



**SPEECH**

**BY**

**THE PRESIDENT, HIS EXCELLENCY**

**DR.E.D.MNANGAGWA**

**ON**

**THE THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL CLEAN-UP  
PROGRAMME**

**BULAWAYO**

**03 DECEMBER 2021**

It is my singular honour to join the people of Bulawayo as we celebrate the 3<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary of the National Clean-up Day Programme. This initiative launched in 2018, seeks to inculcate a culture of cleanliness, including at household level, as we move towards a prosperous and empowered middle income society by 2040.

Notwithstanding the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, I am pleased to note that after three years, the National Clean-Up Days initiative is still receiving overwhelming support. I commend citizens, the private sector, civic organisations, the religious fraternity, as well as Ministries, Departments and Agencies, among other stakeholders, for remaining resolute to the objectives of this Programme.

To date, I can safely say that there had been a notable mind-set shift towards adopting best practices with regards to good environmental and waste management. This has seen community and sector-based waste management taking centre stage and changes in the narratives of the waste management frameworks in the country.

It is also pleasing that some sectors have embraced the Integrated Waste Management System, targeting waste reduction through recycling, composting and proper disposal. The promotion of recycling as a major waste management strategy 1 (NDS-1), has the potential to create green jobs for our citizens.

Continued growth of recycling activities across the country is pleasing and presents opportunities for drastically reducing most of the waste management challenges the country has been facing. This ensures a clean, safe and healthy environment for present and future generations.

Going forward, I call upon the nation to continue adopting programmes and activities that move us “beyond the broom”, in order to ensure sustainability of the National Clean-Up Programme. It is also time that we all redouble our efforts in honour of the pledges we made during the launch of this Programme on 5 December 2018.

I therefore, challenge all Local Authorities to now be the cornerstone of this Programme by effectively carrying out their mandate as champions of waste management in the Country. This will undoubtedly require the setting up of sustainable waste management frameworks, including development of Local Environmental Action Plans.

I further urge Local Authorities to stop the abuse of resources of rate-payers, which has resulted in failures to collect and manage waste, among other acts and omissions. Sadly, this has become a reflection of the quality of councillors and management entrusted with the affairs of our local authorities, especially those in urban areas. The forthcoming elections present an opportunity for them to be voted out of office.

## **Ladies and Gentlemen;**

Given that this Programme is not sector or entity specific, all stakeholders, including politicians; traditional and communal leadership; religious leaders; the academia; captains of industry and commerce; and the general citizenry should be champions of this Programme.

As per our Declaration, I also call upon all citizens to continue playing their part by cleaning up their environs on the first Friday of each month between 08:00am and 10:00am. As you do so, I urge you to always observe the COVID-19 protocols.

To those who have not yet signed the pledges, I exhort you to do so and play your part towards ensuring a clean, safe and healthy environment. Together we can realise 'Sustainable Cities and Communities' as envisioned under Sustainable Development Goal II.

As a caring Government, my Administration will continue to provide resources to accelerate the Devolution and Decentralisation Agenda to ensure citizens enjoy the quality service that they deserve.

Due to the emergence of a new variant of the COVID-19 virus, my Government has tightened the lockdown measures in order to deal with the threat of a fourth wave. In this regard, I urge everyone to continue sanitising, masking up and maintaining social distance. We can only be safe, when everyone is safe.

Finally, may this coming New Year usher in green solutions in waste management, including the development and introduction of new innovations that will take us to our vision of turning this country into a prosperous and empowered upper middle income society by 2030.

A clean Zimbabwe is possible and it is our responsibility together.

**God bless you all.**

**God bless Zimbabwe**

**I thank you.**