

**POLICY STATEMENT No. 17**

**THE PRESIDENT OPENS  
SECOND SESSION OF  
SECOND PARLIAMENT**

**JUNE 24, 1986**

**ZIMBABWE**



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**Mr. President and Members of the Senate, Mr. Speaker and Members of the House of Assembly, I welcome you to the Second Session of the Second Parliament of Zimbabwe.**

Some two months ago we entered upon our seventh year of independence which, at the same time, saw the publication of the First Volume of our First Five-Year National Development Plan. It is clear, even from a cursory reading of that volume, that the main targets and objectives of the Plan are indeed comprehensive and ambitious and that, in addition, an immense outlay of national effort and resources will be required for their fulfilment. My Government—and I dare say our entire people as well—are determined to make the necessary sacrifices to translate Plan targets and objectives into reality, for we all proceed from the conviction that that reality will reflect a transformed and better socio-economic environment for all our people.

Let us therefore pull together, whatever the sector of our economy which engages our efforts, in order to begin to achieve, through the Plan, that socio-economic transformation and development that will render our political independence more meaningful.

With respect to defence, I would like at the outset to pay tribute to the Zimbabwe Defence Forces for the service that they are rendering in the defence of the nation. They have, to a large extent, foiled the internal dissident activities and have also been engaged in external operations, in Mozambique where their successes have kept our life-line to the outside world secure.

It is therefore necessary for our Armed Forces to continue with the hard training which will enhance their fighting capabilities in order to defend our borders, our hard-won independence and our economic interests. Related to this, we have deployed elements of our Armed Forces to guard our vital installations against hostile infiltrators from South Africa. These lawless State-sponsored terrorists, such as those who attacked certain places in this city on the 19th of last month should not ever again be allowed to get away with it.

In the field of foreign affairs, my Government's activities have recently centred around the ongoing preparations for the forthcoming Eighth Summit of the Heads of State and Government of the Non-Aligned countries which is to take place here in Harare from August 26th to September 7th this year. Whilst every Zimbabwean should rightly take pride in the decision of the Non-Aligned Movement that Zimbabwe should host this Summit, I must remind my fellow citizens that my Government's decision to accept this honour has brought an enormous challenge

before our young nation and has placed the weighty responsibility of ensuring its success upon the shoulders of each and every one of us. I therefore take this opportunity to urge all Zimbabweans to dedicate themselves and to direct their energies towards the achievement of a successful Summit.

In accordance with my Government's stated policy which seeks to increase the extent and depth of our global coverage the months ahead will see the establishment of three more of our diplomatic missions. These new offices will include permanent representation at the European Headquarters of the United Nations in Geneva and Embassies in Luanda and Havana, thus bringing the total number of our foreign based missions to twenty-nine.

A number of Bills will be introduced in the current session. These include an Electoral Amendment Bill, a Missing Persons Amendment Bill, a Civil Evidence Amendment Bill and a Maintenance Amendment Bill. It is also proposed to introduce a Bill to amend the Constitution in order to change the method of appointing the staff of Parliament.

As a result of increased cross-border movements, old border posts that were closed during the war will be reopened. Similarly, in order to bring police closer to the people, it is intended to establish police posts in remote areas not presently covered by a permanent police presence.

**My Government will this year embark on the construction of a new records centre at the National Archives in Harare to centralize the storage of records. It is also intended to decentralize archival services and extend record centre facilities to reach the larger urban and provincial administrative centres. This year will thus see the opening of an archives centre in Mutare as the beginning of the decentralization process.**

In the ongoing effort to improve financial administration, it has been decided to establish an Accountant General's Office which will provide Government with professional and technical accounting advice and consultancy services in all fields of Government accounting and ensure compliance with the Audit and Exchequer Act, Treasury Instructions and related regulations.

My Government has also recommended the amalgamation of the two computer bureaux within the Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development with a view to rationalizing the use of computer resources in Government and enhancing the development of the relevant skills required to improve the quality of services available to user departments.

