

ZIMBABWE CABINET

THIRTEENTH POST-CABINET PRESS BRIEFING

MAY 5th 2026

Today, 5th May 2026, His Excellency the President, Dr. E.D. Mnangagwa chaired the Thirteenth Cabinet Meeting and the following issues, among others, were considered and approved:

1.0 REVIEW OF LICENCES, PERMITS, LEVIES AND FEES IN THE MINING SECTOR

Cabinet noted and approved the review of licences, permits, levies and fees charged by Ministries, Departments and Agencies in the mining sector, which was presented by the Minister of Finance, Economic Development and Investment Promotion, Honourable Professor Mthuli Ncube.

The review of licences, permits, levies and fees in the mining sector is in compliance with the Cabinet decision of 29 July 2025, which approved the implementation of a raft of business reforms in twelve sectors of the economy. The review process is aimed at reducing the cost of doing business, increasing competitiveness,

enhancing the viability of enterprises and enabling the growth of the Zimbabwean economy.

More specifically, Cabinet approved the streamlining of duplicated and overlapping regulatory licences and permits, removed unnecessary levies and fees and lowered unjustifiably high levies and fees for the mining sector as per the following highlights:

- i. Duplicative and overlapping licences and permits are now streamlined under a single regulatory authority;
- ii. Over 80% of the mining sector fees that are considered reasonable have been maintained;
- iii. Fee differentials based on operator's capacity to pay have been introduced, with licence fees for artisanal and small-scale mines being pegged at a fraction of fees payable by large firms;
- iv. New regulatory fees such as Gold Jewellery permit and Application for registration of Approved Processing Plants for lithium have been introduced;
- v. Registration fees to deal with Precious Stones have been reduced and will be payable every 5 years;

- vi. The Ministry of Mines and Mining Development annual fees for the first, second and subsequent inspection fees for block of claims (Base Minerals, Precious Metals and Mining Lease) have been reduced;
- vii. The Ministry of Mines and Mining Development Trading on Mining Location fee has been scrapped; and
- viii. The diamond cutting and polishing licence fee has been reduced;
- ix. Rural District Councils Land Development Levies are now being standardized.

Cabinet also considered policy and legislative issues affecting the mining sector, including the ongoing review of the Mines and Minerals Act; the development of the Minerals Development Policy, and the operationalization of the Mining Cadastre System to ensure that mining licences are granted, tracked and managed in a legally binding and accurate manner. Other issues include capacitation of the relevant regulatory bodies to strengthen oversight of the mining sector and the formalization of small-scale mining operations.

2.0 REPORT ON THE 2026 ZIMBABWE INTERNATIONAL TRADE FAIR

Cabinet noted the Report on the 2026 Zimbabwe International Trade Fair as presented by the Minister of Industry and Commerce, Honourable Mangaliso N. Ndlovu.

The 66th Edition of the Zimbabwe International Trade Fair was officially opened by His Excellency the President of the Republic of Botswana, Advocate Duma Gideon Boko on 23 April 2026. The fair was held under the theme "***Connected Economies, Competitive Industries***". The total number of exhibitors increased from 795 in 2025 to 812 in 2026, with 98 being first-time exhibitors. The exhibition further witnessed an increase in private sector participation which accounted for 61% of exhibitors, complemented by a 39% contingent of Government entities.

Among the major highlights of the Fair was the Rural Industrialisation and Economic Empowerment Indaba held on 20 April 2026, where strategies to strengthen linkages between large-scale industry and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises

focusing on agro-processing and mineral beneficiation at local level were discussed.

The ZITF 2026 Youth in Business Forum held on 21 April, 2026 focused on the topic “Youth Financial Inclusion: Closing Gaps in Connected Economies” in order to empower young entrepreneurs with financing and innovation opportunities. A US\$1million Youth Economic Empowerment Fund was launched to support youth-led business growth and development.

The International Business Conference held on 22 April 2026 drew more than 600 delegates. Honourable Vice President Chiwenga reaffirmed Government’s commitment to the shift from raw resource exports towards domestic manufacturing and value addition in mining the and agriculture sectors. Notably, the private sector called for a freeze on new regulations whose effect is to increase levies and licences, in order to address operational challenges.

