

A United World Within Reach:

President Mnangagwa's Clarion Call

Itai Mazire

In a world increasingly defined by division and uncertainty, President Dr Emmerson Mnangagwa has offered a hopeful and unifying vision of a global community built on trust, inclusion and a shared determination to leave no one behind.

As world leaders gather for the 81st Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), the President's mes-

sage comes at a critical moment. Under the theme, "Restoring trust, managing transformation: A United Nations that delivers for all," the gathering provides an opportunity to renew the commitment to multilateralism and chart a path towards a more connected and inclusive future.

For President Mnangagwa, trust must form the foundation of meaningful global progress.

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President Dr Emmerson Mnangagwa arriving in New York, United States, to join other world leaders for the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).

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A United World Within Reach: President Mnangagwa’s Clarion Call

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Arriving in New York on Friday, the President set the tone for Zimbabwe’s engagement, saying in a message posted on his official X account: “We cannot navigate the future without building trust first.”

The message comes as technology, particularly artificial intelligence (AI) and digital connectivity, continues to transform societies at an unprecedented pace.

However, with rapid technological advancement comes the responsibility to ensure that its benefits are accessible to all.

“Over the next week, I look forward to participating in high-level dialogues, bilateral meetings and community forums focused on how we can harness digital tools to protect online safety, close the global connectivity gap and ensure that AI delivers equitable opportunities for everyone, everywhere,” he said.

The vision points to a future in which technology becomes a bridge rather than a barrier — connecting communities, expanding opportunities and helping address inequalities between developed and developing nations.

Foreign Affairs and International Trade Minister Professor Amon Murwira highlighted the urgency of rebuilding

confidence in the multilateral system, warning that the fragmentation of multilateralism into unilateralism and competing blocs threatens the principles enshrined in the UN Charter.

“Once we don’t have trust in the United Nations, it leads to the pulverisation of the international order as we know it,” he said.

Against this backdrop, Zimbabwe’s election to a non-permanent seat on the UN Security Council for the 2027–2028 term represents a significant diplomatic development. Zimbabwe secured 182 of the 190 votes cast, representing 96 percent of the vote.

Professor Murwira described the result as evidence of international support for Zimbabwe’s diplomatic approach, anchored on the principle of being “a friend to all and an enemy to none.”

The Minister also called for reform of the United Nations to reflect the realities of the modern world.

“A United Nations that works for all is a United Nations that does not reflect 1945, but reflects 2026,” he said.

The call speaks to the broader debate over the representation and effectiveness of global institutions in responding to the challenges of the

21st century.

On September 24, President Mnangagwa is scheduled to address the General Assembly, where he is expected to present Zimbabwe’s perspectives on peace, development, multilateralism and a more representative international system.

He will also preside over the Zimbabwe Business Forum on the sidelines of UNGA, held under the theme “Global Challenges. Zimbabwean Solutions. Shared Prosperity.” The forum provides a platform to showcase Zimbabwean business and investment opportunities while engaging international stakeholders.

President Mnangagwa has summed up his vision for the week by saying: “The potential to build a more connected, resilient, and inclusive world has never been greater. Let’s get to work.”

The message is ultimately a call for renewed international cooperation at a time when the world faces complex challenges that increasingly cross national borders.

A more united world may remain an ambitious goal, but the pursuit of greater trust, inclusion and cooperation offers a practical starting point.

Mutapa Investment Fund’s Railway Gamble

Itai Mazire

For decades, the National Railways of Zimbabwe has been a symbol of national decay—freight volumes collapsing from 12 million tonnes in the 1990s to a mere 2 million tonnes in 2025. But under the stewardship of Dr John Mangudya, the Mutapa Investment Fund has decided that decline is not destiny. The proposed US\$115 million Afreximbank facility is not merely a loan negotiation; it is the clearest signal yet that Zimbabwe’s strategic assets are being repositioned for the future.