Zimbabwe has continued to participate actively in international, financial and economic organizations as evidenced by our country's hosting of the Twenty-Second Annual Meeting of the African Development Bank and the Thirteenth Meeting of the African Development Fund in May, 1986 and by the inclusion of Zimbabwe in the Permanent Steering Committee of the O.A.U. which has been charged with the responsibility of ensuring effective follow-up work and action on decisions of the O.A.U. on socio-economic issues and the implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action as well as Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery. In this regard, I am happy to observe that the Committee prepared a major report which was submitted to the recently held Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly on the critical economic situation in Africa.

In order to reorganize the insurance industry and to bring the current legislation into line with present economic thinking, my Government intends to amend the Insurance Act during this session.

In the course of this session, my Government will publish the Second Volume of the First Five-Year Development Plan, which, within the parameters set out in Volume One already referred to above, will contain the actual development programmes and projects envisaged between 1986 and 1990. The planning machinery whose infrastructural development I had referred to in the last Parliament has now been approved by my Government. A Planning Commission is now in the process of being established and should be operational within this session.

**The manufacturing sector continues to make sustained progress in spite of many problems, particularly the shortage of foreign currency for the importation of capital equipment, raw materials and spares. In order for industry to continue pursuing its important role in the national economy, efforts to modernize machinery and plant will continue. Feasibility studies for new projects are being reviewed and evaluated pending implementation. It is hoped that when these projects are implemented the importation of some products will be reduced significantly thereby saving scarce foreign exchange.**

My Government will continue to encourage and approve projects for emergent businessmen. It is also hoped to promote small scale industries, particularly in the rural service centres, growth points and small towns.

My Government believes that recently introduced reforms in the transport and motor industry will lead to a more rational and equitable system in the use of foreign currency. It should also lead to the expansion of the engineering subsector of the economy.

Legislation will be introduced in the course of this session to establish a Zimbabwe Standards Association Development Fund to finance the further development of the Zimbabwe Standards Association in its activities of standardization and quality control.

Regional integration will continue to be developed through our involvement in the P.T.A. and S.A.D.C.C. Efforts are also being made to seek further co-operation through Joint Commissions with both developing and developed countries.

Sections of existing mining legislation will be amended to facilitate effective implementation of Government policy objectives to ensure increased level of local participation and to maximize exploitation of our mineral resources.

My Government notes with satisfaction that the mining industry is making a major contribution to the national economy with mineral production for 1985 reaching a record \$629,64 million despite foreign currency constraints and uncertain world market prices.

During the year 1986/87 the Roasting Plant at Kwekwe will commission a third roaster which will increase production by half as much again. It is hoped that the additional capacity will encourage expansion at existing mines and the development of known refractory gold deposits.

My Government has, with the co-operation of the United Nations Development Programme, established a non-metallic minerals laboratory which will be of benefit to all interested parties for purposes of evaluating our non-metallic mineral deposits. This will no doubt encourage the further beneficiation of our minerals with a view to providing a substitute for imported mineral base commodities.

The Wankie Colliery Company Limited in which my Government has a 40 per cent interest has concluded an agreement with both local and foreign finance houses to reconstruct the ageing coke oven battery at Hwange. This project represents a \$31 million investment.

Technical co-operation agreements in geological exploration and mapping is continuing between my Government and the Governments of Britain, Canada, the Federal Republic of Germany, and Japan. It is hoped that as a result of these projects new mineral deposits will be discovered.

**In pursuance of my Government's policy to have active state participation in trade generally, legislation will be placed before you for the establishment of a State Trading Corporation. The Corporation will undertake trade with other countries and will operate on the domestic market at both wholesale and retail levels.**

In the field of promoting Zimbabwe's exports and trade generally, my Government will revamp and expand its export promotion organs and will sign more trade agreements with other countries. In addition my Government will participate in special arrangements which are to be implemented to increase trade within the S.A.D.C.C. region.

