



REMARKS

BY

**THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF
ZIMBABWE AND SADC CHAIRPERSON,
HIS EXCELLENCY DR. E. D. MNANGAGWA,**

AT

**THE TOUR OF GEO POMONA WASTE
MANAGEMENT (PVT) LTD**

18 AUGUST 2024

The First Lady and Environment Patron, Amai Dr. Auxillia Mwangagwa;

Your Majesty, King of the Kingdom of Eswatini, King Mswati III;

Your Excellency, Outgoing SADC Chairperson and President of the Republic of Angola, Mr João Lourenço;

Your Excellency, Chairperson of the Organ Troika and President of the United Republic of Tanzania, Dr. Samia Hassan;

Your Excellencies, Heads of State and Government and Heads of Delegations;

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

Vice President of the Republic of Zimbabwe, Hon. Col. (Rtd) K. C. D. Mohadi;

Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Chairperson of the SADC Council of Ministers, Hon. Amb. F. M. M. Shava;

Honourable Ministers and Political Leaders of the Republic of Zimbabwe;

Your Excellency, Mr. Elias Magosi, SADC Executive Secretary;

Your Excellencies, Members of the Diplomatic Corps;

Senior Officials and Members of the Zimbabwe Delegation; here present;

Distinguished Guests;

Ladies and Gentlemen.

Allow me to extend a special welcome to you all, to this tour of Geo Pomona Waste Management (Pvt) Ltd.

As with all the countries of our region, Zimbabwe continues to face a daunting task of managing waste disposal in a sustainable manner. The rapid urbanisation, population growth and increasing mass consumptive patterns, continue to produce unprecedented amounts of both household and industrial waste.

The unintended consequences of high rates of resource consumption have harmed our urban environments, through the production of waste which is beyond the management capacities of most local government and municipal authorities. This situation is worsened by limited access to modern disposal technologies and equipment as well as appropriately trained manpower.

Illegal dumping of waste coupled with the improper disposal of highly hazardous chemicals, also exacerbates the risk of negative health and environmental consequences to our people and future generations.

For Zimbabwe, this background, necessitated the adoption of robust and responsive models that enable local authorities to sustainably manage waste. The establishment of comprehensive frameworks for effective chemical management and disposal of waste for environmental renewal and protection have led to vast innovations, including in the renewable energy space.

Through the new opportunities availed by my Government's waste management strategy, Geo Pomona Waste Management (Pvt) Ltd came in with this investment, partnering with Government, the City of Harare and local communities. This waste to energy initiative has not only addressed the environmental challenges that were caused by this dumpsite, but the Plant once completed, will generate electricity for the national grid.

This plant, is therefore, a demonstration of the vast potential of strategic innovations, in resolving our day to day community and national economic questions, such as power supplies. This project further dovetails with our theme: **Promoting Innovation to Unlock Opportunities for Sustainable Economic Growth and Development, towards an Industrialised SADC.**

The fact that this company is people-centred, with a large pool of youth and women being employed here is commendable.

Additionally, the waste-to-energy project, will contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, in line with our National Determined Contributions towards climate change mitigation. The electricity to be generated here will significantly complement Government efforts to broaden the country's energy mix through optimal power generation from renewable energy sources.

Your Majesty, Excellencies and Distinguished Guests;

Our vision for Zimbabwe, is to prioritise environmental sensitive waste management and disposal systems in all our communities. I extend my sincere gratitude to the Geo Pomona (Pvt) Ltd management and staff for partnering Government in addressing this critical issue. Such projects will undoubtedly contribute to creating a cleaner, healthier and prosperous future for all.

I hope that this tour has been insightful and that we will draw valuable lessons from each other's experiences.

I am sure that various communities within the region can implement such innovative projects as we have witnessed here at this Geo Pomona Waste Management project.

Let us never shy-away from thinking outside the box, adapting best practices from elsewhere, guided by our own realities. To drive the modernisation, industrialisation and development of the region, we remain mindful that “SADC must be built, governed and prayed for by us, its citizens”. The weighty responsibility lies with us.

Let us scale up endeavours across all sectors to propel every community into a prosperous future, leaving no one and no place behind.

God bless you all.

I thank you all.

Merci beaucoup.

Muito obrigado.

Asante sana.