



## **ZIMBABWE ENGINEERING IRON & STEEL SECTOR STRATEGY LAUNCH**

**27 MAY 2022,**

**CRESTA LODGE, HARARE**

**REMARKS BY CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONAL EMPLOYMENT COUNCIL  
FOR THE ENGINEERING, IRON AND STEEL INDUSTRY**

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Our Guest of Honour, Honourable Minister of Industry & Commerce,  
Doctor Sekesai Nzenza

Honourable Government Ministers here present

Permanent Secretaries,

Senior Government Officials

EISAZ National Executive Council Members

Chairperson of the National Employment Council for Engineering,  
Iron & Steel Industry

CZI President and Chief Executive Officer

Captains of Industry

Distinguished Guests

Representatives from employees' bodies

Representatives from the academia

Our friends from the media

Ladies & Gentlemen

Very good morning to everyone. Thank you to the Engineering, Iron, and Steel Industry for inviting me, and it is indeed my pleasure and honour to be here today. I would like to begin by offering my heartiest congratulations to the Engineering, Iron and Steel Sector



on the launch of this Sector Strategy. I would like to thank and appreciate the role played by the Government of Zimbabwe, in particular the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, and the private sector players in the engineering, iron and steel value chain represented by the Engineering, Iron and Steel Association of Zimbabwe (EISAZ) and all other key stakeholders and partners who participated in the development of this Strategy. This is a very important strategy that contributes to the country's economic blueprint, National Development Strategy 1 (NDS1) as well as Vision 2030. Furthermore, the strategy strives to bring back a strong, vibrant, and competitive engineering, iron, and steel value chain in Zimbabwe.

Throughout the evaluation and design phases of the sector strategy, our National Employment Council deemed it expedient to support the project as the private sector is an engine for inclusive economic growth. It generates decent jobs, contributes to public revenue, and affordable goods and services to the entire population. By investing in suitable and innovative business models, the sector improves people's lives by boosting their productive activities. Primarily, the duty of the NEC is to ensure that harmony exists between employers and employees in the industry through effective social dialogue, collective bargaining, expeditious resolution of disputes, and training. However, best practice entails that the National Employment Council collaborates with other stakeholders to contribute toward the development of National programs and Vision, especially within the confines of our sector. Improved business, production, revenue, and generation of jobs have positive consequences for the vision of the NEC i.e. **“To be a platform for the advancement of social justice and democracy in the engineering, iron and steel industry, demonstrating professional and impartial respect and responsiveness to all stakeholders”**.



While it's not the NEC's role to direct the strategic framework for the sector in which it operates, it is our role as thought leaders—in macroeconomic policy, economic research, economic education, and community development to offer support to national and industrial strategies that could improve our nation's economy, especially for those struggling Zimbabweans who could more fully reap its rewards.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I am informed that the Sector Strategy aims to improve production capacity to 3 shifts by 2026, increase employment from the current 13 000 employees to 50000 by 2026 and increase annual sales revenue from USD\$1.5 billion to USD \$6 Billion by 2026. In many ways, we see this Sector Strategy as a capstone of the Government and Private Sector's efforts to promote wealth building inclusively.

As I have already mentioned before, this Strategy before us is aligned with the Government's National Development Strategy. We cherish the development partner coordination that was strengthened during the preparation of this Strategy. The high priority given by the government to the preparation of this Strategy is in line with the desired vision of Zimbabwe's economic growth and the expectations of this sector.

Guest of Honour, ladies, and gentlemen.

The National Employment Council for the Engineering, Iron and Steel Industry is pleased to have worked in close partnership with the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, EISAZ and other relevant stakeholders in the development of the sector strategy over the past 15 months and to provide continuous support to the private sector's efforts to revive the iron and steel value chain. Robust engineering, iron, and steel value chain is crucial to the revival of



the Zimbabwean economy as it forms the foundation of a healthy manufacturing sector. The value chain will also have strong linkages with all other sectors and hence forms the backbone of a strong economy. We look forward to a significant reduction in imports and expect to see a notable increase in exports of quality engineering, iron and steel goods, and services. We have no doubt that the sector will reposition itself as a major contributor to economic development along with mining and agriculture. This strategy is therefore an important step toward realising our dream.

As National Employment Council for the sector, we continue to maintain our commitment to the people of Zimbabwe, through our various programs to support industry's harmony, education, and development, contributing to the country's achievement of inclusive economic growth and to the reduction of poverty. We look forward to building on our fruitful partnership for many years to come.

Thank You