



ZIMBABWE

**SPEECH BY HIS EXCELLENCY, THE PRESIDENT OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF ZIMBABWE**

**CDE. DR E. D. MNANGAGWA**

**AT THE OFFICIAL COMMISSIONING OF THE ZIMBABWE  
PLATINUM MINES NGEZI, THE FIRST PHASE OF THE  
185MW SOLAR PROJECT AND THE EXPANDED SMELTER  
PROJECT**

**23 JULY 2025**

1. It is with great pleasure that I join you today at the Selous Metallurgical Complex for the commissioning of two significant expansion projects by Zimbabwe Platinum Mines. It is also with great pleasure and a deep sense of pride that I address you today to celebrate a remarkable milestone in Zimbabwe's quest for industrial advancement, energy self-sufficiency, and environmental sustainability, as outlined in our Vision 2030 and the National Development Strategy (NDS) 1, and the ongoing consultations for NDS2.
2. These projects, the first phase of the 185MW solar project and the expanded smelter, are a testament to the strong partnership between Zimbabwe Platinum Mines and the Government of Zimbabwe, as outlined in our 2021 Memorandum of Understanding. The MOU provides for the implementation of a beneficiation roadmap through the company's USD1.8 Billion Expansion Programme.
3. The MOU outlines various projects that ZIMPLATS with the support of the Government of Zimbabwe intends to undertake over a 10-year period for the sustainable development of the Platinum

Group Metals (PGMs) in Zimbabwe. This partnership underscores our shared vision for a thriving mining sector that contributes significantly to our nation's economic growth and sustainable development.

4. I am delighted to officially commission ZIMPLATS' 38MW smelting plant and the 35MW Solar Plant, both located here at the Selous Metallurgical Complex. These projects are a testament to the strength of collaboration between the Government, industry, and the communities, bringing about tangible economic benefits, including jobs, foreign currency savings, fiscal contributions, and advancing the adoption of green and clean energy sources by our industry.
5. Let me begin by extending my heartfelt gratitude to ZIMPLATS for their contributions to Zimbabwe's sustainable development and economic growth prospects. These investments not only reinforce ZIMPLATS' commitment to operational excellence and its goal of creating a better future for all its stakeholders, but also underscore the company's support for Zimbabwe's sustainable development goals.

6. ZIMPLATS has played a significant role in Zimbabwe's economic growth and development over the years. The company has contributed greatly to the employment of our people, the development of infrastructure, and the growth of our economy. I am pleased to see that ZIMPLATS has remained committed to the principles of responsible mining, ensuring that the environment is protected and that communities benefit from their operations.
7. Today's event demonstrates ZIMPLATS' commitment to upholding its core values namely Respect, Care and Deliver. The company has achieved remarkable success in the mining industry. Its investment in technology, research, and development has allowed it to remain at the forefront of the industry, while its community development initiatives have improved the lives of many people in the communities where it operates and beyond.
8. Through the Ministry of Mines and Mining Development, my Government is working tirelessly to promote value addition and beneficiation, especially of our rich mineral resources. The Minister of Energy and Power Development can also attest to the initiatives Government is pursuing to transform the energy sector. ZIMPLATS deserves special commendation for scoring a double by investing in

both the 38MW Expanded Smelter and the 35MW Solar Plant – while working hand-in-glove with both Ministries.

9. It is exciting to note that many developments are happening within the platinum mining sector, pointing towards growth in line with Government's vision. The growth is mainly anchored on exploration, opening of new mines and expansion of existing projects. We must also acknowledge the challenges that the mining industry faces, particularly in the current global economic climate. As a government, we are committed to ensuring that the mining industry remains competitive and sustainable, while also ensuring that our natural resources are utilized responsibly and for the benefit of our people.

10. I am confident that ZIMPLATS will continue to be a key player in the mining industry and a valuable contributor to Zimbabwe's development. It has been my pleasure to witness today pillars articulated in Vision 2030, and the African Union Agenda 2063, being translated into action. Today I have been briefed on diverse activities implemented by the company, that will see significant contribution to the Zimbabwean economy in innovation,

manufacturing, production and in the long-term export of Zimbabwean goods, manufactured by Zimbabweans.

## **SMELTER EXPANSION**

11. The commissioning of the 38MW furnace marks a defining moment for the mining sector. With an investment of USD 398 Million, this project will allow ZIMPLATS to increase its smelting capacity threefold, reaching a processing capacity of 380,000 tons per annum of concentrate.
12. This expansion will ensure that Zimbabwe becomes a leader in the global platinum market as ZIMPLATS has created capacity to toll refine concentrates from third parties. Increasing smelting capacity to over one million ounces of all six elements of the Platinum Group Metals (platinum, palladium, gold, rhodium, ruthenium and iridium) in converter matte per annum is a significant boost to our value addition efforts in the platinum group metals sector.
13. This increased capacity has the potential to transform Zimbabwe into a regional hub for platinum processing, creating jobs and stimulating downstream industries. I am particularly pleased to

note that the expanded smelter has the capacity to accommodate other platinum group metal producers in the country.

