

ADDRESS

BY

OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZIMBABWE

HIS EXCELLENCY,

DR E. D. MNANGAGWA

AT

THE INTERNATIONAL RENEWABLE

ENERGY CONFERENCE

VICTORIA FALLS

23 MARCH 2023

Director of Ceremonies:

Alpha Media Holdings Group CEO, Mr K. Mafikidze;

Vice President and Minister of Health and Child Care,
Hon. Gen. (Rid) 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;

Minister of State for Provincial Affairs and Devolution,
Matabeleland North Province, Hon. R. Moyo;

Minister of Energy and Power Development, Hon. Zhemu
Soda;

Other Ministers here present;

Senior Government Officials;

Mayor of the City of Victoria Falls, His Worship,
Councillor S. Dhlamini;

Stakeholders and Captains of the Energy Sector;

Distinguished Guests;

Ladies and Gentlemen.

It gives me pleasure to officiate at this opening ceremony of the Interactional Renewable Energy Conference and Expo being held here in the City of Victoria Falls.

The Conference and Expo have grown to become one of the strategic platforms for dialoguing amongst stakeholders as well as monitoring progress in the renewable sector. Its outcomes inform our current and future plans of action, thereby providing the basis upon which we must measure the sector's performance in the next Conference.

The theme of the Conference – '**Managing the Future: Clean Energy Possibilities**' underscores the responsibility of the sector with regards adopting renewable energies for anchoring current and future development, while also focusing on the need for just and balanced energy transition.

This calls for greater collaboration in various sectors, including increased investment in clean energy technology and infrastructure.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

Zimbabwe is a safe and favourable investment destination. We stand ready to facilitate and, welcome more global investments coming in the- energy and other related sectors of the economy. To date, my Administration has created an enabling environment for Independent Power Producers to thrive.

Following observations from the sector, some of which were shared at your last Conference, my Government has introduced a standard Implementation Agreement, Power Purchase Agreement and a Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe undertaking. The Agreement offer favourable incentives to Independent Power Producers and guarantees some of the risks prevalent in the sector. I commend Independent Power Producers who are taking advantage of the opportunities in the energy and power development sector by leveraging Prescribed Assets of insurance and pension funds. I challenge other financing institutions to be more creative in their funding mechanisms and also play their part by supporting investments in the energy sector. As energy consumers in our respective sectors, we must collectively contribute towards the realisation of national energy self-sufficiency and the building of a prosperous upper middle income economy.

It is a cause to celebrate that Hwange Unit 7 is now online, in a phased manner, while work to complete Unit 8 is being accelerated and progressing well . My administration remains committed to the attainment of a versatile national energy mix, with renewable contributing its fair share. As we scale up our country's industrialisation and modernisation, with its associated energy needs, the unique-realities and national interest will guide our energy and power strategies.

Distinguished Guest, Ladies and Gentlemen;

Agriculture, mining and manufacturing sectors are some of the key drivers for the overall economic growth of our country. It is my expectation that deliberations at this Conference take on

board the growing demands and growth taking place in these key sectors.

The availability of electricity and electricity-based services within rural areas, particularly through the, deployment of renewable energy-based technologies, will result in increased production and productivity, while averting rural-urban migration. Efforts must therefore be made with regards ensuring that our energy sector matrix accommodates the Devolution and Decentralisation Agenda.

This must seek to propel the modernisation, industrialisation in both urban and rural areas across our Provinces. Let us never shy away from proffering and implementing deliberate policies as well as strategies towards making energy, including renewable sources available to rural communities, particularly to power rural industrialisation.

It is commendable that the capacitation of the Rural Electrification Fund will see the urgent construction of more renewable energy based grid systems. Partners and investors keen to collaborate with the Rural Electrification Agency towards deploying renewable energy-based solutions across our rural communities are welcome.

As President and Patron of this Conference and Expo, I remain gravely concerned with the vandalism and theft of our country's energy infrastructure. Stakeholders in the criminal justice system, together with communities throughout the country are urged to collaborate more closely towards ending such criminal and treasonous acts. Meanwhile I challenge the

Ministry of Energy and Power Development to expedite completion of the National, Energy Efficiency Policy. This must help ensure that our energy resources are used efficiently across various sectors of the economy. To augment this the National Solar Water Heating Programme and the adoption of alternative efficient energy technologies such as biogas digesters should be promoted Training and capacity building programmes across communities to enhance the adoption of clean renewable energy technologies are equally important.

Innovation, research and development, specifically at the Innovation Hubs and Industrial Parks within institutions of higher learning have to facilitate our talented young boys and girls to invent ground-breaking clean energy technologies.

This must include exploring the development of hybrid models which allow the harnessing of both wind solar energy for diversified electricity generation. Meanwhile I am pleased that the results of research at selected sites to harness wind energy are positive.

As you are all aware, Zimbabwe is endowed with critical minerals, critical to the renewable energy value chain. To this end, I have directed that value addition and beneficiation of lithium, among other critical minerals be domesticated. Such positive policy pronouncements should motivate active participation in the lithium-ion battery value chain. This will contribute to job creation and economic growth, while also ensuring self-financing for the development and adoption of renewable energy technologies.

Ladies and Gentlemen.

The ambition of reducing greenhouse gas emissions remains a collective responsibility. As a member of the Conference of Parties, our policies continue to support the overall aims and objectives of this community. It is therefore pertinent that the deliberations at this Conference reflect on the trends and patterns in the sector, particularly the need for a just transition and an increase in internal green energy power generation capacity.

On our part as Government we are keen to accelerate the adoption of renewable energy sources, including clean energy technologies. I call upon all stakeholders in the sector to play their part as we set our sights on the realisation of set targets of the National Renewable Energy and National Climate Policies, including the Revised Nationally Determined Contributions.

However, it is unfortunate and regrettable that the Loss and Damage Fund, will be of minimum benefit to the countries which are victims of global warming.

As such, African countries and Zimbabwe in particular, should develop strategies and mechanisms to fund Projects through local innovative financial instruments.

In conclusion, I applaud Alpha Media Holdings for once again partnering my Government to tell the correct story of our energy sector and that of Zimbabwe as a whole. We are indeed witnessing success milestones through this forum. Well done and Congratulations.

With these remarks, it is now my singular honour and privilege to declare this Fourth Edition of the International Renewable Energy Conference and Expo, officially open. I wish you all fruitful deliberations.

God bless you.

God bless Zimbabwe.

I thank you.