



**SPEECH**

**BY**

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

**AT THE  
LAYING OF THE FOUNDATION STONE OF THE MSU  
PATHOLOGY RESEARCH AND DIAGNOSTIC CENTRE;  
OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE NATIONAL LANGUAGE  
INSTITUTE AND TOUR OF THE PHARMACEUTICAL AND  
FOOD PROCESSING PLANT**

**26 NOVEMBER 2021**

Director of Ceremonies, Prof. A. T. Manyawu;

Vice Chancellor, Midlands State University Prof. V. N. Muzvidziwa;

Vice President and Minister of Health and Child Care, Hon. Gen. (Rtd) Dr C.G.D.N. Chiwenga;

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

Minister of State for Provincial Affairs and Devolution in the Midlands Province, Hon. Sen. L. Mavima;

Minister of Higher and Tertiary Education, Innovation, Science and Technology Development, Hon.Prof.A. Murwira;

Other Ministers here present;

Traditional Leaders;

Senior Government Officials;

Chairperson of the MSU Council, Mrs V. Hungwe;

Pro-Vice Chancellor Business, Innovation and Enterprise Development, Prof. G. Mugumbate;

Distinguished Guests:

Ladies and Gentlemen

It is indeed a great pleasure for me to be addressing you today on the occasion of the laying of the Foundation Stone for the MSU National Pathology Research and Diagnostic Centre, opening of the MSU National Language Institute and tour of the MSU Pharmaceutical and Food Processing Plant. This event coincides with the 22<sup>nd</sup> Graduation Ceremony of the University.

Since the advent of the Second Republic, my Government is implementing bold programmes of national economic reconstruction and social transformation to create national wealth and **lift millions into prosperity.**

To this end, the National Development Strategy-1 (NDS-1) gives prominence to higher education. As such, my Government has prioritised developing educational capabilities to catapult science, technology, innovation

and entrepreneurship, under the Heritage Based Education 5.0 philosophy.

The initiative obligates institutions of higher learning, in particular, to become actively involved in the growth of the country's economy through the provision of technical and research-based solutions. The development of the appropriate home-grown innovations and technologies is a fundamental aspect of this Policy.

The Infrastructure, facilities and innovations that we have gathered to witness today resonate with Goal 9 of the Sustainable Development Goals. They also speak to Goal 4 of the African Union's Agenda 2063 on Transformed Economies: Realised through 'Science, Technology and Innovation driven manufacturing, industrialisation and value addition.'

As a result of initiatives witnessed here at MSU and many others throughout the country, I am strongly persuaded that by 2030, Zimbabwe would have

achieved successes and realised landmark innovation and a knowledge driven economy.

### **Ladies and Gentlemen;**

The development of any society is often associated with the quality of its higher education. In this regard, universities, polytechnics and technological institutions, now have a more pronounced relevance to the competitiveness of our economy as well as to the improvement in the quality of life of any people. This is more so, given the interrelated nature of education, human capital, economic growth and the welfare of humanity.

Gone are the days when our institutions of higher learning merely churned out persons who apply for jobs upon completion of their academic studies. It is my expectation therefore, that the facilities we have toured today will act as catalysts for sustainable socio-economic development, job creation and the production of more “Made in Zimbabwe” goods and services.

The National Language Institute is repositioning our linguistic heritage as a cornerstone for national development. I commend the University for translating COVID-19 educational materials and the National Development Strategy into all the official languages. The Institute will undoubtedly contribute to the preservation and promotion of indigenous languages and enhanced access to information by all people. The translation of all key documentation is applauded and must be expanded to a broader array of national policies and development-related literature.

I call upon the University to leverage on the Language Development Laboratories and produce an assortment of reading materials, especially in braille, as well as other assistive devices such as hearing aids.

### **Ladies and Gentlemen;**

The Presidential Horticulture Programme presents immense potential for the exponential growth and value addition of fruits, vegetables and other

horticulture produce. The Pharmaceutical and Food Processing Plant established by the University will be of great use in this regard. I therefore encourage MSU to increase research on indigenous fruits, which are abundant in all parts of our country.

Such research must equally sharpen the discourse around unlocking the comparative advantages of the respective Wards and Districts in the Midlands Province, for the growth of the Provincial GDP.

Due attention must be given to increased production of indigenous fruits by our local farmers, value addition and reduced post-harvest losses. This will go a long way towards developing and entrenching rural industry systems and infrastructure, being championed by my Government.

Furthermore, the on-going research on the production of pharmaceutical products using our naturally occurring herbs should help meet the health needs of our nation. This must give impetus to a new

generation of pharmacists who are the actual developers of various medicines as opposed to being mere dispensers.

The Pathology Research and Diagnostic Centre, for which I have laid the foundation stone, comes at an opportune time, with regards to the provision of affordable laboratory medicine and our ongoing quest to achieve Universal Health Coverage.

It is pleasing that the establishment of the centre is envisaged to stimulate the local manufacturing of laboratory reagents and point of care devices. I exhort the University to now urgently equip this facility for the speedy growth of high end capabilities for disease surveillance, control and prevention.

These milestones realised by Midlands State University in the research and innovation sphere give meaning to my Government's commitment to generate wealth, while providing platforms for our young boys and girls to showcase their talents and ideas. Well done!



To ensure sustained momentum of these and other programmes and projects; my Government remains unwavering in its quest to create a conducive environment for innovators and institutions of higher learning to play their part in the attainment of Vision 2030.

Hence, in the spirit of encouraging healthy competition amongst our institutions of higher learning, adjudication processes are currently underway to determine the State University that has developed and nurtured the most successful innovations. May the best team win.

Finally, I want to congratulate the Midlands State University for a successful 22<sup>nd</sup> Graduation ceremony and for fostering an innovation and entrepreneurship culture towards socio-economic transformation, modernisation and industrialisation of our great mother country Zimbabwe.

Well done once again, Vice Chancellor, Professor Muzvidziwa, the University Council, teaching staff and students, for the milestones we are celebrating today.

**God bless you all.**

**God bless Zimbabwe.**

**I thank you.**