



## **REMARKS**

**BY**

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

**AT**

**THE GOVERNMENT HIGH LEVEL RETREAT**

**RAINBOW TOWERS**

**14 SEPTEMBER 2023**

Director of Ceremonies;

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

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

Honourable Ministers and Deputy Ministers here present;

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

Chairman of the Public Service Commission,  
Dr V. Hungwe and Commissioners;

Deputy Chief Secretaries in the Office of the President and Cabinet;

Senior Government Officials;

Service Chiefs;

Chairpersons and Chief Executive Officers of Public Entities;

Ladies and Gentlemen.

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to this Government High Level Retreat, which is coming on the backdrop of the formation of a new Government to steer our great motherland, Zimbabwe, towards the future we all desire as encapsulated in our national Vision 2030.

This High Level Retreat, therefore, affords us the opportunity to develop a common understanding of my Administration's people-centred transformative agenda. Additionally, this Retreat follows the resounding victory by our Revolutionary Mass Party, ZANU PF, in the just ended Harmonised General Elections.

The overwhelming endorsement of the Party by the people is recognition that the 2<sup>nd</sup> Republic has made remarkable achievements on its policies and programmes to better the lives of all Zimbabweans. We here gathered, have the weighty obligation to maintain this momentum for sustainable national development.

## **Ladies and Gentlemen;**

As I stated in my Inauguration Address, the 2023 Harmonised General Elections are behind us. The Second Term of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Republic must, therefore, reflect our determination to leapfrog the socio-economic development, modernisation and industrialisation of our country, through high impact results.

As we do so, I exhort us to take pride in that we are Zimbabweans, a unique and resilient people, descendents of the Great Munhumutapa. Although we are under the albatross of the heinous illegal sanctions, this must never limit us. We must have a mentality that this is normal and achieve even greater success. The innovation and ingenuity that has seen us realise unprecedented results, across all sectors, should be scaled up.

Zimbabwe should develop through benchmarking Government services against those of other jurisdictions, cognisant of the adage that, “**kugara nhaka huona dzevamwe**”. However, we must remain true to who we are, as a people. Lessons can be learnt from elsewhere, but only adapted to enrich the realisation of our own vision and national priorities.

Our people deserve quality, affordable and accessible services. Under our watch, as Members of the Executive more of our people must be taken out of poverty into prosperity, especially the vulnerable, women and youth.

To achieve this, servant leadership, continuous learning and the responsive implementation of policies and projects remain integral. Further, we must work with a great sense of urgency, unity of purpose and seamless synergies. Unity among Ministers, Deputy Ministers, Permanent Secretaries and senior officials is critical. You have to complement each other.

This country belongs to the people and not to us. In whatever we do, let us respect the people, especially elder people, because their perception of Government is based on who they come into contact with. Hence, if you are arrogant, they will think that we are all arrogant; personally, I am not arrogant. You must be humble and simple. Never abuse the people.

**Dear Delegates;**

The various comparative advantages that our country has developed over the years must accelerate growth, while enhancing our country's competitiveness, as we scale up the realisation of sustainable development, that leaves "no one and no place behind".

Government, must continue to create an enabling environment for investment. It is my expectation that, over the next five years, Government business will be anchored by the "Whole of Economy and Society Approach to Development".

The open door policy must be the norm and not an exception. Hence, stakeholder engagement and dialogue, has to be promoted.

You, the incoming Ministers and Permanent Secretaries, will be measured by the agility and innovativeness towards accelerating our economic growth, modernisation, industrialisation and global competitiveness.

It is not “business as usual.” Hard honest work should be engrained at every level of our Government. We must collectively implement bold policies to achieve impactful results.

It is essential that the public sector now shifts from reporting on activities and tasks, to reporting on results, outputs and outcomes.

Our institutions, systems and processes will continue to be strengthened through the Integrated Results-Based Management System.

## **Distinguished Delegates;**

The implementation of the Digital Agenda must be accelerated so that public services are offered online for the convenience of our people.

Government will also implement the following additional measures:

- Accelerator projects such as Gwayi Shangani Dam, Kunzvi Dam, the Beitbridge-Bulawayo -Victoria Falls highway, and drilling of the 35 000 boreholes in our villages, among others.
- Government Excellence Model; underpinned by research, science, technology and innovation, high standards of operations and performance awards; as well as
- Improving Zimbabwe's Competitiveness.

Additionally, Government will continue to intensify its development work in the following areas, among others:



- Consolidating food security and sovereignty through higher agricultural production and productivity, as well as mechanisation and modernisation of the sector;
- Improving social services, education, health and utilities across the nation;
- Enhancing the transport system and other infrastructure, in both rural and urban communities;
- Ensuring that our rich mineral resource base benefits the people of our country.

We must also continue to enhance good corporate governance, entrench transparency and accountability, as well as generate value for money to the citizenry. It is incumbent that we extend our reform process to the Public Entities to guarantee their viability and profitability.

### **Ladies and Gentlemen;**

Fiscal and Monetary Policies should foster economic stability and predictability as well as spur confidence

among citizens. Industrial development and productivity as well as Import Substitution Strategies will also be intensified.

The High Level Forum on Public Sector Reforms and the Tripartite will continue to play a pivotal role. Furthermore, the framework being used for implementation of the NDS 1 must be strengthened for the monitoring and evaluation of the achievement of Vision 2030 targets.

To enhance inclusive participation of all the stakeholders in the economy, Ministers and Permanent Secretaries, must be agile and provide the requisite leadership. Participation in NDS1 Thematic and Technical Working Groups must be taken seriously and meetings, timeously convened. Dereliction of duty in this regard, will not be condoned.

You are all directed to entrench the spirit of collaboration, partnerships and joint programming with all stakeholders.

Silo mentality and turf-wars have no place in my Administration.

The Ease of Doing Business Reforms are on-going to increase both local and foreign investments. Sectors which remain burdened by numerous and overlapping legislative and regulatory processes, as well as licences, fees and taxes charged by Ministries, Departments and Agencies must be urgently attended to. **Zimbabwe is Open for Business.**

### **Ladies and Gentlemen;**

As Government, we are a creation of our colossal revolutionary Party, ZANU PF, and the people of our great country. Let us always empathise with our communities and appreciate their needs and challenges.

Further, informed by our Devolution and Decentralisation Agenda, Government blueprints, programmes and projects must answer to the needs of households, villages, wards,

districts and provinces. Provincial Development Plans must, thus, speak to our devolved systems.

Let me conclude by thanking you all for attending this important Retreat. Henceforth, let us go to our stations with mindsets committed to wholeheartedly serving the people of our great motherland, Zimbabwe.

I will not accept the “**shuf~shuf**” mentality. We are servants of the people and must manage Government affairs with humility and servant leadership.

We are a Government from the people, by the people and for the people and remain guided by the ideology and policies of our Party, ZANU PF. Patriotism, loyalty, integrity, unity, love, harmony and hard honest work in this regard, are paramount.

As the incoming Ministers and Senior Government Officials, individually and collectively, you have the weighty obligation and sacred duty to play your part

in defending our heritage as well as developing, modernising and industrialising our great country.

We remain emboldened by our national development philosophy “**Nyika inovakwa, inotongwa, inonamatigwa nevene vayo/Ilizwe lakhiwa, libuswe, likhulekelwe ngabanikazi balo**”.

With these remarks, I wish you all an insightful Retreat.

**God bless you all.**

**God bless Zimbabwe.**

**I thank you.**