



ZIMBABWE

REMARKS AND INTRODUCTION OF THE GUEST OF HONOUR BY
THE MINISTER OF YOUTH EMPOWERMENT, DEVELOPMENT AND
VOCATIONAL TRAINING

HONOURABLE T. MACHAKAIRE (MP)

AT

THE NATIONAL YOUTH EMPOWERMENT SYMPOSIUM

EAST END HALL,
ZIMBABWE AGRICULTURAL SHOWGROUNDS,

HARARE

22 OCTOBER 2025

- Director of Ceremonies;
- Your Excellency, the President of the Republic of Zimbabwe, **Dr Emmerson Dambudzo Mnangagwa**;
- Honourable Vice President of the Republic of Zimbabwe, **Honourable General Rtd. Dr. C.G.D.N. Chiwenga**;
- Honourable Vice President of the Republic of Zimbabwe, **Honourable Colonel Rtd. K.C.D. Mohadi**;
- Minister of Defence, **Honourable O.C.Z. Muchinguri – Kashiri**;
- Minister of State for Provincial Affairs and Devolution for Harare Metropolitan Province, **Honourable Senator C. Tawengwa**;
- Other Honourable Ministers here present;
- Deputy Minister of Youth Empowerment, Development and Vocational Training, **Honourable K. Mupamhanga**;
- Other Deputy Ministers here present;
- Chief Secretary to the President and Cabinet, **Dr M. Rushwaya**;
- Secretary for Youth Empowerment, Development and Vocational Training, **Mr. S. Mhlanga**;
- Other Permanent Secretaries here present;
- Government Officials here present,
- Senators and Members of Parliament here present;

- UN Resident Coordinator, Mr E. Kallon, and all UN Agencies here present;
- Members of the Diplomatic Corps here present;
- Development Partners here present;
- The Chairperson of the Zimbabwe Youth Council, **Ms R. Mugwagwa**, and other Youth representatives here present,
- Distinguished Guests;
- Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is my distinct honour and privilege to stand before you today at this National Youth Empowerment Symposium, being held under the theme ***Empower the Youth, Secure the Future***.

Your Excellency,

In direct response to the findings of the recent Labour Force Survey by ZIMSTAT, the Ministry of Youth Empowerment, Development and Vocational Training has convened the Youth Empowerment Symposium—a dynamic platform designed to address the pressing challenges faced by our youth. Over the past two days, this venue has come alive with energy, innovation and ambition, as young entrepreneurs have showcased their enterprises, exchanged ideas and engaged in robust discussions on the future of youth empowerment in Zimbabwe.

This Symposium represents a strategic intervention, a deliberate response to the structural barriers that continue to limit the participation of young people in economic development. It bridges critical gaps in information, mentorship and market access that often hinder our youth from reaching their full potential. By shifting the mindset from job-seeking to job-creation, we are nurturing a culture rooted in entrepreneurship, innovation and self-reliance. This mission is aligned with our national development blueprint, **Vision 2030**, which envisions an empowered, upper-middle-income economy fueled by the creativity and productivity of its citizens—especially the youth.

The Symposium, which began yesterday with exhibitions and panel discussions, serves as a powerful knowledge-sharing platform. It equips our youth with insights into emerging trends, technologies and business strategies, while also providing opportunities for collaboration and investment that can elevate their ventures and expand their impact.

Your Excellency, the highlight of today's programme is the official launch of the **National Youth Empowerment Strategy for 2026–2030**, which you will graciously unveil. This Strategy is the product of extensive nationwide consultations, reflecting the authentic voices, ambitions and dreams of young Zimbabweans. It is their vision, shaped by their realities and aspirations.

In bringing this Strategy to life, we have been fortunate to walk this journey with invaluable partners. I wish to extend my deepest gratitude to Mr. Edward Kallon and the entire UN family for their steadfast financial and technical support. My heartfelt thanks also go to all our Development Partners who continue to stand with us in our collective mission to see the youth of Zimbabwe thrive.

To demonstrate the remarkable talent and resilience within our youth, we will today honour **ten outstanding young entrepreneurs**—trailblazers whose stories inspire and whose achievements exemplify the excellence that lies within Zimbabwe's youth.

To the young people,

This is our moment. Let us leave here not just inspired, but committed. Committed to empowering every young Zimbabwean with the tools, the belief, and the opportunity to rise. Let us walk forward together, with unity of purpose and clarity of vision, to build a Zimbabwe where no young person is left behind and where their ideas, talents and ambitions shape the future of our great nation.

The time for youth is now. Let us act boldly, let us act together and let us act with urgency.

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen;

It is now my great honour to introduce our Guest of Honour. He is an iconic figure in our nation's history, a leader whose commitment to our young people is both unwavering and steadfast. From a young age, he has tirelessly and selflessly served the nation. He has held various key government positions since our independence and in 2017, he took on the highest office in the country, a role he continues to hold with excellence. He has been at the forefront in championing youth empowerment and development through various initiatives.

Ladies and gentlemen, please join me in welcoming a true advocate for Zimbabwe's young people, His Excellency, Dr. Emmerson Dambudzo Mnangagwa, the President of the

Republic of Zimbabwe, to deliver his keynote address and officially launch the National Youth Empowerment Strategy.

Your Excellency, Sir.