighbridge at Harare Offices

ZNCC Annual Congress

A Platform for Sustainable Industrialisation Solutions, says Minister Ndhlovu

Industry and Commerce Minister Nqobizitha Ndhlovu has described the Zimbabwe National Chamber of Commerce (ZNCC) Annual Congress as a vital platform for business experts and government officials to collaborate on sustainable and innovative solutions for industrialization and environmental sustainability. Minister Ndhlovu made these remarks during the official opening of the ZNCC's 2024 Annual Congress, held at a local hotel in Victoria Falls.

"This Congress is not just a gathering; it is a beacon of opportunity to exchange ideas and chart a path forward for our country as we engage in this significant movement. It is our moment to reflect on our achievements, tackle the challenges we face, and carve out a pathway that ensures both economic growth and environmental sustainability. Let us embrace this opportunity to unlock new frontiers, drive sustainable industrialisation, and build a brighter, greener future for all our people," Minister Ndhlovu stated.

He further noted that the discussions and resolutions from the Congress aligned closely with the government's efforts to address the challenges faced by the business community.



Industry and Commerce Minister, Honourable N.M. Ndhlovu

"Reflecting on the 2023 ZNCC Annual Congress, I recall the important issues discussed and the resolutions made, many of which have been and are being acted upon by the Second Republic under the leadership of His Excellency President E. D. Mnangagwa. This demonstrates our commitment to addressing the needs of the business community and other diverse interest groups. Importantly, the Second Republic has adopted a Whole-of-Government Approach to meet the needs of all stakeholders, leaving no one and no place behind," he emphasized.

Speaking at the same occasion, Professor Dr. Paul Mapfumo, Vice Chancellor of the University of Zimbabwe, urged both the government and private sector to adopt an inward-looking approach to tackle the country's industrialisation challenges.

Dr. Stephen Moyo, a representative from the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe (RBZ), noted that the introduction of the new local currency had helped stabilize the exchange rate and economy, contributing to industrialisation efforts.

"We need to leapfrog the country's industrialisation through science, innovation, and technology. Zimbabwe possesses all the necessary ingredients to become the Centre of the Future for Africa's Industrialisation, anchored on peace, education, agriculture, tourism, and mining,"

said Prof. Mapfumo

"The transition to the ZiG was smooth, and the Reserve Bank has demonstrated its commitment to supporting predictability, certainty, and stability. Certainty and predictability in prices will enable long-term planning and investment, which are key for industrialisation. Stability in the exchange rate and inflation are essential for export competitiveness, increasing capacity utilization, and expanding the productive base. Increased use of local currency will be critical for anchoring competitiveness, industrialisation, and trade," Dr. Moyo explained.



The ZNCC 2024 Congress was held under the theme "Unlocking New Frontiers for Sustainable Industrialisation and Climate Smart Business Growth." In its 2023-2024 Annual Report, ZNCC noted that "sustainable industrialisation seeks to mitigate adverse impacts by championing cleaner and more efficient production processes, minimizing waste and pollution, and embracing resource conservation." The report further emphasised that "sustainable industrialisation is underscored by the country's abundant natural resources and diverse economy, which encompasses agriculture, mining, and manufacturing."

2024



High level delegates attending the ZNCC Annual Congress



Director Commerce and Consumer Affairs, Mrs. Loice Magade

Empowered consumer, critical for quality business success

"The production of quality goods and services that meet the needs of an empowered consumer goes a long way to improve the country's competitiveness and image in both the domestic and international markets. Let us not forget that the Consumer Protection Agenda is very important as we journey towards Vision 2030, of a prosperous and empowered upper-middle-income society", said Mrs Magade.

An empowered consumer is a propelling force towards the production and supply of quality and safe products and services, the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, Director Commerce and Consumer Affairs, Mrs Loice Magade has said. She made the remarks during a consumer awareness campaign held at a local resort in the country's largest border town of Beitbridge, in Matabeleland South Province.

"The business sector should also understand that an empowered consumer is a critical element in the production, distribution and consumption of quality goods and services. It is very important that the consumer gets this right first and foremost and fully comprehends how he or she is empowered in terms of knowledge and exercise of his or her consumer rights", said Mrs Magade. She underscored that consumer protection agenda does not only lead to the supply of competitive products and services but is at the heart of inclusive empowerment and the achievement of Vision 2030.

Commerce and Consumer Affairs Director Magade added, "Consumer protection mechanisms prior to 2019 were outdated and needed an overhaul to address challenges such as; discriminatory and unfair market practices, limited redress mechanisms to violations of consumer rights, proliferation of low quality and unsafe products and lack of awareness of consumer rights amongst many others which led to the enactment of Consumer Protection Act in 2022".

Speaking during the campaign meeting, the Secretary for Provincial Affairs and Devolution, Matabeleland South Province, Mrs Latiso Dhlamini Maseko highlighted that consumer protection is good for both businesses and consumers. "Consumer protection makes markets work for both businesses and consumers. Accurate, unbiased information about products and services becomes easily available; hence, consumers can make informed choices.

"Consumer Protection creates confidence in the market place. It makes people realise that they belong to a well-governed economy that ensures fairness between the trader and the consumer of goods and services. It allows the consumer to realise value for their money", said Ms Maseko.

Ministry of Industry and Commerce Expands Consumer Awareness Campaigns Across All Provinces – Dr. Runyowa

The Ministry of Industry and Commerce is ramping up efforts to educate consumers in all of Zimbabwe's ten provinces about their rights and responsibilities, Industry and Commerce, Chief Director Commerce Division, Dr Douglas Runyowa has said. Dr. Runyowa made these remarks during a recent breakfast meeting held at a local hotel in Bulawayo. He emphasized the importance of ensuring that all stakeholders in the supply chain, including businesses, understand the need to protect consumers while promoting business growth.

"We have decided to educate not only the consuming public but also business operators across all provinces. The Consumer Protection Act has been translated into various languages, including Braille, to make sure that everyone can understand their rights and responsibilities, and that those in need of these services can access them and advocate for their rights," said Dr. Runyowa. He highlighted the Ministry's collaborative efforts with agencies like the Consumer Protection Commission (CPC) and the Consumer Council of Zimbabwe (CCZ) in safeguarding consumer interests.

"Consumers should know their rights and be empowered to demand them. We have strengthened consumer protection through agencies such as the Consumer Protection Commission and Consumer Council of Zimbabwe and the through the Consumer Protection Act, we established the Consumer Protection Commission," Dr. Runyowa added. He said they had collaboration with the private sector on a number of consumer awareness programmes touching on a number of issues such as weights, packaging and standards. He also mentioned that Trade Measures is a technical department that has the knowledge of these standards and weights or measuring equipments.

"We have conducted several consumer awareness programs with the private sector, focusing on improving standards, packaging, and operational guidelines. The Trade Measures Department plays a key role in verifying product weights and labeling, for example, ensuring that a loaf of bread weighs 700 grams and that all product measurements and labels comply with standards," he said.

He added that they were engaging with the baking industry to maintain a smooth working relationship in protecting consumers, as part of a broader strategy to foster consumer rights and business compliance.

