



REMARKS

BY

THE PRESIDENT, HIS EXCELLENCY

CDE E. D. MNANGAGWA

AT THE

PAN AFRICAN PARLIAMENT SOUTHERN

AFRICAN REGIONAL CAUCAS'

PRESENTATION OF PAP PRESIDENT

HON. CHIEF. F. Z. CHARUMBIRA

HARARE

25 JULY 2022

Director of Ceremonies;

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

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

Speaker of the National Assembly, Hon. Adv. J. F. N.
Mudenda;

President of the Senate, Hon. M.M. Chinomona;

President of the Pan African Parliament, Hon
Sen. Chief F. Z. Charumbira;

The Honorary Vice President of the Pan African
Parliament and Chief Advisor to the PAP President,
Mr. Mustafa El Gendy;

Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Trade,
Hon. Ambassador. Dr F. Shava;

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

Chairperson of the Southern Region Caucus,
Hon. Pemmy Majodina;

Chairperson of the Northern Region Caucus, Hon.
Azzeddine Adbelmadjid;

Chairperson of the Eastern Region Caucus,
Hon. Terrence Mondon;

Chairperson of the Central Region, Hon. Jaynet Kabila;

Chairperson of the Western Region, Hon. Alhagie
Mbow;

Honourable Members;

Distinguished Guests;

Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is my singular honour and privilege to be addressing you all at this occasion of the presentation of Hon. Senator F. Z Charumbira as the first President of the Pan African Parliament, from the Southern African Region. I am gratified by the cosmopolitan composition of this gathering. In this regard, I welcome the Chairpersons of all the regional caucuses and the honourable members of the Pan African Parliament for joining us at this historic occasion. I hope you travelled safely from your

respective countries and enjoyed the warm hospitality of the people and facilities we have put at your disposal.

On behalf of the people and Government of Zimbabwe and indeed on my own behalf, I express my profound gratitude to you and through you to your respective Governments for the support you rendered towards the election of Honourable Charumbira as the President of your August House. I commend the peaceful and professional manner in which the elections were held.

Zimbabwe takes pride in the election and confidence our great continent, Africa has shown in Chief Charumbira. It is trite to mention that, from the moment Hon. Chief Charumbira's presidency was confirmed on Wednesday 29th June 2022, he ceased to be a PAP Presidential candidate for Zimbabwe despite being a Zimbabwean national.

In the same vein, he ceased to be a President for the Southern Region despite being a son of the region by

birth. He became a President of all PAP Member States. The election results attest to this assertion. The resounding affirmative vote of 161 against the 203 votes cast could not have come from the Southern Region alone which, at most, has just 50 Members. It is a clear indication that your Presidency enjoys support across Africa's five regions. Indeed, it is Africa that emerged victorious.

On the basis of the statistics and inspired by the founding values of the African Union, you must work diligently, Mr. President, to unite the Pan African Parliament and, by extension, the continent. The principle of geographical rotation is an enduring value of the African Union which we cannot afford to ignore or undermine. It is the bedrock of unity, equity, fairness and justice within the African Union itself and among all the AU organs which must be respected and promoted. I must commend you for this encouraging start.

My Government stands ready to continue supporting the Pan African Parliament to ensure the full participation of African peoples in the economic development and integration of the continent. Our founding fathers established the Pan African Parliament as a means of ensuring the full participation of African peoples in the economic development and integration of the continent.

Leveraging on our rich heritage, knowledge systems and the unity of purpose that defines us as an Africa people, we must protect the legacy of our forebears in the African Union by defending and safeguarding the principles, vision and wisdom embedded in our Continental institutions.

Through your sacred representative mandate, Hon. Members, the PAP is intended as a platform for people from all African states to be involved in discussions and decision making on the problems and challenges facing the Continent.

Mr. President, you thus have an onerous task of repairing the image of the Pan African Parliament in the eyes of the African citizenry. There is a huge weight of expectation on your shoulders as the man at the helm, to lead the PAP on a transformative trajectory that will make it impactful to the people of Africa. The PAP must always be perceived as complementary and not contradictory to the values and principles of the African Union. Clearly, you can only succeed if you work together towards one common agenda and one common purpose. Africa is looking up to you to effectively stand for the Continent's common interests.

Hon. Members, Ladies and Gentlemen;

As you strive for continental integration and prosperity and seek to address the common challenges that we face as a continent, you must also leverage on your PAP Membership to look at some of the unique challenges our various countries are facing that may hamper full continental integration and socio-economic development. Zimbabwe, for example, has been under

the yoke of debilitating illegal economic sanctions for two decades and these have stunted economic growth.

The adverse impact of these unilateral coercive measures on Zimbabwe extends to the region and the continent as the movement towards attaining Africa's Agenda 2063 is seriously crippled by the illegal embargo. I, thus, appeal to you, as Members of the PAP, to use your collective voice to highlight this injustice and push for the removal of these illegal sanctions on Zimbabwe.

I further challenge the Pan African Parliament to continue playing its significant role in advancing legislation as well as facilitating the overseeing of the African Union policies, programmes and projects towards lifting our people from poverty and into prosperity.

Let us accelerate the deployment of science, technology and innovation to knock down colonially imposed boundaries for unity and speedy integration of the

continent. On the economic front, this must be augmented through the effective coordination of policies and programmes of our Regional Economic Communities by taking advantage of the African Continental Free Trade Area, while also penetrating profitable global value chains.

The importance of empowering women and the youth towards ensuring that Africa remains a dynamic force on the international arena cannot be overemphasised. I exhort the Pan African Parliament to scale up its advocacy for women and youth participation in programmes and projects that advance inclusive sustainable development in all sectors of the economy. That way, our collective revolutionary decision to define, re-write our own development narrative and investing in the future is guaranteed.

Finally, Comrades, I once again express my gratitude to the Pan African Parliament for your decision to formally present the President of the Pan African Parliament to me

and other members of my Administration here in attendance. To the Chairpersons of other Regional Caucuses, I say thank you again for taking time off to attend this ceremony and thank you for your invaluable support. Zimbabwe counts on you to continue working with Chief Charumbira to ensure that the Pan African Parliament effectively fulfils its mandate as a united institution.

Allow me to conclude by once again congratulating Honourable Senator Chief F. Z. Charumbira for his election and wish him success in steering the Pan African agenda in our August Continental house.

God bless you all.

God bless Africa.

I thank you.