



**SPEECH**

**BY**

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

**AT**

**MUTARE TEACHERS' COLLEGE FRUIT JUICE  
AND WATER PROCESSING PLANT**

**MUTARE**

**4 JULY 2024**

Master of Ceremonies, Prof. F. Tagwira;

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

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

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

Minister of State for Provincial Affairs and Devolution,  
Manicaland Province, Hon. Adv. M. Mugadza;

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

Other Honourable Ministers here present;

Members of the Portfolio Committee on Higher and  
Tertiary Education, Innovation, Science and Technology  
Development and other members of Parliament and  
Senate;

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

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

Senior Government Officials;

Vice Chancellors and Principals of Teachers' Colleges;  
Distinguished Guests;  
Ladies and Gentlemen.

It gives me great pleasure and honour to address you today as I commission the Mutare Teachers' College Fruit Juice and Water Processing Plant.

The plant we are commissioning today is a demonstration of what Zimbabweans can achieve when we put our hands and minds together. It dovetails with our rallying call and philosophy to nation-building: **'Nyika inovakwa, inotongwa, inonamatigwa nevene vayo/ Ilizwe lakhiwa, libuswe, likhulekelwe ngabanikazi balo.'**

Further, the ceremony is occurring at an opportune time ahead of our country's hosting of the SADC Industrialisation Week from 28 July to 2 August 2024, running under the theme:

**“Promoting Innovation to Unlock Opportunities for Sustainable Economic Growth and Development Towards an Industrialised SADC.”**

The industrialisation week will provide a platform for stakeholders to share opportunities, ideas and experiences on driving industrialisation and economic transformation in the SADC region, through innovation. Particularly, it will afford us an opportunity to showcase the various strides we have made under the Heritage Based Education 5.0 philosophy. This is anchored by our innovation hubs and industrial parks, towards the modernisation and industrialisation of our beloved motherland, Zimbabwe.

Recently, my Government established the long-awaited National Venture Capital Company, which will provide the requisite support to give impetus to the ongoing innovation and modernisation thrust.

It is pleasing that Mutare Teachers' College has taken up the challenge for higher and tertiary education institutions to drive the national development agenda. Indeed, Education merely for paper credentials, is no longer the focus of the Second Republic.

Through our robust education transformation agenda, under the Heritage Based Education 5.0 philosophy, we have gone beyond just awarding degrees and certificates. We are promoting innovation, hard honest work and entrepreneurial mind-sets that produce goods and services which enhance national development.

Learning institutions are now leading in value addition and the creation of new industries. In this regard, this state-of-the-art plant is part of such ongoing efforts and will see Mutare Teachers' College value-adding indigenous fruits through the production of fruit juice as well as bottled water. This will result in greater skills sets and increased revenue within the College.

It is commendable that the construction of this plant saw Mutare Teachers' College collaborating with Masvingo Polytechnic and Verify Engineering, for the plant sizing, installation and commissioning. Such synergies should be encouraged and constitute the manner of achieving results within the education sector and Government as a whole. Competencies, skills and comparative advantages residing within our national institutions must be leveraged to achieve the common good.

We are one Government, with one National Vision. This spirit should see an accelerated pace of finishing projects as well as increasing production, productivity and the overall competitiveness of our economy.

**Ladies and Gentlemen;**

I am informed that this plant will produce 16 thousand litres of fruit juice on an 8-hour working day. The juices will be developed from locally available fruits that are abundant in Manicaland Province.

These include baobab, pineapple, banana and guava, among others. The commercial processing of juices will also enhance the nutrition and dietary well-being of our people.

To date, the rural industrialisation agenda and empowerment drive has been successfully deployed in other parts of the country such as Muzarabani which has a Masawu Factory and Mwenezi with a Marula Factory. Through these ground breaking projects, rural communities are deriving revenue and employment by providing the requisite feedstock for the various factories. In the case of this particular plant, local baobab trees are abundantly available and their harvest will provide income to benefit communities.