"We are also in constantly engaging with bakers in that regard, to ensure smooth working relationship in our endeavour to protect consumers. The Ministry's initiative is a crucial step in enhancing consumer protection and ensuring that both consumers and businesses operate within a well-regulated, fair market environment", Dr Runyowa added.



Chief Director Commerce Division, Dr Douglas Runyowa

Harness power of standardisation to transform industries, business leaders told.

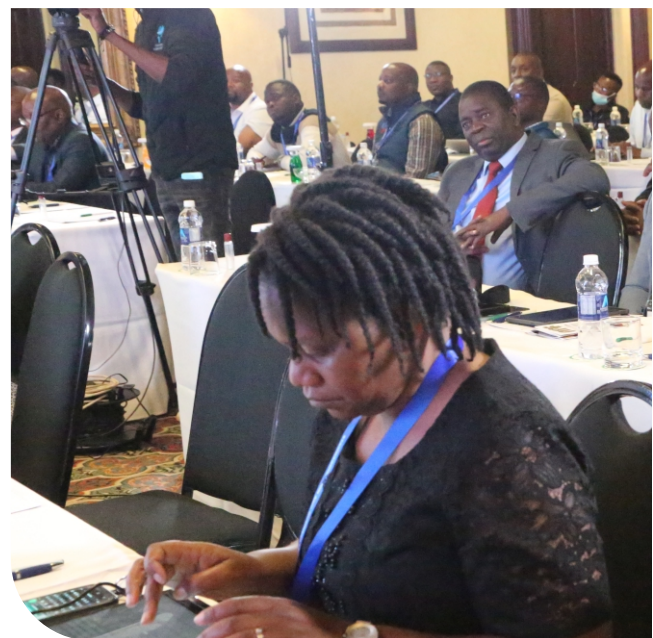
We need to optimise the power of standardisation to transform industries, empower our consumers and drive sustainable development in Zimbabwe and across Africa, Industry and Commerce Minister Nqobizitha Ndhlovu has said. He made the remarks to mark the official opening of the 2024 Standardisation Business Leaders Conference held in the resort town of Victoria Falls recently.

Minister Ndhlovu underscored that adoption of standards enhances the country's image as well as competitiveness on both local and global markets. "For Zimbabwe, it is imperative that we adopt standards, boost the productive capacity of our industries, and manufacture products that are acceptable in regional and international export markets.

"The production of quality goods and services that meet the needs of an empowered consumer goes a long way towards improving the country's image and competitiveness on both the domestic and international markets," he said. He further reiterated that standardisation shaped from both industry and consumer perspectives would help achieve the goals of the African Union Agenda 2063 in the spirit of collaboration and inclusivity that enhances trade among African countries.



Honourable Minister N.M. Ndhlovu addresses delegates



"We are here to foster a culture of standardisation both from an industry and a consumer perspective. A culture that sees beyond the immediate and looks towards the long-term benefits of sustainable development. It is about building resilient and sustainable economies that benefit our continent as we forge towards Agenda 2063—building the Africa we want.

"As we embark on this standardisation revolution, we must prioritise collaboration and inclusivity by engaging with industry (with a special mention of small and medium enterprises), regulators, consumers, and academia to ensure that our standards are relevant, effective, and responsive to emerging trends and technologies. Let us be careful that the standards that we develop or subscribe to do not become technical barriers to trade," he said.

Speaking at the same occasion, the Standards Association of Zimbabwe (SAZ) Acting Director General, Mr Cosmus Mukoyi commended the Minister Ndhlovu for his commitment and support to standardisation saying, "The Minister's commitment and support to standardisation issues is quite commendable. This also has helped to elevate this conference to a higher level".

Mr Mukoyi underscored the importance of standardisation saying a lot has to happen to transform our processes lest the country loses a lot of opportunities available on the global market. "As you are aware, there is a lot of transformation that needs to happen. So many opportunities are being lost by our countries because of the absence of quality issues. The destinations where we are taking our products demand that we meet certain minimum quality requirements.



Delegates follow proceedings during the conference

ZimTrade Chief Executive Officer, Mr Allan Majuru who spoke on Trade and Standards during the Conference stressed the need to observe and follow certain standards to facilitate smooth flow of trade.

"There are trade protocols and with these trade protocols there are standards that are there, such as rules of origin among others. Quite recently, we have had the Citrus Trade Protocol that has been put in place and we started exporting our citrus to China. There are certain standards that you have to follow for you to export to China.

"We also have markets such as AfCFTA, GCC, UAE, Saudi Arabia and Qatar. There are no trade agreements there but there are standards that you have to follow. Recently, I had a discussion with EU Ambassador where I said your standards are voluntary but they are mandatory. What this means is that if you do not volunteer you do not export," said Mr Majuru.

The Ministry of Industry and Commerce has commenced preparations to obtain ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management System (QMS) certification from the Standards Association of Zimbabwe (SAZ). This initiative aims to strengthen the Ministry's service delivery and align its management processes with globally recognized standards.

A training program has been launched to equip the Ministry's ISO 9001:2015 QMS Project Team with the necessary skills and knowledge for integrating QMS into its operations. The team has already completed two key courses in line with the ISO 9001:2015 standards. These courses covered the development and implementation of Quality Management Systems, as well as the documentation of QMS procedures.

Speaking to The Milestone Magazine, The Project Coordinator, Engineer Macheke Muchumairi, the Ministry's Director of Quality Assurance and Trade Measures, described the move towards ISO 9001:2015 certification as a positive step towards enhancing the Ministry's capacity to deliver high-quality services to its stakeholders.

"Implementing a QMS in line with globally accepted standards will enhance the Ministry's process efficiencies, thereby improving its overall ability to deliver on its mandate, especially in contributing to the achievement of Vision 2030," said Eng. Muchumairi.

He further highlighted that certification would reinforce the Ministry's commitment to continuous improvement, client satisfaction, quality service delivery, optimized resource allocation, and upholding the principles of transparency and accountability.

"ISO 9001:2015 QMS is designed to facilitate continuous improvement by refining internal processes, procedures, and responsibilities, ultimately helping organizations achieve their quality policies and objectives", he said

Ministry of Industry and Commerce Prepares for ISO Certification



Eng Muchumairi said the Ministry has made a good example by embracing quality management system to encourage private sector players to emulate.

"The Ministry is leading by example for private sector players to emulate and further improve on their quality processes and procedures. It has also demonstrated its commitment to embracing global quality standards", he said adding that they hoped to get the Ministry ISO certified by second quarter of 2025. The Standards Association of Zimbabwe provides certification services and training for quality management systems, including ISO 9001:2015, and plays a pivotal role in developing national standards to support the country's socio-economic development.

The Ministry's pursuit of ISO certification marks a significant effort to enhance its operational standards and demonstrate its dedication to excellence in public service.



MolC Senoir Management during the QMS 9001:2015 training



Permanent Secretary, Dr. T.U. Wushe

Government Partners with Private Sector and COMESA Business Council to Promote Conducive Business Environment – Dr. Wushe

By Nyasha Marumani, Correspondent

The Ministry of Industry and Commerce is working closely with the private sector and regional bodies like the COMESA Business Council to create a conducive business environment, Industry and Commerce Permanent Secretary, Dr. Thomas Wushe has said. He made the remarks during a breakfast meeting organized by the Zimbabwe National Chamber of Commerce (ZNCC) and the COMESA Business Council at a local hotel in Harare recently.

