



GOVERNMENT OF ZIMBABWE

**REPUBLIC OF ZIMBABWE COUNTRY REPORT ON PROGRESS IN
THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW URBAN AGENDA (NUA) IN
THE CONTEXT OF THE COUNTRY'S VISION 2030.**

-----2022-----



Republic of Zimbabwe



“Towards a Prosperous &
Empowered Upper Middle
Income Society by 2030”



NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY 1

January 2021 – December 2025



16 NOVEMBER 2020
HARARE

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Foreword by the Minister of National Housing and Social Amenities



Hon. D. Garwe (MP)

The New Urban Agenda (NUA) was adopted at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat 111) in Ecuador and adopted by the United Nations General Assembly. It represents a shared vision for a better and more sustainable future. The New Urban Agenda focuses on the nexus between sustainable urbanization and job creation, livelihood opportunities and improved quality of life. It is premised on incorporation of all these sectors in every Urban Development or renewal policy strategy.

Zimbabwe as one of the developing countries, has embarked on various efforts to address the shared vision for a better and more sustainable future. The Country's Vision 2030 and the New Urban Agenda are intertwined towards the achievement of sustainable urbanization, job creation, livelihood opportunities and improved quality of life. This is evident in the Vision 2030, which is, "Towards a prosperous and empowered upper middle income economy by year 2030".

Inclusive development is the major thrust in the nexus between NUA and the country's vision 2030. In an effort to promote NUA, Zimbabwe is implementing the Human Settlements policy which promotes social inclusion in settlements development. The enactment of settlement related functions, provision of services and the financing of settlements activities adheres to the Constitution in regards to equality of men and women, the rights of older persons, youths, children and persons with disabilities. As such the policy is sensitive to cross-cutting issues which include gender, youths, disability and child protection among others.

The implementation of Vision 2030 is guided by fourteen priority areas assigned to different Ministries, departments and agencies in a holistic approach (whole of government) so as to achieve the country's vision and the New Urban Agenda. Despite frantic efforts to promote the NUA, setbacks in the form of COVID 19 have hindered the progress made. However, to a larger extent the progress realized thus far outweighs the drawbacks. As a Ministry we will continue to proffer solutions that address the challenges posed by urbanization in as far as human settlements development. In the same vein, collaborative efforts are critical in order to promote sustainable settlements in Zimbabwe.

Honourable Daniel Garwe (MP)
MINISTER OF NATIONAL AND SOCIAL AMENITIES

Preamble by the Secretary for National Housing and Social Amenities



Eng. J.P. Makumbe

Zimbabwe is working towards the attainment of Vision 2030, “Towards an Empowered and Prosperous Upper Middle Income Society by 2030” which is based on the principle of “leaving no one and no place behind”. Additionally the country has adopted the New Urban Agenda (NUA) which presents a paradigm shift. Cities are the arena for addressing many of the global challenges of today, ranging from extreme poverty, unemployment to environmental degradation.

Urbanization provides a tremendous opportunity and is one of the most important tools to guide the sustainable development agenda forward; however, if unplanned and poorly managed, urbanization also has the potential to exacerbate many of the problems that it claims to solve.

Poorly planned or unplanned urbanization has resulted in economic disorder, congestion and environmental degradation, as well as increases in slums and sprawl (UN-Habitat 2016).

Zimbabwe's colonial history explains why its main urban centres are in areas poorly connected to sparsely populated hinterlands. They were set up as 'heartlands' of commercial farming and mining. Post-independence rural and urban development prioritized rural areas to ensure access to improved services for the black majority. The country's population is 32% urban. Limited performance of Municipal Budgets has resulted in serious infrastructure and service backlogs.

There is need to develop both rural and urban areas. In both service delivery is key and both settlements play a key role in economic growth and attainment of Vision 2030 mantra of leaving no one and no place behind. Under the Second Republic these issues are being addressed through provision of the requisite infrastructure though the country grapples with sanctions and Covid-19.

Government under the Second Republic has undertaken the construction of Kunzwi-Musami and Gwai-Shangani dams to address water provision in the two biggest cities in the country Harare and Bulawayo. Additionally Bindura dam, Chivhu dam and Semwa dam will also be constructed.

Urban Regeneration Programs nationwide which are being carried out nationwide in Harare (Mbare), Mutare (Sakubva) and in Bulawayo (Cowdray Park).

