LEGAL AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK AIMED AT FOSTERING INDUSTRIALISATION AND CREATING AN INTEGRATED ECONOMIC LANDSCAPE.

ZITF 2025 Theme: *Industrialisation, Crafting an integrated economic landscape.*

The Second Republic of Zimbabwe, under President Mnangagwa's leadership has made significant strides in the legal and institutional framework aimed at fostering industrialisation and creating an integrated economic landscape. Below are some of the key legal frameworks, institutions and initiatives that have been implemented:

1. The Industrial Development Policy (IDP) 2019-2023

- This policy aims to promote industrial growth and diversification, focusing on value addition and beneficiation. It emphasises enhancing industrial capacity utilisation, expanding industries into rural areas, and promoting small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) as part of the broader industrial ecosystem.

2. The Zimbabwe Investment and Development Agency (ZIDA) Act (2020)

- The ZIDA Act was enacted to streamline investment procedures and enhance the ease of doing business in Zimbabwe. It consolidates the functions of various agencies and aims to promote private sector participation in industrialisation, making it easier for foreign and domestic investments to flow into key industries.

3. The Zimbabwe National Industrial Development Policy (2019-2023)

- This policy focuses on accelerating industrialisation through increased investments in infrastructure, technology, and skill development. The policy encourages the use of local raw materials to boost manufacturing and industrial production, contributing to an integrated and sustainable economic growth strategy.

4. The Zimbabwe Economic Recovery and Growth Plan (ZEGRP) 2020-2025

- This economic blueprint is aimed at revitalising the industrial sector and creating a more integrated economy. It includes strategies for improving industrial output, encouraging entrepreneurship, and enhancing linkages between sectors such as agriculture, manufacturing and services.

5. The Mines and Minerals Amendment Act (2020)

- This amendment has introduced measures aimed at fostering value addition in the mining sector, such as mandating that raw minerals must be beneficiated locally before being exported. This is a crucial part of the industrialisation process and aligns with the broader strategy of creating an integrated economic landscape by adding value to Zimbabwe's natural resources.

6. The Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) Act (2020)

- The PPP Act was enacted to facilitate collaboration between the government and private sector in financing and developing industrial infrastructure, including energy, transportation and manufacturing. This is pivotal in achieving industrial growth and ensuring the development of an integrated economic framework.

7. The Finance Act

- The Finance Act is an annual piece of legislation that is aimed at facilitating economic growth and industrialisation by introducing fiscal policies that encourage investment, entrepreneurship, and industrial development.
- Specific provisions in the Finance Act provide tax incentives for industrialists, promote exports and encourage the growth of small and medium enterprises (SMEs), all contributing to industrialisation and economic integration.

8. The Zimbabwe Trade Policy

- The trade policy seeks to create a favourable environment for both regional and international trade by improving the competitiveness of Zimbabwean industries, enhancing trade negotiations and reducing trade barriers.

- Industrialisation is closely linked with the capacity to trade effectively in the global market. This policy helps integrate Zimbabwe's industrial output with the regional and international economic landscape.

9. The Zimbabwe Infrastructure Investment Development Fund (ZIIDF)

- This fund is designed to support the development of infrastructure projects crucial for industrial growth, such as transport networks, energy provision and telecommunications.
- Efficient infrastructure is essential for industrial operations, and the ZIIDF helps facilitate the physical foundations of industrialisation, thereby promoting economic integration.

10. The Economic Empowerment Act

- The Economic Empowerment Act aims to empower indigenous Zimbabweans by providing legal frameworks for the acquisition and redistribution of resources, particularly in business and industrial sectors.
- It supports industrialisation by ensuring local communities and businesses are empowered to participate in the industrial economy, which aligns with broader economic integration goals.

11. The National Employment Policy (NEP)

- This policy addresses the importance of human capital in driving industrialisation by focusing on skills development, workforce training, and job creation in industrial sectors.
- It supports industrialisation by ensuring a skilled and capable workforce that can sustain industrial growth and contribute to an integrated economy.

12. The Companies and Other Business Entities Act

- This Act regulates the formation, operation, and dissolution of companies in Zimbabwe, promoting corporate governance, accountability and transparent business practices.
- By creating a favourable regulatory environment for businesses, this Act plays a role in promoting industrialisation by encouraging business formation and growth in industrial sectors.

13. The Zimbabwe Export and Import Policy

- This policy aims to enhance Zimbabwe’s competitiveness in global markets by encouraging the export of value-added goods, particularly from the industrial sector.
- By facilitating industrial exports, the policy strengthens Zimbabwe’s integration into the global economic landscape, supporting both industrialisation and economic growth.

The OPC continuously advocates for reforms in legal frameworks and institutions to align with the needs of the industrial sector, ensuring policies are up-to-date and responsive to challenges faced by industries. Through its strategic leadership, the OPC helps pass and implement critical reforms that directly benefit industries.