"Through close cooperation with the private sector and continuous consultations, the government aims to develop policies and frameworks that address the needs of the business community," said Dr. Wushe. He emphasized that the Ministry is implementing a series of measures aimed at driving the industrialization agenda, including the Zimbabwe Industrial Reconstruction and Growth Plan (ZIRGP) for 2024-2025.

"These measures seek to bridge the gap following the conclusion of the Zimbabwe National Industrialization Policy (ZNIDP 2019-2023) and the formulation of a comprehensive long-term plan aligned with the National Development Strategy 2 (NDS2). The ZIRGP will be anchored on research and development, innovation, economic empowerment, stakeholder engagement, and standards and quality", Dr. Wushe said. Dr. Wushe also highlighted the government's collaboration with the private sector to accelerate the implementation of value chain programs across key sectors such as agro-processing, horticulture, pharmaceuticals, beef and leather, and cotton-to-clothing.

"The ministry is collaborating with the private sector in accelerating the implementation of value chain programs across various sectors, including agro-processing, horticulture, pharmaceuticals, beef and leather, and cotton-to-clothing. These sectors, which are key focus areas of NDS1, aim to enhance value addition, competitiveness, and increase the contribution of manufacturing to the country's GDP", he said.

He also underscored the government's role in facilitating private sector participation in regional and multilateral trade agreements, including COMESA, the COMESA-EAC-SADC Tripartite Free Trade Area, the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), and the World Trade Organization (WTO). "As government, we have a significant responsibility to facilitate private sector participation in regional and multilateral trade arrangements, including COMESA, the COMESA-EAC-SADC Tripartite Free Trade Area, the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), and the World Trade Organization (WTO)", he said.

Dr. Wushe commended the ZNCC's efforts in advancing the agenda of empowering Zimbabwean small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to export within the COMESA region and beyond. "Empowering our SMEs ensures they are well-positioned to take full advantage of the opportunities available in this dynamic regional market," he said.

He concluded by encouraging participants to engage fully, share their experiences, and capitalize on the opportunities presented by the BizNet platform, which facilitates networking and collaboration for businesses. The government's partnership with the private sector and regional entities like COMESA demonstrates a strong commitment to fostering an enabling business environment, driving industrial growth, and promoting regional trade.

Hon. Minister M.N. Ndlovu hands over certificates to seven Trade Measures Inspectors



Trade Measures Inspector Tellmore Marimo receives a certificate from Honourable Minister, N.M. Ndlovu



Trade Measures Inspector Rumbidzayi Nyamutsaka poses for a photo with Honourable Minister, N.M. Ndlovu

Industry and Commerce Minister Nqobizitha Ndhlovu said he would facilitate resource mobilisation to help equip his Ministry's Trade Measures Department, with latest technology and skills to strengthen legal metrology operations.

He made the remarks during the graduation ceremony held at Standards Association of Zimbabwe (SAZ) in Borrowdale, Harare, to award seven officers from his Ministry with Certificates, who had successfully completed a training course to become full-fledged Trade Measures inspectors recently.

"It is with great pleasure that I stand before you today presiding over the certificates handover ceremony for Seven Inspectors of Trade Measures in the Ministry of Industry and Commerce. These certificates represent a significant milestone in our ongoing efforts to uphold the highest standards of accuracy, reliability, and transparency in measurement practices or metrology.

"My Ministry commits to provide more resources to enable legal metrology operations to reach world class standards through investing in the latest technology and facilitating human capital developmental programs. We also want to move with speed towards construction of the Legal Metrology Bureau which will be a hub of excellence for metrology equipped with state of the art tools of trade," said Minister Ndhlovu.

In an interview with The Milestone Magazine, Industry and Commerce Trade Measures Superintendent, Mr Christopher Ngwenya said his department would continue to do their best to protect consumers given the support that they were getting from their management.

"Trade Measures department remains committed to its mandate to protect the consuming public through ensuring accurate measurements are adhered to by business operators. With the support we are getting from our principals, we will continue to produce much better results and foster trust and transparency in the market place at all times", said Mr Ngwenya.

Responding to the question as to whether or not Trade Measures Inspectors, have powers to arrest and take offenders to court, he said, "Under Section 15 of the Trade Measures Act, an Inspector is vested with powers of entry and inspection of premises and measuring equipment and to facilitate investigations, examination, verifications as well as enforcement of other Legal Metrology requirements.

"In this regard, if indications of contraventions to the Trade Measures Act are established, Contravention Notice, Written Indictment is saved. This will facilitate processing of a Prosecution Notice which results in the accused person paying a fine or appear in court for determination or trial", he said. Mr Ngwenya said for one to qualify to work as a Trade Measures Inspector, he or she has to undergo a three-year training programme that comprises modules such as general metrology, administration of legal metrology activities and law amongst many other modules.



Standing, Acting SAZ Director General Mr Cosmus Mukoyi (second from right), Chief Director Commerce Division, Dr Douglas Runyowa (fifth from right), Trade Measures Superintendent, Mr Christopher Ngwenya (second from left), Trade Measures Regional Inspector, Masvingo, Ms Blessing Shora (far left) posed for a group photo with Trade Measures Inspectors

Ministry of Industry and Commerce Hosts Annual Strategic Planning Workshop in Mutare



Delegates following proceedings during the Strategic Planning Review Workshop at Golden Peacock in Mutare

The Ministry of Industry and Commerce recently held its Annual Strategic Planning Review Workshop in Mutare, where Industry and Commerce Minister Nqobizitha Ndhlovu emphasised the Ministry's unwavering commitment to fulfilling its mandate despite various challenges.

In a speech delivered on his behalf by Deputy Minister Rajeshkumar Modi, Minister Ndhlovu highlighted the Ministry's progress and its resolve to adapt to and overcome obstacles. "I am pleased to report that we have made notable strides, though our journey has not been without challenges. Headwinds have necessitated adaptations and re-evaluations of our plans. However, we are more aligned with our strategic priorities than ever before," he said.

Minister Ndhlovu underscored the importance of staying ahead of environmental and global developments that influence local industries. "It is imperative that we monitor the complex landscape in which our industries operate. This requires a comprehensive understanding of both the domestic macroeconomic landscape and dynamic global developments," he stated.

The Minister called for enhanced collaboration with other Ministries, Departments, Agencies, the private sector, and academia, to foster innovative, climate-smart strategies for addressing domestic economic challenges.

Optimistic about Zimbabwe's industrial growth, Minister Ndhlovu noted that the country is strategically positioned to respond to global megatrends and disruptions. "On a global scale, crises from COVID-19, climate change, and geopolitical conflicts like the war in Ukraine continue to impact economies. Nonetheless, we must seize opportunities arising from major global shifts, such as renewable energy transitions, demographic changes, geopolitical realignments, and the advances of the Fourth Industrial Revolution. By leveraging these trends, we can position our industries not only to navigate but to thrive and innovate," he added.