The Connect Africa Symposium held on 24 April 2026 brought together over 300 delegates to address the future of continental commerce. In his keynote address, Honourable Vice President

Mohadi reiterated the need to optimize trade policies to take full advantage of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and to also harmonize standards as a key enabler of trade.

The Digital Economy Conference 2026 reaffirmed Zimbabwe's strategic commitment to accelerating digital transformation as a key enabler of economic growth. The Conference successfully positioned Artificial Intelligence as a practical tool for driving innovation, improving public service delivery and enhancing productivity across sectors such as agriculture, mining, health and education.

The 66th Edition of ZITF was a resounding success, reinforcing Zimbabwe's status as a premier destination for investment and trade under the Second Republic.

3.0 THE RESEARCH AMENDMENT BILL, 2026

Cabinet noted and approved the Research Amendment Bill, which was presented by the Minister of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs, Honourable Ziyambi Ziyambi, as Chairman of the Cabinet Committee on Legislation.

The Bill seeks to amend the Research Act [Chapter 10:22] by establishing, *inter-alia*, a Research Authority of Zimbabwe, a Research Fund and the institutionalization of a National Research and Development Funding Target of not less than 1% of the country's Gross Domestic Product. The Research Fund will be utilized to promote innovation, technological adaptation and adoption as well as the development of appropriate human resources to enhance research capabilities.

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT AMENDMENT BILL, **2026**

Cabinet noted and approved the Environmental Management Amendment Bill, 2026 which was presented by the Minister of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs Honourable Ziyambi Ziyambi as Chairman of the Cabinet Committee on Legislation.

The Bill seeks to amend the Environmental Management Act [Chapter 20: 27] by incorporating emerging environmental principles and giving effect to environmental rights that are enshrined in the Constitution. The Bill also seeks to empower

and strengthen the Environmental Management Agency in order to protect and preserve the environment for the present and future generations.

5.0 PROPOSED HOSTING OF THE EXPERTS GROUP MEETING FOR AFRICAN REGISTRAR GENERALS AND BOARD OF THE AFRICA CIVIL REGISTRATION AND VITAL STATISTICS (CRVS) SHARED ASSET BY ZIMBABWE

Cabinet noted and approved the Hosting of the Experts Group Meeting for African Registrar Generals and Board of the Africa Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) Shared Asset by Zimbabwe, scheduled for 15-20 June 2026, as presented by the Minister of Home Affairs and Cultural Heritage, Honourable Kazembe Kazembe.

The hosting follows a request which was made by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) as the Secretariat of the Africa Programme on Accelerated Improvement of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (APAI-CRVS). The Civil Registry Department is mandated to register births, deaths,

national identity, citizenship, marriages, livestock brands and issue travel documents among its main functions. The Department also maintains accurate and reliable civil registration records in Zimbabwe, a function critical for the production of vital statistics.

The Conference of African Registrar Generals is convened annually, with hosting responsibilities rotating among the five regions of the African continent to ensure regional balance and inclusivity. Zimbabwe, which is a member of the 11-Member Board, will host this year's event in June 2026.

The historic meeting will bring together Registrar Generals from all the 54 African countries, technical experts and development partners from across Africa to deliberate on key issues affecting CRVS systems, share experiences and develop strategies for strengthening civil registration on the continent. Zimbabwe's civil registration system is widely recognised for its strength, innovation and ongoing modernization, with several African countries drawing lessons from our model under the Second Republic.

6.0 THE NATIONAL MAY 2026 CULTURE MONTH CELEBRATIONS

Cabinet noted and approved the planned National Culture Month activities for May 2026 which was presented by the Minister of National Housing and Social Amenities as the Acting Minister of Sport, Recreation, Arts and Culture, Honourable Professor Paul Mavima.

The 2026 edition of the National Culture Month Celebrations will be held on 21 May 2026 at Barbourfields Stadium in Bulawayo under the theme, "**Cultural Diversity and Creativity: Advancing Vision 2030**". The commemorations will celebrate, preserve and showcase the country's diverse heritage while fostering social cohesion, unity and economic development through arts and culture.

The National Celebrations will feature live performances of selected traditional and contemporary dance, musical groups and comedians, while the month-long activities to be held across all provinces and districts of the country will encompass dance, music, film, theatre, literary arts, poetry, traditional cuisines, the

First Lady's *Nhanga/Gota/Ixhiba* dialogue sessions as well as pageantry and fashion.