In the area of the administration of trade measures and price control my Government, in line with its policy of decentralization, will establish additional offices in Gweru and Mutare so as to ensure efficient and country-wide coverage of these services.

**In the areas of employment, my Government will undertake comprehensive programmes for employment-creation within the context of the First Five-Year National Development Plan. In particular, amendments will be made to the National Service Act, 1976 to enable Government to establish a National Service Scheme which will be largely developmental in orientation. In addition, Government will introduce regulations that will further facilitate the employment of the disabled.**

New technical colleges will be constructed and existing ones expanded in our bid to increase technical cadres in the country. Foreign controlled training programmes will continue to be localized to reduce dependence on foreign standards. The Bachelor of Technology programme will be extended to the Bulawayo Technical College and intake at Harare Polytechnic doubled.

My Government will intensify training and safety awareness programmes at workplaces with the aim of ensuring that workers are made aware of the dangers that may affect their health and measures to control them. More inspectors will be recruited and deployed throughout the country in order to increase the inspection for occupation hazards and to prevent accidents at workplaces. In addition, measures will be taken to ensure that all workers qualify for compensation benefits in the event of an accident and injury on duty. Free medical care for the injured will of course continue to be part of the benefits.

My Government is committed to enhancing the quality of life for all its citizens. Consequently the Department of Social Welfare will continue to evaluate, assess and identify indigent amputees and other disabled and disadvantaged persons in order to provide them with public assistance. My Government will also train specialized instructors and provide comprehensive rehabilitation services including the manufacture of orthopaedic and orthotic equipment from local raw materials at the Ruwa Rehabilitation Centre.

In the light of my Government's First Five-Year National Development Plan and its anticipated demands on the Public Service in implementing the policies, programmes and projects envisaged in the Plan, Government will develop and implement a manpower plan for the Public Service to ensure that adequate personnel are available for the Plan period and beyond.

Government will also examine the need to further rationalize the relationship between the Civil Service, Parastatals and Local Government as well as the possible need for a Public Service Employment Act to complement the Labour Relations Act.

During this session Parliament will consider a new Education Bill to replace the 1979 Education Act and the Correspondence Colleges Act. The Bill will rationalize the classification of schools, the construction of primary schools and the establishment of a single teaching service within the Public Service.

**Preparation for the localization of the country's examinations at "O" and "A" Level are well advanced. A new Examinations Centre has been constructed and hundreds of examiners have already been trained. An Examinations Task Force has submitted its report and further decisions will be made in the light of this report.**

As part and parcel of the effort to improve the quality of education as well as making it relevant to the country's socio-economic and manpower needs, a decision has been made to provide a polytechnical education at secondary level in order to remove the hiatus between general education, vocational training and employment. Several Ministries and other employing agencies will be involved in the design and implementation of this new curriculum under the overall aegis of the Ministry of Education.

To hasten the introduction of a technical curriculum, kits for technical subjects will be introduced in rural schools where workshops do not exist. In order to meet the teacher demands in secondary schools, a large number of teachers will be trained in Cuba, while the construction of another secondary teachers' college at Chinhoyi will commence.

The possibility of opening a second campus of the University of Zimbabwe will also be explored.

The improvement of the planning and administrative machinery of the Ministry of Education will continue to receive close attention. To this end, a programme to computerize these functions both in Head Office and in the provinces is under way. This automation will facilitate the introduction of a single teaching service and also remove the bottlenecks that have led to the delay in the payment of teachers' salaries.

A National Action Plan which lays down steps and targets for implementing all health programmes has been prepared and will be implemented this year. To implement these programmes and to man the new health facilities, training of health workers at all levels remains a top priority. It is planned to increase the intake of trainees in all spheres. Provincial multi-disciplinary training schools have been built at Gweru and Bindura and the one in Gwanda will be completed within the next few weeks. Construction of the remaining five is expected to start soon. Strengthening of managerial support systems is being pursued vigorously. It is hoped that through this exercise we will be able to respond to the health needs of the masses and thereby support health activities from the grassroot level upwards. Health teams at various levels will be expected to work in close liaison with development committees to promote individual and collective acceptance of the responsibility for health.

