

SPEECH BY THE MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS - HON DANIEL GARWE AT THE CONGRESS OF THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY FEDERATION OF ZIMBABWE TO BE HELD FROM 2ND TO 5TH OF OCTOBER 2024 AT ELEPHANT HILLS, VICTORIA FALLS

SALUTATIONS

- Minister of State for Provincial Affairs and Devolution, Matabeleland North Province, Honourable Richard Moyo; as representative by Mr. Markmaster Mutetwa;
- Permanent Secretary here represented
- The Ambassador of Zambia to Zimbabwe, Your Excellency; Ambassador Derick Livune;
- Governor of the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe, Dr J. Mushayavanhu; Dr. Kavila
- Senior Government Officials here present;
- President of the Construction Industry Federation of Zimbabwe - Engineer Ephraim Gwindingwi;
- International delegates;
- Members of the Built Environment professionals;
- Invited Guests;
- Ladies and Gentleman!

I am greatly honoured for the invitation extended to me to officiate at this auspicious event that brings together professionals in the built environment across the country. We are greatly enthused by your display of commitment to join Government in the journey towards Vision 2030. **This is how it should be**, Government and the Private Sector working hand in glove towards a common vision of developing our beautiful country. Hence, we are here as Government as show of our commitment, as well, to work closely with the construction industry.

I would like to assure you that, as Government, we are moving with the contemporary environment. Indeed, modern day trends have dictated that Governments shift from being the doers in the Construction Industry and are assuming more of a regulatory role. Equally, **Governments are entering into Public Private Partnerships** (PPPs) arrangements with the construction industry. Governments are shifting from being the sole financier of Public Sector Investments Programmes (PSIPs) projects and are, instead, engaging the private sector in various partnerships for the financing and development of their economies on a large scale.

The Government of Zimbabwe is currently seized with addressing the infrastructure gap , whereon the following projects amongst others are of priority:

- a) Construction of affordable houses for all by 2030;
- b) Development of Smart Cities;
- c) The New City in Mount Hampden;
- d) Urban renewal and regeneration;
- e) Dam construction;
- f) Enhanced provision of portable water;
- g) Road construction and rehabilitation, amongst many other projects.

As we do so, Government appreciates and recognises the role of professionals in the built environment and hope we will work together on the implementation of these projects.

Nonetheless, we urge professionals to continue improving their capacity to take on projects, and this may include forming **Joint Ventures and/or Consortia**. On our part, we are working towards improving the construction industry value chain by leveraging on a win-win arrangement with suppliers in the built environment.

I am happy that the **theme** of this congress centers on **innovation and formation of synergies**. Delegates would agree that an innovative construction industry contributes significantly to national economic growth. **We therefore encourage you as players in the industry to bring in new and innovative green technologies** for construction while taking into consideration issues of sustainability. You may also want to take advantage of the various innovation hubs that Government has established.

On the other hand, the MLGPW and the industry have proposed the enactment of the **Construction Contractors Council Bill**, which amongst others, will establish a **Construction Industry Council** to regulate the construction industry by ensuring registration as well as monitoring of the construction companies carrying out construction works in Zimbabwe. This process is in progress and soon enough consultations with stakeholders will be undertaken.

As we journey towards an upper middle income economy with massive infrastructure developments being undertaken and many more lined up, **we implore all players in the industry to build their capacities** (i.e human capital development, mechanization and work towards ISO

certification of their operations, systems and products) to be able to undertake major projects locally and be competitive internationally.

Zimbabwe is indeed open for investment by local and international investors in infrastructure development. However, as much as we shall continue to ensure participation of local players in projects, it is important that you **strive to be competitive and become partners of choice for Government, local and international investors alike.**

As I conclude my remarks, I want to emphasise **our expectation** that the resolutions emanating from the Congress will **proffer sustainable solutions to the short, medium and long term challenges facing the built environment.** Similarly, I challenge all of you to utilize this platform to **create and strengthen synergies** so that we build the Zimbabwe that we all need and shall be cherished for generations to come.

At this point, ladies and gentlemen, it is my singular honour to declare this congress officially open!

I thank you