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

Cabinet received reports on progress in the implementation of priority projects under the First 100-Day Cycle of 2026, as presented by the Ministers of Women Affairs, Community, Small and Medium Enterprises Development; Youth Empowerment, Development and Vocational Training; Environment, Climate and Wildlife; and Industry and Commerce.

The Minister of Women Affairs, Community, Small and Medium Enterprises Development, Honourable Monica Mutsvangwa reported progress on nine projects, as follows:

- a) construction of the Mtapa SMEs Workspace in Gweru, Midlands Province which has reached 88% of completion;
- b) construction of Masvingo Provincial One Stop Centre at Nemanwa Growth Centre which has reached 80% of completion;

- c) construction of the Bulawayo Textile Manufacturing Centre which has reached 88% of completion;
- d) construction of the Gazaland Workspace in Harare Metropolitan Province which has reached 95% of completion;
- e) Zimbabwe Women's Microfinance Bank Guruve Dairy Cooperative, in Guruve, Mashonaland Central Province is at 60%;
- f) The Funding of 30 Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Phase 1 which has utilised US\$ 674 000 out of the budget of US\$1million, with 56 members already benefitting from the scheme;
- g) 480 entrepreneurship members in Buhera District, Manicaland Province benefitted from the US\$130 000 funding of Start-Up Kits for Returnee Migrants
- h) Construction of the Buffalo Range MSMEs workspace in Chiredzi, Masvingo Province has since been completed, with outstanding electrification and water piping works almost complete; and
- i) Construction of the Gokwe North Rural District Council SMEs Workspace has been completed, providing decent workspace for 40 SMEs.

Under the Ministry of Youth Empowerment, Development and Vocational Training, Honourable Tino Machakaire reported progress on priority projects as follows:

- a) construction of the Emmerson Dambudzo Mnangagwa Youth Service in Zimbabwe and Vocational Training Centre in Marondera, Mashonaland East Province has reached 80% in terms of completion;
- b) construction of the Joshua Mqabuko Nyongolo Nkomo Youth Service in Zimbabwe and Vocational Training Centre in Kezi, Maphisa Matabeleland South Province has reached 85% of completion;
- c) construction of a grocery shop and LP Gas Container for youths at Mupudzi Shopping Centre in Mutare District, Manicaland Province has reached 60% of completion; and
- d) establishment of the digital innovation hub at Nyamuroro Vocational Training Centre in Nembudziya, Gokwe North District, Midlands Province has reached 85% of completion.

The Minister of Environment, Climate and Wildlife, Honourable Evelyn Ndlovu reported progress as follows:

- a) construction of the Sebakwe Research Ponds in Kwekwe, Midlands Province meant to conserve indigenous fish species which has reached 70% of completion;
- b) construction of the Zamazama Community Nursery in Shurugwi District, Midlands Province which has reached 60% of completion;
- c) construction of the Forestry Commission Murambinda Nursery in Buhera District, Manicaland Province which has reached 60% of completion;
- d) Eradication of the Poisonous Plant known locally as Umkawuzanewhich has reached 60% of completion in Matabeleland North Province;
- e) Gwenyaya Gully Reclamation project in Chivi District, Masvingo Province which has reached 40% of completion;
- f) Installation of Radar Solar Back-up System at all the country's radar sites which has reached 30% in terms of completion; and
- g) Construction of ZimParks Staff Houses and ablution at various stages of completion in Chinhoyi, Mashonaland West Province and Nyanga in Manicaland Province.

The Minister of Industry and Commerce reported progress as follows:

- a) installation of the Pine Resin Processing Plant at Komo (Pvt) Ltd in Mutare, Manicaland Province is almost complete;
- b) establishment of the Spar Central Butchery in Harare has reached 20% of completion, while the Spar Central Bakery has reached 75% of completion;
- c) installation of a Clinker Plant at Shuntai Investments in Chegutu, Mashonaland West Province has reached 70% of completion; and
- d) concept designs for Fair Grounds Shopping Mall in Bulawayo have been completed.

All projects are therefore progressing well and on course to meet their 100-Day Cycle targets.

I THANK YOU!

