



SPEECH

BY

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

AT

**THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE 27th
EDITION OF THE MINING, ENGINEERING
AND TRANSPORT EXPO**

BULAWAYO

10 OCTOBER 2024

Director of Ceremonies;

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

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

Minister of Mines and Mining Development, Hon. W. Chitando;

Minister of State for Bulawayo Metropolitan Province, Hon. J. Ncube;

Other Honourable Ministers here present;

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

Senior Government Officials;

Chairperson of the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Mines and Mining Development, Hon. R. Matangira;

Other Members of the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Mines and Mining Development;

President of the Chamber of Mines of Zimbabwe, Mr. T. Gono;

President of the Zimbabwe Miners Federation, Ms. H. Rushwaya;

Chairman of Miners 4ED, Mr. D. Suntuile;

The ZITF Company Board Chairman, Mr. B. Moyo;

Mining Executives, Conference Delegates and Exhibitors;

Distinguished Guests;

Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is my honour and privilege to preside over this Official Opening Ceremony of the 27th Edition of the Mining, Engineering and Transport (Mine Entra) Expo. This event is occurring at a time when Zimbabwe's mining sector continues to witness exponential growth across all the mining sub-sectors. The profound transformation in the sector is being fuelled by technological advancements and a global shift towards renewable energy sources.

I applaud the organisers of this premier exhibition and conference for consistently convening for close to three

decades. I was impressed by the quality of products and exhibits from the many local exhibitors as well as international firms. This is a reflection that the Expo has grown to be a credible platform for connecting industry stakeholders, investors and professionals. Congratulations.

The theme of this year's Mine Entra, "**Unearthing Success: The Mining Value Chains, Innovation and Industrialisation Nexus**", resonates with my Government's ongoing policy thrust of mineral value addition and beneficiation, riding on increased local capacity around science, technology and innovation. It is indeed through greater focus on mining value chains that we will derive maximum value from our mineral resources for sustainable development.

As you are aware, everything we depend on is either made from minerals or relies on minerals for its production. Minerals, from rare earth elements to gold, platinum and lithium, are the building blocks of modern

societies, with micro components of smartphones and larger modern materials required for electric vehicle manufacturing and renewable energy systems, all dependent on the mining sector.

More companies, professionals and stakeholders in the field recognise that the key to staying competitive and sustainable lies in the ability to adopt new technologies that boost process efficiency and resource optimisation.

These technologies ensure the exploitation of new and more complex mineral deposits, increase productivity and precision in exploration and extraction processes. This allows for remote operations, reduced waste, improved equipment utilisation as well as lower maintenance costs, among others.

The urgent challenge, therefore, is not only to produce more but to also produce better. The benefits of mining should extend beyond mere extractive processes to positively impact communities and the planet as a whole.

To ensure long-term viability, innovation has a critical role in the mining sector and must be scaled up. The innovation and technology nexus should result in not only improved efficiencies, reduced costs and adherence to the concerns of communities and regulatory authorities but the accelerated industrialisation and modernisation of our country.

This is more so, given that we are currently living in the era of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, where the world is changing faster than before, characterised by new ground-breaking technologies which are pushing the boundaries of the way we live.

As we look into the future, the mining industry will, by and large, affect every facet of our society. The mining sector, thus, has a responsibility to urgently and appropriately adapt.

We expect spinoffs from mining into other sectors such as manufacturing, construction and agriculture, among

others, which will in turn promote rapid industrialisation of our country. Localised value chains must stimulate long-term economic growth, diversification and regional development through value added processing and manufacturing.

Bold decisions must be taken within the sector for the requisite transformative upward and downstream linkages to speed up the expansion of mineral beneficiation and value addition.

In this regard, mining houses are challenged to strengthen synergies with suppliers, inclusive of institutions of higher learning, for the development of technological solutions, methods, and techniques in mining projects and operations. This will allow for symbiotic relationships with mining suppliers who have intensive local knowledge and capable of providing customised solutions for mining entities. New frontiers such as electro-mobility, invisible zero-waste mining,

and continuous mining, among others should equally be prioritised.

The employment of Artificial Intelligence in research and development, with regards engineering design, quantification of mineral deposits, smart mining and market forecasting, is also encouraged.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

We have a duty to protect our environment for both present and future generations. Hence, mining houses and other stakeholders have the obligation to commit to strict adherence to environmental regulations while maintaining the social licence to operate.

In this regard, mining companies are urged to continue developing cleaner and more environmentally friendly solutions in the whole value chain of the business, as well as improve the efficiency and reliability of their processes. You are also called upon to work concertedly

to prudently use energy and water as well as lower emissions and waste generation.

I commend mining houses that have invested in renewable energy, such as solar, as this marks a significant shift in reducing their carbon footprint.

Players in the mining industry are urged to invest in projects and activities that increase production and productivity among communities over and above others that attend to the infrastructure, education and healthcare needs of our people for mutually beneficial relationships.

I exhort those in leadership positions including those in the political sphere and in line Ministries, Departments and Agencies, to always think of the people first and act in the national interest. Our God given minerals and natural resource endowments must benefit all Zimbabweans.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

The Second Republic will continue to leverage the mining sector to support broader industrial and technological advancements. The mining sector is welcome to dialogue with my Government to improve the environment, guided by global trends as well as the needs of our economy and communities. Policy frameworks which provide incentives for linkage development, catalyse investments in skills development and access to capital, among others, will be constantly reviewed.

Additional incentives and support will also be provided to companies that invest in local beneficiation and value addition. This will make it more attractive for companies to process their minerals in Zimbabwe rather than exporting them raw.

I challenge you to take pride in procuring goods and services from local suppliers in line with our Local

Content Policy and Buy Zimbabwe Campaign towards growing the domestic economy and creating jobs.

Through the implementation of these and other measures, we will indeed be able to attain our Africa Mining Vision of “Transparent, equitable and optimal exploitation of mineral resources to underpin broad-based sustainable growth and socio-economic development” across the continent.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate that Zimbabwe stands ready to welcome more investments in the mining sector for win-win benefits as we build our great motherland, Zimbabwe, brick by brick and stone upon stone.

With these remarks, it is now my singular honour to declare the 2024 Edition of the Mining, Engineering and Transport Expo officially open.

I wish you fruitful deliberations.

God bless you.

God bless Zimbabwe.

I thank you.