Dr Mangudya’s approach has been methodical and unapologetically commercial. Following NRZ’s strategic transfer into the Mutapa Investment Fund, the oversight model shifted toward “performance, commercial viability and wealth creation”. This is not the language of bureaucratic inertia. It is the language of an investor demanding returns. The Afreximbank facility—earmarked for 10 locomotives, 315 wagons, and critical infrastructure rehabilitation—is a direct product of that philosophy.

What makes this initiative credible is that it does not stand alone. Under Dr Mangudya’s direction, Mutapa has already facilitated the leasing of four Sheltam locomotives to relieve im-

mediate traction constraints. A US\$6 million Ecobank facility has been secured to refurbish 520 wagons. Three additional locomotives are being overhauled through a CBZ loan, expected in service by December 2026. These are not promises; they are transactions. And they signal to other financiers that NRZ is bankable again.

Dr Mangudya has been explicit about the fiscal reality. “The fiscal budget alone cannot shoulder the massive weight of infrastructure renewal and rolling stock overhaul,” he said, challenging other private sector players with bulk cargo to join the revitalisation journey. This is leadership that understands the constraints and is working within them—not waiting for a government bailout that will never come at the scale required.

The NRZ-Zimasco partnership, which saw the commissioning of three locomotives and 100 wagons, exemplifies the model. Private capital funds the overhaul of idle rolling stock in exchange for dedicated usage and incentivised freight rates. Zimasco gets reliable transport for its ferrochrome exports. NRZ gets immediate operational capacity without an immediate fiscal burden on the Treasury. It is, as Dr Mangudya described it, “a win-win model”.

Critics will note that US\$115 million is a fraction of the US\$600 million NRZ ultimately requires. They are correct. But Dr Mangudya’s strategy is not to solve everything at once. It is to build momentum. Engagement with China Railway International Group is underway to unlock the medium-to-long-term financing. The US\$10 million tripartite arrangement with Mozambique and Botswana for the Machipanda-Harare and Chicualacuala-Plumtree lines is already in motion. Each step makes the next one easier.

The stakes could not be higher. Zimbabwe’s mineral exports are expanding, yet most cargo still moves by road—expensive, damaging to infrastructure, and inefficient. Rail is the logical alternative. Every tonne shifted from truck to train reduces logistics costs, eases road maintenance burdens, and makes Zimbabwean exports more competitive. Dr Mangudya has positioned NRZ at the centre of that shift.

In a landscape often defined by scarcity and missed opportunities, the Mutapa Investment Fund under Dr Mangudya is demonstrating that strategic state assets can be revived through disciplined capital mobilisation and genuine partnership. The Afreximbank facility is not the finish line. But it is proof that the race has finally begun.

President Dr Emmerson Mnangagwa arriving in New York, United States, to join other world leaders for the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).



How Geo Pomona is set to transform Bulawayo's Ngozi Mine

Ngozi Mine, long regarded as one of Bulawayo's most intractable environmental hazards, is on the cusp of a historic transformation as the Government moves decisively to replicate the Geo Pomona waste management model at the beleaguered Richmond Landfill.

The directive from President Emmerson Mnangagwa, issued through Local Government and Public Works Minister Hon. Daniel Garwe, could not be more urgent.

For years, residents of Cowdray Park, Emakhandeni and Luveve have endured recurring fires, thick smoke and foul fumes from the landfill, with families forced to temporarily relocate relatives suffering from respiratory conditions when pollution peaked. In a decisive intervention delivered during a stakeholders meeting at Bulawayo City Hall, Hon. Garwe made the Government's position unequivocal, saying, "We came here with clear instructions from my principal that the Ngozi Mine situation is now of great concern to

the President and solutions must be provided now". The Minister did not mince words about the gravity of the situation. "In this beautiful City of Kings and Queens, we have had several meetings to replicate exactly what is happening in Harare in terms of waste collection and waste management, and we want to deliver value chain to all other cities, and we said our next station is the City of Bulawayo," he said. At the heart of the transformation is Geo Pomona's proven waste management model, which has already turned Harare's former Pomona dumpsite into a modern, integrated waste management facility.

