



ADDRESS

BY

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

AT

**THE COMMISSIONING OF THE GREENFIELDS
RETAIL CENTRE**

ZIMBABWE AGRICULTURAL SHOWGROUNDS

10 APRIL 2026

Director of Ceremonies;

Minister of State for Harare Metropolitan Province,
Hon. Sen. C. Z. Tawengwa;

Minister of Industry and Commerce,
Hon. N. M. Ndhlovu;

Honourable Ministers;

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

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

Senior Government Officials;

Mayor of the City of Harare,
His Worship, Councillor J. Mafume;

Chairman and Board of the Zimbabwe Agriculture
Society; Mr N. Kudenga;

Board of Directors, Management and Staff of Terrace
Africa;

Board of Directors, Management and Staff of Tigere
Real Estate Investment Trust;

Invited Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is my singular honour and privilege to preside at this official opening of the Greenfields Retail Centre, here at the Zimbabwe Agricultural Showgrounds.

These Agriculture Showgrounds are a site, deeply connected to our history as an agriculture-based nation and farming people. The Showgrounds, as an exhibition centre, have for many years served as a place for knowledge acquisition and market sourcing as well as to inspire farmers towards agriculture mechanisation and modernisation. It is indeed intricately intertwined with our ongoing development mix and economic growth.

The establishment of this modern Greenfields Retail Centre shopping complex, within these environs is an honour to the rich legacy of our agriculture sector. Further, these developments usher in a new phase of accelerated commercialisation and transformation to leap forward our people into a higher quality of life.

The project is thus, a welcome addition to the Samora Machel Avenue development corridor, which will enhance the shopping experience for our residents, guests and tourists alike.

To Tigere Real Estate Investment Trust, Terrace Africa, and the Zimbabwe Agricultural Society I say congratulations, well done, for forging an investment partnership with far reaching impacts, on our people and the economy as a whole. I commend the Zimbabwe Agricultural Society for its vision towards unlocking the intrinsic value of these grounds through the implementation of their new spatial land development masterplan. **Makorokoto. Amhlophe** to you all.

Distinguished Invited Guests;

The Second Republic adopted the “Whole of Government and Society Approach”, to developing our country. Under this thrust, mutually beneficial collaboration between the public and private sector has seen the transformation of a long-standing strategic

national institution into dynamic and multi-functional zones.

As far back as 2021, my Administration took the bold decision to create the legal framework to facilitate the establishment of Real Estate Investment Trusts. Tigere REIT which incorporates shareholding from NSSA and the Public Service Commission among other institutional investors, committed capital and took the well calculated risk to make massive investments towards growing our country's real estate portfolio.

The company's confidence was not misplaced, because today, Tigere REIT is listed in the Zimbabwe Stock Exchange and stands as Zimbabwe's largest Real Estate Investment Trust.

It is further commendable that Tigere's trajectory to 2030 will see twelve new additional projects, and infrastructure similar to this Greenfields Retail Centre which we are unveiling today.

Equally, I am pleased that the projected growth of Tigere REIT is estimated to more than double asset value for shareholders and deliver the requisite dividends into the pockets of many Zimbabwean investors, both large and small. **Congratulations. Makorokoto Amhlophe.**

The Greenfields Retail Centre is, thus, a testament to my Government's shared commitment to lift the quality of lifestyles in our country, propel overall economic growth and facilitate people -centered economic empowerment. Additionally, this facility is evidence of the determination of stakeholders in the built environment to embrace innovative solutions and financing models for the realisation of our national vision.

I appeal to other players in land and infrastructure development, together with the real estate industry, to take a leaf from Terrace Africa and its partners. Play your part towards the modernisation of our country, including setting up such facilities along our highways,

in high density suburbs, growth centres and rural areas. No place must be left behind.

As you do so, it is critically important that you incorporate contemporary, climate smart, resilient and post-modern architectural designs when establishing shopping malls, office parks, homes and industrial buildings. In this regard, investors are urged to tap into our country's hard-working and diversely skilled people along with the technical innovations and creativity of our youthful talent in institutions of higher learning.

Meanwhile, it is pleasing to note that the construction of Greenfields Retail Centre was built with materials sourced locally, in line with the 'Buy Zimbabwe' initiative. **Well done.**

'Zimbabwe is Open for Business', hence, we stand ready to welcome both local and foreign investors, inclusive of global brands, to take up investment opportunities across our country's provinces and districts.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

The policies of the Second Republic continue to bear fruit. My Government successfully achieved the goals we set for ourselves under the National Development Strategy 1, with regards to laying the requisite foundation for industrialisation and modernisation of our economy.

Under National Development Strategy 2, we are consolidating those gains and accelerating the implementation of programmes and projects to improve the quality of life of our people.

The expansive construction projects, for residential, commercial and industrial purposes are critical building blocks to the national infrastructure stock. They provide tangible evidence of investor confidence in the economy and our favourable investment climate.

It is pertinent to note that the wholesale and retail sector is not a mere beneficiary, but one of the key drivers of sustainable economic growth.

Despite the various shocks faced by the economy such as climate change induced weather phenomenon and the illegal sanctions; in 2024 the sector contributed over 11% to the country's GDP, thereby, placing the sector among the largest contributors to our economy. Well done.

Projections under NDS-2 show continued expansion, with growth expected to reach 7.4% in 2026. Investments of this nature will, therefore, help augment growth and positively impact the ongoing trajectory towards urban re-generation and revitalisation as well as rural modernisation and industrialisation.

To sustain the progress in this sector, the Ministry of Industry and Commerce is directed to complete the Wholesale and Retail Sector Policy. I exhort business leaders, entrepreneurs and consumers alike to participate during the stakeholder consultations. Your perspectives on this proposed policy are essential to shape, strengthen and boost competitiveness, while ensuring inclusivity within the commercial sector.

Comrades and Friends;

The retail sector is applauded for being a reliable source of employment, wealth creation and investment. Developments of entities such as this Greenfields Retail Centre should inspire many more entrepreneurs to create jobs, stimulate demand for local manufacturing, and provide platforms for formalised business activity.

My Government is intensifying our economic sovereignty. Under NDS-2 with regards this specific sub-sector, our goal entails that malls should not be simply full of imported goods, but with quality ‘Made in Zimbabwe’ products, reflective of our nation’s industrial capacity.

Hence, the manufacturing and commercial sub-sectors should deliberately play their part and strengthen local supply chains, create opportunities for value addition, beneficiation and scale up export competitiveness.

These are key pillars of our industrialisation agenda and must ultimately see us grow our economy.

So far, it is pleasing that communities are readily embracing modern, world-class infrastructure, such as we have seen here at Greenfields Retail Centre shopping complex. Together, let us continue to support policies and projects, which strengthen productivity, industry, domestic trade and commerce, while also empowering our citizens towards a prosperous, industrialised, and inclusive Zimbabwe we all want.

In conclusion, I once again, congratulate the Zimbabwe Agricultural Society, Terrace Africa and Tigere Real Estate Investment Trust, among other stakeholders, for this outstanding project.

With these remarks, it is now my singular honour and privilege to officially open Greenfields Retail Centre.

God bless you all.

God bless Zimbabwe.

I thank you.