



SPEECH

BY

THE PRESIDENT

HIS EXCELLENCY, DR. E. D. MNANGAGWA

AT THE

**COMMISSIONING OF THE
VERIFY ENGINEERING ACETYLENE
GAS PLANT**

FERUKA, MUTARE

27 JULY 2022

Director of Ceremonies, Prof. F. Tagwira;

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 Higher and Tertiary Education, Innovation,
Science and Technology Development,
Hon. Prof. A. Murwira;

Other Ministers, here present;

Chief Secretary to the President and Cabinet,
Dr M. J. M. Sibanda;

Chairman of the Public Service Commission,
Dr. V. Hungwe;

Senior Government Officials,

Chairperson of the Verify Engineering Board, Air
Commodore Dr. Eng. E. Kamusoko;

Chief Executive Officer of Verify Engineering,
Eng. P. Tapfumaneyi and Staff Members;

Captains of Industry and Commerce;

Invited Guests;

Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is with a great sense of pride that I address you today at this commissioning of the Verify Engineering Acetylene Gas Plant, which follows hard on the heels of the commissioning of the Allied Timbers Zimbabwe Cashel Sawmill, last week, here in Manicaland Province. These occasions will undoubtedly contribute to an upward improvement of the GDP of Manicaland Province.

Many will recall that last year in August 2021, I toured this facility and commissioned the first two business units of Verify Engineering (Pvt) Ltd, these being, VE Gases and VE Energy. The launch of the Acetylene Gas Plant shows the ingenuity of Verify Engineering.

Since the advent of the Second Republic, the company has demonstrated renewed determination to be a leading innovator in the provision of cutting edge technologies and related engineering support services, to meet our current national and regional needs. I applaud the Board, Management and Staff of Verify Engineering for this milestone achievement. Congratulations for a job well done. This company, along with others that have successfully turned around the fortunes of their entities are defying stereo types about state owned commercial entities. These enterprises can indeed be profitably managed, with visionary leaders at both board and management levels.

The lessons learnt from the COVID-19 pandemic, and the ongoing global supply chain disruptions have laid bare the urgent need to build resilience and local capacities in all aspects of our lives for national socio-economic self reliance.

In this spirit, the establishment of this Acetylene Gas Plant is most opportune and further attests to the inroads my Administration has made towards the establishment and growth of national strategic institutions that deliver tangible results in the form of goods and services.

Acetylene is a utility industrial gas, which combined with oxygen forms oxy-acetylene that is used for metal fabrication. It is also used as a reagent in chemical production processes. It further improves the quality of cut metals and enhances efficiencies of gas across industries.

Given the ongoing infrastructure development and growth of industries in our country, products from this particular plant are set to propel the industrialisation and modernisation of our economy, with regards to steel and metal based fabrication.

Working in conjunction with ZIMTRADE, prospects for an export led growth strategy remain feasible given that

most economies are on a drive to ‘build back better and stronger’.

Distinguished Guests;

In line with the national development philosophy of the Second Republic, ‘**Nyika inovakwa nevene vayo**’, it is commendable that Verify Engineering is building internal capacities, which have enabled the company to locally develop and produce the hi-tech and tangible engineering works, we are seeing here today. The various business units of Verify Engineering have proven the company’s capacity to design complex works from the concept stage, through the engineering and procurement right up to the construction stages. These production units, which also encompass products such as oxygen and nitrogen, graduate the entity into a “One-Stop Shop”, making the company more competitive on the market.

Similarly, the deployment of reverse engineering, to produce spare parts for the business units installed here

are in line with our country's 'Made in Zimbabwe, Buy Zimbabwe and Build Zimbabwe initiative and our country's Import Substitution Strategy. The engineering and construction competencies being enhanced by Verify Engineering entail the spread of professional consultancy services to local and external destinations. This is commendable.

It is noteworthy that Verify Engineering has been contracted to do similar works in some local institutions and the neighbouring sister Republic of Mozambique. Furthermore, the organisation is applauded for engendering a culture of creativity, innovation, self belief and environment of limitless possibilities.

I, exhort, Verify Engineering to broaden its production strategies as well as marketing and sales mix for increased footprints in local, regional and international markets.

Always keep in mind the bigger goal of ensuring that your products feed into the regional integration agenda

as well as the overall SADC, COMESA and Africa Union industrialisation roadmaps. My Government will continue to facilitate an enabling environment for the organisation to grow in line with its strategic vision and national imperatives.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen;

The innovative deployment of science and technology for the realisation of sustainable socio-economic development cannot be overemphasised. Globally, higher education has traditionally contributed to the current levels of industrial evolution and technological advancement. Equally, higher education and industry are integral, inter-dependent parts of the economy and their seamless synergies provide an engine for economic growth.

Under my Government's Education 5:0 philosophy, institutions of higher education have scaled up their role in the modernisation and industrialisation of our country.

They continue being the test beds for innovation and availing a range of curriculum that talk to the future. After all, now more than ever before, education in science, technology and innovation is more intricately connected to the multi-dimensional aspects of development, particularly in the context of the ongoing Fourth Industrial Revolution.

As such, I call upon the higher education institutions and its associated start-ups, such as Verify Engineering, to boldly and unapologetically seek new frontiers by developing solutions and products that accelerate the industrialisation, modernisation and socio-economic development. I am confident that all your activities are ensuring that one of our greatest national assets, the brainpower of our young people, is effectively deployed to secure the sustainable economic prosperity of our beloved motherland, Zimbabwe.

The initiative, faith and patriotism shown by our people, especially the private sector, in the products of Verify

Engineering by sourcing their gas requirements from this entity, is most welcome.

I challenge more of us including, Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies, to support the products and services being developed and produced by local companies. The “Made in Zimbabwe” products must be our first choice. Meanwhile, stakeholders and value chain users of locally made products are encouraged to continuously engage and give feedback in the spirit of improving the quality of our goods and services.

In conclusion, the Board, Management and Staff of Verify Engineering is congratulated for their hard work, determination, focus and meticulous implementation of the company’s strategic plan, which has culminated in the establishment of this new Acetylene Gas Plant.

I urge you to sustain the profitable commercial trajectory of the organisation, while ensuring that your products remain affordable to the majority of our people. As you

grow, remain mindful of the importance of good corporate governance, sustainable environmental practices and community engagement. All the people of our country, along with the shareholder, workers and the community must benefit from this venture.

With these remarks, it is now my singular honour and privilege to declare the Verify Engineering, VE Gases Acetylene Gas Plant officially opened.

God bless you.

God bless Zimbabwe.

I thank you.