That site now houses a waste processing plant, a water treatment plant, a sorting station and uniquely for the region, a restaurant and FIFA-certified football pitch. "We said if the ball is round, we have no reason to want to redesign it. It's already round. What we can only do is to play," said Minister Garwe, endorsing the model as a tried and tested

solution. Geo Pomona's executive chairman and Special Advisor to the President on Waste Management, Dr Dilesh Nguwaya, has committed the company to an immediate, professionally executed intervention once the Memorandum of Understanding with Bulawayo City Council is signed. The technical plan is comprehensive, waste mining to clear the accumulated refuse, followed by encapsulation using geomembrane and geotextile materials to contain odours and prevent further environmental contamination. "First, we want to undertake what we call waste mining, to remove all the waste that is there. We also want to carry out what we call encapsulation. We need to determine the quickest method of dealing with the situation," Dr Nguwaya explained. He added: "People are currently living in a dangerous environment and we will not allow this to continue. We need to protect both the people and the environment." The transformation is not merely about environmental remediation. It

represents a comprehensive vision for urban regeneration, economic opportunity and sustainable development — directly aligned with the National Development Strategy 2 (NDS2) and Vision 2030. The Geo Pomona model creates jobs across waste collection, sorting, recycling, transport, engineering, plant operations and maintenance.

It turns waste into an economic resource, fosters local business opportunities, and attracts investment into the recycling and waste-management value chain.

Beyond Bulawayo, Geo Pomona is already pioneering waste-to-energy solutions on a national scale. The company recently signed an Engineering, Procurement and Construction contract with Chinese firm Zhejiang Wei Ming Group for a waste-to-energy plant expected to generate between 16 and 22 megawatts for the national grid, a first for Zimbabwe and Southern Africa.

Energy and Power Development Minister July Moyo outlined the integrated

process. "It is designed to produce 22 megawatts of electricity from refuse. You start with refuse collection; you have a sorting house to sort those materials that are degradable. Those will be fed into the power plant, and the power plant will now produce gas, and that gas will be turned into electricity".

This vision for integrated, value-adding waste management now stands ready to be extended to Bulawayo. The city stands at a turning point, from environmental crisis to modern infrastructure, from public health hazard to economic opportunity.

As Hon. Garwe noted, the stakes could not be higher, "The objective is to ensure that Ngozi Mine will not continue to pollute the City of Bulawayo, and what is it that we need to do so that, that is stopped". From waste to value. From landfill to modern infrastructure. From city challenge to economic opportunity. Bulawayo's transformation has begun.

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President Mnangagwa Hails Cde Muzenda

■ As ‘Soul of the Nation’ 23 Years After Death

President Dr Emmerson Mnangagwa has hailed the late national hero and former Vice President Simon Vengai Muzenda as a fearless freedom fighter whose legacy continues to inspire Zimbabwe's pursuit of rural development, unity and national progress.

In a commemorative message marking the 23rd anniversary of Muzenda's death on 20 September 2003, Dr Mnangagwa said the late veteran nationalist devoted his adult life to the liberation of Zimbabwe and remained resolute despite imprisonment under the colonial regime.

"The late Cde Muzenda, who passed away on 20th

September 2003, was a fearless freedom fighter and revolutionary who devoted his entire adult life to the liberation of his Motherland from colonial bondage," President Mnangagwa said.

"Imprisonment by the ruthless colonial regime, his resolve to free his people and country remained unbroken and a source of inspiration to his comrades-in-arms and the masses."

Cde Muzenda served as the inaugural Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs from 1980 to 1987 before becoming Vice President in 1987, a position he held until his death.

President Mnangagwa said Muzenda played a pivotal role in rebuilding and uniting the country after the liberation war, while championing the Land Reform Programme and the empowerment of rural communities.

He said Cde Muzenda was popularly remembered as the "Soul of the Nation" and personified African values while advocating unity, peace, love, and patriotism.

"Our memories of Muzenda shall always inspire current and future generations to cherish their cultural heritage and freedom, and to relentlessly work for the betterment of rural communities of

which he was an integral part," he said.

President Mnangagwa said Government's focus on Rural Industrialisation under the National Development Strategy 2 was also a way of preserving the legacy of Muzenda and other liberation icons.