Regularization Programs in Harare (Caledonia, Harare North and Harare South), Bulawayo (Cowdray Park) and Mutare (Gimboki) to address the infrastructure gaps in informal settlements.

Emergency Road Rehabilitation Program which is set to create about 20000 jobs and under which this year 840 km of road will be rehabilitated and reconstructed, 8340 km of road will be re-graveled and 17093km of road regraded.

Presidential Borehole Drilling Scheme seeks to provide clean water to urban areas with Harare and Chitungwiza expected to get over 200 solar-powered boreholes while Marondera will have 20 in a continuing effort by Government to address gaps in infrastructural provision in urban areas.

UN Habitat predicts that by 2035, the majority of the world's population will live in metropolitan areas. The New Urban Agenda works as an accelerator of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 11– Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

The country's settlements face unique challenges and opportunities with varying growth trajectories. The functions each settlement performs are enduring in how they shape growth and development yet not enough has been invested in terms of local-national spatial and economic planning to articulate and facilitate these comparative advantages.

The New Urban Agenda, NDS1, the Zimbabwe National Human Settlements Policy and Vision 2030 provide the necessary framework to deal with the myriad of challenges including urban sprawl, environmental degradation to ensure sustainability.

Engineer J. Makumbe
Secretary for National Housing and Social Amenities

Executive Summary

The Republic of Zimbabwe, as represented by the Ministry of National Housing and Social Amenities on human settlements issues, fully subscribes to the dictates of the New Urban Agenda (NUA) and has made significant strides in trying to achieve the agreed targets and milestones. However, it goes without say that the country has also faced a myriad of challenges in implementing the NUA. The programmes being implemented have been trying to be as inclusive as possible.

From the Republic of Zimbabwe's perspective, the milestones achieved in the implementation of the NUA cannot be discussed in isolation from the Country's Vision 2030. The ushering in of the New Dispensation in November 2017, which marked the dawn of a new era in Zimbabwe's political realm since independence in April of 1980 came at a time when the country's economy was taking a nosedive, poverty levels were at an all-time high, unemployment rate was ballooning every day and punctuated by an unpredictable and unstable macro-economic environment.

The realisation of Vision 2030 will depend on the actions and measures that undertaken through Short and Medium-Term National Development Plans as Government, private sector, cooperating partners, civil society and as individuals. This indicates Government's commitment to active stakeholder participation underpinned by robust stakeholder consultation in decision making.

However, it goes without say that, the country has had a fair share of its own challenges in implementing the same. Chief among them are the economic sanctions imposed on the country at the turn of the new millennium and the COVID-19 pandemic which ravaged the whole world.

The NDS 1 targets to deliver 220,000 housing units by 2025. As of December 2020, 49,870 houses were constructed countrywide. This figure was achieved by the whole sector, not just Government initiatives. There were 37,403 new stands serviced under the site and service schemes, implemented by various agencies sector wide as well, where individual beneficiaries would build their own houses incrementally depending on affordability levels.

As of December 2020, the percentage of households with access to safe and clean water stood at 77.5%, while the percentage households with access to sanitation and hygiene facilities was at 71.6%. There is an ongoing Presidential borehole drilling scheme in the major urban areas, with Chitungwiza having already benefited.

The Presidential Borehole Drilling scheme seeks to provide clean water to urban areas with Harare and Chitungwiza expected to get over 200 solar-powered boreholes while Marondera will have 20. This underscores Government's commitment to the use of renewable energy and the need for sustainable urban development.

Government successfully launched the new Zimbabwe National Human Settlements Policy (ZNHSP) in September 2021. Implementation of same has begun in earnest. Of note in this policy are sections densification, regularisation of informal settlements; allocation of housing goods and services; land access and tenure and social inclusion.

Zimbabwe is an agro-based economy and land is a finite resource. In order to maximise on vertical space utilisation, the Policy directs that 40% of all housing land be reserved for construction of high rise blocks of flats. All new layout plans are not approved without observing this provision.

Government has set the tone by constructing blocks of flats, such as 4x3 storey blocks in Dzivarasekwa(Harare) , 4 x 4 storey blocks in Dombotombo (Marondera), 7 x 4 storey blocks in Senga (Gweru) . In addition, Government is also servicing high density stands for low cost housing, such as Kasese (Kariba) 1449 high density stands, Empumalanga West (Hwange), 2300 high density stands and Crownlands (Chinhoyi) 999 high to medium density stands. This is over and above what the private sector is bringing to the table as well, especially banks and building societies.

