



REMARKS

BY

THE PRESIDENT, HIS EXCELLENCY

DR. E.D. MNANGAGWA

AT THE

**ACCEPTANCE CEREMONY OF A
ZWS\$15 MILLION DIVIDEND CHEQUE AND
LAUNCH OF THE COTTON PESTICIDE AND
CATTLE DIP**

02 MARCH 2022

Director of Ceremonies;

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 Harare Metropolitan Province, Hon. Sen. Eng. O. Chidawu;

Minister of Industry and Commerce, Hon. Dr S. Nzenza;

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

Minister of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Rural Development, Hon. Dr A. J. Masuka;

Other Ministers here present;

Chief Secretary to the President and Cabinet, Dr M. J. M. Sibanda;

Secretary for Industry and Commerce, Dr M. Sibanda;

Senior Government Officials;

Governor of the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe,
Dr J. P. Mangudya;

Chairman of the Industrial Development Corporation
of Zimbabwe Limited, Mr. W. Makamure, and the
Board of Directors;

Acting Chief Executive Officer, Mr J. Chigwende
and Staff of Chemplex Corporation;

Distinguished Guests;

Ladies and Gentlemen.

I am honoured to address you all at this ceremony to
witness the handing over of a dividend to
Government by the Industrial Development
Corporation of Zimbabwe, an enterprise wholly
owned by the Government of Zimbabwe.

The fact that it has been 12 years since Government
last received a dividend from the Industrial
Development Corporation of Zimbabwe is indicative
of the successes being scored by the policies of the
Second Republic.

It further attests to the impact of hard- honest work and a results oriented culture. I, thus, congratulate the Industrial Development Corporation for this demonstration of their positive turn-around efforts. I, however, expect much more from such a strategic national entity, with tentacles that spread across sectors of the economy.

The payment of a dividend by the Industrial Development Corporation should inspire other State Owned Enterprises to follow suit. The time has come for Parastatals to propel the growth of economy by meaningfully contributing to the country's GDP, fiscus and job creation. After all, state controlled entities are obligated by Section 195 of our National Constitution to be profitable and viable.

As we accelerate our quest to achieve a Prosperous and Empowered Upper Middle Income Economy by 2030, the issuance of dividends by State-Owned-

Enterprises must, therefore, be the norm and not an exception.

Public Enterprises were not established to be cost centres requiring constant bail-outs and capital injections from Government. They were created for growing our economy, providing high quality goods, as well as reliable and affordable services to industry and the public at large. Under the Second Republic's Whole of Government Approach, State-Owned-Enterprises must stand on their own feet as opposed to being a perpetual burden to the fiscus. The non-payment of taxes, rates, fines and other statutory obligations should now be a thing of the past.

Transparency and accountability within the Boards and management of parastatals is of vital importance. It is expected that State-Owned-Enterprises must be accountable to shareholders, oversight bodies and the general public.

The culture of flimsy excuses for breaching statutory requirements with regards the disclosure of financial and non-financial information must stop forthwith.

Inefficiencies in the operations of State-Owned-Enterprises as well as malfeasance such as nepotism and opaque personnel management practices must be a thing of the past. Hence, the onus is on the Boards and Management to guarantee adherence to mechanisms that have been put in place to prevent these practices.

Recently, all heads of State-Owned-Enterprises signed performance contracts in line with my Government's quest to engender corporate governance systems that support operational efficiency, long-term growth and sustainable development of the respective entities.

The spirit and letter of these performance contracts must be upheld.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

Apart from receiving the dividend from the Industrial Development Corporation, we have also gathered to officially launch two exciting new products. These are a cotton pesticide as well as a combination liquid pesticide for dipping livestock, which are produced by Chemplex Corporation, a subsidiary of the Industrial Development Corporation. This development will undoubtedly help transform the cotton and livestock value chains which provide throughput to aspects of our country's manufacturing sector.

The development of the cotton pesticide '*the Mitebuster*' has come at an opportune time as we seek to restore cotton as the "white gold" of our country.

It is my hope that this new product will equally contribute towards increased yields and the overall production and productivity within the cotton sub-sector.

The perennial loss of livestock through diseases has, for a while, been an area of great concern. This was partly a result of the inadequate supplies of dipping chemicals. The home-grown cattle dipping solution by Chemplex Corporation will help mitigate the impact of pests and assist in our efforts to grow the national herd as envisaged under the Agriculture and Food Systems Transformation Strategy.

The launch of these new products is testimony that industry has begun to heed the clarion call by my Government for accelerated innovation, research and development across all sectors of the economy as motivated by the mantra **“nyika inovakwa nevene vayo”**.

I, therefore, urge other stakeholders to be emboldened by milestones such as this one, and continue the import substitution drive. The deployment of science, technology and innovation should be accelerated to ramp up production and productivity as we modernise and industrialise our country.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

I challenge Chemplex Corporation to remain alive to the fact that producing products is not an end in itself. It is imperative that these products are available to farmers at affordable prices through the most convenient distribution channels across the country.

We applaud the great strides that have been made by the Industrial Development Corporation of Zimbabwe and other players towards strengthening the fertilizer value chain. Notable in this regard, is the refurbishment and expansion of production lines at Dorowa Minerals, which is a critical entity

in our country's fertilizer value chain industry. This recapitalisation initiative by the Industrial Development Corporation should enhance competitiveness and improved availability of a wider range of products to our farmers. The work towards the resuscitation of Deven Engineering to address public transport challenges through local assembly and refurbishment of buses should be accelerated.

On its part, my Government will continue to provide a conducive operating environment for players in both the public and private sectors of the economy. All industry players and potential investors are invited to work more closely with Government to develop a vibrant and sustainable industrial base in our country for win-win benefits and a better future for all.

Finally, I urge the Board of Directors, management and staff at the Industrial Development Corporation of Zimbabwe to continue on the positive trajectory

that has seen this noble achievement. Unity of purpose, teamwork, integrity, good corporate governance must be nurtured over and above the creation of an organisational culture that attracts and retains the best expertise in the various industries under the company's vast portfolio.

With these few remarks, it is now my honour to accept the dividend of ZW\$15 million as well as declare the Cotton Pesticide and Cattle Dip chemicals officially launched.

God bless you.

God bless Zimbabwe.

I thank you.