



MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE ZIMBABWE



PRESS STATEMENT ON THE CURRENT CEMENT SHORTAGES AND MITIGATION MEASURES BY THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE

1. The Ministry of Industry and Commerce takes this opportunity to advise the nation on the recent Cement shortages and the measures being taken by Government to address the same.
2. The nation has been experiencing constrained supply of cement due to a number of factors converging at the same critical period. Noteworthy is the limited domestic production due to widespread shortage of clinker across the cement industry. At the same period, some of the players like Sino Zimbabwe were on scheduled maintenance while others like PPC and Lafarge had plant breakdowns.
3. It is paramount to note the construction boom by both public and private sector under the Second Republic and this sector has seen the demand for cement nearly trebling from the 2017 levels, signaling strong growth reflecting a growing economy. This has similarly attracted huge investments into the sector, with one new entrant starting operations end of 2024 and 2 new players coming into operation during the course of 2025, both in Hwange.
4. Our current production is still not adequate to meet our current and growing demand for cement causing mismatch between demand and supply. Furthermore, the increase in demand for cement in Zambia, which has been contributing to nearly 90% of our imports, is causing Zimbabwean trucks to be delayed at the loading point in Zambia.
5. It is disturbing to note the speculative and criminal nature by some individuals and businesses who are taking advantage of this temporary setback to fleece our people, charging exorbitant and ridiculous prices.

This behaviour should not be tolerated and we appeal to such individuals to uphold good business ethics and principles.

6. To alleviate the shortages as well as stabilising the recent price increases, the Ministry is allowing importation of cement through increased issuance of import licenses. The Ministry has since issued a total of 145 000 MT of import licences from the beginning of October 2025 to date. The measure is starting to bear fruits and we are advised by a number of players who are importing that the product has started arriving. We wish to advise also that ZIMRA is carrying out a loss control program of following up on cement importers who did not pay surtax and hence the clearance of trucks at Chirundu is still quite slow.
7. However, it is pleasing to note that Sino Zimbabwe has since resumed production and players in the industry have started picking up the product. PPC Zimbabwe also indicated that their Bulawayo plant, which had broken down, has since been repaired and now they are in production.
8. The cement industry, has advised Government that they have not increased their prices and that the public should avoid panic buying, which may result in serious losses on their part.
9. Stakeholders are being advised that one would require an import license to import cement into the country. In line with the Ease of Doing Business, import licenses will be issued out in **Harare, Bulawayo, Mutare, Masvingo and Gweru Offices**. To expedite the processing of the permits, the Minister of Industry and Commerce has waived the requirement for a CBCA certificate for the period up to 20 December 2025.
10. The Ministry wishes to advise the public that the medium to long term cement plan will see Zimbabwe moving into production surplus before the end of 2026 with major investments coming into production. We expect another major investment to come into production towards the

end of 2026 going into 2027. These investments will almost double our current supply and create opportunities to explore the regional markets.

11. All other requirements as stated below for applying for import licenses are still in place:

- Application Letter
- Proforma Invoice
- Current ZIMRA Tax Clearance
- Current Standard Development Fund Receipt
- CR14
- Certificate of Incorporation (CR6)
- The USD 100 Licence Fee is paid in ZiG equivalent

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