Most of the manufacturing activities are concentrated in urban areas. During the Old Dispensation's time, most industries were either shutting down or scaling down their operations. However, with the advent of the New Dispensation, some reopened their doors and expanded capacity.

Climate change is the elephant in the room, not only in Zimbabwe, but the world over. In recent years, Zimbabwe has experienced a lot of climate related disasters, such as Tropical Cyclones – Eline, Japhet, Dineo, Idai. This often resulted in flooding and loss of lives, increased water borne diseases, destruction of social and economic infrastructure. There were also droughts and prolonged intra-seasonal dry spells which resulted in increased malnutrition, loss of incomes and livelihoods and reduced hydroelectric power generation especially from Kariba Dam.

Acronyms

COVID-19	Coronavirus
ERRP	Enhanced Road Rehabilitation Programme
ERRP II	Emergency Roads Rehabilitation Programme Phase 2
MSME	Macro Small and Medium Enterprises
MWACSMED	Ministry of Women Affairs, Community, Small and Medium Enterprise Development
NDS	National Development Strategy
NUA	New Urban Agenda
SMTNDP	Short and Medium-Term National Development Plans
TSP	Transitional Stabilisation Programme
ZISCO	Zimbabwe Iron and Steel Company
ZNHSP	Zimbabwe National Human Settlements Policy
ZUPCO	Zimbabwe United Passengers Company

Introduction

The Republic of Zimbabwe, as represented by the Ministry of National Housing and Social Amenities on human settlements issues, fully subscribes to the dictates of the New Urban Agenda (NUA) and has made significant strides in trying to achieve the agreed targets and milestones. However, it goes without saying that the country has also faced a myriad of challenges in implementing the NUA. The programmes being implemented have been as inclusive as possible.

The Nexus between the New Urban Agenda and the Country's Vision 2030

From the Republic of Zimbabwe's perspective, the milestones achieved in the implementation of the NUA cannot be discussed in isolation from the Country's Vision 2030. The ushering in of the New Dispensation in November 2017, which marked the dawn of a new era in Zimbabwe's political realm since independence in April of 1980, came at a time when the country's economy was taking a nosedive. The poverty levels were at an all-time high, unemployment rate was ballooning every day, punctuated by an unpredictable and unstable macro-economic environment.

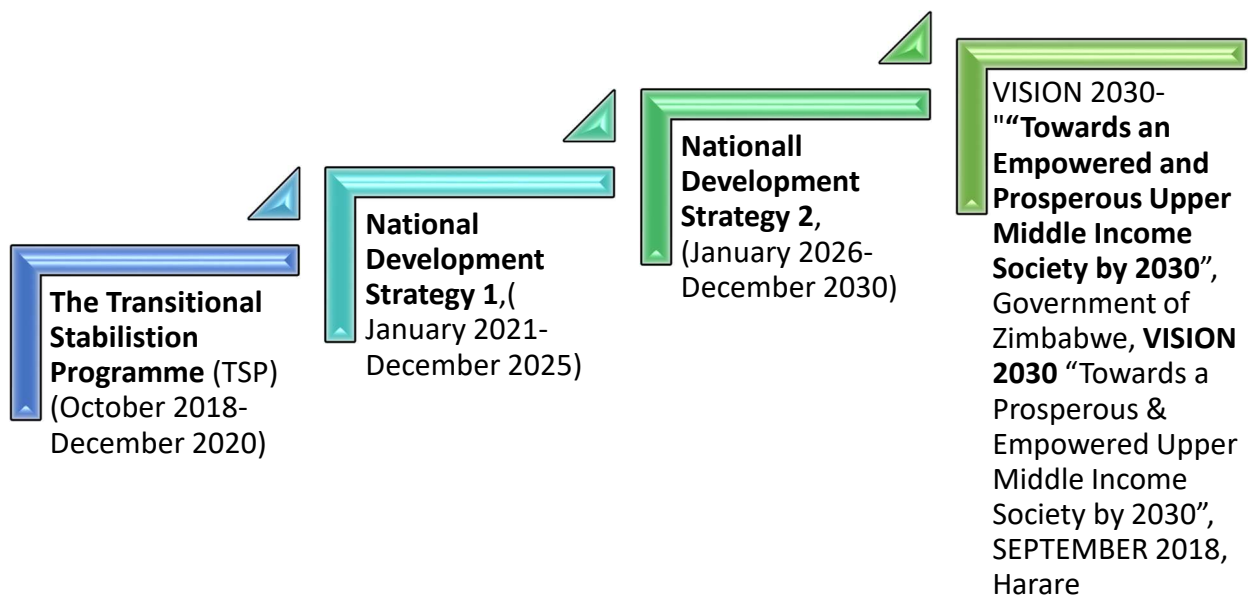
The country is currently driving towards Vision 2030, whose goal is moving **“Towards an Empowered and Prosperous Upper Middle Income Society by 2030¹”**, as pronounced by His Excellency, The President of the Republic of Zimbabwe, Comrade Doctor Emmerson Dambudzo Mnangagwa in September 2018. It reflects the collective aspirations and determination of the people of Zimbabwe. The realisation of Vision 2030 will depend on the actions and measures undertaken through Short and Medium-Term National Development Plans as Government, private sector, cooperating partners, civil society and as

