



**SPEECH**

**BY**

**THE PRESIDENT, HIS EXCELLENCY**

**DR.E.D.MNANGAGWA**

**AT THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE VICTORIA FALLS STOCK  
EXCHANGE AND LISTING OF CALEDONIA MINING CORPORATION  
PLC**

**VICTORIA FALLS STOCK EXCHANGE**

**2 DECEMBER 2021**

Director of Ceremonies, Mr. G. T. Guvamatanga;

Minister of Finance and Economic Development, Hon Prof. M. Ncube;

Minister of Mines and Mining Development, Hon. W. Chitando;

Deputy Ministers here present;

Reserve Bank Governor, Dr. J. P. Mangudya;

His Worship, the Mayor of Victoria Falls, Mr. S. Dlamini;

Securities and Exchange Commission of Zimbabwe CEO, Mr. T. Chinamo;

Caledonia Mining Corporation CEO, Mr S. Curtis;

Victoria Falls Stock Exchange Chairman, Mrs C Sandura;

The Victoria Fall Stock Exchange CEO, Mr J. Bgoni and Management;

Representatives from Government and Financial Sector Regulators;

Capital market participants;

Distinguished Guests;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

It is my honour and privilege to address you today, as we jointly celebrate another key economic milestone- the official opening of the Victoria Falls Stock Exchange and listing of Caledonia Mining Corporation Plc.

As you may be aware, Government approves the implementation of an offshore financial hub in Victoria Falls. Thereafter, the resort town was then designated as a hub for tourism and financial services under the Special Economic Zones initiative, with a view of attracting tourists and serving as a conduit for portfolio investments and foreign direct investment. It was only under the Second Republic that this initiative was re-moulded and implemented.

The concept of Offshore Financial Services Centres exists in other jurisdictions, with centres found in Ireland, the Caribbean, Luxembourg, Singapore, Hong Kong, and the Netherlands, while in Africa, Mauritius stands out as an offshore financial hub. The common theme in all these countries is that they provide an environment that can attract large amounts of both domestic and international investment.

The Victoria Falls Stock Exchange, which commenced operations in October 2020, therefore marked, in earnest, our journey towards the establishment of an Offshore Financial Services Centre in this majestic City of Victoria Falls. The move also demonstrates our commitment to the Devolution and Decentralisation Agenda as the Offshore Financial Services Centre catapults the City of Victoria Falls from mainly being a tourist hub to an internationally recognisable emerging offshore financial hub.

### **Ladies and Gentlemen;**

The Victoria Falls Stock Exchange is expected to drive domestic and international investments, which are a key requirement for the

attainment of our vision of a prosperous and empowered upper middle income economy by 2030.

It is my expectation that the Victoria Falls Stock Exchange will stand shoulder to shoulder with the world's best in providing a window of investment, not just into Zimbabwe, but into the rest of Africa. This also includes offering an opportunity for our pension funds to invest in foreign currency denominated securities, that way enhancing their ability to diversify currency risk and continue to grow sustainable value for the Pensioners whose assets they manage.

In this regard, my Government is committed to promote the Victoria Falls Stock Exchange into an integral part of the global financial architecture.

The recently signed Memorandum of Understanding between the Victoria Falls Stock Exchange and the Dubai Gold and Commodities Exchange with the view to also establish a commodities exchange is applauded. The benefits from this venture will result in enhanced price transparency for our precious minerals and better value retention by our small scale miners. This is against the backdrop of the continued illegal sanctions that have hampered our access to markets for the minerals produced in our great country. It will further spur ongoing efforts towards the attainment of the US\$12 billion mining industry by 2023.

To date, Government has put together a basket of incentives that will stimulate new listing, including the recent increase in export retention for issuers that choose to list on the Victoria Falls Stock Exchange. The incremental export incentive scheme put in place through the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe, seeks to boost production and productivity, while accelerating the sustainable growth of export revenue and ultimately encourage listing and participation of firms on the Victoria Falls Stock Exchange. These incentives have begun to bear fruit as witnessed by the event we have gathered for today.

The listing by Caledonia Mining Corporation Plc onto the Victoria Falls Stock Exchange marks the third listing on the new exchange within the space of just over a year. It also marks the first Initial Public Offering on the Stock Exchange and is the first new listing in the Zimbabwean capital markets since 2016. This is indeed a sure sign of the confidence that investors are placing in the policies of the Second Republic, especially considering that Caledonia is also listed in the USA and United Kingdom.

### **Ladies and Gentlemen;**

As a nation, we pride ourselves in the belief that our citizens should also benefit from the exploitation of our natural resources. Thus, having Caledonia publicly listed on the Victoria Stock Exchange provides opportunities for our citizens to participate as investors either directly as individuals or indirectly through their fund managers and pension funds. This creates a win-win situation as the listing entity can raise the required capital for its operations, while local citizens are concurrently being empowered.

Let me, therefore, take the opportunity to encourage unlisted corporates in the mining, manufacturing, agriculture, tourism and other sectors of our economy to also consider listing. If not here on the Victoria Falls Stock Exchange, they can also list on the Zimbabwe Stock Exchange and the Financial Securities Exchange.

I particularly want to encourage our Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise to consider listing on these various stock exchanges in their numbers, as this is the surest way to raise long term capital for growth.

### **Distinguished Guests;**

As we pursue the attainment of Vision 2030, my Administration will continue to play its role of creating an enabling environment so that capital feels safe in Zimbabwe. I am here today to reassure you who are present today and all other potential investors of our commitment as Government to put in place necessary frameworks and mechanisms to further consolidate investor confidence and deepen our country's financial markets.

As a listening President, and guided by the open for business and dialogue mantra, I have created an Advisory Committee that comprises industry players so that my Government remains in sync with the perspectives and needs of business and our productive sectors. Rest assured that we not only hear, but we also implement supportive policies, including our recent focus on infrastructure and other critical enablers to accelerate business growth for win-win outcomes.

Allow me to conclude by reaffirming my Administration's commitment to building a robust, resilient and growing economy through private sector led investment. As we always say, "Zimbabwe is open for business".

With these remarks, it is my pleasure to officially declare the Victoria Falls Stock Exchange officially opened and welcome Caledonia Mining Corporation Plc to the Victoria Falls Stock Official List.

**God bless you all.**

**God bless Zimbabwe**

**I thank you.**