He described the late Vice President as a veteran nationalist, liberator, and cultural icon and said his contribution should continue to inspire generations.

"May the soul of the late veteran nationalist, liberator and cultural icon, Cde Simon Vengai Muzenda, rest in eternal peace," President Mnangagwa said.

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Zim eyes nuclear power

Zimbabwe is preparing to embrace nuclear power, with the Government actively exploring Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) to secure steady, lasting energy for its industries.

Energy and Power Development Minister Hon. July Moyo announced the plans at the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) meeting in Vienna, Austria, declaring, "Nuclear science and technology is a critical pillar of Zimbabwe's national development agenda."

He said Zimbabwe was pursuing nuclear power as part of its long-term strategy to ensure a stable energy supply to underpin rapid industrialisation.

"In line with our national energy development strategy, Zimbabwe is actively pursuing the development of the necessary national infrastructure and capabilities for the safe, secure and peaceful use of nuclear energy," he said.

"We are therefore closely following developments in advanced nuclear technologies, particularly Small Modular Reactors (SMRs), while ac-

tively building the institutional, human resource, regulatory and technical foundations required to support a future nuclear power programme," Minister Moyo said.

Zimbabwe currently relies on hydro and thermal power, with ageing infrastructure and recurrent drought straining supply. Installed capacity stands at about 2.6 GW, though daily generation often falls to roughly half, forcing imports and load-shedding.

In a major step forward, Minister Moyo announced that the Centre for Education, Innovation, Research and Development (CEIRD) has signed a business agreement with Korea Hydro & Nuclear Power (KHNP) to conduct a preliminary feasibility study on deploying the Innovative Small Modular Reactor (i-SMR) in Zimbabwe.

"This initiative will not only enhance our understanding of advanced reactor technologies but will also contribute to the development of national nuclear expertise, technological advancement and institutional capacity," he said.

The i-SMR is a 170 MWe pressurised

water reactor designed to be built in half the time and at a third of the cost of conventional reactors.

Beyond energy, Minister Moyo said Zimbabwe was applying nuclear tech-

nology in healthcare and agriculture, with the recent resuscitation of radiotherapy services in public hospitals marking tangible progress under the IAEA's Rays of Hope initiative.

He reaffirmed Zimbabwe's commitment to using nuclear technology only for peaceful purposes, adding that as Zimbabwe takes its UN Security Council seat for 2027-2028, it will promote peaceful dialogue.

Sandawana Eyes USD 700m Lithium Beneficiation Drive

Mutapa Energy Resources is pushing ahead with two major lithium processing investments at Sandawana Mine in the Midlands, with a combined estimated investment of about USD 700 million.

The first is a USD 300 million lithium concentrator, targeted for commissioning in November 2027.

The facility will process locally mined lithium ore into concentrate, providing the feedstock required for further downstream processing.



The second is an estimated USD 400 million lithium sulphate plant. Mutapa expects to have a financing plan in place by December 2026, marking another step towards producing higher-value lithium chemicals locally.

Together, the USD 300m concentrator and USD 400m sulphate plant represent Sandawana's transition from raw lithium extraction towards an integrated beneficiation operation and support Zimbabwe's policy of increasing domestic mineral processing.





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Bakers King, Women's League bring joy to people with disabilities in Chinhoyi

It was a day of food, laughter and solidarity in Chinhoyi as the ZANU PF Mashonaland West Women's League, in partnership with Bakers King owner Mr Moses Chipi, hosted a special gathering for people with disabilities, bringing together beneficiaries, parents and guardians for a heartfelt day of interaction and love.

The event marked a significant moment for the disability community in the province, with Cde Otilia Makuve, Makonde DCC Secretary for Disabled Persons, serving as Guest of Honour. Provincial Women's League Chairlady Cde Constance Shamu was represented by Cde Martha Munondo, while Varakashi4ED National Chairman Cde Godwin Gody Nkatha and Young Women4ED Vice Chairperson Cde Auxilia Tsitsi Chemhuru attended as invited guests.

