



ADDRESS

BY

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

AT

**THE ED-UNZA FUNDRAISING
DINNER**

HARARE

12 MARCH 2026

Director of Ceremonies;

Minister for Higher and Tertiary Education, Innovation
Science and Technology Development,
Hon. Dr. F. M. M. Shava;

Chairman of the ED-UNZA Board of Trustees,
Mr. H. Nkala and other Board Members;

Distinguished Invited Guests;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

Comrades and Friends.

It gives me great pleasure to join you at this important gathering dedicated to the noble cause of promoting universal access to education and youth empowerment.

This evening, we celebrate the achievements of the ED-UNZA scholarship programme. We also forge the future of this initiative through stronger partnerships.

Allow me to warmly welcome, my fellow graduates of the University of Zambia Law School, Class of 75, Justice Esau Chulu and Mr Jacob Chulu. Thank you, my dear brothers, for your presence and continued support.

Our two nations, Zimbabwe and Zambia share more than borders. We share a common history, cultural ties and relations, as well as aspirations and a collective responsibility to secure a brighter future for the young people.

Whilst our countries remain richly endowed with God given natural resources, I believe that our untapped wealth also lie within the vast potential and intellectual prowess of our youthful population.

Across our rural and urban communities, there are brilliant young men and women with the capacity to transform our societies.

Many of these bright young minds however, remain locked out of higher education. This reality is what inspired the establishment of the ED-UNZA Scholarship Trust.

As an Alumni of the University of Zambia, I founded this initiative on an enduring principle that; talent is universal, but opportunity is not.

It is my conviction that collectivism and shared leadership entails the distribution of what we have, to uplift others. In this case, we must never tire in our quest to empower the youth and create opportunities for children within Zimbabwe and Zambia, so that they realise their full potential and achieve impactful careers. This must continue to be a collective effort.

May I extend my profound gratitude to the Government and people of Zambia, who continue to host our students under this scholarship, along with others pursuing studies in our Sister Republic.

I commend you all our partners and the Board of Trustees, as well as the administrative staff for the achievements we have realised to date. The ED-UNZA Scholarship programme has evolved and now incorporate academic exchange programmes.

It is pleasing that 10 students have graduated, with a further two, to graduate by year end. I particularly congratulate those students for their perseverance, focus and hard work, which has seen them achieve their undergraduate degrees.

Makorokoto, Amhlophe, ‘Mwa Chita Bwino.’

You have done exceedingly well.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

Education that drives home grown solutions, remains the cornerstone of our ongoing national development agenda. In this respect, the ED-UNZA scholarship now focuses on providing critical support to key fields of study, such as Medicine, the Sciences and Technology oriented disciplines.

By investing in the appropriate education and skills development, we are laying a solid foundation for long-term modernisation, industrialisation and development for Zimbabwe, Zambia, SADC and indeed, the African Continent at large.

My Government will, therefore, scale-up programmes to grow and consolidate a knowledge-driven economy.

To date, it is pleasing that the ED-UNZA scholarship has recorded life-changing results to the beneficiaries. Like a sprouting seedling, the Fund requires continued nurturing, sustained support and the shared commitment from all stakeholders.

I, therefore, appeal for stronger partnerships for the ED-UNZA scholarship from the private sector, development partners and philanthropic individuals, among others.

Support to this Fund, is a strategic investment in skills and human capital development. Your generous contributions, will, go a long way to ensure that deserving students receive the necessary financial assistance for their tuition, accommodation and other essential learning tools.

In the spirit of Ubuntu, let us continue working together. No academically gifted or talented child should fail to succeed due to lack of resources. Hand in hand, as we dig deep into our pockets, we have the ability to unlock the full potential of our young people and shape a future defined by innovation, hard honest work, unity, excellence and shared progress, where no one and no place is left behind.

“Nyika inovakwa, inotongwa, inonamatirwa nevene vayo / Ilizwe lakhiwa, libuswe, *likhu-le-ke-lwe* ngabanikazi balo.”

With these remarks, I once again thank you for your continued generosity, and unwavering commitment to the education as well as empowerment of the youth of our two great nations, Zimbabwe and Zambia.

God bless you all.

God bless Zimbabwe.

I thank you.