



ADDRESS

BY

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

AT

**THE COMMISSIONING OF THE NEW
VERTICAL MILL PLANT AT KHAYAH
CEMENT LIMITED**

HARARE

06 JULY 2023

Director of Ceremonies, Secretary for Industry and Commerce, Dr Mavis Sibanda;

Our Host, Chairman of Khaya Cement, Mr. K. C. Katsande and Board Members;

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

Second Secretary and Vice President of ZANU PF, Col. (Rtd) K. C. D. Mohadi;

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

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

Other Honourable Ministers here present;

Chairperson of the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Industry and Commerce, Hon. J. Sacco;

Other Members of Parliament here present;

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

Governor of the Reserve Bank, Dr J. P. Mangudya;

Senior Government Officials;

Chief Executive Officer, Khaya Cement, Mr. I. Chikwata, Management, and Staff;

Captains of Industry and Commerce;

Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is my honour and privilege to be here for the commissioning of a new Vertical Mill Plant, under Phase 2 of the Khayah Cement Expansion Project. This milestone achieved by Khayah Cement Limited comes on the back of the successful installation of the Phase 1 Dry Mortar Mix and Agricultural Lime Plant Project, which I commissioned in April 2021.

Today's event is equally significant as it is the first since this company was acquired by a local consortium. I want to congratulate the Board, Management and Staff of Khayah Cement Limited, for the seamless transition and continuation of the business is commendable. It is yet another testimony of our skills, competencies and capacities as a people.

Further, your bold decision to acquire and viably run this entity, as Zimbabweans, dovetails with our ZANU PF development philosophy that **“Nyika Inovakwa nevene vayo, Ilizwe lakhiwa ngabanikazi balo”**. **Tisu vene venyika ino.** Makorokoto. Amhlophe.

The show of confidence, by Khayah Cement in our economy is welcome. I commend the consortium for injecting about US\$14 million to operationalise the plant. Your commitment to ensure sustainable exploitation, beneficiation, and value addition of the limestone rock is in sync with my Government’s exhortations. This is augmented by the adoption of new technologies for increasing production efficiencies, with the potential to raise the company’s cement production capacity from 350 000 to 1 million tons per annum, against an average national demand of 1.4 million tons.

It is expected that this new plant will result in low production costs, while making cement and other related products affordable to the final consumer.

I, therefore, challenge Khayah Cement Limited to broaden the production strategies to meet the marketing and sales mix for a broader footprint on the local, regional and international markets. As a company involved in cement and limestone production and related products, you are a strategic cog in the ultimate realisation of Vision 2030. Your cross-cutting nature and importance in the overall growth and modernisation of our country should not be taken lightly.

Act locally and think globally. In this regard, I, exhort Khayah Cement Limited to also pursue a robust export-led growth strategy. The enlarged market within our region and under the African Continental Free Trade Area must be fully explored. The broader market allows free movement of goods, services and investments as well as cross-border trade and financial integration across our beloved mother continent, Africa.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

The commissioning of this new Vertical Mill Plant shows the commitment by Khayah Cement Limited, as we journey towards a **prosperous and empowered upper middle-income society by 2030**. Since 2021, this company has demonstrated renewed determination to be one of the leaders in complementing the ongoing infrastructural development projects.

In the area of infrastructural development, the Second Republic is rolling out programmes and projects to upgrade and modernise the country's infrastructure. I commend Khayah Cement for playing a critical part, including supplying cement to the ongoing boom of construction programmes such as road rehabilitation, dam construction, energy infrastructure development and housing projects, being undertaken by both the public and private sectors.

In line with my government's ongoing development that leaves no one and no place behind, I challenge the company to deliberately make their products available, at competitive prices in our rural areas. The successes we have scored in the agriculture and small-scale mining sectors, among others, must translate to an improved quality of housing and business infrastructure in our communal, farming and mining areas.

Together let us play our part in the modernisation of the livelihoods of our people, as we move more of them out of poverty to a higher quality of life.

It is equally important that flagship investments such as this one drive productivity growth, create more jobs, propel import substitution and contribute to the growth of our Gross Domestic Product. In keeping with our Local Content Strategy, industry is encouraged to continue manufacturing and promoting the use of our local goods and products.

Nyika inovakwa, igotongwa, igonamatigwa nevene vayo, Ilizwe lakhiwa, libuswe, likhulekelwe ngabanikazi balo.

On its part, my Administration will stay the course towards ensuring robust implementation of the National Development Strategy. This is premised on accelerating structural transformation of our economy, anchored by harnessing our abundant God given natural resource endowments. The development of agro and mineral-based value chains, private sector led growth, infrastructural development, realisation of food security and sovereignty, as well as engagement and re-engagement, among others, will be pursued with a greater sense of urgency.

Meanwhile, the measures implemented by the Second Republic have consistently created an enabling business environment, making Zimbabwe an easier and more competitive place to do business. The ‘Zimbabwe is Open for Business’ mantra continues to be a success.

To bolster our ongoing economic reform efforts, the Zimbabwe Investment and Development Agency and other relevant institutions will continue to refine the Ease-of-Doing-Business environment, facilitate and promote trade as well as enforce competition law. The recent broad range of fiscal and monetary stabilisation measures are bearing positive results.

These measures are ensuring that the country remains on a growth trajectory, as reflected in the recently announced GDP growth figures. Against this background, my Government is ready to welcome more domestic and foreign investors to invest across the various sectors of the economy. Zimbabwe is a land of many opportunities. Under the Second Republic and the ZANU PF Government, the prevailing environment will be consolidated so that investments across all sectors thrive and grow to service local, regional and indeed international markets.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen;

As I conclude, I once again congratulate the Board, Management and Staff of Khayah Cement Limited for the sterling work ethic which has seen the meticulous implementation of the company's strategic plan, resulting in the establishment of this new Vertical Mill Plant, among other successes. By so doing, Khayah Cement, is leaving lasting footprint not only in the surrounding communities but our country as a whole.

Makorokoto. Amhlophe. Brick upon brick, stone upon stone, step by step, we are building the Zimbabwe, 'we all want'.

With these remarks, allow me to declare the Khayah Cement Limited, Vertical Mill Plant officially commissioned.

God bless you.

God bless Zimbabwe.

I thank you.