

# **WELCOME REMARKS TO THE NEW BOARD MEMBERS OF THE ZIMBABWE ENERGY REGULATORY AUTHORITY (ZERA) BY HON.MINISTER S. ZHEMU (MP)**

---

## **1.1 SALUTATIONS**

- Deputy Minister of Energy and Power Development, Hon M. Mudyiwa
- Permanent Secretary of Energy Power Development- Dr G. Magombo
- Chief Director of Energy and Power Development- Eng. B. Munyaradzi
- Incoming Board Members of the Zimbabwe Energy Regulatory Authority
- Directors of the Ministry of Energy and Power Development
- ZERA CEO- Mr Mazambani and Management

## **2.1 INTRODUCTION**

- Good day to you all.
- It is my singular honour to welcome you all to this important day in the history of the energy sector and the Zimbabwe Energy Regulatory Authority (ZERA) in particular.
- Today, I am greatly privileged to be announcing the new ZERA Board which has been meticulously and diligently selected from a pool of experts to serve the nation.
- Issues of corporate governance are sacrosanct in the second republic. As such, it is apt for institution such as ZERA to demonstrate and walk the corporate governance path.
- As you are aware, the outgoing ZERA Board had served its two terms and had to step down in compliance with the law. I want to sincerely thank the Dr Esther Khosa- led board for stirring the ship of ZERA with passion and diligence.
- Many regulatory strides were made during their term and these will serve as a firm foundation for the incoming Board.

### **3.1. THE NEW BOARD**

- To the incoming Board, I want to say you are coming in at a critical time in the history of Zimbabwe.
- At this point, allow me to welcome the appointment of the following to serve as ZERA Board Members with effect from today as provided for in the Energy Regulatory Authority Act.
- The new ZERA Board Members will be as follows:
  - 1. Dr. Madzikanda- Chairperson**
  - 2. Engineer Mavhiya - Deputy Chairperson**
  - 3. T. K. Ncube**
  - 4. M. Kambarami**
  - 5. T. Madzivire**
  - 6. Dr. Ziuku**
  - 7. E. T Mazambani- CEO (Ex-Officio)**
- To the new Board Members, I want to congratulate you for being called to serve the nation. The selection process was based on merit, professional background, your standing in social and professional circles, educational qualifications as well as your exposure and experience in the private and public sector. The Government saw something of value in you which can benefit the nation.
- As the Board, you are team composed of experts in the fields of electrical engineering, petroleum expertise, finance and administration.
- I am alive to the fact that the Board's composition is not yet conforming to the dictates of the enabling Act in terms of gender balance. However, this is being addressed as we are waiting for the clearance of two female Board Members who shall be announced in due course.

#### **4.1. NATIONAL VISION AND ROLE OF ENERGY**

- As the new Board, you are coming in at a time when the Government has made its economic development trajectory clear as espoused in the National Development Strategy 1 which was launched by His Excellency in November 2020.
- The country envisions to join the league of Upper Middle-Income States by 2030 and access to and provision of clean, affordable and reliable energy is a critical enabler towards attainment of this vision.
- A lot is expected from you to provide regulatory leadership of the entire energy sector in Zimbabwe in a fair, transparent, efficient and cost effective manner for the benefit of consumers and energy suppliers.
- I expect you to hit the ground running and deliver. You are experts and professionals so results and more results is what I and the nation will be expecting from you, starting today.
- I want you to rise above regulatory issues and provide vision and direction of the sector.
- I expect you to provide contemporary and professional advice to me as your Minister on all matters relating to the energy industry in order to make the sector competitive.
- I also expect you to assess, promote studies of and advise me as your Minister and licensees on the environmental impact of energy projects before licensing.

#### **5.1. ADDRESSING CHALLENGES IN THE SECTOR**

- The issue of power supply is critical. As you might be aware, over 50% of the country is yet to be connected to the grid. There are over 60 licensed independent power projects which are yet to take off.

- I expect you to unlock the challenges in the power sector and ensure expeditious progression of projects from concept to commissioning.
- The issue of renewable energy is a key aspect of the economy and the energy sector.
- I look forward to you addressing issues of Power Purchase Agreements, Competitive Bidding Process among a number of license applications related processes that require the Board's oversight.

### **7.1. CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT OF THE SECTOR**

- You are coming in as the third team of Board Members of ZERA since its formation in 2011.
- ZERA will be turning 10 years this year and its an opportunity for you to review, reflect, revise, amplify and sustain regulations, policies, programs and energy activities in order to reaffirm the regulator as a key institution in the economy.
- Issues of corporate governance compliance are central and ZERA should continue to serve as the shining example.
- Corruption should never have space in the energy sector. Transparency, accountability, professionalism and integrity should continue to guide you.

### **7.1. CONCLUSION**

- I urge you to work together as Board and Management, with support from my Ministry to put your shoulder to the wheel and as a sector we shall make an indelible difference in the economy.
- I wish the new ZERA Board all the best as you discharge your duty for the benefit of the nation.