



REMARKS

BY

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

AT

**THE HAND-OVER
OF CHIEFS VEHICLES**

HARARE

25 SEPTEMBER 2024

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

Minister of State for Provincial Affairs and Devolution,
Harare Metropolitan Province, Hon. Sen. C. Z. Tavengwa;

Other Honourable Ministers here present;

Acting Chief Secretary to the President and Cabinet,
Mr. Z. R. Churu;

Senior Government Officials;

President of the National Council of Chiefs, Chief
M. Khumalo;

Other Esteemed Chiefs here present;

Your Worship, Mayor of the City of Harare, Councillor
J. Mafume;

Invited Guests;

Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is my singular honour and pleasure to once again join you, our esteemed Chiefs, as we hand-over another tranche of ninety conditions of service vehicles.

This is part of my Administration's grand plan to uphold the dignity of our Chiefs and Traditional Leaders, who are the historical custodians of our land and culture, as they carry out their duties. It is also in line with the Government policy which has seen us giving the Chiefs vehicles after every five years.

The policy is premised on the understanding that Chiefs' functions contribute directly and indirectly towards the attainment of Vision 2030 which seeks to achieve an upper-middle income economy for our people. Further, the facility ensures that the Chiefs can carry out their critical duties more efficiently and effectively.

My Government shall continuously pursue such interventions to improve the welfare and general conditions of service for our esteemed Chiefs.

The Second Republic has put together a scheme that will enable all traditional leaders to access medical assistance through medical insurance as well as a Funeral Assistance package for our dearly departed Chiefs.

Further, my Administration has directed Government Ministries and Departments to provide other services and utilities that uplift the livelihoods and standing of Traditional Leaders in general. These include construction and maintenance of access roads to Chiefs homesteads, electrification of Chiefs homes, provision of water and sanitation facilities, as well as the tillage programme, among other services.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

The recent past has seen the enactment of new laws, which have given additional roles to traditional leaders, chief among them being the Marriages Act. The Marriages Act has seen Chiefs getting trained on their duties as marriage officers.

In addition, the Births and Deaths Registry Act has empowered Chiefs in a manner which sees them registering births and deaths.

As you are aware, the nation is currently going through one of the worst droughts ever experienced in our recent history, due to the vagaries of climate change. Be that as it may, my Government has already put in place measures to ensure that no one starves.

In this regard, the **Zunde RaMambo/Isiphala SeNkosi Programme** has gained traction as we grapple with the El-Nino induced drought which requires our traditional

leaders to distribute food aid to the needy people in rural communities.

My Government shall remain steadfast in distributing food to ensure that no one starves and Chiefs play a pivotal role in food distribution through the **Zunde RaMambo/Isiphala SeNkosi Programme**. To date, five tonnes of food have been distributed per ward countrywide, with Chiefs spearheading the distribution of the grain through the Programme.

As we diligently pursue our quest to enhance water and sanitation accessibility, my Administration has initiated the drilling of boreholes under the Presidential Borehole Drilling Scheme, which will see the drilling of boreholes in all the 35 000 villages across the country.

Despite the illegal western-imposed sanctions, which have brought about unfavourable economic conditions, Government will continue to review and address matters to

do with remuneration and emoluments accruable to Traditional Leaders.

My Government will continue to improve the conditions of service for Traditional Leaders so that they become truly esteemed and dignified leaders.

As you go back to your respective jurisdictions, I urge you to continue carrying out your role in preserving our cultural values and norms, even in the midst of their defilement on social media.

With these remarks, it is now my singular honour and privilege to officially hand-over these ninety vehicles to our revered Chiefs.

God bless you.

God bless Zimbabwe.

I thank you.