



ADDRESS

BY

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

AT

**THE COMMISSIONING OF THE
DZIVARASEKWA FLATS**

HARARE

08 AUGUST 2024

The Director of Ceremonies;

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

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

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

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

Minister of National Housing and Social Amenities, Hon. Z. Soda;

Minister of Local Government and Public Works, Hon. D. Garwe;

Other Honourable Ministers here present;

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

Senior Government Officials;

Chairperson of Portfolio Committee on Local Government, Public Works and National Housing, Hon. S. Mandiwanzira and Committee Representatives here present;

The Mayor for the City of Harare, His Worship,
Councillor J. Mafume;

Invited Guests;

Ladies and Gentlemen.

It gives me great pleasure to have been invited to commission the Dzivarasekwa Flats Housing Project, which is yet another milestone achievement by the Second Republic in the provision of housing and social amenities.

The Dzivarasekwa Flats Project was wholly funded by the Government, with the contractor being the Ministry of Local Government and Public Works. This is a typical example of the whole of Government approach to housing delivery.

As you are aware, shelter is a basic human right and need, to which Government is mandated to ensure that every Zimbabwean has access. These flats epitomise my

Government's commitment to ensure access to shelter, property rights as well as the right to equal protection.

The four blocks of flats, which have the capacity to house 48 households, were built in response to the natural disaster that struck our Budiro residents in 2021, where some houses were submerged and others swept away by floods. A precious young life was lost, and property destroyed, while families were displaced, with some being housed at evacuation centres.

Through this gesture, the Second Republic is showing its resolve to respect the principles of humanity and human dignity. This is in line with the dictates of the Civil Protection Act, Chapter 10:06. Further, it also resonates with the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (Kampala Convention).

Ladies and Gentlemen;

The development of these blocks of flats is in line with our National Human Settlements Policy, which I launched in Marimba, Harare, in September 2021. The Policy takes into account the impact of dysfunctional settlements, spatial planning, densification and adoption of appropriate technologies to ensure climate change adaptation and resilience.

Hence, in line with the provisions of the Policy, it is imperative to highlight that we do not only need to build back better but rather build better the first time. As such, the siting of the houses, designs and quality of workmanship, among others, are critical for reducing the impact of natural disasters.

In this regard, I am enthused that the blocks of flats we are commissioning today are green buildings, which make use of technologies that ensure they are climate-proof.

The fact that the blocks of flats have been fitted with solar geysers, are designed and built using a 230 mm brick wall thickness for greater insulation, and have a north-south orientation for direct sunlight, is also commendable.

Further, in line with our densification thrust, my Government is setting the tone with regard to ensuring that 40% of land for human settlement development is reserved for the construction of high-rise apartments.

Similar projects are being implemented by the Second Republic across the country. Of note is the Mutawatawa Walk Up Flats in Mashonaland East, which is a pilot project in our rural areas. Others include the Dombotombo Flats in Marondera; Senga Flats in Gweru; Empumalanga West in Hwange; Kasese in Kariba; Binga Houses, Lupane Civil Service Houses as well as the Hlalani Kuhle sanitisation, among others.

This demonstrates that Government remains the torch bearer in terms of housing provision, particularly on densification through vertical space utilisation.

I challenge the Minister of National Housing and Social Amenities and the Minister of Finance, Economic Development and Investment Promotion, to build more blocks of flats going forward. You must also continue to adhere to the Second Republic's work ethic of completing projects on time. The momentum of timely completion of projects must be maintained.

As line Ministries, Departments and Agencies as well as other property developers embark on their construction projects, I urge them to use local products, as well as invest in plants and factories to enhance our industrialisation and employment creation, coupled with sustainable supply of alternative building technologies and skills transfer.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

The need for land use planning cannot be over-emphasised whenever human settlement development occurs. I, therefore, call upon planning authorities to desist from allocating residential stands in disaster-prone areas such as wetlands.

Further, my Government is stamping its authority on the scourge of land barons and will leave no stone unturned in efforts to stop this malpractice. These malcontents had spread their wings to our rural areas, including in growth points, peri-urban areas, district service centres, rural service centres and villages in our communal areas.

I implore our traditional leadership to be alert, vigilant and ensure that proper procedures are followed in parcelling out land. The practice by some unscrupulous village heads to illegally parcel out land in anticipation of urbanisation in their areas of jurisdiction must stop forthwith.

Hence, in as much as there is a shortage of housing in the country, I would like to challenge citizens to make self-introspections when buying stands or land for housing development. This includes engaging and verifying the authenticity with relevant authorities on land or stand transactions for proper guidance and advice before committing resources.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

Cognisant of the fact that some unsuspecting citizens had already fallen victim to land barons, my Government has embarked on a programme of regularising some of these settlements, in line with the Zimbabwe National Human Settlements Policy. The cut-off of this special dispensation is 2021 when the Policy was promulgated.

People must toe the line and we cannot tolerate lawlessness. Hence, any further illegal developments that emerged post the Policy launch will not be regularised.

To kick-start this process, in April of 2023, I launched the Presidential Title Deeds Programme in Epworth. Title deeds are an empowerment tool and a legal document that gives beneficiaries rights of ownership as well as security of tenure, disposal and transfer of ownership.

I would like to commend the work being done by the Inter-Ministerial Taskforce, which is championing the programme and mobilising resources for infrastructure emplacement through private sector participation as represented by the Kwangu/Ngakwami Presidential Title Deed Programme Trust.

The Programme's main objectives include:

- Issuing Title deeds to residents of informal or unregulated settlements;
- Issuing title deeds to all long-standing tenants in Local authority housing;
- Providing title deeds to all rural growth points; and

- Facilitating the raising of bond financing on property to fund service provision and housing upgrades.

This will in turn result in accelerated urban and rural infrastructure development as well as industrial transformation, while at the same time creating a conducive environment for other stakeholders to partake in housing delivery.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

As I conclude, I exhort other stakeholders and private developers to play their part towards ensuring the development of smart cities across the country. These have the benefits of improving the quality of life for residents, as well as enhancing economic prosperity and environmental sustainability through advanced technologies.

As you do so, be mindful of the need to also provide affordable and decent housing, which is in line with

Sustainable Development Goal 11 on the provision of inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable cities and human settlements.

Let us, as a nation, remain united and focused, roll up our sleeves and build forward better in our quest to provide shelter to our deserving citizens. **Nyika inovakwa, inotongwa, inonamatigwa nevene vayo/ilizwe lakhiwa, libuswe, likhulekelwe ngabanikazi balo.**

With these remarks, it is now my honour and privilege to declare the Dzivarasekwa Flats officially commissioned.

God bless you.

God bless Zimbabwe.

I thank you.