Many of the beneficiaries came from Ward 9, where Ward Chairlady Cde Mary Mangadze has taken on the demanding responsibility of caring for children with disabilities from different communities, including farms and rural areas. Others

came from Chinhoyi Constituency accompanied by their parents and guardians.

The gathering provided a rare platform for families to share their experiences and challenges.

Some mothers spoke emotionally about the difficulties they face, including cases where fathers abandon families following the birth of children with disabilities, a painful reality that underscored the muimportance of the day's message of inclusion and support.

Cde Makuve thanked Mr Chipi for organising the gathering, noting that it had been about six years since people with disabilities were last brought together at Cockey's Hall in Chinhoyi.

The long gap made Saturday's event all the more meaningful for those who attended.

Cde Munondo said the initiative reflected President Emmerson Dambudzo Mnangagwa's call that "no one and



no place should be left behind." She encouraged families not to hide people with disabilities, but to bring them forward so that they can be identified and assisted.

Mr Chipi said the initiative was his way of giving back to the community, expressing gratitude for the support

his business has received from the Government and ZANU PF. He pledged to continue supporting similar initiatives and ensuring that people with disabilities feel valued, loved and included.

The gathering was more than a celebration. It was a reminder that inclusion begins within communities-with people

coming together, listening to one another and extending a helping hand to those who need it most.

For people living with disabilities and their families, being seen, heard and supported can make a profound difference.



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Gold panner jailed 5yrs for railway tunnel dig

A 42-year-old illegal gold panner has been jailed for five years after digging a tunnel dangerously close to a railway line in Bindura.

the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) said Francis Mambara, of Mhizha Village under Chief Masembura, was convicted by the Bindura Magistrates' Court after pleading guilty to illegally digging for gold within 45 metres of the Bindura-NH Trojan railway line, posing a risk to railway safety.

The NPA said National Railways of Zimbabwe (NRZ) employees on patrol caught Mambara red-handed on 15 September 2026 at around 5:30 a.m.

"On the 15th of September 2026 at around 0530 hours, National Railways of Zimbabwe (NRZ) employees conducting a patrol to curb illegal gold panning along the railway line reached

the 0.5-kilometre peg on the Bindura-Trojan railway line.

"They observed the offender near a tunnel, holding a chisel in his right hand. A sack containing gold ore was found beside him."

The patrol team ordered Mambara out of the tunnel, and he complied, emerging with the chisel and sack.

"The patrol team instructed the offender to come out of the tunnel.

He complied, emerging with the chisel and sack," the NPA said.

"The NRZ officials identified themselves and advised him that he was under arrest for unlawfully digging and tampering with the ground within 45 metres of the railway line."

The chisel and sack of gold ore were recovered as exhibits, and Mambara was escorted to a police station where the matter was reported. He was charged under section 38(4)(c) of the Railways Act [Chapter 13:09], which prohibits digging, excavating, drilling, tunnelling or otherwise tampering with the ground within 45 metres on either side of a railway track where it poses a danger to rail traffic.

"He pleaded guilty, was convicted and sentenced to the statutory minimum penalty of five years' imprisonment," the NPA said.

The NPA warned the public to stay away from railway reserve land and to stop all forms of illegal mining, noting that such activities weaken the ground supporting railway infrastructure and endanger both rail operations and the travelling public.

Police shoot dead two armed robbery suspects

Itai Mazire

Two suspected armed robbers were shot dead and four others arrested in a dramatic shoot-out with police in Bulawayo, as the Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP) moved to crack a gang linked to the murder of a 52-year-old businessperson.

The ZRP confirmed that Tedious Rutanhira was gunned down on 14 September 2026 in Bulawayo, in a robbery that triggered a massive manhunt. The trail led detectives to a hideout, where a fierce exchange of fire erupted, leaving two suspects dead and four in custody.

National Police Spokesperson Commissioner Paul Nyathi identified the deceased suspects as Mehluli Ncube

(45), alias Mamba, and Muzi Richard Fambirai Moyo (45).

Those arrested were named as Shelton Jubane (37), Charles Ndlovu (52), Prince Chisale and Clive Ncube (27).

