



**SPEECH**

**BY**

**THE PRESIDENT, HIS EXCELLENCY,**

**DR. E. D. MNANGAGWA**

**AT**

**THE TITAN NEW ENERGY, AFROCHINE AND**

**DINSON PROJECTS GROUND BREAKING**

**CEREMONY**

**HWANGE**

**2 DECEMBER 2024**

Director of Ceremonies;

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

Vice President, Col. (Rtd) Cde. 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,  
Matabeleland North Province, Hon. R. Moyo;

Minister of Energy and Power Development,  
Hon. E. Moyo;

Honourable Ministers here present;

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

Chinese Ambassador to Zimbabwe; His Excellency Zhou  
Ding;

Senior Government Officials;

Chief Wange, Acting Chief Shana, Chief Nelukoba, Chief  
Mvuthu and Chief Nekatambe;

Secretary for Energy and Power Development,  
Dr. G. Magombo;

ZESA Holdings Executive Chairman, Dr. S. Z. Gata,  
Board and Management;

Afrochine, Titan New Energy and Dinson Steel Board  
Members and Management;

Stakeholders, Captains of the Energy Sector and Captains  
of Industry;

Distinguished Guests and Valued Members of the  
Community,

It gives me great pleasure to officiate at this ground-breaking ceremony for the Power Plant projects by Titan New Energy, Dinson, and Afrochine. This marks another milestone in our country's journey towards modernisation, industrialisation and sustainable socio-economic development, anchored on a robust energy sector.

Electricity is the lifeblood of industrialisation and is critical for our mining, agriculture and manufacturing sectors, among others.

The support and promotion of projects of this nature are part of my Government's efforts for increasing the installed power generating capacity through the construction of new power plants. These vital projects also reaffirm Zimbabwe's commitment to achieve energy self-sufficiency and determination to leap towards a future driven by innovation. In doing so, maintaining an intricate balance between green energy and traditional sources, remains of utmost priority in our country's energy generation strategy.

Through mutually beneficial private public sector cooperation, the quest to realise a diversified energy mix is coming to fruition. The multi-pronged energy projects across the sector are poised to transform the landscape of electricity generation in line with aspirations under Vision 2030 as well as the recently launched Energy Efficiency Policy. I congratulate all stakeholders, for the ingenuity, well done.

## **Ladies and Gentlemen;**

Undoubtedly, the exponential growth of our industry, modernisation and an improved quality of life of our people, manifest in part, through an ever-expanding housing stock, which has increased our country's overall energy demand. This is against a background where climate change induced drought has seen depressed generation capacity at hydro-power plants.

At the level of SADC, the importance of energy in the integration agenda cannot be over emphasised, more-so because energy access and availability are some of the key enablers of sustainable development. While the Region has abundant energy resources, ranging from solar to wind, and hydro to gas, there is need for greater investments. This must see the sector fully harnessing the potential of the region's energy endowments towards achieving universal access to modern energy services.

According to the African Development Bank, the overall hydropower potential in SADC Member States is estimated at about 1,100 terawatt hours per year, with capacity being utilised at present still under 50 terawatt hours per year. Further, there is need for the region to focus on increasing, not only generation capacity, but also the uptake of renewable energy. This will ensure that SADC is able to achieve a sustainable energy mix.

Another critical area that needs partnerships and investments for a viable and vibrant energy sector in SADC is the construction of more transmission interconnections across the region. This would enable collective and shared benefits from new generation capacity installed in the respective countries within the region. Investors are, therefore, invited to explore the numerous prospects which exist for both in-country and cross border energy projects in SADC.

In this light, my Administration continues to ensure the right policy frameworks to accelerate the diversification of the energy portfolio to avert energy poverty. These relate to ease of doing business with regards to competitive tariffs for Independent Power Producers, permits acquisition, grid connections, and the supply chains facilitation. The sector is assured of Governments support to build a more resilient energy sector that enables green industrialisation as we redefine our future.

I extend my gratitude to investors who continue to show confidence in our country and the prevailing conducive business environment. This also demonstrates the potential that exists towards stable, steady and reliable power supply.

Further, the investments we are witnessing in the energy sector are a testament of the significant progress we have made in infrastructure development under the Second Republic.

This includes the commissioning of the Hwange 7 and 8 Expansion Project, which is delivering over 610 megawatts of power into our national grid.

Over and above this, Independent Power Producers are complementing Government efforts through investments which have seen the commissioning of power generating projects of over 300 megawatts. Notable projects include:

- The ZZEE 50 megawatts Thermal Power Plant in Hwange that is currently feeding power into the Grid;
- Dinson Steel 50 megawatts Thermal Power Project in Chivhu, which will be expanded to 100 megawatts by the end of 2025;
- Blanket Mine 13 megawatts solar PV plant;
- Zimplats 35 megawatts solar PV plant; and
- Centragrid 25 megawatts solar PV plant in Nyabira.

There is indeed light at the end of the tunnel.



## **Ladies and Gentlemen;**

The Titan Thermal Power Plant being embarked upon, will see the remarkable generation of 720 megawatts, whilst Afrochine will contribute 100 megawatts through a solar PV project in Selous. Furthermore, the same investors from Titan will undertake the Jinan 200 megawatts Solar Power Plant in Gweru. These projects are expected to be completed by December 2025. This is the work culture of the Second Republic. Congratulations.

These and other projects should undoubtedly meet our power demands of today and continuously fuel our ambitions of tomorrow, whilst we unlock the potential of our abundant natural resources to drive economic growth and transformation.

Going forward, I urge stakeholders in the power sector to ensure that our nation is not only energy sufficient, but also energy efficient. Our energy sector should be supportive of our environment.

## **Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen;**

The communities in Hwange, Chivhu, and Selous will greatly benefit from these investments, through the creation of jobs, stimulation of economic activities, and facilitation of skills transfer and development.

I want to also encourage our investors to fully embrace all Environmental, Social and Governance considerations in their projects, ensuring a wholistic approach to development.

I commend the Ministry of Energy and Power Development, and institutions under their purview such as the Zimbabwe Electricity Supply Authority and the Zimbabwe Energy Regulatory Authority, among others, for ensuring that new players can enter into the electricity sector. Rather than stifling competition, you are leading the way in welcoming new participants into the sector. Well done.

Meanwhile, our country also hosts a plethora of energy minerals, which are critical for energy transition. These include lithium, nickel, copper, and rare earth minerals, among others. I, therefore, call upon investors to take advantage of these opportunities, including moving up the value chain and creating more value and ensuring technology transfer.

It is, however, disheartening to note that the energy sector continues to face challenges, including vandalism and theft. To our police and other security agencies, I urge you to ensure that our investors are protected from such disturbances. Our traditional leaders, **Madzimambo edu**, **Izinduna zethu**, as the custodians of our communities, please work closely with law enforcement agencies to safeguard these new power stations and other transmission and distribution infrastructure.

We must not tolerate vandalism, and it is imperative that we present ourselves as the safest investment destination in the world.

In conclusion, I urge investors to move decisively and with speed, taking advantage of the vast investment opportunities that abound in our country. Zimbabwe is a destination of choice.

All stakeholders should continue working diligently for the good of our nation. Together, we have achieved much, but there is still much more to be done. Brick by brick, stone upon stone, and step by step, we will reach our goals.

With these remarks, it is my honour and privilege to declare works on the Titan New Energy, Dinson, and Afrochine Power Plants projects commissioned.

**God bless you.**

**God bless Zimbabwe.**

**I thank you.**