



ZIMBABWE

**WELCOME REMARKS BY THE MINISTER OF STATE OF
MASHONALAND WEST PROVINCE,
HON. M. CHOMBO,
AT THE OFFICIAL COMMISSIONING
OF THE ZIMBABWE PLATINUM MINES, THE FIRST PHASE
OF THE 185MW SOLAR PROJECT AND THE EXPANDED
SMELTER
NGEZI, MASHONALAND WEST**

23 JULY 2025

1. It is with immense pleasure and a profound sense of pride that I extend a warm and heartfelt welcome to each and every one of you to Mashonaland West Province. We are particularly delighted to host this significant commissioning ceremony at the Selous Metallurgical Complex.
2. Today marks a momentous occasion, a powerful testament to the transformative power of collaboration and strategic investment in both our province and our nation. The commissioning of the Smelter Expansion and Phase 1A Solar Plant at ZIMPLATS is a significant milestone that resonates deeply within the heart of Mashonaland West.
3. The ZIMPLATS Expansion Project, which has brought us here today, is a crucial milestone in achieving the Human Capital Development, Value Chains, and Structural Transformation goals espoused in the National Development Strategy 1 (NDS1). It is through the diligent efforts of the Ministry of Mines and Mining Development that we are witnessing its successful implementation within the mining sector.

4. As the Minister of State for this province, I am particularly delighted to witness such impactful projects taking root in our very soil. These initiatives represent far more than mere industrial expansion; they symbolize the tangible growth and prosperity that we are diligently striving to cultivate for our people. They are a clear and compelling demonstration of the immense potential that lies within Mashonaland West, a province richly endowed with resources and brimming with promise.
5. We are immensely proud to hail from a province that boasts significant gold deposits and other key minerals, including Platinum Group Metals, Copper, Nickel, Chrome, and a diverse range of other valuable resources. It is from this rich mineral basket that we are confident the mining sector's ambitious targets will be achieved.
6. The strategic investments made by ZIMPLATS are generating invaluable employment opportunities for our local communities, fostering crucial skills development, and driving robust economic growth throughout our province. The company's unwavering commitment to community engagement, evidenced by the provision of essential resources and the development of vital infrastructure, is

truly commendable and aligns perfectly with our provincial development goals.

7. The Solar Plant, in particular, stands as a radiant beacon of progress, showcasing our unwavering commitment to sustainable energy practices and environmental stewardship. It is a source of immense pride for Mashonaland West, and we are deeply grateful for ZIMPLATS' dedication to pioneering clean energy solutions.
8. Today's commissioning ceremony is a vibrant celebration of progress, strategic partnership, and shared prosperity. We are deeply honored to have with us our esteemed Guest of Honor, His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Zimbabwe, whose visionary leadership has made this remarkable day possible. We are also honored to welcome our Vice Presidents, Ministers, and other distinguished guests.
9. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to ZIMPLATS for their unwavering commitment to the development of our province and our nation. We eagerly anticipate a continued and strengthened partnership that will

bring further development and lasting prosperity to Mashonaland West.

10. On behalf of the people of Mashonaland West, I extend a warm and sincere welcome to each and every one of you, and I wish you a successful and truly memorable event.

I THANK YOU