**Joint Statement on the Visit of the Vice President of the Republic of India to the Republic of Zimbabwe**

1. At the invitation of the Vice President of Zimbabwe, H.E. Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu, Vice President of the Republic of India undertook a visit to Zimbabwe from 2-4 November 2018. He was accompanied by Sh. Krishan Pal Gurjar, Hon’ble Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment, two Members of Parliament namely, Sh. Kodikunnil Suresh & Sh. V. Muraleedharan, other Senior Government Officials and a large business delegation.

2. The Hon. Vice President paid a courtesy call on the President of the Republic of Zimbabwe, H.E. Cde. E. D. Mnangagwa in which they discussed issues of mutual interest between the two countries. President E.D. Mnangagwa conveyed that it was a high honour for Zimbabwe to receive the visit of an Indian Vice President. Both leaders agreed to take India-Zimbabwe bilateral relations to the next level by strengthening existing areas of cooperation and opening new areas of engagement. Hon. Dr. C. Mathema, the Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Trade also called on the Vice President of India.

3. The Hon. Vice President of India and accompanying delegation held bilateral talks with the Zimbabwean delegation co-chaired by Hon. K. D. C. Mohadi, Vice President of Zimbabwe. The two sides reviewed the entire gamut of the bilateral relations and multilateral cooperation.

4. During the visit, Vice President Naidu announced US$ 310 million Line of Credit for up-gradation of Hwange Thermal Power Station, additional US$23 million Line of Credit for rehabilitation of Bulawayo Thermal Power Plant and an additional US$19.5 million Line of Credit for Deka Pumping & river Water Intake System; grant for construction of Mahatma Gandhi Convention Centres, US$2.93 million grant for Up-gradation of INDO-Zim Technology Centre and Gifting of 10 ambulances to Zimbabwe, lifesaving drugs and deputation of experts in five specialised areas. This gesture was deeply appreciated by the Zimbabwe side.

5. The two leaders agreed to promote and enhance trade and economic relations and called upon the private sectors to explore and take advantage of the pro-business climate existing in both countries. They identified areas to enhance cooperation, including mining, agriculture, SMEs, ICT, Health, HRD and diamond trading. They particularly welcomed greater cooperation in the areas of health and traditional medicine.

6. During the visit, the Vice Presidents witnessed the signing of the following MoUs/Agreements:

* Cooperation in the fields of Geology, Mining and Mineral Resources
* Action Plan on Information and Communication Technology
* Cooperation in the field of Traditional Medicine and Homeopathy
* Cooperation in the field of Arts, Culture and heritage
* Cooperation and Collaboration on Broadcasting
* Visa Waiver Agreement for holder of diplomatic and official/service passport passports

7. The Vice President of India, Shri. M. Venkaiah Naidu, on behalf of the Government of India and his delegation, thanked the people and Government of Zimbabwe for the hospitality extended during his visit.

**Harare**

**November 4, 2018**