

SPEECH BY

MR. THOMAS ZONDO SAKALA

**THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF THE
INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT BANK OF
ZIMBABWE**

**ON THE OCCASION OF THE COMMISSIONING OF
THE IDBZ BULAWAYO REGIONAL OFFICE**

2 JULY 2018

1. I recognize the presence of:

- Mr. W.L. Manungo, PS, Chairman of IDBZ Board & representing the Minister of Finance and Economic Development, Hon. P. A. Chinamasa;
- The Honourable Minister of State for Provincial Affairs for Bulawayo Province, Cde Angeline Masuku, here represented by Ms. Pamela Phuthi;
- His Worship, the Mayor of Bulawayo, Alderman Martin Moyo;
- The Town Clerk for Bulawayo City, Cde. Christopher Dube;
- Mrs. Nomathemba Ndhlovu, General Manager, ZITF;
- His Worship, the Mayor of Masvingo, Alderman Fidze
- Senior Government officials here present;
- IDBZ Board Members here present;
- Members of the Press and Civil Society;
- Management and Staff of the IDBZ here present;
- Distinguished Guests;
- Ladies and Gentlemen

- 2 Let me welcome you all to our new Bulawayo Regional Office which is being commissioned today.

As you can all see the offices are good. Quite magnificent! A well-deserved “Thank You” to our highly qualified Architects (MTI Architects), Consulting Engineers (ARUP Engineers), Quantity Surveyors (Beeque Quantity Surveyors), Contractors (Actual Construction/Mkwanazi, a local firm who won the contract following an open competitive tender), and Staff of IDBZ.



- 3 This is now our representative office in the West & Southern Regions of the country covering all Matabeleland Provinces; and parts of the Midlands and

Masvingo Provinces. I kindly call upon all the Stakeholders to take advantage of this strategically located Office. This Office stands as a bold symbol of our commitment to further deepen the dialogue, partnerships and development work with all Stakeholders throughout the infrastructure, environment and climate change value chains. These, as you are all aware, are the mandate areas for the Bank.

I have urged our Staff to ensure that as they interact with the Public they will go away with a strong impression of the Bank's core values in action – **integrity, professionalism, innovation, service orientation, sustainability, & knowledge generation and sharing.** Furthermore, in recognition of our rich diversity, I have encouraged them to make efforts to learn - in addition to Ndebele, Shona and English - other languages spoken in the region such as Venda, Kalanga, Nambya, Tonga etc. When we recently advertised for the position of a Marketing Officer for Hwange Empumalanga Housing Project, the eligibility criteria included command of Ndebele and Nambya languages. We believe in the harmonious promotion of our diversity and, in the process, create conditions to better understand the communities we are serving.

- 4 **Let me now give a short background on this Office and associated benefits to be derived by the people from this region.**

- 5 We have been present in Bulawayo for several years. Up until today, we have been renting Offices at the First Mutual Life Building in the CBD. The rented premises were manned by a skeleton staff. This did not augur well with our mission of championing infrastructure development in this region. Hence the decision to have our own office that as you can see is big enough to accommodate significant number of employees who will be at your disposal in terms of service delivery. Already, I am happy to announce that the Bank has appointed a substantive Manager, Mr. Makwasha, who will represent the Bank's Management Team in the West & Southern Regions based in this Office. We are also recruiting additional Staff, including another Engineer; and a Librarian with strong IT skills to manage the Knowledge Centre.

- 6 Following the acquisition of this property we started the long journey of renovating the premises. First, we had to contend with a fairly lengthy process to get City approval. This was followed by about 8 months to upgrade the structure that was here into a modern office block that you are seeing today. The premises now comprise 9 modern

offices, a boardroom, 2 committee rooms, 2 entrances **(including a provision for the disabled)**, a reception area, kitchen area, 6 restrooms and a Knowledge Centre.

The Knowledge Centre comprises information on Bank and Govt operations in the Infrastructure, Environment and Climate Change sectors; virtual library and archival space. Registered Members of the Public such as Students, Researchers, CSOs, Business People, Investors, etc, will have free Wi-Fi access on our premises, including online journals to which the Bank will have taken subscriptions.

- 7 The Bank invested more than half a million USD to acquire and upgrade the premises. However, we strongly believe that this investment will be outweighed by benefits such as improved efficiency in the identification, design, implementation and monitoring of several infrastructure projects, including Public Sector Investment Projects (PSIP) whose funds we are requested to manage by Treasury. Some of the projects that are in the Bank's Pipeline and at various stages of design and implementation include:

- The Empumalanga West Housing Project in Hwange:
- The University Students and Staff Accommodation (USSAP) projects in various urban centers such as Bulawayo, Zvishavane, Gwanda, Lupane etc.
- The recently launched Hwange Power Station Modernisation & Expansion Project
- Rooftop Solar Energy Projects – Bulawayo & Gweru
- Chiredzi Town Council Water and Wastewater Augmentation
- Bambanani Irrigation Scheme Rehabilitation (Ingwizi Dam) - Mangwe District
- Gwanda Spitzkop Housing Project
- Gwanda Doelfontein Housing
- M'tonjeni Housing Project - Zvishavane
- Plumtree Housing Project
- Killarney Medical Staff Accommodation Project, Bulawayo
- Lupane Students, Academic and Medical Staff Accommodation
- Gwayi-Shangani Dam
- Victoria Falls Water Project
- Mosi Tourism Development, Victoria Falls
- New Victoria Falls Bridge

- Kwe Kwe – Silobela – Nkayi – Lupane Road Upgrading
- 8 I call upon our new Bulawayo Branch Manager to ensure that all these projects, including new ones, are speedily brought to financial close and implementation. Him and the Staff based in Bulawayo should spare no efforts to build strong good working relationship with all key stakeholders in this region.
- 9 As I approach the conclusion of my remarks, let me share a few observations ... 1) we are excited by Government's declared intention to resuscitate Bulawayo's industrial base, including SEZ status. We anticipate many business opportunities for the Bank. Already, we have a property along Liverpool Street, close to CAFCA, which we are ready to rehabilitate and make available to interested manufacturers; 2) We own the Westbourne Block of Flats in the CBD. We are about to award the contract for the renovation of this property for use as a B & B Training Facility for the School of Hospitality; 3) there is an urgent need for all of us to improve our working habits - without compromising necessary standards & safeguards – and deliver timely service/approvals whenever we are called upon to do so. There are important lessons to learn from the rather disappointing experience to date with the Bulawayo Students' Accommodation Complex (BSAC). We are not aware of any University which accommodates

all its student population on campus. Yet it has been said, among other pushbacks, that building facilities for students off-campus is “sabotage to NUST”. This is a bizarre argument, especially when we consider the fact that the **BSAC** is for students from any of the tertiary institutions in Bulawayo.

- 10 In conclusion, allow me to thank all those who were involved in making this event a success. To this end, I am particularly grateful to the **IDBZ Board, Management and Staff** for showing their commitment in making this project a success.

- 11 Honourable Ministers, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, thank you, siyabonga, taboka, twalumba, for sparing time to be with us here this morning.