Looking forward to 2025, Minister Ndhlovu outlined key strategic priorities, including strengthening value chains in agriculture, mining, and emerging sectors like lithium. He stressed the need for organized commerce and regulatory compliance to promote stability and market sanity.

"We should prioritize restoring order in commerce, ensuring that businesses operate under established laws and industry standards. Effective policy interventions are essential to support our industries, including streamlining regulations and providing resource access for small and medium enterprises," he said.

Minister Ndhlovu also emphasised human capital investment to build a skilled workforce ready for a dynamic economy, alongside creating resilient, green industries capable of thriving amid global challenges such as climate change. He further noted the critical role of public-private partnerships in driving innovation, infrastructure improvement, and service delivery. "The government alone cannot deliver GDP growth—that is the role of the private sector. The government remains committed to creating a conducive environment for businesses to prosper," he said.

In light of Africa's progress toward implementing the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) agreement, Minister Ndhlovu urged the Ministry to ensure industries are prepared for heightened competition. "It is essential that Zimbabwean products are competitive across the continent to attract much-needed foreign currency," he concluded.



Seated centre-Deputy Minister, R. Modi flanked by Secretary for Industry and Commerce, Dr T.U. Wushe (right), Director Economic Affairs OPC Manicaland (left), Chief Director Industry, Ministry of Industry and Commerce, Ms F. Makombe, Director Strategic Policy Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation, Ms V. Kwaramba, pose for a group photo with delegates during the Strategic Planning Review Workshop at Golden Peacock in Mutare.



Ministry of Industry and Commerce Zimbabwe



PRESS RELEASE: FAKE GRANT OFFERS CIRCULATING ON FACEBOOK AND EMAIL PLATFORMS

The Ministry of Industry and Commerce notes with great concern the continued fraud by scammers who are deceiving unsuspecting individuals and entities by purporting to be officials from the Ministry and offering fake grants and loan opportunities through email and Facebook. The targeted individuals are being enticed into applying for loans but end up losing their hard-earned monies in the alleged application process.

Fake loans, grants, adverts and offer letters impersonating the Ministry are in circulation. Be warned that these loan and grant offers are the work of scammers and must be ignored. The Ministry therefore takes this opportunity to advise all stakeholders and citizens that it is not offering loans and grants. Anyone approached by such a proposition through email, Facebook or any other means must not entertain such offers.

Reports have been made to the relevant authorities and measures are being taken to make sure that the work of the fraudsters is stopped.

Please stay safe and report any suspicious messages. The ministry encourages all concerned to verify the authenticity of any communication claiming to be from the Ministry of Industry and Commerce through the Communications and Advocacy Unit on email info@moic.org.zw/ landline (263) 242 791823/702733/700472/ X Handle @Min_of_IC.

The Ministry regrets any inconvenience caused and appreciates the public's vigilance and cooperation in combating the scams.

Mukwati Building

OR Tambo Avenue/SV Muzenda,

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Feature/Opinion and Analysis Column





President of the Republic of Zimbabwe and Chairman of the SADC, His Excellency, Dr E.D. Mnangagwa

The 7th edition of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Industrialisation Week (SIW), hosted at the Harare International Conference Centre from July 28 to August 2, 2024, was hailed as a significant success. Held ahead of the SADC Ordinary Summit, the event brought together industry leaders, innovators, and government officials to discuss the future of industrialisation in the region.

In her address, SADC Secretariat Deputy Executive Secretary, Ms. Angele Makombo N'tumba, praised Zimbabwe for its exemplary organisation of the event.



7th SADC Industrialisation Week

A Major Milestone

"The hosting of the 7th SIW by Zimbabwe is exemplary. You have set a high standard. I am not sure if future editions will be able to emulate it, especially given your strides in agriculture and achieving food self-sufficiency," she remarked.

The week fostered significant business engagement, with several prospective investors pledging millions of dollars in investments in Zimbabwe. Among the highlights was a business-to-business (B2B) session that facilitated discussions on investment opportunities. One investor shared plans to invest \$2 million in value addition, noting Zimbabwe's rich mineral resources and announcing potential plans to establish a lithium battery manufacturing plant. "Zimbabwe has all the minerals needed in the world, and we want to ensure that every mineral leaving the country is value-added," the investor said.

The event exceeded expectations, drawing over 2,000 delegates, ten times the initial projections. It began with a Media Awareness Day to engage local, regional, and international media, generating widespread publicity for the event. An Investment Forum on the second day set the tone for business discussions and plenary sessions throughout the week. On the third day, the President of Zimbabwe, H.E. Dr. Emmerson Mnangagwa, officially opened the event. In his speech, he emphasized the importance of innovation, technology, and research in driving the SADC Industrialisation Strategy.

"Member States must increase investments in technology, innovation, and research and development to ensure the successful implementation of the SADC Industrialisation Strategy," said President Mnangagwa. He called on stakeholders to "remain vigilant in growing investments that will spur our industrial development agenda to achieve the SADC we all want."

Information, Publicity and Broadcasting Services Minister, Dr. Jenifan Muswere, highlighted the significance of SIW during Media Awareness Day, stating, "SADC Industrialisation Week aims to promote industrialisation, showcase investment opportunities across various value chains, and facilitate networking among stakeholders in the industrial sector." He added that the event also seeks to foster intra-African trade and cross-border value chains, urging media representatives to amplify its messages to a wider audience.

Exhibitions from local, regional, and international organizations, as well as small and medium enterprises (SMEs), showcased a variety of quality products and services at stands located around the Rainbow Towers Hotel. The week culminated in factory and farm visits in Harare, Midlands, and Mashonaland West Provinces, giving delegates an opportunity to witness firsthand the country's industrial potential.

During these visits, Industry and Commerce Minister Nqobizitha Ndhlovu emphasised the importance of practical action, noting, "The whole idea of company visits is to highlight that SIW is not just a talk show; we must walk the talk. Moving forward, we will focus on creating linkages within the SADC region, connecting what we are doing in Zimbabwe with initiatives in other member states to develop cross-border value chains."

The 7th SIW was guided by the African Union Agenda 2063 and aligned with the SADC Industrialisation Strategy and Roadmap (SISR 2015-2063), which aims to shift the region from a factor-driven economy to one powered by knowledge, innovation, and business sophistication. It also addressed the need to increase the manufacturing sector's contribution to Gross Domestic Product (GDP), which remains at a modest 12%.

The event, first held in Eswatini in 2016, was born out of the SADC Business Council's resolution to mobilize the private sector across member states to showcase value chains and foster industrialisation. This year's theme, "Promoting Innovation to Unlock Opportunities for Sustainable Economic Growth and Development Towards an Industrialised SADC," reflected the region's commitment to leveraging innovation for economic transformation.



The President of the Republic of Zimbabwe, His Excellency Dr. E.D Mnangagwa, flanked by VP General (Rtd) Dr C.G.D.N. Chiwenga (left) and Executive Secretary of SADC Secretariat, His Excellency Mr Elias Magosi (right) pose for a group photo with senior Government officials, SADC Secretariat and ARIPO representative.