¹ Government of Zimbabwe, **VISION 2030** “Towards a Prosperous & Empowered Upper Middle Income Society by 2030”, SEPTEMBER 2018, Harare

individuals². This indicates Government’s commitment to active stakeholder participation underpinned by robust stakeholder consultation in decision making.

The roadmap to Vision 2030 can be presented as shown in Figure 1 below.

Figure 1: Road map to Vision 2030



Source: Adapted from the 2021 Pre-Budget Strategy Paper

The short-term policy was the Transitional Stabilisation Programme (TSP), (October 2018 to December 2020) which was aimed at macro-economic stabilisation as a foundation for sustainable and strong shared growth. This resonates well with the New Urban Agenda’s efforts on sustainable prosperity and opportunities for all, thereby ending poverty. A raft of austerity measures were introduced which among others saw,

“The implementation of bold and fundamental fiscal and monetary policy measures which were supported by structural and governance reforms.”

² Ibid

Housing was not spared in these reforms. They also touched on key aspects of the Zimbabwean economy such as agriculture, tourism, mining and manufacturing, thereby directly addressing Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 11, 13 and 17. In terms of success, the TSP managed to contain the twin fiscal and current account deficits which watered instability in the economy during the Old Dispensation era. The containment of the fiscal and current account deficits entailed that more resources would be channelled towards addressing housing shortages in Zimbabwe and the attendant social amenities infrastructure such as water, sanitation, and energy among others.

“is an ambitious action plan that seeks to address bottlenecks facing the country, manage risks and exploit emerging opportunities that will transform lives in pursuit of the Nation’s Vision of a Prosperous and Empowered Upper Middle Income Society by 2030”³

The Strategy document is anchored on 14 National Priority Areas which are aligned to the New Urban Agenda’s three transformative commitments, that is;

- i. Sustainable Urban Development for Social Inclusion and Ending Poverty
- ii. Sustainable and inclusive urban prosperity and opportunities for all, and;
- iii. Environmentally sustainable and resilient Urban Development

According to the NDS1, 2019, the 14 National Priority Areas are as follows⁴;

- i. Economic Growth and Stability;
- ii. Food Security and Nutrition;
- iii. Moving the Economy up the value chain and structural transformation;
- iv. Infrastructure and utilities;
- v. Digital economy;
- vi. Housing delivery;

³ Government of Zimbabwe, National Development Strategy 1 Programmes and Projects Investment Plan, November 2021.

⁴ Government of Zimbabwe, National Development Strategy 1, “Towards a Prosperous & Empowered Upper Middle Income Society by 2030”, January 2021 – December 2025, launched on 16 November 2020

- vii. Human capital development and innovation;
- viii. Health and wellbeing;
- ix. Image building, international engagement and re-engagement;
- x. Devolution and decentralisation;
- xi. Youth sports and culture
- xii. Social protection
- xiii. Environmental protection, climate resilience and natural resources management, and;
- xiv. Governance.

These National Priority Areas have been assigned to specific lead agencies, working with other line ministries, departments, agencies and other relevant stakeholders who constitute the respective Thematic Working Groups, to try and break the silo mentality and promote seamless efforts for sustainable economic development and ending poverty. Once the economy is stable, even sustainable urban development is inevitable, with its knock-on effects being realised in all spheres of the economy.

However, it goes without say that, the country has had a fair share of its own challenges in implementing the same. Chief among them being the economic sanctions imposed on the country at the turn of the new millennium and the COVID-19 pandemic which ravaged the whole world.

