



ADDRESS

BY

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

AT THE

**7TH NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE ZANU PF WOMEN'S
LEAGUE**

24 JUNE 2022

It is my singular honour and privilege to address you all at this official opening of the 7th National Conference of the ZANU PF Women's League. This Elective Conference, being held under the theme 'Total Political, Social and Economic Emancipation for Every Woman by 2030', is defining and must set the tone for greater involvement of women towards the realisation of our national Vision, to be an empowered and prosperous upper middle income society by 2030.

I want from the onset to commend the immense contribution and milestones achieved by the women of our great country. You the women are the consistent and reliable bedrock of the Party's support base. Your mobilisation abilities in the 2018 Harmonised General Election helped our colossal Party to romp to a landslide victory where our usual detractors were left counting their bitter loss.

The successes and inroads you have made in various sectors of the economy such as agriculture, mining, tourism and manufacturing is equally commendable. We were together in the trenches and you continue to play

your role in building our great motherland, Zimbabwe. Well done to the Women of Zimbabwe. Well done to you the Women's League of our colossal mass Party, ZANU PF.

I have the confidence that you can achieve much more. Hence, as you convene here today, it is incumbent upon this crop of leaders of the Women's league to shift the perspective and discourse around the role of women, in society, in our Party and in national development as a whole to ensure gender equality and sustainable women empowerment for future generations.

My Government and indeed the Party, recognises that women have an important, indispensable role to play towards sustainable economic development and prosperity. When women are present at the national decision making table, our development is accelerated. Indeed, when women thrive, we all thrive, the nation thrives.

This conference must, therefore, address the contemporary issues that will drive greater participation of women in the socio-economic and political arena. You cannot afford to undertake your affairs in a business as usual manner. Instead I challenge you to re-ignite, rejuvenate and modernise all structures to make them more relevant to the world of today and the needs of the future. You are a strategic Wing of our colossal revolutionary Party, and cannot afford to remain stuck in the strategies and concepts of the past. It is imperative that your discussions, programmes, projects and activities evolve in line with the present multi-pronged developmental agenda of ZANU PF.

Furthermore, there is need for you to boldly talk about the issues that hold you back as women while developing and implementing collaborative strategies of confronting them. It is my expectation that Resolutions and strategies will emerge from this 7th National Conference for the capacitation of women, to more ably adapt to the contemporary needs of the present and future socio-economic and political environment.

The combined voice of women is powerful and can uplift our communities in line with our quest to realise development that leaves no one and no place behind. I, therefore, urge you to stand up for each other across all sectors of the economy through inspiring, mentoring and sponsoring each other as well as by telling and sharing your success stories. As women, never allow yourselves to be ignored.

Meanwhile, I want to heartily welcome visitors from our Sister Revolutionary Parties and other progressive organisations from the region and beyond. Please feel free among counterparts in our revolutionary Party, ZANU PF. We are one, bonded by our rich history and aspirations for a prosperous and shared future.

As we gather today, we solemnly remember and honour our fallen heroines who passed on and diligently served the Party and the Women's League in particular, at various levels across the country.

We pay special tribute to trailblazing women such as the late National Heroines, Cde Jane Lungile Ngwenya and Dr Ellen Gwaradzimba, whom we lost since the advent of the Second Republic, as well as, most recently, the late Cde Evelyn Mpofu, who was the Vice Chairwomen of the Matabeleland South Province Women's League. May their souls rest in peace.

Comrade Delegates;

It is our tradition and practice to periodically choose leaders to serve within the Party. I commend the Women's League for the peaceful and cordial manner in which you conducted your Provincial Conferences across the ten Provinces of our country. The high number of aspiring candidates who expressed their desire to be part of the Women's League National Executive highlights the rising level of women's political consciousness, willingness and sense of responsibility to serve our revolutionary Party. Well done to you the Women's League for the smooth, peaceful internal democratic processes.

It is my expectation that this distinct and characteristic feature of our DNA as a revolutionary Party will continue

to shape the processes of your 7th Elective Conference as you elect the respective Heads of Departments of your National Executive.

Our transparent internal democratic processes must be interpreted within the context that our goals, aims and objectives as the People's Party, are delivered through principled and people centred policies. The renewal of the Women's League must equally translate to the overall strength of the Party, anchored on grassroots mobilisation, as enunciated in our rallying call "**Musangano kuma Cell**". I commend women through the Women's League for actively participating in our recently held ZANU PF National Cell Day.

The wing must continue strengthening and verifying its structures ahead of the 2023 Harmonised General Elections. The empowerment and emancipation of women and girls remain an integral part of the ZANU PF Government's political philosophy. In light of this, stereotypes that degrade and undermine the rights of women and girls will not be tolerated in our society.

We are alive to the unfolding complex struggles which women face in their daily lives. My Government is therefore, determined to eradicate harmful practices such as gender based violence, sexism, tribalism, regionalism and other salient systems of discrimination. These primitive and callous traits are not consistent with our values.