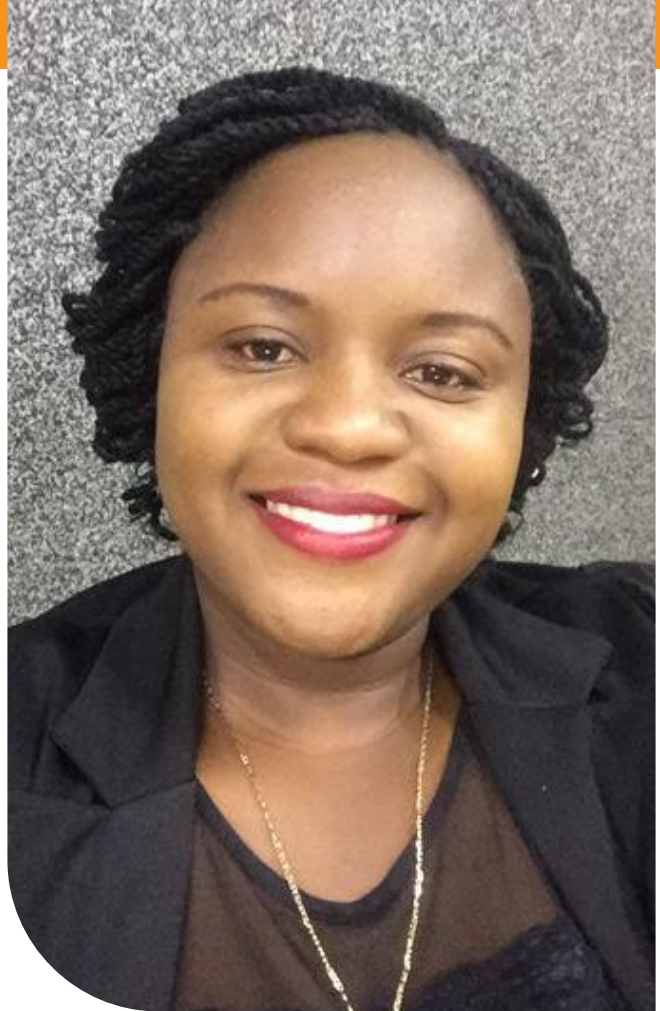
ZITF's Vision 2025

Paving the Path to a World-Class Exhibition Hub

The Zimbabwe International Trade Fair (ZITF), the country's flagship annual premier trade showcase, which has long been a platform for both public and private sectors, now prepares to make a giant leap, from a traditional government-led event to a vibrant, private sector-dominated hub that aims to reshape Zimbabwe's economic landscape on a global stage.

A Marketing Assistant from the ZITF revealed this transformative vision during a presentation she made during the recent high level Ministry of Industry and Commerce's 2024 Annual Strategic Planning Review Workshop in Mutare, Manicaland Province. Ms Kudzayi Shirichena, ZITF Marketing Assistant, shared a glimpse into this forward-thinking blueprint, a Master Plan for 2025 and beyond. In her presentation, Ms Shirichena indicated that ZITF is on a mission to provide "a world-class exhibition experience by combining innovation, inclusivity, and international standards across all aspects of the trade fair".

ZITF 2025 Theme **Industrialisation:** Crafting an Integrated Economic Landscape



ZITF Marketing Assistant, Kudzayi Shirichena

One of ZITF's primary 2025 goals is shifting from public to private sector dominance, engaging more deeply with local industries and opening doors for Zimbabwe's private sector to take the lead. This shift promises a new level of dynamism and responsiveness to market needs, where private companies and entrepreneurs will steer conversations and drive initiatives.

To support this transition, ZITF is building alliances, particularly with the Confederation of Zimbabwe Industries (CZI), to jointly host the International Business Conference and with ZimTrade. This initiative is expected to amplify local industry voices, spotlighting the Zimbabwean startup ecosystem through initiatives like the ZITF Innovators Forum. This platform will serve as a launchpad for startups to connect with investors, strategists, and collaborators, bringing fresh energy to the exhibition.

"To increase private sector participation we have various initiatives that will include ZITF Company Partnership with

the Confederation of Zimbabwe Industries (CZI) in hosting the International Business Conference. We will also be spotlighting the Zimbabwean start-up economy through the ZITF Innovators Forum, hosting a ZITF Buyers' Programme in conjunction with ZimTrade to foster valuable connections between local businesses and international buyers, expanding market reach and encouraging sustainable growth", said Ms Shirichena. She further highlighted that, "ZITF is also reviving the Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEM) breakfast meeting, an event focused on helping manufacturers access new markets, address retooling needs, and discuss solutions to challenges like Zimbabwe's energy crisis".

A significant thrust of ZITF's 2025 strategy is heightened international participation. ZITF plans to work closely with regional and international bodies including the AfCFTA, SADC Business Council and COMESA to promote regional engagement. With regional roadshows and collaborative events, ZITF will promote a broader understanding of Zimbabwe's business environment while encouraging regional and global stakeholders to actively participate in the country's premier show.

"We intend to increase regional and international awareness, participation and collaboration through various campaign programmes such as regional roadshows. We also aim to increase collaboration with the AfCFTA, SADC Business Council, COMESA and other regional and international BMOs to emphasise that "Zimbabwe is open for business" and encourage greater involvement from the regional manufacturing sector", she emphasized.

Ms Shirichena emphasised ZITF's dedication to enhancing the diversity and quality of international dialogue at the trade fair, noting plans to increase the presence of international speakers and panelists through strategic partnerships with embassies and multinational organizations. This will not only raise the event's global profile but also enable knowledge exchange on crucial topics affecting Zimbabwe and its neighbours.

"We will also host luncheon with embassies to increase International Speakers and Panelists participating in conferences", said Ms Shirichena.

In pursuit of a world-class exhibition experience, ZITF's future-focused plans include state-of-the-art event technologies, such as high-speed Wi-Fi, advanced audiovisual systems, and digital signage, to support seamless communication and engagement. For international attendees, simultaneous translation services in conference rooms will ensure that language is not a barrier to meaningful participation.

"For effective communication and engagement, we will provide a seamless global communication that will promote world-class exhibition experience, through the availability of state-of-the-art event technology that includes High-speed Wi-Fi, advanced audio-visual systems, and digital signage.

"We will also ensure conference rooms are equipped with simultaneous translation equipment, multi-lingual marketing materials, including brochures, booking forms, and website sections, in French, Mandarin, and Portuguese, to facilitate effective communication for international delegates", she said.

The ZITF's physical infrastructure is slated for significant development under a new master plan. Ms Shirichena revealed the ambitious plans to add a convention center, hotel, office block, theme park, sports facility, and retail shopping center to the ZITF grounds. These developments will transform the site into a year-round destination for business, leisure, and recreation.

"We do have a master plan we are going to implement. The master plan identified the following anchor developments; hotel offering, convention centre, ZITF office block, theme park, sport facility and retail shopping facility", said Ms Shirichena.

The Consumer Protection Commission speaks on the proliferation of counterfeit products.