Transformative commitments

As the country ascends the Vision 2030 trajectory, its endeavours have attended to the bulk of the transformative commitments of the New Urban Agenda.

COVID-19 Pandemic

Of particular significance to note is Zimbabwe's response to the COVID-19 pandemic that was first recorded in the country in 2020. As at 11 April 2022, the country's cumulative cases stood at 247,010 with 240,496 recoveries and 5,460 deaths⁵. This, therefore, gives a recovery rate of 97%. On the same note, as for the national vaccination programme, a total of 5,730,327 first doses were administered as at 11 April 2022, while 3,597,602 people had received their second doses and 539,837 received their third doses of the vaccine. The country remains on guard and monitoring the situation closely.

Sustainable Urban Development for Social Inclusion and Ending Poverty

Constitutional provisions on Shelter

The Constitution of Zimbabwe recognises shelter as a basic human right. It states that;

“The State and all institutions and agencies of government at every level must take reasonable legislative and other measures, within the limits of the resources available to them, to enable every person to have access to adequate shelter⁶”

Housing delivery as a National Priority Area

The NDS 1 targets to deliver 220,000 housing units by 2025. As of December 2020, 49,870 houses were constructed countrywide⁷. This figure was achieved by the whole sector, and not just Government initiatives. There were 37,403 new stands serviced under the site and service schemes, implemented by various agencies sector wide, where individual beneficiaries built their own houses incrementally depending on affordability levels. Access to ancillary

⁵ Government of Zimbabwe, 8th Post Cabinet Press Statement, 12th April 2022.

⁶ Government of Zimbabwe, Constitution of Zimbabwe Amendment (No.20) 2013

⁷ Ministry of National Housing and Social Amenities, Monitoring and Evaluation Framework, 2021

social amenities is incorporated in the design to ensure open areas and playing grounds for relaxation are incorporated in the planning as well as schools to ensure children do not have to travel long distances for schooling.

Settlements are using more of green energy through use of solar energy for water heating and lighting. Statutory Instrument 235 of 2019 on Electricity Regulations has banned the use of electric geysers and made it mandatory for all houses to install solar geysers.



Source: Ministry of National Housing and Social Amenities archives. His Excellency Cde Dr E.D. Mnangagwa Commissioning Marimba Flats



His Excellency Cde Dr E.D. Mhangagwa handing over house keys to a beneficiary (teacher) during the Commissioning of Beitbridge houses.



Source: Ministry of National Housing and Social Amenities archives. His Excellency Cde Dr E.D. Mhangagwa Commissioning of Beitbridge houses.

Access to water and sanitation

As of December 2020, the percentage of households with access to safe and clean water stood at 77.5%, while the percentage households with access to sanitation and hygiene facilities was at 71.6%⁸. There is an ongoing Presidential borehole drilling scheme in the major urban areas, with Chitungwiza having already benefited. The picture below shows part of the borehole drilling works happening in St. Mary's suburb in Chitungwiza. The Presidential Borehole Drilling scheme seeks to provide clean water to urban areas with Harare and Chitungwiza expected to get over 200 solar-powered boreholes while Marondera will have 20⁹. This underscores Government's commitment to the use of renewable energy and the need for sustainable urban development. District Development Fund has a project that includes the digging of at least 35 000 boreholes, one for each community, with larger villages receiving two, to increase access to water and sanitation



Source: The Herald, 8 March 2022.

⁸ Ibid

⁹ <https://www.herald.co.zw/presidential-borehole-drilling-scheme-begins/>

Zimbabwe National Human Settlements Policy

Government successfully launched the new Zimbabwe National Human Settlements Policy (ZNHSP) in September 2021. Implementation of same has begun in earnest. Of note in this policy are sections on densification; regularisation of informal settlements; allocation of housing goods and services; land access and tenure and social inclusion.



Source: Ministry of National Housing and Social Amenities archives. His Excellency Cde Dr E.D. Mnangagwa Launching the Human Settlements Policy in Harare.

Densification

Zimbabwe is an agro-based economy and land is a finite resource. In order to maximise on vertical space utilisation, the Policy directs that 40% of all housing land be reserved for construction of high rise blocks of flats. All new layout plans are not approved without observing this provision.