My Government will further strengthen the various components of our primary health care activities. For example, using the concept of community based rehabilitation, services for disabled people have already been established in 22 districts and new services are expected to start in Nyanga, Murambinda, Tsholotsho, Kariba and Beitbridge soon. A local training course in the design and manufacture of low cost equipment for the disabled is expected to begin before the end of the year.

The new Land Acquisition Act which gives the right of first refusal to Government will facilitate the purchase of additional hectareage of commercial land per year for the continued resettlement programme. The planning by Agritex of Village Development Committee areas around village sites identified by the Ministry of Local Government, Rural and Urban Development will be a top priority within all the rural districts. A number of Animal Health and Management Centres will be established in the communal areas. The centres will concentrate on efficient disease and internal parasite control within the communal herd and accelerate farmer training in livestock husbandry practices.

**In order to ensure food security and the production of strategic crops the Agricultural and Rural Development Authority will expand its existing estates and establish new ones.**

The Grain Marketing Board is stepping up the programme of grain silo construction so that two bulk silo depots will be commenced each year. Also, in order to ensure that no farmer is more than 40 kilometres away from the sales points for the marketing of crops, a further three seasonal depots will be provided per year to cover the rural areas and reduce the

need for collection points. The ginning capacity of the Sanyati Ginnery will be expanded to cater for increased cotton production in communal areas.

Government remains committed to the creation of viable co-operatives. In this regard steps are being taken to create a trust fund which will constitute the first concrete step towards the creation of a co-operative bank. This will help to redress the problem of lack of capital which is currently affecting most of the 1 600 registered co-operatives.

The Department of Research and Specialist Services in conjunction with the Department of Agricultural Technical and Extension Services will initiate a National Demonstration Trial Scheme in the communal areas. This Scheme, which will have sites in all the provinces of the country, will involve demonstrating improved farming practices and technologies to communal farmers in order to encourage them to improve their productivity and efficiency. This programme will also enable Agricultural Extension Officers to frame extension messages and packages which are more appropriate for the various agro-ecological regions of the country.

In the energy sector, we continue to face a serious and disastrous denudation of our forests by a combination of wood fuel gathering and clearance for agricultural purposes. The pressure on our woodlands must be alleviated and this requires different strategies.

**The rural electrification programme remains the most promising strategy for providing an alternate source of energy to the majority of our people. My Government will accelerate the implementation of strategies in the rural energy supply system covering, *inter-alia*, the development of efficient coal and wood stoves and solar cookers. Completion of the Rural Electrification Master Plan will enable us to undertake this task on a national scale with special emphasis on areas in which fuel wood resources are now limited.**

In the field of commercial energy, efforts will be made to enhance the reliability of supplies by accelerating the construction of additional petroleum storage tanks and by building additional electricity generating capacity.

During this session of Parliament, a Bill will be introduced providing for the reconstruction of the Central African Power Corporation so that it will, *inter alia*, function as a River Authority and be responsible for the operations and maintenance of the Kariba Dam and any other dam that may be constructed on the Zambezi River.

**In the field of water resources, my Government will continue to give highest priority in the provision of drinking water to the people, particularly in the communal areas. A National Master Plan for Rural Water Supply and Sanitation will be launched shortly.**

Small dams and weirs will also continue to be constructed throughout the country to provide primary water supplies and irrigation to rural areas.

As the need for conservation of our natural resources becomes urgent, my Government intends to extend conservation education to the masses, through holding conservation workshops at ward and village level. This will make Ward and Village Development Committees understand the need to incorporate ecological considerations in their development plans. Furthermore, district environmental profiles showing the state of the environment in each district in the country, as well as a National Soil Survey Report, will be produced. Government appreciates the importance of providing means for greater utilization of our softwoods. Consequently the establishment of a chemical pulp mill is envisaged. In anticipation of this development the necessary environmental impact studies are currently being carried out. Afforestation programmes with emphasis on rural afforestation will continue to expand.

