



SPEECH

BY

THE PRESIDENT, HIS EXCELLENCY

DR.E.D.MNANGAGWA

AT THE

COMMISSIONING OF ZUPCO BUSES

7 DECEMBER 2021

We are gathered here today to witness the commissioning of yet another new fleet of ZUPCO buses. The addition of these 90 buses to the existing fleet, bolsters our ongoing quest to guarantee the provision of efficient, reliable, safe and affordable public transport services, for mass rural and urban areas, as enunciated in the National Development Strategy-1.

This event comes barely a week after I commissioned a fleet of 13 buses and 30 delivery vehicles earmarked for the Public Service Commission, to address the transport needs of our dedicated public servants.

The ongoing growth, modernisation and industrialisation of the economy, with its attendant increased production and productivity, give impetus to the need for a more efficient and affordable public transport sector.

The ongoing purchase and replenishment of buses for the ZUPCO fleet is therefore a reflection of my Governments' determination to lighten the transport burden for our commuting public, while facilitating increased mobility for economic productivity.

I, therefore, challenge ZUPCO to continue defining and establishing an operating system that is alive to the nation's economic development realities, in both urban and rural areas.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

These latest acquired buses bring the new ZUPCO fleet to over 500. This must see ZUPCO servicing its routes more efficiently, particularly during peak hours, while at the same time providing employment opportunities to many. The public transport service partnership with the National Railways of Zimbabwe, which is designed to alleviate public transport challenges, is also applauded and must be continuously improved.

ZUPCO, as the strategic national public transport service provider and also as an enabler for the speedy attainment of Vision 2030, will receive my Government's continued support.

On its part, ZUPCO should carry out its mandate, guided by high standards of professionalism, integrity and prudent financial management practices. The use of digital platforms to penetrate the market with a wide array of services is commendable. However, this must be complemented with entrenching the values and standards outlined on your Client Service Charter, which include quality and timely service delivery, etiquette, propriety and professionalism among the workers.

Capacity building to achieve this must not only be extended to both ZUPCO employees and those of contracted buses and omnibuses. The ZUPCO brand should grow to be the public transport provider of choice, in all respects.

Under the Second Republic, the yester-year lethargic approach of ZUPCO, characterised by corruption and mismanagement of resources, among other vices, will not be condoned. It is also my expectation that ZUPCO will consistently offer reliable business services to commuters, with strict adherence to set time-tables.

It is commendable that the ongoing partnership with the Harare Institute of Technology has seen the deployment of ICT based innovations for the establishment of a digital transport management system. The bus tracking system, E- Fuelling and E- Ticketing should be deployed more expansively to further reduce cases of pilferage and increase revenue collection.

ZUPCO is challenged to find the intricate balance between affordable and effective service delivery and sustainability of the entity whilst keeping abreast with the contemporary trends in the public transport sector.

Furthermore, the management and staff of ZUPCO are exhorted to explore additional strategic areas of potential growth and future investment.

The accelerated implementation of the Devolution and Decentralisation Agenda, must see the management of ZUPCO deploying more buses to all parts of the country, informed by the mantra, “leaving no one and no place behind”. To this end, the rural development and industrialisation drive must be complimented by a

reliable and affordable public transport system towards supporting the various economic activities of our people.

Meanwhile, the current constructing, rehabilitating and modernisation of our road infrastructure in all parts of the country, under the Emergency Road Rehabilitation Programme will continue into the year ahead. This will undoubtedly ensure efficiency of our transport system, whilst at the same time enhancing road safety. Similarly, the programme dovetails with the drive to achieve sustainable Development Goal number 11, with regards to Sustainable Cities and Communities.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

In view of the upcoming festive season and the threat posed by the 4th wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, I challenge the transport sector and nation at large to remain vigilant and to adhere to the COVID-19 public health guidelines religiously. I also call upon those who are yet to be vaccinated to go and get vaccinated, remember, no one is safe until everyone is safe.

Finally, I once again call upon ZUPCO to take good care of these buses through proper servicing and maintenance. These buses must be distributed throughout the country and service people with the greatest need. More buses will be commissioned in the near future.

With these remarks, it is now my singular honour and privilege to declare this new fleet of 90 ZUPCO buses officially commissioned.

God bless you all.

God bless Zimbabwe

I thank you.