



**SPEECH**

**BY**

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

**AT**

**THE COMMISSIONING OF THE YAHUA  
GROUP KAMATIVI MINING COMPANY  
(PVT) LTD'S SPODUMENE MINE AND PHASE  
ONE PROCESSING PLANT**

**HWANGE DISTRICT**

**12 APRIL 2024**

Director of Ceremonies;

Vice President, Hon. Gen. (Rtd) Dr C. G. D. N. Chiwenga;

Vice President, Hon. Col. (Rtd) K. C. D. Mohadi;

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

Minister of Mines and Mining Development, Hon. Z. Soda;

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

Other Honourable Ministers here present;

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

**Chief Nelukoba nemamwe Madzimambo edu;**

Senior Government Officials;

The Board and Management of Kamativi Mining Company;

Invited Guests;

Ladies and Gentlemen.

In 1994, the Kamativi Mine shut down as a result of the global decline in tin prices that made it unprofitable to continue operations. 30 years since the suspension of operations, where most had totally written off this entity, the Mine is now back in production, having transitioned from tin to lithium mining.

This follows the energy transition necessitated by the dire impacts of climate change which has led to a surge in demand for energy minerals such as lithium. The increased demand for green minerals, as well as the electrification and decarbonisation thrust driving the Fourth Industrial Revolution is primarily fuelled by lithium.

An investment of US\$100 million under Phase One of the project is also one of the positive spin-offs of the Engagement and Re-engagement Policy launched by the Second Republic. This has seen an unprecedented growth of both local and foreign investments in our beloved motherland, Zimbabwe.

Zimbabwe is marching forward, even in the midst of the illegal sanctions and the climate change induced drought.

Two days ago, I was in Chegutu, Mashonaland West Province, to commission the Pickstone Peerless Underground Mine. Today it is indeed my distinct privilege to be commissioning this Kamativi Mining Company's Spodumene Mine and Phase One Flotation Plant. The months of dedication, ingenuity and hard work have paid off.

I heartily congratulate Shareholders, the Board, Management, staff and the broader community as well as other stakeholders for this success milestone. Well done.

This project will undoubtedly unlock added economic benefits, particularly with regards the growth of the GDP of Matabeleland North Province. The scaling up of the socio-economic development of the already promising Hwange District will also be enhanced.



At the national level, the commissioning of this plant adds on to our country's growing lithium mining and processing portfolio.

So far, Zimbabwe is recognised as one of the countries with the largest reserves of lithium and mines in Africa. Globally, we rank alongside the leading lithium producing and supply countries such as Chile, Australia, China, Argentina and Brazil.

Presently, we host more than seven lithium exploration and mining projects at different stages of development. While this is a relatively new sub-sector of our mining industry, my Government stands ready to continuously improve efficiencies in this sub-sector and welcome more investments, skills and expertise.

Further, our country is determined to sustainably exploit this strategic resource, to realise socio-economic development for our people as well as enhance value for investors and indeed impact the world, towards addressing the climate change crisis.

## **Ladies and Gentlemen;**

Value addition and beneficiation is critical for our economy and unlocking maximum benefits from our country's abundant mineral resource endowments. Government will, therefore, continue to support the drive by Kamativi Mining Company towards processing of lithium ores into concentrates.

The official commissioning of this flotation plant is a step in the right direction, by moving this mine from merely a resource extraction site and laying the foundation for a sustainable future. Well done.

This development we are witnessing today is in keeping with our policy thrust to nurture and grow an industrial base related to manufacturing and production of electrical vehicle batteries and other storage media.

The Kamativi Mining Company's Phase One Spodumene Flotation Project is a critical cog in this journey.

I am informed that the lithium concentrate plant is capable of processing 300,000 tonnes of raw spodumene ore into 50,000 tonnes of spodumene concentrate per annum, translating to an estimated US\$50 million in revenue per year.

I gather that the company has almost completed the US\$149 million Phase Two flotation plant, with a capacity to process 2 million tonnes of raw ore to yield 300,000 tonnes of lithium concentrate per annum. The gradual expansion into Phase Two will result in a total expected revenue of over US\$300 million per annum based on current market prices. Congratulations. Both the projected production levels and revenue outlay are impressive and are set to have a positive impact on the mining industry and economy as a whole. You must work hard to make these permutations a reality.

So far, the successes you have realised in re-purposing this mine, and the development and construction of the flotation plant is evidence of the power of teamwork,



sound leadership and the pursuit of excellence by all stakeholders. This is a job well done.

It is my expectation that the extraction of our mineral resources will lead to a better future for local communities and the environment.

The construction of a 70 km long 88 kV powerline from Hwange to Kamativi and a dam with a holding capacity of 1.5 million cubic metres by the company is commendable. This infrastructure will not only meet the respective needs of the company but those of the surrounding communities.

I applaud Kamativi Mining Company for the employment of over 1,200 people, both directly and indirectly. Knowledge transfer from foreign investors and experts to our local workforce will have spill over benefits to the mining sector as a whole.



I call upon the mining company and stakeholders to nurture harmony and peace characterised by strong collaboration and communication. The importance of responsive and relevant Environment, Social and Governance investment programmes cannot be overemphasised. These must be guided by the broader ongoing national development policies priority areas.

My Government remains ready to work closely with Kamativi Mining Company to ensure our collective success. The revenue accruing from this mining asset should benefit all of us, shareholders, investors, management and staff as well as the generality of the people of Zimbabwe through contributions to the fiscus.

Let us, therefore, keep in mind the broader perspective. This investment must help contribute to building a bright future for our people, and indeed impact the world through green technologies.

I, therefore, urge the company to conduct its business with the utmost integrity, responsibility, and social duty. Always strive to maintain and respect the values, norms as well as cultural heritage of the local communities, and prioritise their well-being.

On its part, the Second Republic will continue to foster a conducive business operating environment and implement policies for win-win outcomes. The doors of Government, through the Ministry of Mines and Mining Development, are always open to you.

In conclusion, I urge Kamativi Mining Company investors to look beyond lithium deposits and also look at the possibilities and feasibility around the exploitation of other minerals such as tantalite, beryl, copper, beryllium, spodumene, petalite, and limestone, which are also found in this area. Zimbabwe is open for business.

With these remarks, it is now my singular honour and privilege to declare Kamativi Mining Company (Pvt) Limited's Spodumene Mine and Phase One Flotation Plant officially commissioned.

**God bless you.**

**God bless Zimbabwe.**

**I thank you.**