



ADDRESS

BY

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

AT

**THE 2024 ZIMBABWE LOCAL GOVERNMENT
ASSOCIATION ANNUAL INDABA**

HARARE

26 NOVEMBER 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 State for Harare Metropolitan Province;
Hon. Sen. C. Z. Tawengwa;

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

Other Honourable Ministers here present;

Chairperson of the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee
on Local Government, Public Works and National
Housing, Hon. S. Mandiwanzira;

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

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

Senior Government officials;

President of the Zimbabwe Local Government
Association, Councillor Dr. A. Shamu;

Mayors and Chairpersons of Local Authorities;

Councillors;

Town Clerks and Chief Executive Officers;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

Comrades and Friends.

It is my singular honour and privilege to officiate at this 2024 Zimbabwe Local Government Association (ZILGA) Annual Indaba here in Harare. This event provides an opportunity for my Government to interact with over 2 000 councillors from all 92 Local Authorities here represented. This engagement will undoubtedly impact the depth and extent of the Indaba's discussions, particularly harnessing the experiences and lessons drawn from the diverse local governance space.

All Local Authorities; urban or rural, big or small, remain an integral cog of the local governance system. You should, therefore, operate in unison, always collaborating, sharing experiences and sharpening yourselves towards responsive policy-making at the grassroots level for the benefit of our beloved motherland, Zimbabwe.

As institutions leading the implementation of service delivery, I expect you to be centres of excellence, providing leadership and innovative best practices across the local governance spectrum. Your work must continue to impact and transform the livelihoods of our communities.

The Urban Councils Act and Rural District Councils Act, clearly outline your roles which are critical success factors. These are augmented by the blueprint: “A Call to Action, No Compromise to Service Delivery” which I launched in 2023.

To this end, I commend some Local Authorities for milestones realised to date, which include:

- i. The development of Masterplans;
- ii. Valuation of properties for rating purposes;
- iii. Establishment of minimum service delivery standards for Local Authorities; and
- iv. Enhancing revenue performance; among others.

However, the Call to Action blueprint was only the first stage of interventions aimed at improving systems and processes in Local Authorities. You must scale up efforts towards the provision of basic enabling infrastructure.

Initiatives such as the Nhimbe/Ilima Road Rehabilitation Programme, which is underpinned by our rich cultural heritage, values of collaboration, unity, hard work and pooling of resources, must continue to play a major role in our development agenda. There is no room for the sense of ‘entitlement’ and silo mentality. Local Authorities are challenged to focus and timely address the identified priorities, needs and challenges of our people.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

It is encouraging to note that the hard-working entrepreneurs in the SME sector are helping in busting illegal sanctions, while also developing local economies as well as enhancing broad-based empowerment and employment.

My Government is, thus, committed to ensuring the construction of decent and safe work spaces. These will be accompanied by the establishment of critical infrastructure that encourage the involvement of women and the youth.

The ZANU PF Government has so far taken charge of the reconstruction and modernisation of Mbare Traders Market. All the responsible implementing Ministries, Departments and Agencies are directed to accelerate the construction of the project. Our urban communities deserve better working and living spaces. Similarly, the urban renewal, beautification and regeneration programme must be given due attention.

In crafting 2025 development plans and budgets, Local Authorities are called upon to scale up the implementation of people-centred projects and programmes. The Devolution and Decentralisation Agenda, is anchored on community participation and

project ownership at the grassroots level. Both urban and rural councils must deliver.

Furthermore, it is of paramount importance that we are responsive to calls by our people for sustainable, efficient and affordable services. All stakeholders, at every level, and local leadership should prioritise regular consultations with the people. No one and no place must be left behind.

Comrades, Ladies and Gentlemen;

We are a nation born out of the invaluable sacrifices of many gallant sons and daughters. We will never divorce ourselves from that enduring reality. I applaud the Ministry of Local Government and Public Works for collaborating with the Chitepo School of Ideology, to train Mayors, Council Chairpersons and Executives. This initiative seeks to advance our shared national vision, interests and priorities within the public sector, as enshrined in our national Constitution. Other key defining aspects of the programme include our country's

indelible history of the protracted struggle for independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Meanwhile, I am deeply concerned by the cases of corruption in the local government space and the entire society. Those perpetrating such acts must face the full wrath of our country's law. No one, including Local Authorities, will be spared. Let us root out this menace from our society.

As I conclude, I wish to remind you that the onset of the 2024/2025 rainfall season demands every tier of Government to effectively participate in disaster risk management.

Past and recent experiences in some parts of our country, for example in Masvingo, Mberengwa-Midlands Province, and here in Harare, have taught us the harsh reality of extreme weather patterns brought about by climate change. It is, therefore, imperative that we remain on high alert and prepared for any eventualities.

With these remarks, it is now my honour and privilege to declare the 2024 Zimbabwe Local Government Association Annual Indaba officially open. I wish you fruitful deliberations, as you positively contribute to the national development agenda.

God bless you all.

God bless Zimbabwe.

I thank you.