



ZIMBABWE

**REMARKS BY THE HONOURABLE DEPUTY
MINISTER FOR INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE
HON. R. I. MODI**

DURING THE

**5TH EDITION OF THE PRINCIPAL OFFICERS AND
CHAIRMEN'S PROGRAMME**

7 – 9 OCTOBER 2024, HOLIDAY INN, BULAWAYO

The Master of Ceremony, Mr Musa Manyika Dube;

Zimbabwe Association of Pension Funds (ZAPF), Chairman, Mr Williefaston Chibaya;

Director Pensions, Insurance and Pensions Commission (IPEC) Mr Cuthbert Munjoma;

Chief Executive Officer, Zimbabwe Mercantile Exchange (ZMX), Collen Tapfumaneyi;

Director General, Zimbabwe Association of Pension Funds, Sandra Tinotenda Musevenzo;

Distinguished members of the Zimbabwe Association of Pension Funds;

Distinguished Guests;

Ladies and gentleman;

A very good morning to you all.

I consider it an honour and a privilege to stand before you today as we enter into the second and final day of the 5th Principal Officers and Chairmen's Convention. Our gathering here represents our collective commitment to strengthening the pension industry in Zimbabwe which apparently is one of the key pillars in any nation's economic development framework.

The theme of this convention, "**Future - Ready Pension Governance: Adapting to Global Standards and Emerging Trends**" befits this event and is in tandem with our economic idea as it also comes with the need for our pension funds to continue adapting as is required in this the ever - evolving global pensions landscape.

As we gather here, it is important to remind each other that the world of pensions and its governance the world over is always rapidly changing. As a result we continue to note the rise in global standards that continue to be reviewed as a way of

managing emerging trends and reshaping of our thoughts about retirement funding and security.

In line with this, as Government we are very much encouraged that our pension funds association as is the case elsewhere, is always seized with the responsibility to ensure that our national pension governance aligns with world standards and embodies the resiliency, transparency and accountability aspects which are key in this important arm of our economy.

Ladies and gentleman

You may be aware that our mission as a Ministry, is to facilitate and promote the development of sustainable, innovative, inclusive, competitive industrial and commercial enterprises that are regionally and globally integrated in-order to enhance economic prosperity.

In doing this and taking advantage of this event, we see assortments of opportunities for collaboration between Pension funds in Zimbabwe and our

Ministry as well as the entire industry and commerce.

We are informed that the Zimbabwe Association of Pension Funds (ZAPF) is already coordinating the pension funds industry with a view to target financing of all the projects meant to improve our nation's economy in pursuit of our trajectory towards attaining our national vision 2030 as well as towards fulfilment of NDS1 objectives.

As already alluded to, our Ministry in conducting its mandate always works with the private sector, business member organisations, consumer representative organisations as well as the general populace.

In this effort, there is a lot of scope for the Zimbabwe Association of Pension Funds (ZAPF) to collaborate with the Ministry on:

- **Investments in Industrial Projects**, through the Pension funds' investment in industrial projects that are identified by the Ministry or jointly identified as strategic and viable, in

promoting economic growth and job creation in the economy.

- **Enterprise Development** by providing funding for small and medium scale enterprises (SMEs) as a way of promoting entrepreneurship and industrial development.
- **Infrastructure Development** through investing in infrastructure projects that are critical for industrial development, such as energy, transportation, and telecommunications. Such infrastructural financing opportunity exist in all the designated special economic zones as well as in all our cities and growth points.
- **Industrial Revitalization** - Pension funds can invest in initiatives that aim to revitalize and modernize our current and future strategic industries. Hence greater scope under this heading exists for pension funds to improve on their contribution of promoting economic growth and competitiveness.

- **Export Development:** making use of your expertise and connections, we are of the view that pension funds can collaborate with the Ministry to support export oriented industries and thereby contribute to expansion of foreign exchange earnings and economic growth. This development will also be good for the industry in terms of nurturing economic bases that will in turn lead to increased pension contributions.
- **Research and Development** is another avenue through which Pension funds can collaborate with the Ministry. This can be done through pension funds' funding of research and development initiatives that are targeted at driving innovation and industrial growth.
- **Skills Development** is one of a key economic component that has great potential in steering our economy forward. Through financing this aspect in line with the industry and commerce's needs, tailor made training programmes meant to promote employability and productivity can be developed and thereby contributing to addressing skills gaps in the industry.

Scope also exists for the pension funds to partner the Ministry in developing regulatory frameworks that are meant to promote transparency, accountability, good governance in the industry, corporate social responsibility as well as data sharing to mention just a few.

Distinguished delegates

His Excellency, The President of the Republic of Zimbabwe, Dr. E. D. Mnangagwa during his recent State of the Nation Address (SONA) called all of us to action on the need to build on the successes already registered by our universities driven Innovation Hubs and Industrial Parks, by focussing on the need to deliberately support the commercialisation of products and services from these centers, for further growth of local industry and the economy as a whole.

With the above in mind it is evident that through collaborating in the above stated areas, pension funds and the Ministry of Industry and Commerce can promote economic growth, industrial

development and thereby leading to improved livelihoods of our citizens.

Ladies and Gentleman

I am informed that your sector has some pressing challenges surrounding compensation plans that has to be confronted in line with your regulator, which is the Insurance and Pensions Commission (IPEC).

Due to this, I have been called upon to urge all who are yet to comply with the submission of such plans to the Insurance and Pensions Commission (IPEC), do urgently do so since further delays have potential to derail the entire industry through unwarranted exposure of our pensioners.

In conclusion, Zimbabwe is a very rich jewel of our African continent. Due to this a lot of potential and opportunities for value addition and beneficiation are bound in all sectors of our economy.

I am aware some of our stakeholders, see challenges whilst the most thriving ones see the same challenges as great business opportunities.

Guided by this analogy, I therefore urge you as our finance sector, to come up with affordable industrial financial packages that our industrialists can borrow from or tap from in their bid to improve their operations.

Being our national actuaries, we as a nation stand to benefit from your advice, as such, I urge you to fruitfully engage each other and come up with resolutions that will be adopted by the Government since your area covers whole aspects of our economy.

Thank you for your attention, dedication and your commitment to the future of our pension industry. I am aware that together, we can build a resilient pension system that not only meets the today's needs but tomorrow's challenges.

Industry wide, there will always be some glitches that need one's attention. Given this norm in situations we live daily, I therefore implore you as team pension funds, to continue working together and to resolve any pressing issues holistically since

that will be a sure way of ensuring a brighter future for all our pensioners.

With these remarks I thank you and wish you fruitful deliberations.

Thank you!

Tatenda!

Siyabonga!