



REMARKS

BY

**THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF
ZIMBABWE, HIS EXCELLENCY,
DR EMMERSON DAMBUDZO MNANGAGWA**

AT

**THE INAUGURAL ZIMBABWE-MOZAMBIQUE
BUSINESS FORUM AND EXHIBITION**

RAINBOW TOWERS HOTEL

18 MAY 2023

Director of Ceremonies;

Your Excellency, Dr Filipe Jacinto Nyusi, President of the Republic of Mozambique;

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

Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Hon. Amb. F. M. Shava;

Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Republic of Mozambique, Hon. Veronica Nataniel Dlhovo;

Minister of Industry and Commerce, Hon. Dr S. Nzenza;

Minister of Industry and Trade of the Republic of Mozambique, Hon. Silvino Augusto Jose Moreno;

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

Senior Government Officials from the Republic of Zimbabwe and Republic of Mozambique;

Captains of Industry and Commerce from the Republic of Zimbabwe and the Republic of Mozambique;

Distinguished Guests;

Ladies and Gentlemen.

Allow me to once again welcome you, My Dear Brother, Your Excellency, President Filipe Jacinto Nyusi and your esteemed delegation to the Republic of Zimbabwe. We cherish the strong longstanding historical bonds of friendship and solidarity that exist between our two countries, dating back before, during and after the days of the liberation struggle.

I wish to thank you for accepting my invitation to grace this Inaugural Zimbabwe-Mozambique Business Forum and Exhibition. Your presence, accompanied by a strong contingent of members of your private sector is a demonstration of Mozambique's commitment to strengthen bilateral cooperation, trade and investment between our two countries.

This Forum affords our respective private sectors and entrepreneurs an opportunity to explore the many business opportunities that exist between us.

This event must further serve to consolidate economic diplomacy as well as promote economic and commercial relations between companies from our both countries.

Your Excellency, and Dear Brother;

Zimbabwe and Mozambique have vibrant, diverse, competitive and growing economies, hence, there is a wealth of opportunities for businesses looking to expand into new markets. It is reassuring that the cornerstone of our relationship has now moved from the battlefield to industries, manufacturing, value addition and beneficiation as well as increased production and productivity.

In this regard, the theme of this Business Forum: **“Accelerating Trade and Investment between Mozambique and Zimbabwe through Strengthened Partnerships”** is apt as we coordinate efforts towards delivering timely results and high impact initiatives for the prosperity of our economies and peoples.

I am confident that this Business Forum and Exhibition will also provide the requisite mechanisms for in-depth business to business transactions to achieve concrete successes.

Through already existing trade links, Mozambique is currently Zimbabwe's 4th largest global export market, after South Africa, United Arab Emirates and China, and is also our 5th largest source market after South Africa, China, Singapore and Mauritius.

I, therefore, wish to invite the Mozambican business community to explore Zimbabwe's vast investment opportunities in the different sectors, which include agriculture, energy, mining, infrastructure development, transport, tourism, Information Communication Technology, as well as in the field of education.

As Zimbabwe journeys towards the attainment of a prosperous and empowered upper middle income society by 2030, we are improving production and

productivity across all sectors of the economy. This will require additional energy. It is, thus, commendable that negotiations on a broad Memorandum of Understanding on Energy are progressing well. Accordingly, its conclusion must provide a comprehensive and structured framework for increased co-operation in this important area.

“Zimbabwe is Open for Business” and my Government continues to improve the business environment to make our destination more favourable for trade and investment. We are aware that capital goes where it feels safe. In our quest to realise sustainable development, no one and no place will be left behind. Investors are thus invited to pursue opportunities across our country’s ten provinces and set up shop, under attractive incentives.

I also call upon the private sectors of our two countries to be innovative and develop sustainable solutions to give impetus to industrial development, while

strengthening the resilience of our economies against global shocks. You must as the private sector, increase your respective capacities to produce goods and services from Africa, for Africa and the world. The COVID 19 pandemic taught us that we cannot afford to always depend on those from elsewhere. Our youth must be supported to be innovative, riding on science and technology as well as the expansive natural resource endowments found in our countries.

Under the African Continental Free Trade Area, the challenge is on us to collaborate as governments and the private sectors and embrace the opportunities presented by this important Continental framework. This should lead to a prosperous Africa, premised on growing intra-African trade and investment, a digitalised economy, accelerated industrialisation and the creation of jobs for our growing young population.

To augment this thrust, the proposed Memorandum of Understanding to be signed between ZimTrade, the Zimbabwe Investment and Development Agency (ZIDA) and the Investment and Export Promotion Agency of Mozambique (APIEX) is most welcome and will mark the beginning of deeper collaboration on trade and investment promotion between the tripartite institutions for the benefit of both Zimbabwe and Mozambique.

Going forward, it is my hope that the deliberations at the Business Forum will create jobs, stimulate economic development and growth through private sector led projects and initiatives. Together as the private sector and Government entities, we must lift the peoples of our countries out of poverty into prosperity, as we build the Africa we want.

I wish to conclude by encouraging our business sectors to take advantage of our excellent relations at Government to Government level to broaden investment,

trade, production and productivity in our two nations. The onus is on us all to modernise, industrialise and develop our countries for a higher quality of life for our people.

With these remarks, I wish you all fruitful deliberations.

I thank you.

Muito obrigado.