The Milestone Chief Correspondent (CC) recently interviewed the Consumer Protection Commission (CPC), Research & Public Affairs Manager, Mr Kudakwashe Mudereri (KM) on the proliferation of counterfeit products in the market. The Consumer Protection Commission;

- Protects consumers from unconscionable, unreasonable, unjust or otherwise improper trade practices; as well as deceptive, misleading, unfair or fraudulent conduct;
- Conducts conciliation and arbitration between parties,
- Conducts consumer education and awareness,
- Provides consensual resolution of disputes and redress arising from consumer transactions,
- Investigates and evaluates alleged prohibited conduct and offences, and
- Ensures that prohibited conduct and offences are prevented, detected and prosecuted.

CC: What has the CPC done to respond to the problem of counterfeit goods?

KM: The Consumer Protection Commission (CPC) has noted with great concern the surge/proliferation of substandard/counterfeit/fake products in the market cutting across most of the products.

In response the Consumer Protection Commission carried out enforcements blitz throughout the Country targeting Suppliers of substandard/counterfeit/fake products working with other Law Enforcements Agencies such as Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP) and the Zimbabwe Revenue Authority (ZIMRA). The blitz in Harare which covered CBD and Mbare unearthed several counterfeit products such as Mazoe which was being smuggled from Zambia and was confiscated A total of 3374 x 2 litres of counterfeited Mazoe, 348 x 2 litres Mama's Tomato sauce and 61 cases of 350ml of Mama's Tomato Sauce was confiscated and is in the custody of ZIMRA.

In addition to Nationwide blitz on counterfeit products, the Commission conducted the following consumer awareness activities to combat and minimize proliferation of counterfeit products in the market:

- Country Wide Outreach Awareness Programs
- Radio Programs (Kodzero Dzevatengi/Amalungelo Abathengi)
- Local Awareness campaigns
- Social Media Alerts
- Press releases on counterfeit products
- Routine compliance and inspection checks

CC: How many have been prosecuted and made to pay fines?

KM: The Consumer Protection Commission (CPC) has actively pursued legal action against offenders involved in the trade of counterfeit goods. To date, a significant number of 103 businesses have been prosecuted for violating Consumer Protection Act Chapter (14.44). These actions not only serve as a deterrent measure but also to reinforce CPC's commitment to upholding market integrity.

CC: Is the CPC active throughout Zimbabwe, if so in which provinces?

KM: The Consumer Protection Commission (CPC) is active in several provinces, and currently has offices in:

- Harare Province – covering Harare, Mashonaland Central, Mashonaland west and Midlands Provinces.
- Manicaland Province – covering Masvingo, Mashonaland East and Manicaland provinces.
- Bulawayo Province - covering all Provinces in Matabeleland.

Through the upcoming devolution efforts, CPC is set to set up offices in all Provinces with a view to extend its activities and enhance consumer protection across the country. This expansion will ensure consumers access CPC services in their Provinces.

CC: Is Bulawayo also affected by cases of counterfeit products?

KM: In relation to counterfeit products, Bulawayo has not been spared as numerous cases have been received, detected and investigated. The 103 cases as alluded in number one also include cases that occurred in Bulawayo.

CC: What has the CPC done to caution business entities that are refusing the use of ZWG POS machines and fuel retailers refusing to use USD swipe machines when selling fuel?

KM: As the Consumer Protection Commission (CPC), we have taken significant steps to address the refusal of business entities to accept ZWG through POS machine payments. To date the Consumer Protection Commission has received numerous cases of business refusing Zig and 23 cases have been referred to the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) in terms of section 87 of the Consumer Protection Act for further investigations and management.

Regarding Fuel stations refusing swipe in USD, so far 50 fuel stations were inspected in Harare, 43 were found to be non-compliant and were issued with compliance notices to accept payment in USD.

CC: Has the CPC been taken to court for administering its mandate as required by the law?

KM: The Consumer Protection Commission has not yet been taken to court, however, the Commission has received some complaints from Consumers and the complainants have been resolved and managed.



Research & Public Affairs Director, Mr Kudakwashe Mudereri

Regional and International News Column

SAZ and ZABS Sign Memorandum of Understanding

Zimbabwe and Zambia have taken a significant step towards enhancing trade relations by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) aimed at developing mutually recognisable standards in the manufacturing and supply of goods and services. This important agreement was formalized during the Standardisation and Business Leaders Conference held recently in Victoria Falls.

During the signing ceremony, SAZ Board Chairperson and Executive Director of the Consumer Council of Zimbabwe (CCZ), Commissioner Rosemary Mpofu, emphasised that the MOU is a deliberate effort to strengthen cooperation between Zambia and Zimbabwe in harmonising standards.



SAZ Board Chairperson, Commissioner Rosemary Mpofu



SAZ Board Chairperson, Commissioner Rosemary Mpofu and her Zambian counterpart ZABS Board Chairperson, Mr Mbobe Nyondo witnessing the signing of the MOU by SAZ Acting Director General Mr Cosmus Mukoyi and ZABS Executive Director, Mr Nathan Sing'ambwa

"The signing of the MOU marks a milestone in our collaborative journey, paving the way for enhanced cooperation and shared expertise in the field of standardisation. Our commitment to upholding the highest standards of quality, safety, and efficiency is now reinforced through this partnership. Together, we will work towards harmonising our standards, which is crucial for facilitating trade, fostering innovation, and ensuring the health, safety, and well-being of consumers," said Commissioner Mpofu.

"The signing of the MOU today is a significant achievement for ZABS. It underscores our strategic focus on developing partnerships within and outside our country," said Mr. Nyondo. He expressed optimism that the MOU would lead to improved industrial standards and trade between the two nations.

"As ZABS, we are very optimistic that this MOU captures the common interests between Zambia and Zimbabwe, contributing to the socio-economic development of our two countries through the promotion of trade and industry, and improved cooperation in areas of conformity assessment and standardisation," he explained.

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Mr. Nyondo added

"The MOU will enhance mutual recognition of ZABS and SAZ certification marks for products and services, ensuring they are harmonised in accordance with international best practices and peer evaluation mechanisms."



ZIM-Turkey Strengthens Bilateral Cooperation on Industrial Development

The Governments of Zimbabwe and Turkey are reinforcing their bilateral cooperation to promote industrial development, Industry and Commerce Secretary, Dr. Thomas Wushe has revealed in an interview with The Milestone Magazine.

Dr Wushe led a Zimbabwean delegation to Turkey recently for a benchmarking exercise to find ways of cooperation in technological, industrial and commercial development. He described the visit as highly productive, highlighting engagements with key Turkish government ministries and business agencies to explore areas of cooperation in technological, industrial, and commercial development.

"During our benchmarking visit to Turkey, we held several discussions with the Ministry of Industry and Technology, Ankara Chamber of Industry (ASO), Small and Medium Enterprises Development Organisation (KOSGEB), the Investment Support and Promotion Agency of Turkey, Istanbul Chamber of Industry (ICI), Turkey Exporters Assembly (TİM), and the Foreign Economic Relations Board of Turkey (DEİK)," said Dr. Wushe.

The main objective, he added, "was to examine best practices and identify areas for potential collaboration, particularly in industrial development. The discussions focused on Turkey's industrialisation strategy, policy development and implementation, value chain strategies, and the role of both the public and private sectors in driving industrial growth".

A key takeaway from the visit was Turkey's use of Organised Industrial Zones (OIZs), which were established by the Ministry of Industry and Technology to prevent distorted industrialisation and environmental issues, while optimising urbanisation and resource use.