To ensure sustainable utilisation and feedstock, good environmental practices, including the planting of more trees, is essential.

I call upon our local communities, women and the youth to be involved in agro-forestry initiatives.

Going forward, I challenge Mutare Teachers' College to go beyond the production of fruit juices and the bottling of water. Greater efforts must be made to expand production lines to other high value aspects of the business, which include products such as baobab powder, anti-oxidants as well as oils for cosmetic and other therapeutic uses.

Right from the outset, remain mindful of our drive to 'move up the value chain', in line with our country's Industrialisation Policy and Local Content Strategy. Other aspects, therefore, which relate to packaging, marketing and distribution of the products must be pursued for enhanced self-sufficiency in your production processes. You are, thus, urged to be wholistic with regards to your business strategy.



Equally, clear time-frames must be stipulated in terms of increasing the overall net worth value of companies under the Ministry of Higher and Tertiary Education, Innovation, Science and Technology Development. Basic business principles must apply in the operations of these entities.

On the other hand, I urge the private sector to establish robust mentorship programmes to sharpen the skills and broaden the exposure of our learners and graduates coming out of the innovation hubs and industrial parks at our institutions of higher learning. Industry is challenged to take up a leading role in the commercialisation of the inventions, products and services emanating from start-ups.

### **Distinguished Invited Guests;**

Undoubtedly, sustained growth is generated through well-articulated, coordinated and integrated innovations.

Hence, in the context of the Whole of Society Approach, business entities under the higher and tertiary education sub-sector must scale up networks with the private sector, to complement each other's strength. Additionally, to leap-frog the modernisation, industrialisation and development of our economy, requires collective effort and unity of purpose, within and across all socio-economic spheres of our country.

May I, therefore, hasten to state that the commissioning of this plant must not be an end in itself. It is my expectation that other institutions of higher learning will accelerate the commercialisation and market penetration of the various products and goods coming out of the innovation hubs. I urge you to set ambitious and achievable targets to ensure a strong presence of our local products. We must now see more of your products on our shop-shelves, across the country.

Products such as the fruit juices that will be produced here, must eventually overtake other imported brands in popularity. As we host visitors during and after the SADC Summit, they must enjoy our locally made quality products.

Meanwhile, I call upon graduates from this and other teacher training institutions, as they proceed to practice their professions, to instil the ethic of hard honest work, as well as production and productivity among learners, from a young age. Similarly, our polytechnic colleges are challenged to design and fabricate relevant equipment and technologies that are unique and country specific to Zimbabwe.

Riding on the successes of the Second Republic's Engagement and Re-engagement Policy, I challenge stakeholders in the higher and tertiary education, innovation, science and technology sector to also pursue closer cooperation and alliances with countries in the

Global South and East. These must ultimately see us enhancing our technological independence.

**Ladies and Gentlemen;**

As you are aware, Zimbabwe was not spared from the effects of the climate change induced drought. In this regard, the Second Republic has put in place measures which will ensure that no one will starve or die of hunger. This includes availing grain to vulnerable communities, drilling of boreholes and setting up Village Business Units which include nutrition gardens.

The increased utilisation of our water bodies and associated irrigation infrastructure, has seen our country exceed the winter wheat planting targets. The expected winter wheat harvest will bolster our national food security and sovereignty. We are determined to continue being a nation capable of feeding ourselves.

Finally, I urge other teacher training colleges and institutions of higher learning to take a leaf from this project being implemented by Mutare Teachers' College, towards accelerated and sustainable rural industrialisation, across all districts and provinces. This will go a long way to lift many more of our people out of poverty into prosperity.

Tomorrow is a future, which we must construct today, **brick by brick and stone upon stone**, we are building the Zimbabwe we want.

With these remarks, it is now my honour and privilege to once again congratulate Mutare Teachers' College for this achievement and to declare the Fruit Juice and Water Processing Plant officially commissioned.

**God bless you.**

**God bless Zimbabwe.**

**I thank you.**