Within the Parks and Wild Life Estate my Government intends to develop the safari industry to its full potential through more intensive management programmes. Joint ventures in game ranching and safari hunting will be instituted to maximize returns from safari areas, communal areas and other State land. The manufacture and marketing of wildlife products will be improved to enhance the carving and curios industry. It is also the intention of my Government to expand the Natural Resources College in order to provide in-service training for allied agencies within and outside our borders. Anti-poaching activities will continue.

**In the field of tourism, maximum support will be given to the industry in order to encourage the promotion of Zimbabwe as a safe holiday destination. Efforts will also be made to maintain and improve on the present tourist growth rate of two per cent realized during the years 1984 and 1985. A Five-Year Development Plan for the creation of infrastructure that can meet the needs of future growth will be implemented and surveys to determine areas of development will be carried out.**

In the transport field, the nation now has the basis of an integrated transport system. More work will be done in order to have a complete and viable National Transport Plan.

We have embarked on a programme to build roads and bridges which will open up the Central Limpopo Valley, the Central Zambezi Valley, areas in Matabeleland South and Mashonaland East provinces, the communal areas bordering Mozambique and parts of Masvingo and Matabeleland North Provinces.

**The nation will also consider building an important road to link Gweru and Mutare so that there can be speedy and cheap movement of goods from central Zimbabwe to the world markets. Linked up with this will be the development and opening of the "Beira Corridor" — a cornerstone of our strategy to overcome the security threats to the transportation of goods in Zimbabwe and Mozambique.**

Our transport system will also have a modern and efficient roads maintenance system as soon as our plans for such a system are ready. This will greatly strengthen our efforts at creating a corporation to run rural bus transport and the expansion of the rail-linked Road Motor Transport to cover all communal and other rural areas.

For the driving population, we shall computerize the records of number plates and licences in order to provide a better service.

The railways remain our most important transport network and it is planned to have the Gweru-Mutare-Beira line completed and operational in the shortest possible time. With a line from Gweru to Mvuma to Mutare, investments at Dabuka will be optimised. The electrification of the Dabuka-Bulawayo section will complement our already popular day-time train from Harare to Bulawayo. Not only will we provide a better service, but we shall save costs on fuel and staff.

The airways will receive new equipment and aircraft as well as modern visual aids at Harare and Bulawayo airports. My Government is especially proud to note that Air Zimbabwe will become more competitive internationally as new comfortable and fuel-efficient aircraft become available.

The country will continue to invest heavily in the transport network both for economic and political reasons. As a landlocked country bordering South Africa, our transport network will continue to demand our utmost attention.

My Government will continue to execute the National Housing Programme with greater vigour and earnestness in order to achieve sufficient housing for all Zimbabweans by the year 2000.

**The housing situation at mining centres and in farming areas will be examined and closely monitored with a view to establishing more acceptable accommodation for workers in those areas. Increased public sector resources are being made available to facilitate the expansion of our Rural Housing Programme. At the same time my Government is actively seeking the creation of more meaningful partnerships between the public and private sectors as a new initiative for harnessing more financial and other resources from the private sector in order to spearhead the large scale production of housing and ancillary services in rural and urban areas.**

A favourable climate for increased investment by the private sector in middle income housing development is re-emerging in Zimbabwe. Government is therefore determined to ensure that such a positive trend be given greater impetus through increased consultations between the public and the private sectors.

The construction of Civil Service accommodation at all provincial headquarters will be continued in order to satisfy the requirements for decentralization of the administrative and operational activities of all Ministries. In addition, to alleviate the acute shortage of office accommodation, some composite office blocks will be erected at the provincial headquarters at Gwanda, Gweru, Chinhoyi, Bindura, Marondera and Mutare.

