



Republic of Zimbabwe

REMARKS

BY

**THE PERMANENT SECRETARY FOR INDUSTRY AND
COMMERCE**

Amb. T. T. Chifamba

**AT THE ZIMBABWE INSTITUTE OF TRANSPORT AND
LOGISTICS 2026 WINTER SCHOOL
AZAMBEZI LODGE, VIC FALLS 10 JUNE 2026**

***DRIVING EFFICIENCY, COMPLIANCE AND
SUSTAINABILITY IN ZIMBABWE'S TRANSPORT AND LOGISTICS***

Director of Ceremonies;

Minister of State for Provincial Affairs and Devolution,
Matabeleland North Province; **Hon. R. Moyo** in absentia;

ZITL Board Chairperson, **Dr. Robert Mandeya;**

Board Members here present;

ZITL Executive Director, **Dr. Proctor Nyemba** in absentia;

ZITL Strategy and Development Director, **Mr. Farai Chivese;**

Business executives here present;

Senior Government Officials here present;

Members of the Media;

Distinguished Guests;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

Good morning to you all.

On behalf of the Minister of Industry and Commerce, Hon. Nqobizitha Mangaliso Ndlovu, I wish to express my sincere appreciation for the honour extended to the Minister to serve as Guest of Honour at this year's Zimbabwe Institute of Transport and Logistics Winter School 2026, held under the timely and thought-provoking theme, ***“Driving Efficiency, Compliance and Sustainability in Zimbabwe's Transport and Logistics Sector.”***

Regrettably, the Minister was unable to attend due to other pressing official commitments and therefore delegated me to represent him and officiate at this important event on his behalf.

This invitation comes at a most opportune moment as our nation intensifies efforts towards the attainment of Vision 2030 and the realisation of an empowered and prosperous upper-middle-income economy.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

The transport and logistics sector is much more than a facilitator of movement; it is a strategic enabler of economic growth, industrialisation, trade competitiveness, regional integration and sustainable development. It is therefore encouraging to see policymakers, industry leaders, academics and practitioners gathered here to exchange ideas, strengthen collaboration and chart a progressive path for the future of this vital sector.

Zimbabwe's unique geographical position at the heart of Southern Africa places the country at the crossroads of the North-South and East-West transport corridors. This strategic location presents enormous opportunities to position Zimbabwe as a regional transport, logistics and agro-industrial hub.

Accordingly, the discussions taking place here are fully aligned with the aspirations of the National Development Strategy 2 (NDS2) for the period 2026–2030. Building on the

gains realised under NDS1, NDS2 seeks to establish a modern, efficient, integrated and reliable transport and logistics system capable of supporting industrialisation, expanding domestic and international trade and enhancing regional connectivity.

Distinguished Guests;

As a land-linked nation, Zimbabwe has rightly prioritised the modernisation of road and railway infrastructure as critical enablers of connectivity to regional ports, investment attraction and economic transformation. Reliable and efficient transport systems are indispensable to the growth of key sectors such as agriculture, mining, manufacturing, tourism and services. They ensure that raw materials reach production centres efficiently and that finished products gain competitive access to domestic, regional and international markets.

Beyond infrastructure, efficient logistics systems are equally important, particularly in supporting the movement of bulk commodities and agricultural produce, which remain major contributors to export earnings and foreign currency generation.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

Regional integration remains a cornerstone of Africa's development agenda. The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) presents unprecedented opportunities for expanding intra-African trade, accelerating industrial growth and promoting inclusive economic transformation. However, the full benefits of AfCFTA can only be realised through efficient, reliable and interconnected transport systems.

Indeed, the extent to which countries achieve meaningful regional integration is closely linked to the effectiveness of their transport and logistics networks. In this regard, the transport sector remains a key enabler of AfCFTA implementation and a strategic instrument for reducing trade costs and enhancing competitiveness across the continent.

Distinguished Guests;

Despite the progress being made, transport operators across the region continue to encounter challenges arising from fragmented regulations, differing standards and inconsistent operational procedures among Member States within the COMESA and SADC regions.

These regulatory inconsistencies result in avoidable delays, increased costs and reduced efficiency in cross-border trade. They are further compounded by overlapping memberships within Regional Economic Communities, which often create conflicting regulatory obligations.

It is against this background that COMESA, the East African Community and SADC established the Tripartite Framework to promote greater harmonisation of policies, standards and procedures. Such harmonisation is essential for improving corridor performance, reducing the cost of doing business and unlocking the full potential of regional and continental trade.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

I am pleased to inform you that Zimbabwe is actively pursuing the alignment and modernisation of transport-related policies, legislation and standards in line with regional and international best practices.

Furthermore, Government remains committed to improving the ease of doing business. During the first Cabinet meeting of 2025, His Excellency the President, Cde Dr E.D. Mnangagwa, directed a comprehensive review of taxes, licences, permits and regulatory fees imposed by Ministries, Departments and Agencies. These reforms are aimed at reducing administrative costs, streamlining the regulatory environment and enhancing Zimbabwe's competitiveness as an investment and trade destination.

Distinguished Guest;

The attainment of Vision 2030 cannot be achieved by Government alone. It requires strong partnerships among Government, industry, academia and all stakeholders within the transport and logistics value chain.

In this regard, the Ministry of Industry and Commerce remains committed to strengthening collaboration with institutions such as the Zimbabwe Institute of Transport and Logistics in the areas of research, innovation, skills development and professional training. Through stronger public-private partnerships, we can foster innovation, attract investment and build the human capital necessary to drive a resilient and globally competitive logistics ecosystem.

Our Ministry will also continue engaging regional and continental regulatory bodies in pursuit of greater cooperation, standardisation and simplification of cross-border trade systems and procedures.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

I encourage all stakeholders gathered here to continue fostering a spirit of collaboration, innovation and unity of purpose as we work together to transform Zimbabwe's transport and logistics sector into a globally competitive engine for economic growth and regional integration.

I have no doubt that this Winter School will generate valuable insights and practical recommendations that will

strengthen ongoing efforts to improve trade facilitation, transport efficiency and industrial competitiveness.

Together, through innovation, cooperation and a shared national vision, we can build a modern, efficient and sustainable transport and logistics sector that accelerates Zimbabwe's journey towards Vision 2030.

With these remarks, it is now my honour and privilege to officially declare the Zimbabwe Institute of Transport and Logistics Winter School 2026 duly open.

I thank you.

Tatenda.

Siyabonga.