Government has set the tone by constructing blocks of flats, such as 4x3 storey blocks in Dzivarasekwa (Harare), 4 x 4 storey blocks in Dombotombo (Marondera), 7 x 4 storey blocks in Senga (Gweru). In addition, Government is also servicing high density stands for low cost housing, such as Kasese (Kariba) 1449 high density stands, Empumalanga West (Hwange), 2300 high density stands and Crownlands (Chinhoyi) 999 high to medium density stands. This is over and above what the private sector is bringing to the table, especially banks and building societies.



Source: Ministry of National Housing and Social Amenities archives.
Dzivarasekwa (Harare): construction of 4 blocks of 2 bedroomed flats



Source: Ministry of National Housing and Social Amenities archives:
Construction of 4 x 4 storey blocks of flats in Marondera by the Ministry of
National Housing and Social Amenities



Source: Ministry of National Housing and Social Amenities archives.
Construction of 7 x 4 storey blocks of flats in Senga, Gweru by the Ministry of
National Housing and Social Amenities

Regularisation of informal settlements

The Policy reiterates Government's commitment to regularisation of informal settlements which house the majority of the poor community in this country. Displacements with negotiated alternatives will be a last resort and in all instances, conducted in adherence with the Constitution and other relevant laws. Section 74 of the Constitution states that; *"No person may be evicted from their home, or have their home demolished, without an order of court made after considering all relevant circumstances¹⁰".*

Allocation of goods and services

The Policy directs that allocation of housing goods and services funded by Government and local authorities will reserve 10% respectively to women, persons with disabilities, youths, and public servants, based on affordability.

Land access and tenure

It is stated that a clear and defensible tenure rights need to be defined for all land categories nationally and mechanisms for generating security of tenure set up. Even those residing in informal settlements, once regularisation is completed, title deeds will be issued.

Social inclusion

The Policy is alive to the sensitive and cross-cutting issues such as gender, youths, disability and child protection, among others. Pursuant to that, it highlights the significance of adopting universal design principles and good practices. Land will also be set aside for the construction of social institutions such as orphanages and old people's homes.

¹⁰ Government of Zimbabwe, Constitution of Zimbabwe Amendment (No.20) 2013

Economic growth and its relationship to sustainable urban development and ending poverty

According to the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, the national growth domestic product growth for 2021 was projected at 7.8%, and this projection was achieved¹¹. It is mainly attributed to the conducive 2021 agricultural season, higher international mineral commodities' prices, a general stable macroeconomic environment that enabled the domestication of some value chain, and better management of the COVID-19 pandemic¹². However, the projections cover the whole nation, and not only the urban areas as is the thrust of the NUA. Zimbabwe is composed of both urban and rural areas, with 65% of the population found in rural areas, while 35% is urban population. This growth managed to reduce the divide between the have and the have not in both urban and rural areas.

Table 1 below summarises the macroeconomic framework with projections running up to 2024.

Table 1: Macroeconomic Framework: 2020-2024

Macroeconomic Framework: 2020-2024					
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Real GDP Growth (%)	-5.3	7.8	5.5	5.2	5.2
Formal employment (000)	806.7	963.2	1095.7	1239	1398.9
% of People in Extreme Poverty	61.2	28.2	18.4	12.4	8.4

Source: Extracted from the 2022 National Budget Statement

¹¹

http://www.zimtreasury.gov.zw/index.php?option=com_phocadownload&view=category&id=67&Itemid=793

¹² Government of Zimbabwe, 8th Post Cabinet Press Statement, 12th April 2022

Transport system enhancement

Given the achievement of the 7.8% national GDP growth, Government is undertaking various road rehabilitation and development projects across the country to reduce the cost of doing business¹³ was in a position to realise a surplus which was channelled towards enhanced revamping of the urban areas through the Enhanced Road Rehabilitation Programme (ERRP) Phase I and II. This saw the refurbishment of all the country's major roads in both urban and rural areas. Some of the key successes included Seke road; 250km Harare-Beitbridge Road, 6.5km Makuti-Hellsgate Road, Emergency Roads Rehabilitation Programme Phase II (ERRP II) and Mbudzi Inter-change.

In terms of the public transport system, Government revitalised the Zimbabwe United Passengers Company (ZUPCO), a parastatal which is providing public transport in both urban and rural areas. Since January 2019, Government has continuously rebuilt the ZUPCO fleet, with 432 new buses added to the fleet in just over two years¹⁴. The picture below shows the President of the Republic of Zimbabwe, Cde. Dr E.D. Mnangagwa commissioning 115 new ZUPCO buses on the 10th of February 2022 in Harare.

