



SPEECH

BY

THE PRESIDENT, HIS EXCELLENCY

CDE. E. D. MNANGAGWA

AT

**THE MEETING WITH PERSONS WITH
DISABILITIES**

STATE HOUSE

5 MARCH 2025

Director of Ceremonies;

First Lady, Amai A. Mnangagwa;

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

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

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

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

Minister of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare, Hon. E. Moyo;

Special Advisor on National Disability Issues, Hon. R. Mpofu;

Other Honourable Ministers here present;

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

Senior Government Officials;

Chairperson for the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Disability, Hon. B. Nyamupinga;

Ladies and Gentlemen.

Allow me to preface my address by expressing a hearty and warm welcome to you all as I take the honour and pride to host this momentous occasion here at State House. This meeting provides us an opportunity to share innovative ideas and perspectives as we journey towards the attainment of Vision 2030.

I expect that this meeting leaves an indelible mark on the inclusion of disability in our country's sustainable socio-economic development agenda. It must set the tone for all stakeholders to accelerate the mainstreaming of disability into the ongoing national development and broad-based empowerment programmes.

I once again express gratitude to you, members of our communities with disabilities, for your unwavering support to our revolutionary mass Party, ZANU PF and

Government. I thank you. **Ndinokutendai.**
Ngiyalibonga.

Comrades, Ladies and Gentlemen;

You will recall that, in June 2021, I launched the National Disability Policy, which guides our efforts to craft, refine and implement responsive and inclusive disability frameworks across all sectors and levels.

The Policy draws from the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and other International Conventions, which Government ratified, including the African Agenda 2063 and its disability-inclusive protocols. This will enhance the empowerment of persons with disabilities and dovetails with international standards and best practices.

It is pleasing to note that our efforts are aligned with the domestication of International Conventions and Protocols. This unity of purpose and culture of working together must be sustained to promote the dignity of all

persons with disabilities. Guided by our mantra of leaving no one and no place behind, be assured that your voices will always be heard in the formulation of national development policies and programmes.

Zimbabwe is a constitutional democracy and our national Constitution articulates a wide array of issues regarding the inclusion and empowerment of persons with disabilities. Section 6 recognises Sign Language as one of the 16 Official Languages in the country. I commend efforts towards the inclusion of this critical language at public sector events. This must be intensified going forward.

While, Section 22 of our Constitution emphasises the need to include disability at all levels in our development plans, a lot has been achieved towards embracing communication formats which are suitable for persons with disabilities, including braille. Enhancing accessibility to buildings, amenities and public transport, to improve convenience and the overall quality of life for

persons with disabilities in all their diversity, is critically important.

Self-reliance, self-sufficiency, and mastery of our destiny as individuals and as a country are key at this stage of our development. My Government is determined to facilitate and support you in your enterprises and income-generating activities as well as other productive endeavours in areas such as agriculture, mining, and business, among others.

I urge the nation to adapt to the changing socio-economic environment and embrace innovative, inclusive and empowering models of development.

On its part, my Government is scaling up deliberate interventions towards the realisation of the aspirations of persons with disabilities. Our national Vision 2030 and National Development Strategy recognise disability inclusion as a fundamental and cross-cutting theme that should be considered by all socio-economic sectors.

It is upon this background that Government Ministries have established Departments for Gender Mainstreaming, Inclusivity and Wellness. These are strategic focal entry points designed to enhance the inclusion of disability in the public sector.

Meanwhile, the enactment of the Persons with Disabilities Bill must be expedited.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

Through my Special Advisor, high impact National Disability Issues, a broad array of programmes and activities will be rolled out for the empowerment of persons with disabilities. No one will be left behind.

The Zimbabwe National Disability Expo has always been a successful event ever since its introduction. The platform allows persons with disabilities, Government, the private sector, civil society organisations and communities to share ideas as well as

perspectives, while enabling persons with disabilities to showcase their inherent abilities.

Information communication technologies continue to revolutionise the way we do things. To this end, I challenge the sector to move with speed to set up a credible database for effective programming and projects for persons with disabilities. Capacity for the monitoring and evaluation of the various programmes for the sector should equally be enhanced. Let us begin to see more transformational results.

In conclusion, I commend you, my dear comrades, for the successes you are achieving through the empowerment programmes being championed by my Administration. I urge you, however, to build on the strong foundation set so far and develop your various enterprises into more productive and viable commercial brands.

‘Nyika inovakwa, inotongwa, inonamatigwa nevene vayo/ Ilizwe lakhiwa, libuswe, likhu-le-kelwe ngabanikazi balo.’

Together, in unity, **ngativake nyika yedu**. Let us rally our collective skills and will-power to build, modernise and industrialise our beloved motherland, Zimbabwe. Brick by brick and stone upon stone, we are realising Vision 2030.

With these remarks, I wish us robust and fruitful engagements.

God bless you all.

God bless Zimbabwe.

I thank you.