



**ADDRESS**

**BY**

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

**AT**

**THE 13<sup>TH</sup> ZIMBABWE INTERNATIONAL  
RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM**

**HICC**

**14 OCTOBER 2024**

Director of Ceremonies and Deputy Chief Secretary in the Office of the President and Cabinet, Mr. W. L. Manungo;

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

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

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

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

Other Honourable Ministers here present;

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

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

Senior Government Officials;

Executive Secretary for the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, Amb. C. Gatete;

Research Council of Zimbabwe Board Chairperson, Prof. Z. Muranda;

Research Council of Zimbabwe Executive Director,  
Dr. P. Chikudza;

Vice Chancellors of Universities;

Research Institutions and Councils, College Principals and  
Members of the Academia;

Heads of Science Granting Councils in Africa;

Captains of Industry and Commerce;

Representatives of International Organisations;

Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is my honour and privilege to be addressing you all at  
this 13<sup>th</sup> Edition of the Zimbabwe International Research  
Symposium.

I warmly welcome all our distinguished delegates from the  
region and beyond to Zimbabwe, ‘the land of opportunities  
and wonders’. Your presence here testifies the growing

recognition of Zimbabwe as a hub of innovation as well as scientific and transformative research.

As the people and Government of Zimbabwe, we are truly honoured and remain eager to learn from your wealth of knowledge, ideas and experience as well as share the latest developments in various fields.

It is critically important to note that the Symposium comes against the backdrop of the successful hosting of many research symposiums and events, which helped to put to the fore the intricate role of research towards driving the growth of key priority sectors of the economy. These include, manufacturing and agro-processing among others.

### **Distinguished Delegates;**

The theme of this year's Symposium, '**Embracing Research and Innovation for Sustainable Industrialisation**', is timely as the world contends with the

challenge of advancing industrial growth while safeguarding our precious scarce resources and the environment.

Therefore, charting the course towards sustainable industrialisation undoubtedly requires a steadfast commitment to research, innovation and the application of cutting-edge technologies. We have to interrogate the sustainability of our manufacturing processes, energy sources, utilisation of resources, and waste management practices.

I am optimistic that through this Symposium, we will see the forging of greater synergies and collaborations. These should result in transformative innovations which give impetus to the realisation of the Sustainable Development Goals, and improve the quality of life for our citizens.

In keeping with the Lagos Plan of Action, my Government is availing support dedicated to innovation, research and

development. The establishment of centres of excellence, innovation hubs and industrial parks, should see the production of relevant good and services which address our present and future development needs.

It is, therefore, imperative that outputs from our innovation, research and development ecosystem be deployed towards improving efficiencies, and technological capabilities across all our sectors of the economy. Resultantly, this must have trickle down effects in the reduction of production and environmental costs, while increasing production and productivity to drive sustainable industrial development.

Meanwhile, it is pleasing to note that some discoveries being made by our researchers and innovators, across diverse fields, are paving way for a more sustainable and prosperous future. Additionally, I have made a pledge to witness innovation outputs at various innovation hubs and industrial parks within state universities, including most

recently at the Harare Institute of Technology. It is my expectation that the sound presentations at this symposium, peer-review of publications and patent applications, will reflect further improvements we are making in this critical sphere towards emerging as a hub of research excellence.

**Ladies and Gentlemen;**

The scope and application of innovation is unfolding at a rapid pace. Advances in research and innovation in fields such as artificial intelligence, energy and health are having transformational effects, on our economies and societies. However, more work needs to be done at both the regional and continental level.

The emerging frontiers of scientific discoveries and technological advancement, require us to be bold, innovative and relentless in our pursuit for shared progress that realises the broader aspirations outlined in the Africa Union Agenda 2063.

To this end, I challenge researchers, innovators and captains of industry gathered here today, to leverage on the competitive advantage of Zimbabwe, SADC and the entire African Continent to leap frog the modernisation and industrialisation of our country. The present situation and the path that lies ahead require your boundless creativity, unwavering determination, and unyielding commitment to pursue excellence, that will guarantee a higher quality of life for our people.

Africa cannot be left behind. After all, we are a haven of pioneers, trailblazers and visionaries. The current crop of African leaders, have confidence in our great people on the continent and we are ready to support you to scale new heights in scientific, innovation and technological achievements.

Over the years, we have overcome adversity, and each time, we have emerged stronger, resilient, and resolute in our purpose. Let us, therefore, unleash our full potential

and innovative capabilities towards creating more quality products and services that not only transform our respective countries, but entrench sustainable industrial development and modernisation.

As we stay the course in our innovation, research and development journey, we need unity of purpose to build a future that is equitable, just, sustainable and prosperous for all. Let us continue to harness the intrinsic value of collaboration and tackle the most pressing issues of our time, such as climate change, poverty eradication, diseases and pandemics, among others. Our innovation drive and industrialisation must be rooted on the day to day needs of our societies and economies.

**Ladies and Gentlemen;**

I commend the Research Council of Zimbabwe for working with other Ministries, Departments and Agencies as well as supporting research projects. This has seen some researchers being rewarded at the Presidential Innovation

Fair Awards Ceremony held last month. The efforts resonate well with the Whole-of-Government approach of my Government, which discourages tendencies of silo mentality. I, therefore, urge all stakeholders in the research and development ecosystem to continue working together and complementing each other.

In this spirit, I applaud the Research Council of Zimbabwe, in partnership with the Botswana Digital and Innovation Hub, for remarkable breakthroughs in mineral processing technology. Similarly, collaborative research projects conducted by the Midlands State University and the Botswana International University of Science and Technology have enabled the development of nano-engineered mineral froth flotation reagents, that are now ready for commercial application. These are set to enhance efficiencies and environmental performance of mining operations, benefiting both industries and communities. Well done.

Other initiatives between the Research Council of Zimbabwe and Malawi's National Commission for Science and Technology, through the National University of Science and Technology and the Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources, have culminated in the development of innovative bio-fertilizer technologies.

The above examples are a testament that by pooling our shared capacities and skills as well as resources we can achieve far more than any nation or institution can accomplish alone.

Beyond the region, it is commendable that the working relationship with the People's Republic of China Academy of Contemporary Studies and ongoing engagements with the Spanish Research Council are equally being pursued for mutually beneficial research outputs.

This is more critical as the future of research and innovation lies in deepening regional and international partnerships, particularly to combat climate change vulnerability, eradicate poverty, improve global health access and advance sustainable alternative energy solutions, among other critical areas.

Research institutions, the academia and industry should, therefore, continue to demonstrate the ability to make impacts that transcend boundaries and work collectively towards the common good.

**Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen;**

Allow me to congratulate the recipients of our prestigious research awards. **Makorokoto, Amhlophe.** The accolades celebrate the pioneering and impactful work being undertaken in various fields, while being a source of inspiration to the nation. Congratulations.

Equally, the broad array of high-quality displays that I witnessed during my tour of exhibition stands were impressive. The projects on display reflect the remarkable passion, creativity, talent and dedication present within our nation and across the region.

In conclusion, I challenge the Research Council of Zimbabwe to stay the course, driving its mandate to ensure that research and innovation continue to propel the modernisation and industrialisation of our country.

With these remarks, it is now my singular honour and privilege to declare the 13<sup>th</sup> Edition of the Zimbabwe International Research Symposium officially open.

**God bless you all.**

**God bless Zimbabwe.**

**I thank you.**