



SPEECH

BY

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

AT

**THE HIGH-LEVEL RESOURCE
MOBILISATION ENGAGEMENT FOR
INGUTSHENI CENTRAL HOSPITAL**

BULAWAYO

20 MARCH 2026

Director of Ceremonies;

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

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

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

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

Minister of Health and Child Care, Hon. Dr. D. T. Mombeshora;

Honourable Ministers;

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

Senior Government Officials;

Captains of Industry and Commerce;

Development Partners;

Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is with great pleasure that I join you today for this noble and charitable event to mobilise resources in support of Ingutsheni Central Hospital. Undoubtedly, a healthy society is the foundation upon which sustainable national development, social stability, human capital development and economic prosperity are built.

Under the Second Republic, our focus has been on safeguarding the people's health as well as improving access to quality and affordable health delivery at all levels, while also strengthening public health governance.

Further, my Administration continues to deploy multi-pronged efforts towards universal access to quality, affordable, and comprehensive health services. Of critical importance in this regard, are robust public health institutions with modern infrastructure, supported by domestic resource mobilization, innovation and the local manufacturing of medicines and medical supplies.

Our country, the SADC region and African continent at large, require home-grown solutions to public health challenges, as indispensable ingredients to build resilient systems that safeguard the lives and livelihoods of our peoples. Similarly, to achieving health sovereignty, there is need for sustainable financing mechanisms and self-sufficiency, more-so in a world with shifting trends and shrinking external support.

This endeavour, therefore, complements my Government's broader quest to improve the health and well-being of our citizens.

Ingutsheni Central Hospital, one of the most important mental health institutions in our country, has served generations of Zimbabweans. For over a century, this institution has remained a place of hope and healing for many of our citizens who require specialised mental health services.

However, like many institutions established during the colonial era, Ingutsheni has its own history.

Alongside the difficulties of segregated care, the institution was occasionally misused by the settler colonial administration.

Despite the injustices associated with the racist colonial regime, Ingutsheni Central Hospital has continued to provide essential services to our Nation.

Over the years, various forms of construction and renovation have been undertaken. Notwithstanding this, the Hospital remains in need of resources for maintenance and upgrade of its infrastructure and amenities.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

Mental health challenges affect societies worldwide, and Zimbabwe is no exception. Shifting social and economic pressures have heightened the susceptibility of many individuals to mental health conditions.

One of the most significant factors in this challenge, is the increasing problem of drug and substance abuse,

especially among our youth, which has become a major public health issue in our country.

I am informed that a considerable number of admissions to acute psychiatric wards at Ingutsheni Central Hospital are related to alcohol and drug-related conditions.

In response to this challenge, my Administration established the National Committee on Drug and Substance Abuse. The Committee is implementing a Whole-of-Government and Society Approach aimed at prevention, treatment, rehabilitation and re-integration of those affected by drug and substance abuse.

Within this framework, my Government has prioritised the establishment and strengthening of treatment and rehabilitation centres nationwide, including upgrading existing institutions such as Ingutsheni Central Hospital.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

The transformation of Ingutsheni Central Hospital requires a comprehensive programme of refurbishment,

modernisation and capacity-building. We aim to remodel the facility to become a centre of excellence for mental health services in Zimbabwe, in line with our National Development Strategy 2 and Vision 2030.

To undertake the required overhaul, Government is appealing for the participation, support and generosity of all sectors of our society. I, therefore, invite captains of industry and commerce, corporate leaders, development partners and well-wishers to come on board and collaborate with Government in the noble cause to revitalise Ingutsheni Central Hospital.

A list of priority areas requiring urgent attention is available, from which specific contributions can be taken up.

Your contributions, be it in cash, kind, equipment, materials or services, will go a long way in restoring dignity and hope to the many of our fellow citizens, who rely on this institution.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

The development philosophy of our country reminds us that **“Nyika inovakwa, inotongwa, inonamatigwa nevene vayo / Ilizwe lakhiwa, libuswe, likhu-le-ke-lwe ngabanikazi balo.”** Our nation is built by its people.

I, thus, call upon the academia to find solutions towards addressing the underlying causes of mental health as well as improve service delivery across both private and public institutions.

Beyond infrastructure, we must ensure the hospital is adequately staffed, with the requisite number of doctors, nurses, and support staff. In this regard, the Health Service Commission must move with speed to fill the approved extra posts.

Meanwhile, I challenge public health professionals to continue to honour their responsibilities and carry forward their fine traditions, expand their expertise and

update working practices towards a healthy Zimbabwe in a fast-evolving socio-economic environment

My Government's programme to safeguard the availability of essential medicines has been enhanced with focus on reliable supplies of psychiatric medication, across our health institutions.

Riding on new technologies, we are putting in place digital health care systems, such as the electronic health records platform, among others. These are set to improve patient management, training and research.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

There is a saying that goes, '*there is no health without mental health.*' Hence, the mental health of our population is of key national importance.

Let us, scale up our collaboration as Government, private sector, development partners, academia and communities, to restore the dignity and capacity of this important national institution.

I appeal to all of us to donate generously to the refurbishment and modernisation of Ingutsheni Central Hospital. Our contributions will make a significant difference.

Together, we can transform this institution into a centre of excellence in mental health care.

With these remarks, I thank you for your presence and generous contributions to this noble cause.

God bless you.

God bless Zimbabwe.

I thank you.