"The suspects are linked to ten cases of armed robbery in Bulawayo and surrounding areas," said Commissioner Nyathi. "

A detailed statement will be released on 19 September 2026."

Police said the gang had been terrorising residents and businesses in and around the city. The shoot-out marks a major breakthrough in the investigation into Rutanhira's killing.

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Tourism sector gets shot in the arm



Zimbabwe's tourism industry has received a major boost with the establishment of the Zimbabwe Tourism Fund, a dedicated financing mechanism set to breathe new life into the country's hospitality and infrastructure sectors.

The Tourism Act has created a formal framework for national tourism priorities, with money flowing from parliamentary appropriations, levies, donations, loans and other approved sources, a development industry players have long championed.

The fund is vested in the Minister responsible for tourism as trustee and administered by a council comprising representatives from government, finance, the legal fraternity and the tourism industry itself.

Its objects include facilitating the development and promotion of the tourism and hospitality industry, collecting and disbursing revenue in accordance with the national tourism development plan and developing tourism infrastructure.

The creation of the fund follows months of parliamentary engagement.

The Tourism Amendment Bill, which seeks to transform the sector into a USD 5 billion industry, sparked robust debate in the National Assembly earlier this year, with legislators weighing how best to safeguard the fund's independence.

Tourism Minister Hon. Barbara Rwodzi championed the need for a standalone administrator, arguing that both the ZTA and Mosi-oa-Tunya Development Company were beneficiaries of the fund, creating a potential conflict of interest if either controlled it.

"The Zimbabwe Tourism Fund is for marketing the destination and for developing tourism infrastructure," Hon. Rwodzi told Parliament.

"ZTA has a responsibility for marketing and is a beneficiary of the Tourism Fund. Mosi-oa-Tunya is responsible for infrastructure development and is also a beneficiary."

Parliament ultimately agreed that a separate entity would administer the fund as proposed in Clause Five of the Bill, a decision that has been welcomed as a governance win.

The timing could not be better. Zimbabwe's tourism sector is booming, international tourist arrivals reached 1.78 million in 2025, up from just 390,000 in 2021, while earnings climbed to USD1.32 billion, surpassing pre-COVID-19 levels.

The fund arrives as the country prepares to host the Intra-African Trade Fair in 2029, a permanent fixture on Zimbabwe's calendar. The hospitality sector had identified a funding gap of up to USD 30 million per operator to refurbish existing properties ahead of the event, with smaller operators needing around USD 8 million and larger players up to USD 30 million.

The government has already demonstrated that public-private partnerships can unlock serious capital.

In August 2026, it signed a USD 66.9 million commercial joint venture agreement to develop bulk infrastructure at the 271-hectare Jafuta Estate in the Masuwe Special Economic Zone near Victoria Falls.

The project will deliver water and sewer

reticulation, electricity distribution, and telecommunications networks, laying the foundation for hotels, villas, lodges, a golf estate, medical facilities, a Tourism Academy and an international cricket stadium.

Deputy Minister of Tourism Tongai Mnangagwa described that deal as a transformative investment positioning tourism as a catalyst for infrastructure development and job creation.

Industry players have welcomed the fund but emphasise that its success depends on execution.

Hospitality Association of Zimbabwe president Emmah Kativu has called on financial institutions to innovate and structure products aligned with tourism realities, stressing that true readiness for major events like IATF 2029 is not just about "brick and mortar."

"It is about strong governance, efficient systems, accountable project management, investment in people and service excellence. "Without systems, capital leaks. Without processes, projects stall," she said.

The Act also introduces broader regulatory reforms, requiring online accommodation hosts to register and obtain licences from the ZTA within 90 days of the law coming into force, and giving the authority stronger enforcement powers, including shutting down unregistered facilities.

Tourism now contributes six percent of GDP, up from 2.5 percent in 2021, and the new fund is expected to accelerate that growth. With a formal financing mechanism now in place and a clear governance structure, Zimbabwe's tourism sector finally has the tools to match its ambition.



Zanu PF turns to business for Chinhoyi conference

ZANU PF is turning to big business to bankroll its upcoming National People's Conference in Chinhoyi, with party mobilisation chief Dr Philip Chiyangwa announcing a Presidential Dinner as the centrepiece of a fundraising drive.

