

ZIMBABWE CABINET
ELEVENTH POST-CABINET PRESS BRIEFING
21ST APRIL 2026

Today, 21st April 2026, His Excellency the President, Dr. E.D. Mnangagwa chaired the Eleventh Cabinet Meeting and the following issues, among others, were considered and approved:

**1.0 REPORT ON THE SECOND ROUND CROP, LIVESTOCK
AND FISHERIES ASSESSMENT AND UPDATE ON COTTON
PRODUCTION REMEDIAL MEASURES**

Cabinet noted and approved the 2026 Second Round Crop, Livestock and Fisheries Assessment and the Cotton Production Remedial Measures Reports as presented by the Minister of Agriculture, Mechanisation and Water Resources Development.

The Assessment Report shows outcomes of estimated crop, livestock and fisheries production for the 2025/2026 summer season as per the following highlights:

- i. the agricultural sector experienced an overall 5% growth;
- ii. maize production is expected to increase by 2%, from 2.29 million metric tonnes (MT) in 2024/2025 to 2.35 million MT in 2025/2026;

- iii. traditional grains are estimated at 390 272 MT, comprising sorghum, 290 216 MT; pearl millet, 87 677 MT; and finger millet, 12 379 MT.
- iv. total cereal production for the 2025/2026 season is expected to be 2 739 712 MT. The total grain inclusive of the Strategic Reserves is expected to reach 2 876 614 MT;
- v. livestock: goat, sheep, pig and poultry production increased by a range of between 0.3% to 29%, while various horticultural crops grew by between 10% to 44%;
- vi. soyabean production increased by 129% from 41 919 MT in 2024 to 96 129 MT in 2025/2026;
- vii. cotton production is estimated at 77 212 MT, reflecting a 26% increase compared to the previous season's 61 289 MT;
- viii. tobacco production is estimated at 378 322 MT, compared to 353 452 MT, reflecting a 7% increase from the previous season;
- ix. the national cereals balance sheet to March 2027 shows that the nation expects surplus cereals ranging from 550 945 MT to 964 945 MT, according to various consumption patterns.
- x.

Cabinet also adopted the following raft of measures aimed at safeguarding the gains achieved in the agricultural sector:

- i. the enforcement of Statutory Instrument 87 of 2025 to encourage local production and purchase of grain along other financing options;
- ii. acceleration of Climate-proofing agriculture at national and household level through Pfumvudza/Intwasa and irrigation development;
- iii. the sustained emphasis on agro-ecological tailoring of crops, and soil health fertility management through enhanced agricultural information management systems;
- iv. adequate resourcing of Rural Development 8.0 schemes together with investments in Village Business Units;
- v. the sustained establishment of Ward Drought Mitigation Centres in order to build the resilience of communities against future shocks; and
- vi. the revitalization of the cotton industry through a tailored corporate rescue initiative for the relevant State-owned enterprise. The other key strategic intervention is the expeditious payment of farmers for cotton deliveries.

2.0 PROPOSED PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF BULK INFRASTRUCTURE ON LOT 1 OF JAFUTA ESTATE IN MASUWE SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE, VICTORIA FALLS BETWEEN MOSI OA TUNYA DEVELOPMENT COMPANY AND JR GODDARD PRIVATE LIMITED

Cabinet approved the Proposed Public Private Partnership for the Development of Bulk Infrastructure on Lot 1 of Jafuta Estate in Masuwe

Special Economic Zone, Victoria Falls, between Mosi Oa Tunya Development Company (MTDC) and JR Goddard Private Limited (JRG), which was presented by the Minister of Finance, Economic Development and Investment Promotion.

The Masuwe Special Economic Zone (MSEZ) is a flagship National Development Project which the Second Republic established in September 2018 with a strategic intent to transform Victoria Falls into a diversified, high-value hub integrating tourism, financial services and sustainable real estate. The Special Economic Zone encompasses a total of 1 200 hectares of Jafuta Estate, outside Victoria Falls City, and is strategically located within the Kavango-Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area (KAZA-TfCA).

The proposed projects will entail the surfacing of 8 km of internal road network; the upgrading of 9 km of gravel roads; the construction of a 13 km water-pipeline covering the entire 1 200 hectares and the neighbouring communities; the construction of a package water treatment plant, a sewerage reticulation system, effluent re-use storage ponds, a power sub-station; and the provision of management services for the Special Economic Zone.

A rigorous evaluation of the project proposal was undertaken in line with the Zimbabwe Investment and Development Agency (ZIDA) Act and the Private Public Partnership Guidelines. Under the proposed Commercial Joint Venture (CJV), the Mosi Oa Tunya Development Company will contribute 271.5 hectares of Jafuta Estate as equity-in kind, valued at US\$25.6 million.

On its part, the JR Goddard Consortium, which comprises of four companies namely: JR Goddard Pvt Ltd, Sesani Pvt Ltd; Stewart Scott Zimbabwe Pvt Ltd; and GGF Africa Pvt Ltd, will provide US\$66.9 million investment for the construction of the bulk infrastructure. The shareholding structure will be 39% for the Mosi Oa Tunya Development Company and 61% for JR Goddard Consortium.