**In the field of information, my Government will continue to provide balanced and accurate information to our nation. The Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation plans to expand its transmitter network so that radio programmes can be received and heard clearly in all parts of the country. Work will begin this year on the installation of a short-wave transmission station at Gweru for external broadcasting. Its power will also be used to boost the domestic signal so that it reaches all parts of our country.**

The Posts and Telecommunications Corporation has established a good external network by satellite. Attention is now being given to the improvement and rehabilitation of the domestic network. A comprehensive master plan has been drawn up, and part of it is now being implemented. It involves the digitization of all trunk exchanges in the nine urban centres, and the automation of most of the rural exchanges. My Government hopes to clear most of the congestion in the domestic network by the end of the third session (1987/88) of the Second Parliament.

**My Government will set up a Central Purchasing Authority to achieve greater efficiency and economy in public sector procurement and distribution of supplies and services.**

Parliament will consider the Rural District Councils Bill during this Session. The Bill will repeal the present Rural Councils Act and the District Councils Act, unifying the two and removing the duality which exists. Thus it will aim at creating one local government administrative structure in the rural areas.

**In the area of rural development, my Government intends to upgrade and expand the role of the District Development Fund to become the implementing agency for rural development. Towards this end, efforts are already under way to strengthen its capacity and capability to implement rural development programmes through the acquisition of new equipment and machinery, and the recruitment of civil and water engineers and other key technical staff. An intensive training programme will be accelerated. On a related aspect, Parliament will consider the District Development Fund Amendment Bill which seeks to confer on the Fund the power to surcharge civil servants for destruction or damage of the Fund's property.**

For effective co-ordination of extension services to, and strengthening of community development efforts at village and ward level, my Government will deploy a multi-purpose cadre, the Village Co-ordinator and Ward Community Co-ordinator in every village and ward. These cadres will be given intensive multi-disciplinary training to effectively equip them for their new role and functions. In urban and semi-urban areas grassroot administration will be enhanced through the formation of neighbourhood committees.

The literacy campaign will be strengthened by introducing a Radio Learning Programme and formation of radio learning groups.

Funds are being provided to upgrade pre-cooperative groups to viable co-operatives operating in various sectors of the economy.

My Government will encourage all Government Departments to implement the forward looking strategies for the advancement of women that were adopted in Nairobi at the end of the U.N. Decade for Women.

A new National Women's Council which will facilitate the co-ordination and equitable distribution of resources of non-governmental organizations to communities in rural and urban areas will be set up.

District Pre-school Trainers and parents will be trained at the St. Mary's Early Learning Centre in the production of a variety of education play materials for pre-school centres.

Whereas previously the Youth Brigade has been concentrating on the recruitment of out-of-school youth, it will in future recruit youth from secondary schools, colleges and the University of Zimbabwe for national development. In addition, through the National Youth Council, my Government will facilitate the organization of primary school and early secondary school children into the Young Pioneers Movement to further assist the national development effort. Plans are under way to establish "children's palaces" as places of learning and recreation after school. My Government will endeavour to develop more large-scale, medium-scale and small-scale youth projects throughout the country in order to alleviate youth unemployment.

In the field of sport it is planned to construct sports complexes at rural growth points with local assistance. It is also planned to establish a physical Education and Sports Academy in association with the University of Zimbabwe which will be responsible for accrediting our sports instructors besides offering refresher courses. It is, further still, planned to build a wider range of both competitive and non-competitive sporting facilities at schools throughout the country.

**The establishment of the National Library and Documentation Service has been initiated and multi-purpose culture houses will be established in every district. The establishment of Provincial Arts Councils represents an important outreach of the National Arts Council, while the envisaged Multi-Media Cultural Development Centre will facilitate the production of cultural materials and training of personnel. The teaching of music, drama, dance, arts and crafts, as well as behavioural cultural aspects, is to be a crucial undertaking within the school system.**

The budget and estimates of expenditure for the fiscal year 1986/1987 and associated legislation will be presented to you for your approval.

**In commending these matters to your consideration, I pray that the blessing of Almighty God may rest on your deliberations. I now declare this, the Second Session of the Second Parliament of Zimbabwe, to be duly opened.**