Dr Chiyangwa, a Central Committee member and Chairman of the Mobilisation Committee, said the dinner will be open to members of the business com-

munity willing to contribute towards the conference.

"ZANU PF Central Committee member and Chairman of the Mobilisation Committee, Dr Philip Chiyangwa, has announced plans to hold a Presidential Dinner as part of fundraising efforts for the upcoming ZANU PF National People's Conference, which will be held in Chinhoyi," the party said in a

statement distributed by its Information and Publicity Department.

The party said the event is aimed squarely at the private sector, with Chiyangwa indicating that "the dinner will be open to members of the business community who wish to participate and contribute towards the conference."

No date has been set. Chiyangwa said

the timing "will be announced in due course," leaving the party's fundraising timeline open as it prepares for the Chinhoyi gathering.

The announcement signals ZANU PF's intent to lean on corporate goodwill to finance its conference preparations, a familiar playbook for the ruling party as it mobilises resources ahead of major internal events.



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Langalihle Mhiti

MUSIC fans have named Zimdancehall musician Jnr Spragga (PICTURED), Atenda Chinx and rapper Holy Ten among the local artists they would like to see sharing the stage with international performers at Ama2k Fest.

Their reaction followed a question posed by Ama2k Fest organisers, asking music lovers to choose one male and one female local artist they would want to perform alongside international acts at the festival.

The discussion reflects the diversity of Zimbabwe’s music scene, with artists from Zimdancehall and hip-hop attracting attention among the fans.

Jnr Spragga emerged as one of the favourites among the fans, reflecting his growing presence on the local entertainment scene.

The Zimdancehall musician has been attracting attention through his music and public appearances, with fans highlighting his appeal among young music lovers.

For some fans, his energetic approach to music makes him a suitable candidate for a major stage where he will share the spotlight with international stars.

One fan, Ruva Nyama said Jnr Spragga has the ability to connect with a young audience.

“Jnr Spragga has the energy and the music that can connect with people. I would definitely choose him for that stage,” she said.

Atenda Chinx was also among the names brought into the discussion. Fans expressed interest in seeing more local artists

receiving opportunities to perform before bigger audiences.

Anashe Chamboko said Atenda Chinx deserves consideration.

“Atenda Chinx is one of the artists I would want to see getting that opportunity. We need to support our own musicians,” Anashe said.

Meanwhile, Holy Ten was another popular name in the conversation, with fans putting forward the hip-hop musician as their preferred choice for the male slot.

Holy Ten has established himself as a recognisable voice in Zimbabwean hip-hop, attracting listeners through his music and lyrical style.

His fans believe his inclusion will bring a different sound to a festival featuring international performers.

Panashe Ruzande said Holy Ten would appeal to music lovers who enjoy hip-hop.

“Holy Ten would be my choice because of his music and the following he has built.

“It would be interesting to see him on the same stage with international artists,” said Panashe.

Ama2k Fest is set for December 12, this year, with the event billed as the second edition of the festival.

For musicians such as Jnr Spragga, Atenda Chinx and Holy Ten, the discussion offers another indication of the interest surrounding local talent.

The eventual selection of local performers, however, remains to be confirmed.