14. This demonstrates ZIMPLATS' commitment to industry-wide growth and collaboration, which is essential for the overall development of our mining sector. It is through such collaborative efforts that we can maximize the benefits of our natural resources for the benefit of all Zimbabweans.
15. It is pleasing to note that the scale of the smelter project is immense. It occupies an area equivalent to 12 football stadia and utilises cutting-edge technologies such as the integrated furnace feed controller, digital twinning, and advanced control systems.
16. The project created over 1,600 jobs at its peak, providing opportunities for Zimbabweans and contributing significantly to the local economy. The knowledge transfer that has occurred during the construction phase has been invaluable. ZIMPLATS has not only expanded its operational capacity but has also contributed to the growth of skills within our local workforce. This aligns with the

Government's vision of creating a skilled workforce that will drive the country's re-industrialization efforts.

## **SOLAR POWER PLANT**

17. Equally significant is the completion of the first phase of the solar project, generating 35MW of electricity, a momentous occasion. This not only provides 8% of ZIMPLATS' energy requirements but also demonstrates the company's commitment to clean energy and a sustainable future.
18. This investment of USD37 Million in renewable energy is a clear indication that embracing green technologies is not just an environmental imperative but also a smart economic decision. It sets a commendable example for the rest of the mining sector in Zimbabwe, and I urge others to follow suit.
19. The plant will reduce ZIMPLATS' reliance on external power sources, thereby contributing to national energy security. With 74,880 PV modules mounted on a single-axis tracking system, the solar plant will provide 8% of ZIMPLATS' power requirements.



The subsequent three phases will increase ZIMPLATS' power-generation capacity to 185MW, meeting its projected electricity needs by the time the USD1.8 Billion Expansion Programme is completed in 2031.

20. The environmental benefits of the solar plant are significant. By reducing the carbon footprint of ZIMPLATS' operations, we are taking an important step toward our shared goal of a cleaner and more sustainable environment. This development aligns with our national objectives to combat climate change.

21. Furthermore, the solar plant serves as a beacon of hope for future energy solutions in Zimbabwe. It is a demonstration of our commitment to developing renewable energy sources that will power industries, homes, and businesses. This will greatly reduce our dependence on imported and hydro power. Sustainable hydro power generation has been negatively affected by unpredictable rainfall patterns due to climate change. Imports require foreign currency, and as such this investment is essentially an import substitution initiative which resonates well with the Government's development aspirations.

22. I also commend ZIMPLATS for prioritizing community engagement throughout the lifecycle of this project - from pre-construction consultations with surrounding communities to providing them with employment. At the peak of construction, over 810 people, mostly from surrounding areas, were employed. ZIMPLATS, in collaboration with its contractors, provided specialised training in areas such as structural installation, PV module installation, electrical wiring, and first aid. This skills transfer will remain an enduring legacy of these projects, empowering individuals with the expertise needed to support the development of Zimbabwe's growing renewable energy sector.

23. The project also provided the local community with firewood and materials for fencing, from the trees cleared at the start of the project and creating access roads, which have greatly improved connectivity for these communities. I am pleased that ZIMPLATS has a plan in place to plant trees equivalent to the number that was cleared to make way for the project.

## **CONTINUED EFFORTS TO EMPOWER COMMUNITY**

24. I am also heartened by ZIMPLATS' ongoing empowerment programme which my government approved two years ago. The programme aligns with Government's strategic and policy direction

on community empowerment to effectively uplift rural communities. It rests on three pillars namely local enterprise development (LEDs), rural industrialization and import substitution, and community social investment. This is based on supporting national efforts for rural industrialization and local enterprise development. To this end, the LEDs programme has incubated 23 small and medium enterprises engaged in manufacturing, provision of engineering and other services.

25. Ladies and gentlemen, I am informed that ZIMPLATS has also invested in 5 associate companies where ZIMPLATS Mhondoro-Ngezi, Chegutu, Zvimba Community Share Ownership Trust (CSOT) has shareholding. These initiatives are aimed at creating sustainable and empowered community and I am happy to hear that the community

## **CONCLUSION**

26. As we commission these projects today, I would like to take this opportunity to thank ZIMPLATS for its unwavering dedication to Zimbabwe's economic growth and development. Your contribution not only strengthens Zimbabwe's position as a leading

producer of platinum but also demonstrates that, together, we can create a brighter and more sustainable future for our country.

27. The commissioning of the 38MW smelter and the 35MW solar plant is not just an achievement for ZIMPLATS but for Zimbabwe as a whole. These projects embody the vision of an industrialized Zimbabwe, powered by sustainable energy, where communities thrive, jobs are created, and skills are transferred.

28. To the men and women of ZIMPLATS who have worked tirelessly on these projects, I extend my deepest gratitude. You have set an example for all of us, and I look forward to seeing the continued growth and success of this company, as well as the lasting positive impact on our nation.

29. Let us continue to work together to build Zimbabwe into a prosperous, energy-secure, and environmentally sustainable country for generations to come.

30. I now have the honor of declaring the 38MW smelter and the 35MW solar plant at ZIMPLATS' Selous Metallurgical Complex officially commissioned.

**THANK YOU, GOD BLESS ZIMBABWE!**