



ADDRESS

BY

THE PRESIDENT, HIS EXCELLENCY

CDE. E. D. MNANGAGWA

AT

**THE 25th EPISCOPAL (SILVER JUBILEE)
ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY OF HIS GRACE
ARCHBISHOP ROBERT CHRISTOPHER**

NDLOVU

**HARARE
11TH MAY 2024**

Director of Ceremonies, Fr. Kudzai Mukumba and Mr Tafadzwa Choto;

Our Jubilarian, His Grace Robert Christopher Ndlovu;

First Lady, Amai A. Mnangagwa;

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

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

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

Minister of State for Harare Metropolitan Province, Hon. C. Tavengwa;

Other Honourable Ministers and Government Officials here present;

Speaker of Parliament, Hon. Adv. J. Mudenda;

Representative of the Holy Father to Zimbabwe, Apostolic Nuncio, His Excellency, Archbishop Janusz Stanislaw Urbanczyk;

All bishops here present;

Gogo/Ambuya Sarah Ndlovu, mother to Archbishop Ndlovu and the Ndlovu family here present;

All Vicar Generals, Priests and other religious leaders here present;

Invited Guests;

Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is with honour and joy that I join His Grace, Archbishop Robert Christopher Ndlovu, the Ndlovu Family, the Roman Catholic Church and you all as we celebrate his 25th Episcopal Anniversary. On behalf of Government, the First Lady, Amai Mnangagwa, that of my family and my own behalf, allow me to express to you, Your Grace, our heartfelt congratulations on your 25th Anniversary of your episcopal ordination as a Bishop of the Catholic Church.

I thank the Ndlovu family, and gogo Ndlovu in particular, for nurturing, grooming and supporting our Jubilarian, Archbishop Ndlovu. **Congratulations, Makorokoto, Amhlophe.**

My family joins you and the Catholic Community, in prayer of thanksgiving to the Almighty God, our Father, who is the source of all the good and perfect gifts, as well as abundant blessings which have been bestowed upon your life, ministry as well as through you, upon the Church.

Your Grace;

Through the various portfolios within the Catholic Church, the Lord Jesus Christ set you apart, from a young age, for a great mission in His Church and laid on your shoulders a weighty responsibility, which you have executed with distinction. Your service as Bishop of Hwange Catholic Diocese for 5 years remains treasured by Catholics and the communities of Matabeleland North Province. The fact that you have served the Archdiocese of Harare for 20 years now attests to the confidence which the Church has in your leadership.

I personally appreciate the fraternal nature of your relationship with the Government under the Second Republic.

Your personal support and that of the Church to our national development philosophy, **“Nyika inovakwa, inotongwa, inonamatirwa nevene vayo/ Ilizwe lakhiwa, libuswe, likhulekelwe ngabanikazi balo”** has been invaluable in advancing accelerated development across the country. This has been critically important, given the membership base of the Catholic Church. To this end, as Government, we remain grateful for the continued messages of love, peace, patriotism, unity and harmony that are preached throughout your parishes. We thank you.

In your capacity and communion with fellow church leaders from across denominations, you have established a tradition where you visit me at State House to offer prayers and supplications as well as perspectives on various pertinent national issues.

I have found such interactions invaluable and enriching. Let us remain united and focussed as we continue to preach the culture of hard honest work, production and productivity towards the prosperity of our country.

I urge you, as the leadership and members of the Catholic community and the Church in general, to remain unwavering in the adherence to the guidance given to us in the word of **God in Matthew 5 verse 13** which says **“You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot”**.

Musanete kufudza hwai dzenyu.

Meanwhile, my door and those of my Government members are always open; we are a people’s Government and I remain a servant leader and listening President.

May I acknowledge, with a deep sense of gratitude, the work of Churches, including the Roman Catholic

Church, as strategic socio-economic development partners. Roman Catholic schools, hospitals and many other institutions have been instrumental in driving our national development imperatives, especially in the education and health sectors. Many of the leaders of our country in both the public and private sphere have passed through your schools. We look forward to the support of the Catholic Church in our quest to stamp out drug and substance abuse as well as raise morally upright, productive and patriotic young people.

Your Grace;

It has come to my knowledge that you received a personal invitation from the Holy Father, Pope Francis, to attend the Second Phase of the Synodal Meeting later this year. This makes us proud as a nation that our Country and the Catholic Community in Zimbabwe will be represented in Rome, deliberating on issues affecting our world. May almighty God grant you grace and wisdom in those meetings.

As I conclude, I want to assure you, Your Grace and the Roman Catholic Church, of my Government's continued support. I invite the Church, collectively and as individuals, to take up economic opportunities availed through the policies of the Second Republic across all social and economic spheres. The obligation to build, modernise and industrialise falls on all of us. Together in unity, nothing is impossible.

Finally, on this occasion of your Silver Jubilee, Your Grace Archbishop Ndlovu, I wish you good health and may your faith remain sustained by our Lord Jesus Christ.

Once again I say, **Makorokoto, Congratulations, Amhlophe.**

God bless you all.

God bless Zimbabwe.

I thank you.