Your soccer brief

PACIFIC STORM EASTERN REGION SOCCER LEAGUE

FULL-TIME

Bikita Chida Athletic Club 2-1 Green Fuel FC

Grand Legacy FC 2-2 Yadah FC

Masvingo United FC 0-0 FC Wangu Mazodze

CENTRAL REGION SOCCER LEAGUE

FULL-TIME

Shurugwi FC 2-2 Vhembe Stars Acdmy

Good Morning 0-2 Kwekwe United

Shabanie Mine 0-2 West Nicholson

Chapungu FC 1-0 Dulibadzimu United

Gwanda Pirates 1-0 Matobo

Log Table  Matchday 29									
Pos	Club	P	W	D	L	F	A	Gd	Pts
1	Scotland FC	29	17	10	2	45	10	35	61
2	Hardrock FC	29	18	6	5	51	19	32	60
3	Dynamos FC	29	12	14	3	39	20	19	50
4	Ngezi Platinum Stars FC	29	12	13	4	34	25	9	49
5	Herentals College FC	29	14	6	9	31	26	5	48
6	Caps United FC	29	12	11	6	34	25	9	47
7	Highlanders FC	29	9	15	5	26	21	5	42
8	Chicken Inn FC	29	11	8	10	22	23	-1	41
9	MWOS FC	29	9	12	8	27	22	5	39
10	FC Platinum	29	8	15	6	19	20	-1	39
11	Simba Bhora FC	29	8	11	10	29	30	-1	35
12	Bulawayo Chiefs FC	29	7	10	12	25	33	-8	31
13	FC Hunters	29	6	13	10	22	33	-11	31
14	ZPC Kariba FC	29	5	14	10	17	26	-9	29
15	Agama FC	29	6	7	16	17	38	-21	25
16	Triangle United FC	29	5	7	17	20	35	-15	22
17	Telone FC	29	4	9	16	20	42	-22	21
18	Manica Diamonds FC	29	4	7	18	12	42	-30	19

More than just a game

Castle Lager Premier Soccer League

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Premier Soccer League

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Itai Mazire

Zimbabwean football is finally coming home.

The National Sports Stadium has been restored to excellent condition, clearing the way for international matches to return to Zimbabwean soil.

In a move that positions the country at the forefront of African football technology, Senator Dr Kudakwashe Tagwirei has confirmed that Zimbabwe will soon deploy Video Assistant Referee (VAR) technology, making it one of the first African nations to do so.

The announcement followed a meeting between Dr Tagwirei and Zimbabwe Football Association (ZIFA) president Nqobile Magwizi, where Sakunda Holdings committed to funding and installing VAR systems at three major

venues.

The National Sports Stadium will be first, with installation targeted for completion by December 2026. Rufaro Stadium and Barbourfields will follow, with all three venues expected to be fully equipped by March 2027 .

Speaking on the milestone, Dr Tagwirei was emphatic about what this means for the nation.

"International football matches will now be held in Zimbabwe.

"This is not just about a stadium, it is about restoring our national pride. Our people deserve to watch their team play at home, in their own country, with their own fans cheering them on. "

On the VAR pledge, Dr Tagwirei framed the technology as essential for modern

football.

"Zimbabwe will soon have VAR, making it one of the first African countries to have this technology," he said. "We want our football to be fair, professional, and world-class. VAR is not a luxury, it is a necessity for any nation serious about competing at the highest level," said Dr Tagwirei.

He also spoke to the broader significance of the investment.

"This is about more than one stadium or one team. It is about showing that when Zimbabweans come together—government, business, and football leadership, we can achieve great things. The National Sports Stadium is proof that with vision and commitment, we can rebuild what has been lost. "

The stadium's rehabilitation, spear-headed by Sakunda Holdings, included the installation of 60 000 bucket seats, upgraded floodlights, modernised changing rooms, and improvements to the pitch and ablution facilities . These upgrades met the stringent requirements of both FIFA and the Confederation of African Football (CAF), resulting in the venue's approval to host international fixtures once again .

For years, Zimbabwe's national team has been forced to play "home" matches in foreign countries due to the stadium's failure to meet international standards. That era is now over.

The VAR installation, funded entirely by Sakunda Holdings, will bring an additional layer of professionalism to domestic and international matches. VAR technology allows referees to review decisions related to goals, penalties,

offsides, and serious fouls using video footage, a system already standard in major leagues worldwide .

ZIFA president Nqobile Magwizi welcomed the development, describing it as "a huge milestone not just for ZIFA but for our entire football ecosystem" .

The return of international football to Zimbabwean soil represents more than infrastructure renewal. It is a restoration of dignity, a signal that the nation is open for business on the continental stage and a promise to a generation of fans who have waited too long to see their Warriors compete in front of a home crowd.

The road ahead requires sustained commitment. But for the first time in years, Zimbabwean football has momentum and the cameras will be watching, with replay.