



ADDRESS

BY

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

AT THE

**GROUND BREAKING CEREMONY OF THE
CYBER CITY**

MT HAMPDEN

20 JULY 2022

Director of Ceremonies;

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

Minister of Local Government and Public Works, Hon.
J.G. Moyo;

Chairman of Mulk Holdings International, Mr. Shaju UI
Mulk;

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

Other Honourable Ministers here present;

Senior Government Officials;

Invited Guests;

Ladies and Gentlemen.

I feel honoured to be officiating at this ground-breaking
ceremony for the Cyber City, here in Mount Hampden.

Allow me at the onset to commend investors and
business people such as Mr Shaju UI Mulk, who have
heeded my call to invest in our beautiful country.

They recognised that “Zimbabwe is Open for Business” and that indeed, “Zimbabwe is a Land of Great Opportunities”. The focus, commitment and speed at which Mr Mulk, in particular made the bold decision to invest in our country is applauded and a reflection of the growing confidence in our progressive policies. This investment is further evidence of the successes of the Engagement and Re-engagement Policy being implemented by my Government. It also highlights the strong diplomatic and economic ties which exist between progressive members of the international community and Zimbabwe.

This Cyber City is envisaged to be a key feature that will bring added value to the New City at Mount Hampden set to be developed on over 15 500 hectares of land. The anchor project for the New City, the New Parliament Building, has already been completed.

We remain grateful to the people and Government of the People's Republic of China, and His Excellency, President Xi Jinping for the grant that enabled the construction of the majestic and land mark infrastructure.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

The New City presents various investment opportunities in both commercial and residential building development. It will go a long way in solving the shortage of development space in Harare, which has been exacerbated by rapid population growth and ageing infrastructure.

My Administration continues to prioritise comprehensive planning and auxiliary infrastructure provision, prior to the development of superstructures. Therefore, based on a Smart City Concept, focus will be on rapid offsite and bulk infrastructure provision, while developers such as Mulk Holdings International will reticulate their schemes in a coordinated manner.

I want to emphasize that standards must be maintained and seamless synergies among the investors established. Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies must do all that is possible to accelerate the roll out and completion of the New City. There is no room for illegal and premature developments.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

The Fourth Industrial Revolution has focussed global attention the deployment of technological innovations and digital transformations to shape the transition from the market economy to the knowledge economy. Fuelled by continuous improvements in ICTs and mobile internet infrastructure, as well as reduction of barriers due to technological, the world, as we know it, is fast changing. Hence, as a country, we are obligated to speedily adopt and adapt.

This Cyber City, is thus, part of the efforts we are embarking on to help to leapfrog our economy into the information and knowledge age, in line with the dictates

of the Fourth Industrial Revolution. Under my administration, we are determined to realise wholistic development; Zimbabwe is on the move and will not be left behind.

The construction of the Cyber-City is in line with the major tenets of the National Human Settlements Policy, including ensuring provision of an orderly and well-built environment with requisite on-site and off-site infrastructure. In this regard, it envisioned to be a self-contained intelligent city, providing high quality infrastructure, attractive surroundings and high speed communication access, for the production of goods and services for both local and export markets. Additionally, the Cyber-City will host several information technology companies, their offices, as well as modern living spaces and commercial outlets.

The systematically integrated, innovative and modern technologies, organised transportation systems and ICT

enabled service delivery will bring about unprecedented, modern living and working environment.

To this end, this Cyber-City will complement my Government's ongoing efforts of creating an environment which helps our brilliant young boys and girls to build a prosperous and modern society for both present and future generations. Together with investors, and other stakeholders my Government stands ready to continuously improve the innovation ecosystem that allows the enhanced deployment of ICT skills, research and development, industrial activity as well as finance to propel this new phase of our country's development agenda.

In this regard, investors within the Cyber-City should provide a platform that fosters local innovation and productivity towards fostering sustainable economic growth and development.

It is my expectation that once completed; the Cyber-City will create a platform that matches avid innovators to relevant industry experts and the whole technology value chain.

Furthermore, ventures such as this Cyber-City, and the various innovation hubs and agro-industrial parks at our institutions of higher learning, should see our country nurturing a broad critical mass of innovators and inventors. These are expected to design competitively priced solutions and products, which respond to the needs and realities of our society.

Ultimately, a culture of continuous innovation must be entrenched towards incremental and revolutionary improvements in our processes, product designs, services and technologies in line with our policies aimed at producing home grown goods and services, under the **“Nyika inovakwa nevene vayo”** philosophy.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen;

Through progressive policies of the Second Republic, investments such as this one will continue flowing into the country. Building on the Engagement and Re-engagement agenda, my Government is putting in place incentives; legislation and an overall conducive macro-economic environment for capital to find comfort. The whole of Government approach must be harnessed to guarantee provision of enablers, including basic services such as water and sanitation infrastructure, sustainable waste management as well as an efficient road and transport network, among others.

Furthermore, the provision of residential stands must balance with that of commercial and industrial land. The present mismatch is unsustainable and must be redressed to ensure decent work and employment opportunities for our people, where they live. Relatedly, the concurrent development of symbiotic rural and urban socio-economic ecosystems should be prioritized.

Rest assured that my Government will continue to enhance the quality and efficiency of information communication technology networks across the country. Meanwhile, the upgrading of digital skills amongst citizens, increased promotion and investment in technological learning is being accelerated. This will serve as a solid foundation for the intellectual capital needed for the effective management of both private and Government affairs in the cities of the future, such this Cyber City.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

I commend the diaspora, whose networks have made this investment possible. I invite both local and international investors, start-ups and technopreneurs to invest in this, first of its kind, Cyber City. A new high technology driven age is being birthed in our great motherland, Zimbabwe. Be a part of it, don't be left behind!

With these remarks, it is now my honour to declare the Cyber-City Project in the Mount Hampden New City officially launched.

God bless you.

God bless Zimbabwe.

I thank you.