



SPEECH

BY

**THE PRESIDENT, HIS EXCELLENCY,
DR. E. D. MNANGAGWA**

AT

**THE GROUND-BREAKING CEREMONY OF
THE HILLS LUXURY GOLF ESTATE**

HARARE

23 AUGUST 2024

Director of Ceremonies;

Our host, the Chief Executive of West Properties Private Limited, Mr Ken Sharpe;

Vice President, Hon. Gen. (Rtd) Dr. C. G. D. N. Chiwenga;

Vice President, Hon. Col. (Rtd) K. C. D. Mohadi;

Minister of Defence and National Chairman of ZANU PF, Hon. O. C. Z. Muchinguri-Kashiri;

Minister of State for Harare Metropolitan Province, Hon. C. Z. Tavengwa;

Minister of National Housing and Social Amenities, Hon. Z. Soda;

Other Honourable Ministers here present;

Chief Secretary to the President and Cabinet, Dr. M. Rushwaya;

Mayor of the City of Harare, His Worship, Councillor J. Mafume;

Senior Government Officials;

Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is my singular honour and privilege to officiate at this ground-breaking ceremony of the US\$280 million Hills Luxury Golf Estate project by West Properties Private Limited. This event follows yet another success milestone by the company, as I had the pleasure in November last year to officiate at the ground-breaking ceremony for the Millennium Heights Housing project, here in Harare.

I commend West Properties for making the decision to continue investing in our economy, particularly in the housing and human settlement development space.

Furthermore, this is a testament to the private sector's confidence in the Second Republic's economic policies. The project is one of the building blocks for the company to realise a 'billion bricks' into the ground and will go a long way towards the realisation of our national Vision and aspects of the New Urban Agenda as well as Sustainable Development Goal Number 11 on sustainable cities and communities.

It is critically important and encouraging that the project is being implemented, guided by the 'lifestyle developer philosophy'. Through this development and management approach, the project is set to ensure access to modern, sustainable and functional human settlements by our citizenry, including those in the diaspora.

The aesthetic value and ambience of the physical landscape within this environment will improve our national brand and image as a country. To this end, the project, whose ground-breaking we have witnessed today, stands as a signature feature in our ongoing destination marketing efforts.

It is encouraging that the project has an excess of 862 residential units and will accommodate about 4,310 people. This will see an increase in the available housing stock in our capital City-Harare and the general attainment of the quantitative outputs set out in the National Housing Policy.

The fact that this site is replete with modern state-of-the-art amenities, including tennis and swimming academies, a gymnasium, and a golf course, indicates that we are moving with global trends. Let us together, as the Government and Private sector, continue to work closely in accelerating the modernisation and growth of our economy.

In keeping with the ongoing global green economy agenda, I am enthused by the designs of this housing development, which take into account the realities and impact of climate change. This is commendable, well done.

I applaud West Properties and all the stakeholders of this signature project for fully embracing green technologies and building certification best practices. This complements Government efforts towards building clean, planned, resilient and sustainable cities, while our country attains the overall climate change mitigation and adaptation targets.

Having noted the fundamental aspects of this initiative, I call upon housing development stakeholders to also incorporate information communication technology backbone infrastructure and efficient clean energy systems or solutions. Equally, the provision of desired, inclusive and safe urban facilities such as quality public spaces, roads, water, sewer and waste management infrastructure, as well as the provision of social services, remains a priority.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen;

Zimbabwe is a nation which prides itself in nurturing and developing talent in various areas of specialisation. To this end, the Hills Luxury Golf Estate, which is anchored on the live, work, shop and play mixed land use planning approach, sets the tone for the growth of our country's sporting and tourism sectors, among other facets of a modern lifestyle.

I challenge the sport and tourism sub-sectors to take advantage of the envisioned world-class standards at the Hills Luxury Golf Estate and play their part towards attracting professional golfers, among other athletes, to play their tournaments here in Zimbabwe. This will also allow our visitors to enjoy our rich cultural heritage and diverse natural endowments.

Meanwhile, the partnership between West Properties Private Limited and the City of Harare is applauded. This is the epitome of the Public Private Partnership model, which my Government continues to encourage. The project's outcomes must, therefore, help the local authority attain its set targets, including making Harare a world-class City.

City fathers must ramp up their pace in guaranteeing adequate service delivery and ensuring that the City is kept clean and well-maintained. Equally, our residents, including players in the small and medium enterprises, and public transport space, among others, must also play

their part by stopping littering and encouraging a culture of proper waste disposal.

As we have demonstrated during our successful hosting of the 44th Ordinary SADC Heads of State and Government Summit, let us continue to be responsible stewards of our urban environments. Together, let us ensure that our City ‘shines’ again. We must see a shift in our individual and collective behaviour with regards to waste management, given the unprecedented transformation that now characterises our city.

It is my expectation that such partnerships between agencies of Government and the private sector will propel housing development and the overall delivery of quality services to our residents across cities, towns and growth points. This is one of the cornerstones of the Second Republic’s development thrust of leaving no one and no place behind.

As we journey towards Vision 2030, I challenge fellow Zimbabweans, be it in the public or private sector, to boldly and correctly articulate our irreversible development agenda. Let us tell our story to the world, and current generations, so that they fully understand the progress and achievements we continue to make, even in the face of illegal sanctions and shocks such as climate change, among others.

Inspired by our development mantra **‘Nyika inovakwa, inotongwa, inonamatigwa nevene vayo/ Ilizwe lakhiwa, libuswe, likhulekelwe ngabanikazi balo’**, let us, in every sector of the economy, continue taking up the challenge to build our beloved motherland, brick by brick, and stone upon stone. This is more important given that, as the descendants of the great Munhumutapa, we are builders who have the trait of hard honest work in our DNA.

In conclusion, I congratulate West Properties Private Limited, the City of Harare and the Ministry of National

Housing and Social Amenities for the achievements and successes you are registering through your collaborative efforts. All our energies now and going into the future should result in significant and measurable improvements in housing and living conditions for our citizens.

Once again, I assure investors, property developers and other stakeholders of my Government's support to private sector-led initiatives in the successful and rapid implementation of projects and programmes for the modernisation and industrialisation of our beloved motherland, Zimbabwe.

With these remarks, it is now my honour and privilege to declare the Hills Luxury Golf Estate project officially launched. I wish you all great success.

God bless you all.

God bless Zimbabwe.

I thank you.