¹³ Honourable Pro. Mthuli Ncube, Minister of Finance and Economic Development, 2022 National Budget Statement

¹⁴ <https://www.herald.co.zw/115-more-zupco-buses-commissioned/>



Source: The Herald (11 February 2022)

Food and nutrition security as a conduit to ending poverty

The 2020/2021 cropping season was the most productive season which went a long way in reducing poverty. Even urban agriculture was booming during this season. Maize is the staple food in Zimbabwe. A total of 2,717,171 metric tonnes of maize was produced in the 2020/2021 season against the national requirement of 2.2 million metric tonnes¹⁵. Even beef production stood at 79% against a national target of 40%. In the end, there was a positive variance of 33%.

Sustainable and Inclusive Urban Prosperity and opportunities for all

Urban economy

Most of the manufacturing activities are concentrated in urban areas. During the Old Dispensation's time, most industries were either shutting down or scaling

¹⁵ Government of Zimbabwe, 8th Post Cabinet Press Statement, 12th April 2022

down their operations. However, with the advent of the New Dispensation, some reopened their doors and expanded capacity. Even the mining towns are also experiencing a breadth of fresh air as the Government is on a drive to resuscitate all the hitherto closed mines and industries such as Zimbabwe Iron and Steel Company (ZISCO), Jena Mine, Freda Rebecca Gold mine among others.

Adoption of Education 5.0 and Introduction of innovation hubs

The country's higher education in Zimbabwe is now anchored on five pillars, which they are calling Education 5.0. That is, teaching, research, community engagement, innovation, and industrialization¹⁶. The objective is to narrow down the gap between skills that are currently available and those in deficit. This is a departure from the previous system, which was shaped to undertake only teaching, research and community engagement. In order to operationalise the Education 5.0, the Ministry of Higher and Tertiary Education, Science and Technology Development has embarked on an ambitious programme to set up innovation hubs at six state universities¹⁷. The six universities are the National University of Science and Technology, Midlands State University, University of Zimbabwe, Harare Institute of Technology, Zimbabwe Defence University and the Chinhoyi University of Technology. His Excellency, Cde. Dr. E.D. Mnangagwa, intimated that these innovation hubs at universities and colleges will revolutionise the education system by making tertiary centres vehicles for finding solutions to Zimbabwe's challenges and spurring economic growth in line with the Second Republic's Vision 2030.

¹⁶ <https://www.aripo.org/success-stories/zimbabwe-embarks-on-a-programme-to-set-up-innovation-hubs-at-its-universities/>

¹⁷ Ibid

Promotion of Macro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) and the Informal economy

Zimbabwe has a whole ministry responsible for macro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), that is, the Ministry of Women Affairs, Community, Small and Medium Enterprise Development. The mandate is to promote and recognise the efforts of these enterprises and other informal undertakings. There are also various civil society watchdogs such as the Small and Medium Enterprise Association of Zimbabwe. The Small and Medium Enterprise Development Corporation is the Government's foot soldier in promoting MSMEs. Construction of settlements has taken a new design where factory shells or working spaces are incorporated within the settlements to enhance access to working areas from the areas of residence.

Environmentally Sustainable and Resilient Urban Development

Climate change is the elephant in the room, not only in Zimbabwe, but the world over. In recent years, Zimbabwe has experienced a lot of climate related disasters, such as Tropical Cyclones – Eline, Japhet, Dineo, Idai. This often resulted in flooding and loss of lives, increased water borne diseases, and destruction of social and economic infrastructure. There were also droughts and prolonged intra-seasonal dry spells which resulted in increased malnutrition, loss of incomes and livelihoods and reduced hydroelectric power generation especially from Kariba Dam.

Housing architecture in flood prone areas has taken into cognisance materials and structural shapes that are resilient in the face of future floods that might occur. There has been more use of green technologies for heating, cooling and lighting.



Source: Pictures courtesy of Ministry of Environment, Climate, Tourism and Hospitality Industry

Conclusion

As a conclusion, it is apparent that Zimbabwe has made some tremendous strides in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda albeit all the challenges. Efforts are still being pursued in order to improve the quality of life in both rural and urban areas. Climate change has had a fair share of its devastating effects causing loss of lives, livelihoods and destruction of infrastructure and the environment.

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