The Zimbabwean delegation learned that these zones focus on sectors such as leather, textiles, machinery, chemicals, iron and steel, food, building materials, and printing products, with additional laws and regulations governing industries like crude oil refineries and LPG storage. Dr. Wushe underscored the importance of the lessons learned, noting the potential for similar zones in Zimbabwe. "Our mission is to find the best ways to support the Ministry of Industry and Commerce's National Development Strategy 1 (NDS1), particularly the thrust of Moving the Economy Up the Value Chain and Structural Transformation," he explained. "We therefore need a strategy that helps us emulate and move with same speed as Turkey's industrial development, especially in the development of ten priority value chains", he added.

Dr Wushe further highlighted that a 2023 World Bank study identified wheat, sugar, cotton, beef, and soybeans as key sectors for Zimbabwe's industrialisation. He emphasised the opportunity for Zimbabwe to implement Special Economic Zones (SEZs), drawing inspiration from Turkey's OIZs, which are bolstered by strong legal frameworks and government support. Dr. Wushe also pointed to the strategic advantage of Zimbabwe's location along the North-South Corridor, which passes through nine African countries, as a potential site for industrial zones. He highlighted opportunities for investors, particularly in relation to the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), which offers access to 54 countries across the continent.



Permanent Secretary, Dr. T.U. Wushe (7th from left), leading the Zimbabwe Delegates in Turkey



Industry and Commerce Minister Nqobizitha Ndhlovu joined other Ministers of Industry, during the BRICS Forum on Partnership on New Industrial Revolution 2024, at the invite of the Minister of Industry and Technology of the People's Republic of China Mr JIN Zhuanglong.

BRICS refers to some emerging market countries such as Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa that seek to establish deeper ties between member nations and cooperation on economic expansion, including trade.

This year's Brics Forum ran under the theme:

“Fostering High-Quality Partnerships and Embarking on a new journey of New Industrialisation”

Minister Ndhlovu's participation in the BRICS Forum follows closely after President Emmerson Mnangagwa's attendance at the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation, further solidifying the strong diplomatic and economic relationship between Zimbabwe and China.

In his address to the forum, Minister Ndhlovu emphasized the importance of global collaboration in today's interconnected world. “Collaboration is not merely an option but a necessity. By joining forces with BRICS partners and emerging economies, Zimbabwe sees immense potential to harness opportunities for industrialisation,” he said.

Ndhlovu highlighted Zimbabwe's rich mineral resources, pointing out that the country offers significant investment opportunities, particularly in value addition and technological advancement. He stressed that by forming high-quality, mutually beneficial partnerships, Zimbabwe could transform its economy through the beneficiation and value addition of its natural resources.

Zimbabwe Participates at the BRICS Forum on New Industrial Revolution

The Minister also underscored the potential for Zimbabwe to collaborate with BRICS countries on joint ventures aimed at processing and refining resources into high-tech products such as electronics and batteries. Such partnerships, he noted, would help Zimbabwe transition from a commodity-driven to an innovation-driven, and ultimately, a knowledge-driven economy.

Minister Ndhlovu extended an invitation to BRICS investors, encouraging them to partner with Zimbabwean companies in areas such as technology transfer, infrastructure development, capacity building, and sustainable development. “By investing in Zimbabwe, BRICS and other emerging economies will gain a gateway to supply products to the rest of Africa,” he concluded.

This strategic engagement is expected to enhance Zimbabwe's role in the global industrial landscape while attracting crucial investments in its quest for economic transformation.



Hon Minister, N.M. Ndhlovu addressing delegates during the BRICS Forum

Gender Mainstreaming and Inclusivity



Chantel Musiza delivering her speech during the 2024 World Standards Day commemoration in Harare



The World Standards Organisation Director General, Mr Sergio Mujica congratulates Chantell Musiza

On October 3rd, professionals, industry leaders, and innovators from various sectors gathered to celebrate World Standards Day, an event recognizing the crucial role of standardization in global industries. Among the recipients of prestigious awards was Chantell Musiza, a remarkable young woman who has made significant strides in championing standards.

Musiza's journey into standardization began last year when she participated in the African Regional Standards Organization (ARSO) annual essay competition. Her success in the competition earned her an internship at the Standards Association of Zimbabwe, where she trained in the chemical and food departments. She is now actively involved in the ISO Environmental Management Youth Leadership Program under Technical Committee 207.

"Standards are the backbone of innovation, safety, and efficiency in our world. They facilitate trade, ensure quality, protect consumers, and promote sustainability," said Musiza.

Musiza emphasized that her experience with the ISO has been transformative, offering her much more than a set of guidelines but an opportunity to collaborate with global experts. "I have witnessed firsthand how standards not only enhance organizational performance but also protect our planet," she added.

She added that she had the opportunity to attend ISO Annual Meeting in USA where she learnt that most students were learning about standards for the first time in their lives.

Chantell Musiza Wins Prestigious Award on World Standards Day

By Nyasha Marumani, Correspondent

"I recently had the opportunity to facilitate discussions with students in Colombia during the ISO Annual Meeting held in Cartagena last month. I found that many of the students were unfamiliar with the concept of standards, which she initially thought was only a challenge in Africa", said Musiza.

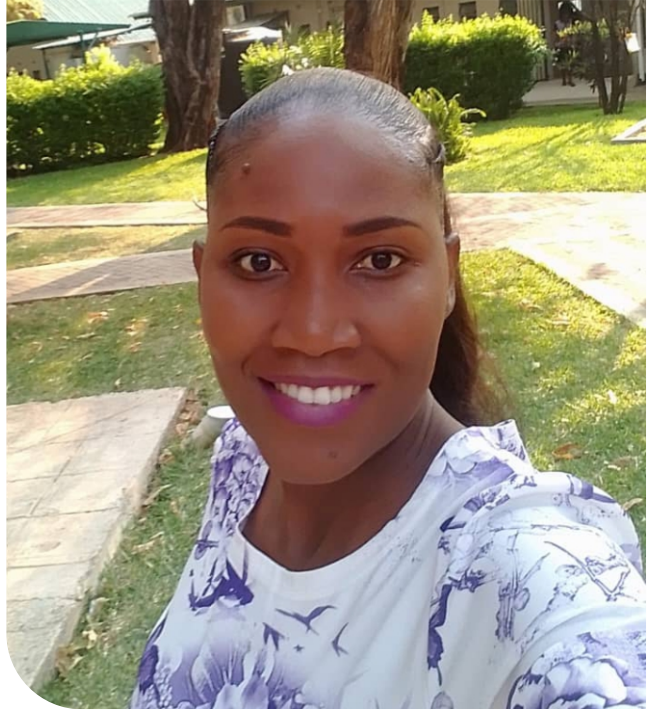
She stressed that learning and integrating standards into tertiary curricula was very relevant for future leaders.

"Standards are very important and future leaders must take initiative by participating in technical committees, joining professional organizations, and immersing themselves in the world of standardisation. There is need to integrate standards into tertiary curricula.