Cabinet noted that if implemented, the project will unlock numerous benefits to the country including catalysing high-value investment, sovereign asset utilisation, strategic diversification of the Tourism economy with world class infrastructure, sustainable fiscal contribution to Gross Domestic Product (GDP), downstream job creation and the socio-economic upliftment of communities. Ultimately, the project is expected to catapult the transformation of Victoria Falls into a modern and vibrant economic development city, fulfilling the attainment of Vision 2030.

Additionally, the Joint Venture will incorporate a 25-year structured profit recoup period, under the management of a proportionally represented Board chaired by Mosi Oa Tunya Development Company and will be guided by the governance framework to ensure strategic alignment with the objectives of the country's National Development Strategy 2.

3.0 REPORTS ON PRIORITY PROJECTS FOR THE FIRST 100-DAY CYCLE OF 2026

Cabinet received reports on progress made in the implementation of priority projects for the First 100-Day Cycle of 2026, as presented by the Ministers of Skills Audit and Development; Finance, Economic Development and Investment Promotion; and Information, Publicity and Broadcasting Services.

In terms of the Science, Technology, Innovation and Human Capital Development thematic area of the National Development Strategy 2 (NDS 2), the Minister of Skills Audit and Development highlighted the following key achievements under his purview:

- i. Conducting a Phase 3 Skills Audit in Agriculture which is now at 30% completion nationwide; and
- ii. Development of a Skills Development Policy which now awaits validation by key stakeholders;

Under the Job Creation, Youth Development, Creative industry and Culture, the Minister of Skills Audit and Development highlighted the following projects:

- i. implementation of a Retired Experts Database Project for at least 375 retired experts in Harare Metropolitan Province, which is now 50% complete;
- ii. completion of the Diaspora Skills database in Harare Metropolitan Province which has been completed;

- iii. facilitation of Provincial Skills Fair Competitions in 5 provinces of Matabeleland South, Matabeleland North, Mashonaland West and Mashonaland Central Provinces which is now at 80% completion.

In terms of the Macroeconomic stability and financial sector stability thematic area under the National Development Strategy 2, the Minister of Finance, Economic Development and Investment Promotion highlighted the following key achievements under his purview:

- i. Implementation of the 2026 Budget Employment Costs;
- ii. Strengthening the Purchasing Power of the Zimbabwe Gold Currency (ZiG) and entrenching its usage and bringing down inflation to 3.8% by February 2026;
- iii. Promoting the Wider Circulation of the ZiG Currency and its availability in all denominations;
- iv. construction of ZIMRA Forbes Staff Cottages in Manicaland Province which is now 81% complete;
- v. construction of the ZIMRA Plumtree Drones Operation Area in Matabeleland South Province, which is 90% complete;
- vi. implementation of the Financial Sector Strategy Project which is almost complete; and
- vii. Operationalisation of the International Financial Services Centre.

In terms of the Infrastructural and Development Housing Thematic Area of NDS2, the Minister of Finance, Economic Development and Investment Promotion highlighted the following projects under his purview:

- i. construction of 30x3 bedroomed cluster housing units in Kadoma, Mashonaland West Province with 7 units having been completed;
- ii. construction of Catholic University of Zimbabwe Students Accommodation Project which is now at 25%;
- iii. construction of a 5-megawatt Solar Plant in Gutu, Masvingo Province; and the Development of Spitzkop Housing Stands Project in Gwanda District, Matabeleland South Province where 133 residential stands have been serviced;

Under the Food Security and Nutrition, Value Addition and Beneficiation Thematic Area of NDS2, the Minister of Finance, Economic Development and Investment Promotion highlighted the following projects:

- i. strengthening production capacity of the Dry Tomato Powder Project in Bulawayo Metropolitan Province;
- ii. strengthening Financial Inclusion in the Women Tri-cycle Project in Mashonaland East and Manicaland Provinces;
- iii. establishment of the Tins Feed Master Project in Bulawayo Metropolitan Province; and

In the thematic area of Human Capital Development and Health of the National Development Strategy 2, the Minister of Finance, Economic Development and Investment Promotion highlighted the

establishment of the Kumba Care Private Limited Project in Dzivarasekwa and Chiweshe in Harare Metropolitan and Mashonaland Central Provinces, respectively.

In terms of the Image Building, International Relations and Trade thematic Area of the National Development Strategy 2, the Minister of Information, Publicity and Broadcasting Services highlighted the following projects under his purview:

- i. Conducting tours to major infrastructure and development projects in three provinces under the NDS2 Communication Project;
- ii. Implementation of the Radio Transmitter Upgrade at Montrose, Bulawayo Metropolitan Province which is now at 60% completion;
- iii. Upgrading of the Outside Radio Broadcasting Van at Montrose Studio, Bulawayo Metropolitan Province which stands at 40% completion;
- iv. Modernisation of Mbare Radio Studio in Harare Metropolitan Province which is now 30% complete;
- v. Equipping the Pockets Hill Radio News Booths in Harare Metropolitan Province which is now 70% complete; and
- vi. Ongoing information awareness and educational programmes conducted through the Community Mobile Cinematography Project in Matabeleland South Province.

I THANK YOU!