Sadly, the women of our country continue to bear the negative consequences of the illegal economic sanctions imposed on our country as well as the brute profiteering tendencies by some unscrupulous business people.

My Government will tomorrow be announcing concrete measures to tame inflation and unwarranted increases in prices towards securing the incomes and savings of our people, particularly women. We remain committed to ensure sustainable delivery of social services such as water and sanitation; availing affordable and quality education; improving access to green energy solutions, among others.

Under the responsive policies of the Second Republic, women are being facilitated to realise their individual and collective aspirations, riding on their immense capabilities, skills and competencies. This has seen the appointment of more women in positions of responsibility and decision making in the public sector.

The ZANU PF Government has amended the Constitution to extend the women's quota in Parliament, and further introduced an additional proportional representation requirement of 30% for women in local authorities.

Additionally, under the Second Republic, many more women have been appointed within Constitutional institutions that support democracy as as boards of Parastatals.

As a special constituent of our country's demography and human capital base, the potential of women will be harnessed, deployed and supported to produce goods and services that meet our current realities and ultimately contribute to our national Vision. This is more so, as

women have unapologetically broken the glass ceiling, proving that there are no tasks or sectors which are out of bounds. The decision by my Government to start the Women's Micro Finance Bank and plethora of other empowering initiatives is ample testimony that we are alert to your needs.

Meanwhile, I exhort the Women's League to increase collaboration and partnerships across the social and economic spectrum. There is no room for silos; you are stronger working in unity and common purpose. As such, the broad networks of the Women's League affiliate organisations must be effectively harnessed, along with the various resources available in progressive development partners to advance women in our communities, work places and the market place.

It is your duty as leaders to facilitate the creation of opportunities for the women of our country, to reach their full potential, for the attainment of gender equality, our national aspirations and other international development goals.

In the meantime, allow me to take the opportunity of this Conference to express my profound gratitude to the Women's league and women front line workers for the sterling work with regards to the fight against COVID-19.

I commend the Women's League for the production and distribution of COVID-19 personal protective equipment, sanitisers and the mobilisation of many across provinces to get vaccinated.

Comrade Delegates;

As Government and the Party, we recognise that women are peace-builders. It is very important, therefore, that more women in positions of responsibility, in both the public and private sectors, across the political divide. You must say No to violence. Come out preaching unity, peace, love and harmony in our country. After all there can be no development without peace and security.

Unity, peace and development are some of the critical ingredients which built this colossal revolutionary Party. The Women's League structures across all levels must

close ranks and unite as one. It is through unity, love and harmony that our Party's political power base is consolidated. Together with other Wings of the Party, you have an onerous task to educate some of the youth and other members of our society against being misled by false and malicious narratives being propagated by some opposition parties. The strategic role of the Women's League is critical in educating the young generation and society at large, on the country's history and our vision.

The hard and dark experiences of the colonial era can never be white-washed. It must be made clear to all our people that those who imposed sanctions on us wish ill upon our country and people. We must never be hoodwinked by their disguises as champions of good governance, democracy and human rights. Most of them and their agents are wolves in sheep's clothing. Let us never be deceived. ZANU PF is the only Party with a revolutionary history; a sustainable agenda for the present and vision for the future.

Similarly, we cannot achieve sustainable development without the partnership and participation of young

people. Young people have an important role to play in achieving peace, security, stability and good governance in our beloved motherland. We need their ideas and their energy. Since the advent of the Second Republic, working with our institutions of higher learning, we have seen what young people can do in terms of innovation and the use of technology to solve problems and create goods and services that meet the needs of our country. Their ability to mobilize using technology to raise awareness among the wider population of important social issues, is incredible. I urge you as the League to harness the potential of young women by accommodating them in your structures and creating space for them to have an input into your policies, strategies, programmes and projects.

Equally, never grow tired of advancing the ideals of patriotism, loyalty and discipline right from the family level, to your churches and other social institutions.

As active combatants, comrades and mothers, your mobilisation must never neglect deepening the revolutionary culture among the young generation. This must be informed by discipline and national character of

unity, patriotism, loyalty, humility, steadfastness and sobriety among our young women, grounded on the values of Hunhu/Ubuntu.

Comrades

As you continue to grow your support base, guard against the use of dirty tactics and money by some of you for the purpose of infiltrating and attaining positions within your Wing. The harnessing of linkages between the Women's League and Diaspora population to advance the 'Zimbabwe is open for business' mantra must be pursued with greater focus.

Finally, it is critical for us all to ensure that we adhere to the constitutional prerogatives of our colossal Party. The outcome of this elective Conference and the accompanying resolutions should galvanise our Party as we move into the future.

I wish you all a successful National Conference, characterised by constructive, frank and robust

discussions towards growing and strengthening our Party in general and the Women's League in particular.

With these remarks, it is now my singular honour and privilege to declare the 7th Women's League National Conference officially open.

Pamberi ne ZANU PF

Pamberi ne kubatana

Pamberi neBudiro

Pambili le ZANU PF

Pambili loku bambhana

Pambili lempumelelo

Pasi ne mhandu