Musiza's award on World Standards Day is a testament to her dedication to promoting and advancing standards, and her story serves as an inspiration to youth globally to engage in this critical field. The celebration of world stands is key to the industrial and commercial sectors. This is a constant reminder to world business leaders that standards help facilitate seamless integration, international trade, supply chain optimization, innovation, production and supply of high quality and safe products amongst many other factors.

Gender mainstreaming, a catalyst for inclusive economic growth

-GFP Madziwo.



Ministry of Industry and Commerce, Gender Focal Person, Ms Melody Madziwo.

In a commendable stride towards inclusive economic development, Zimbabwe's Ministry of Industry and Commerce has championed gender mainstreaming as a core component of its policy and operational framework. This initiative is reshaping the Ministry's approach to industrial growth by ensuring that both men and women have equal opportunities to contribute to and benefit from the nation's economic progress.

Speaking to The Milestone Magazine, the Ministry of Industry and Commerce's Gender Focal Person (GFP), Ms Melody Madziwo highlighted that the Ministry has shown commitment to inclusivity, stating that gender mainstreaming is not only about fairness but also about enhancing productivity and innovation. "By prioritizing gender mainstreaming, the Ministry of Industry and Commerce can help create a more inclusive, innovative, and prosperous economic environment," said Madziwo.

This vision aligns with Zimbabwe's broader goals of sustainable growth and social justice, as gender equality is essential to fostering a resilient, thriving economy. A significant aspect of the Ministry's approach is its focus on equitable economic growth. Ms Madziwo further underscored that the Ministry is coordinating various initiatives to ensure that gender is mainstreamed.

"By ensuring that policies are gender-sensitive, the Ministry is laying a foundation for increased participation by women in traditionally male-dominated industries, through various initiatives such as organizing and coordinating training in Gender mainstreaming and inclusivity for parastatals and private sector.

"Training programs are also a vital cog to raise awareness about the importance of gender equality across parastatals and business member organizations, which fosters a culture where inclusivity is valued at every level. Gender mainstreaming training encourages employees, especially leaders, to become gender champions, ensuring that the principles of gender equality permeate all aspects of Zimbabwe's industry and commerce sectors", said Madziwo.

"This emphasis on inclusivity directly addresses challenges women face in the workforce, such as limited access to resources, support systems, and decision-making roles. When women can actively participate in industry and commerce, Zimbabwe benefits from a richer pool of talent and creativity, which in turn drives economic growth", she added. Ms Madziwo affirmed that gender mainstreaming and inclusivity was in line with national Vision 2030 of inclusive economic development and empowerment, especially for rural population.

"Gender mainstreaming drives socio-economic development in rural areas, leaving no one and no place behind. This commitment to rural areas is transformative, as it empowers women in remote communities, giving them the tools and opportunities to contribute meaningfully to the economy. Through inclusive policies, rural areas are better positioned to thrive, creating a ripple effect of empowerment and economic improvement throughout Zimbabwe", affirmed Ms Madziwo.

She also added, "Programme leaders and Departments heads should understand the issue of gender responsive budgeting so that when they draft their budgets, they should also take care of the gender related needs. We will organize another gender mainstreaming and inclusivity training workshop specifically for Programme leaders and Department heads so that they appreciate the benefits and importance of gender mainstreaming and inclusivity and gender responsive budgeting".



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Ministry of Industry and Commerce Volleyball Team (Women) during inter-ministerial sports festival



Ministry of Industry and Commerce Netball Team during inter-ministerial sports festival



Ministry of Industry and Commerce Volleyball Team (Men) during inter-ministerial sports festival



Ministry of Industry and Commerce Volleyball Teams during inter-ministerial sports festival



Ministry of Industry and Commerce Soccer Team during inter-ministerial sports festival



Ministry of Industry and Commerce athletes assembled at Mkoba Teachers' College, Gweru, for the Inter-Ministerial Sports Festival

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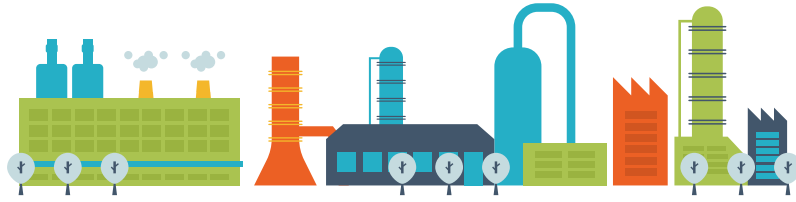


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ZIMBABWE INDUSTRIAL RECONSTRUCTION AND GROWTH PLAN (ZIRGP) 2024-2025

What is the Zimbabwe Industrial Reconstruction and Growth Plan?

Zimbabwe Industrial Reconstruction and Growth Plan (ZIRGP) October 2024–December 2025 is a transitional framework to align the industrial policy with the National Development Strategy 2 (2026–2030), in line with the Integrated Development Planning (IDP) and Integrated Results Based Management (IRBM).

What is the main thrust of ZIRGP?

The main thrust of ZIRGP is to address immediate challenges in the manufacturing and commercial sectors while laying a foundation for accelerated industrial development under the Zimbabwe National Industrial Development Policy (ZNIDP) 2 to achieve Vision 2030 aspirations.

The ZIRGP is supported by 4 pillars namely:

- Commerce issues constraining industrial growth
- Measures to promote the growth of the manufacturing sector
- Implementation, monitoring and evaluation
- Crafting of ZNIDP 2 (2026–2030)

ZIRGP will focus on the following issues:

- Addressing influx of smuggled and counterfeit products, and informalisation
- Improving ease of doing business
- Enhancement of large corporates - SMEs linkages
- Enhancing Government and private sector collaboration
- Bilateral and Multilateral engagements such as AfCFTA, SADC and COMESA.
- Address regulation and compliance issues;
- Address issues of access to affordable long term financing;
- Address issues of infrastructure and utilities such as electricity and water cost and availability

To promote growth in the manufacturing sector, ZIRGP focuses on the following:-

- Import substitution for selected products such as fertilisers, pharmaceutical products, iron and steel, cement, edible crude oil, bus and truck, cement industry, lithium value addition and leather
- Enhancing intermediate manufacturing
- Utilisation of idle manufacturing infrastructure assets
- Value chain optimisation
- Local Content Strategy implementation
- Rural Industrialisation

Financing of ZIRGP

- Under ZIRGP, the Industrial Development Corporation of Zimbabwe (IDCZ) will be enhanced its role as a Development Finance Institution (DFI).
- Innovative financing mechanisms for industry including international sources, innovative financing mechanisms, concessional funding and other sources will be pursued to finance ZIRGP.

Implementation, monitoring and Evaluation of ZIRGP

In order to keep track of progress, ZIRGP will be monitored on a quarterly basis and necessary interventions made timely.

Success Indicators for ZIRGP

- An organised commerce sector
- Increased production of quality goods and services
- Enhanced consumer welfare
- Reduction in incidences of substandard goods on our shelf space
- Improved ease of doing business and competitiveness
- Increased capacity utilization
- Increased manufactured exports
- Increased manufacturing sector employment
- Increased production of goods and services
- Improved local content
- Quarterly reviews of ZIRGP
- ZNIDP 2 document crafted in line with NDS2

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