



SPEECH

BY

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

DURING HIS MEETING WITH AMBASSADORS

**STATE HOUSE
8 NOVEMBER 2023**

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

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

Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Hon. O. C. Z. Muchinguri-Kashiri;

Other Honourable Ministers here present;

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

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

Secretary for Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Ambassador J. Manzou;

Ambassadors and Consuls General here present;

Ambassadors-designates;

Heads of Mission;

Distinguished Guests.

It is my singular honour to be meeting with you, our diplomats, as we discuss on how to deepen our Foreign Policy thrust and ideals.

Our revolutionary mass Party's re-election gives impetus for us all to resolutely forge ahead with our vision of transforming Zimbabwe into an empowered and prosperous upper-middle-income country by 2030.

The overwhelming endorsement of the Party by the people of Zimbabwe is clear testimony that the Second Republic has made remarkable achievements on its policies and programmes to better the lives of all Zimbabweans.

The ZANU PF Government is a listening and caring Government from the people, by the people and for the people. It is guided by the ideology and policies of our Party, ZANU PF. Hence, patriotism, loyalty, integrity, unity, love, harmony and hard honest work, are paramount.

I am pleased that you all attended our ZANU PF 20th National People's Conference in Gweru. I trust that the

Conference gave you added perspectives on the issues that concern our people, at the grassroots level.

I gather that you, thereafter, held the Annual Retreat and Senior Management Review of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Trade. The resolutions and outcomes of these two events must constitute the foundation upon which you all make the requisite contributions towards the success of the new five-year mandate of the Second Republic. It is, therefore, critical that you situate the programmes and activities of your respective missions in the context of this bigger picture in our quest to implement people-centred policies, programmes and projects.

As members of our diplomatic service, you are a vital cog of my Administration. Through your individual and collective skills, as well as love for our country, Vision 2030 must be a reality. I, therefore, challenge you to work harder to produce tangible outcomes and results that impact on the overall growth of our country's GDP

and improved quality of life for our people. Diplomatic stations are not holiday resorts; you must work and deliver traceable results for the country. None but ourselves will build the Zimbabwe we all want. You must play your part.

Comrades, Ladies and Gentlemen;

As you are aware, the Second Republic has scored successes in innovation, agriculture, mining, infrastructure and tourism, ICTs and health, among others. In addition, political and legislative reforms are ongoing.

My Government is also continuously instituting policies to stabilise prices and grow the economy. This has ensured confidence across the socio-economic spheres.

As we consolidate these successes, you our diplomats have a duty to continue popularising and defending our policies and programmes, particularly that ‘Zimbabwe is open for business.’ Never be apologetic about who we are as Zimbabweans.

We are a unique and proud people, descendents of the Great Emperor Munhumutapa. We shall forever, remain an independent, free and sovereign nation.

We fought for democracy, we respect our rich liberation war heritage, and we have a clear vision for our future and what we want to accomplish as a people. Always tell our true Zimbabwean story, which embodies our vision, values, culture, hopes and aspirations.

Those that deal with us must be willing to respect this fact. This position must always be emphatic among our diplomats. Stand tall with your heads high, wherever you go. Zimbabwe is not a second class nation, or a province or colony of any country, No. Those that make noises from various quotas as if we are part of their countries are delusional and must wake up to reality.

Zimbabwe is marching on into a prosperous and a brighter future, as a united and peaceful people, guided by our development philosophy, **“Nyika inovakwa,**

igotongwa, igonamatirwa, nevene vayo. Ilizwe lakhiwa, libuswe, *li-khu-le-ke-lwe* ngabanikazi balo

Ladies and Gentlemen;

Consolidating our position as an independent and sovereign people towards a modern, industrialised and prosperous country must continue to be our main focus as you return to your various stations. Our Foreign Policy remains deeply rooted on:

- Economic diplomacy, including building strong alliances at both bilateral and multilateral levels;
- Boosting the country's attractiveness by building its positive image to the outside world;
- Increasing global visibility; and
- Strengthening capacity and Resource mobilisation.

To this end, and guided by our diplomatic philosophy of Zimbabwe is a friend to all and enemy to none, I urge you to continue engaging with countries in the comity of nations with a sense of vigour, always advancing our

national interests. We should continue to consolidate our relations and open new economic frontiers for mutually beneficial cooperation.

In doing this, you should be alert to the ever-changing regional, continental and global dynamics. The agenda towards removal of the illegal sanctions is also critical.

With regards to the external debt overhang, Government has embarked on a structured dialogue with both our domestic and external creditors with the view to restructuring our debt and clearing our arrears.

This is important for us as we seek to unlock fresh financing for critical infrastructure and other socio-economic development projects, which improve the quality of life of the ordinary Zimbabwean and lift many out of poverty into prosperity.

To this end, you are critical cogs in an effective media and communication strategy that would help consistently and accurately inform the world of the content, context

and progress of Zimbabwe's Arrears Clearance and Debt Resolution Strategy.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

Government business will be anchored by the Whole of Economy and Society Approach to Development to leapfrog the development, modernisation and industrialisation of our country.

Under this approach, let us leverage on the various comparative advantages that our country is fully endowed with, while enhancing our competitiveness and accelerating economic growth.

In the spirit of leaving no one and no place behind, you have a duty to work with Zimbabwean nationals in the Diaspora. Their invaluable contribution in the modernisation and industrialisation of our economy is critical.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

Let me once again reiterate that your top responsibility is to represent our country in matters related to our national interests. By representing Zimbabwe, you carry the weighty responsibility to shape how we are perceived by the world at large.

I am confident that through your commitment, dedication, consistency and hard honest work, we shall see the rise of our country to its rightful place among nations. It is your supreme mandate as diplomats to increase the country's global visibility by way of facilitating and building strong alliances at both bilateral and multilateral levels.

At this point, I commend you all, including the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, the Ministry's Senior Officials and staff, for your collective efforts in support of Government policies and programmes.

Finally, let us remain mindful that we are Zimbabweans in both thought and deeds. The Second Republic is about action and results. I expect to see increased investments, tourists and trade coming to Zimbabwe from your countries of accreditation.

With these remarks, I wish you great success in your continued service to our beloved motherland, Zimbabwe.

God bless you.

God bless Zimbabwe.

I thank you.