



**ADDRESS**

**BY**

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

**AT THE**

**COMMISSIONING OF THE ALLIED TIMBERS  
ZIMBABWE CASHEL SAWMILL**

**CHIMANIMANI**

**22 JUNE 2022**

Director of Ceremonies;

Vice President and Minister of Health and Child Care,  
Hon. Gen. (Rtd) Dr. C. G. D. N. Chiwenga;

Chairman of ZANU PF and Minister of Defence and  
War Veterans Affairs; Hon. O. C. Z. Muchinguri-  
Kashiri;

Minister of State for Provincial Affairs and Devolution,  
Manicaland Province, Hon. N. Matsikenyeri;

Minister of Environment, Climate, Tourism and  
Hospitality Industry, Hon. M. N. Ndhlovu;

Other Honourable Ministers here present;

Chairman of the Allied Timbers Board of Directors,  
Mr. I. Ndudzo and Board Members here present;

Chairman of the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on  
Industry and Commerce and Member of Parliament for  
Chimanimani East Constituency, Hon. J. Sacco;

Senior Government Officials;

Chief Mutambara and other Traditional Leaders here  
present;

Captains of Industry and Commerce;

Ladies and Gentlemen.

It gives me great pleasure to be officiating at this commissioning ceremony of the state of the art Allied Timbers Zimbabwe Cashel Sawmill. The project, which is valued at US\$13.3 million, is set to drive the production of timber related products and create employment opportunities for many of our people.

I commend the journey travelled by Allied Timbers towards its turn-around and re-capitalisation drive, which commenced in 2019, when I commissioned a Boards and Doors plant in Harare. It was during that event, that I was informed of the goal of resuscitating Cashel Sawmill operations. I am, therefore, pleased that today, the promise has been realised. Congratulations.

The project is concrete evidence that Allied Timbers Zimbabwe has taken full advantage of my Government's positive policies to successfully implement its turnaround strategy. In addition, the internally generated funds have been prudently used to undertake this and other projects.

The capacitating of the company has culminated in the acquisition of various critical equipments and the successive declaration of dividends to the shareholder, among other developments.

Congratulations to the Allied Timbers Board, Management and Staff for a job well done. Your hard work and determination is certainly bearing fruit. The company is now well positioned to contribute to the infrastructure and construction sectors of our country, in line with the National Development Strategy. Furthermore, the notable achievements realised under your turn-around strategy will go a long way towards the restoration of the forestry and timber industry value chain.

To sustain this momentum, I challenge the Board and Management of Allied Timbers to unlock the potential of the sector by developing innovative solutions that increase production and investments in areas where the company has comparative advantages.

You must equally, leverage on the ongoing wholistic policies of the Second Republic that cut across all sectors of the economy, to further grow the business.

In light of the emerging global trends in the sector, I challenge you to also continue to make concerted efforts to acquire more high-tech equipment to increase the recovery rate in your processes. The attraction, training and retention of a skilled and versatile workforce are equally important. As the company grows, it is my expectation that the quality of life for the workforce as a whole, will improve in tandem with your business growth in line with the adage, ‘a tree standing alone does not have the strength of the forest.’

### **Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen;**

The loss of the natural ecosystem due to deforestation is detrimental to our communities, country and to the planet in general. Meanwhile, the negative impacts of climate change remain in our memory, following the Cyclone Idai disaster of March 2019.

Similarly, the extreme weather patterns which our country continues to experience from time to time, give impetus for the need to have robust strategies of tackling current climate related challenges.

As recognised in the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, forests play a critical role in the mitigation of climate change. As such, forest ecosystems are one of the most efficient systems in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and the vulnerability of people and the environment, to the negative impacts of climate change.

It is therefore urgent and imperative that stakeholders scale up the management and governance framework around forestry areas. This must result in our forests fully achieving their potential to mitigate the negative impacts of climate change, while providing sources of improving the standards of living of our people.

Undoubtedly, the forestry, wood and timber processing sector provides a wide range of economic and social benefits to our society. It is, however, disheartening to note that timber poaching, illegal mining and settlements in the plantations continue to affect the sector. We cannot, afford any further disturbances occurring in the country's commercial plantations and forestry areas, among other protected environmental ecosystems. I call upon the local communities to take pride and support environmental protection programmes and other initiatives undertaken by Allied Timbers Zimbabwe.

Through the Whole of Government and Society approach, I exhort the political leadership here in Manicaland Province, along with Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies to decisively reverse deforestation in the Province as well as other undesirable activities within our forestry plantations. Comprehensive strategies must be put in place for broad

based afforestation programmes here in Manicaland Province and other parts of the country.

The Forestry Commission, Environmental Management Agency and Traditional institutions, among other stakeholders, are called upon to complement the company's efforts in arresting incidents of fire and other land degradation activities.

Allied Timbers and the Ministry of Environment, Tourism and Hospitality Industry are directed to also entrench an organisational culture that will see the timely re-planting of harvested areas as well as safeguarding of this state of the art sawmill and other assets of the company. Working with other stakeholders, more aggressive strategies must be put in place to ensure sustainable commercial plantations and forestry resources for the optimum utilisation of the sawmill operations.

Going forward, my Government will be moving in to help resuscitate, restore and monitor the magnificent



and renowned forest areas, here in the Eastern Highlands and other parts of the country toward sustainability of the forestry sub-sector.

**Ladies and Gentlemen;**

The realisation of Vision 2030 and prosperity for our great Nation is imminent. Through our culture of hard honest work and innovation, we are setting up rural industry systems and infrastructure, as well as rebuilding our industries and the economy, brick by brick and stone upon stone for the improved quality of life of our people.

I exhort, every citizen to re-commit to respect and uphold the laws of our beloved motherland, Zimbabwe. Under the Second Republic, various measures are being implemented with greater focus to empower our citizens, create sustainable national wealth and ensure inclusive development. No communities or group of persons have a right to operate outside the law and policies of Government.

Through patience and resilience, let us set up a solid foundation which ensures that present and future generations enjoy the material and non-material benefits of all the resource endowments of our country, including in the forestry and timber sector.

Guided by our mantra '**Nyika inovakwa nevene vayo**', let us all remain patriotic, loyal and believing in ourselves as a people. Over and above this, we must reject all impediments to our quest to increase production and productivity across all sectors of the economy. We must never give in to those bent on sowing seeds of division among our communities and the nation as whole. United, in peace, love and harmony, we shall surely realise sustainable development which leaves no one and no place behind.

Once again, I would like to commend the Board, Management and Staff of Allied Timbers Zimbabwe for their resilience and unity of purpose that has led to this milestone achievement. Congratulations.

With these remarks, it is now my pleasure and honour to declare the Allied Timbers Zimbabwe Cashel Sawmill officially commissioned.

**God bless you.**

**God bless Zimbabwe.**

**I thank you.**