



**SPEECH**

**BY**

**THE PRESIDENT, HIS EXCELLENCY,  
DR. E. D. MNANGAGWA,**

**AT**

**THE NATIONAL LAUNCH OF THE  
PRODUCTION BOOSTER KIT**

**CRAIGENGOWER FARM, MAZOWE**

**25 AUGUST 2025**

Director of Ceremonies;

Vice President, Hon. Gen. (Rtd) Dr. C. G. D. N. Chiwenga;

Vice President, Hon. Col. (Rtd) K. C. D. Mohadi;

National Chairman of ZANU PF and Minister of Defence, Hon. O. C. Z. Muchinguri-Kashiri;

Minister of State for Provincial Affairs and Devolution, Mashonaland Central Province, Hon. C. Magomo;

Minister of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Rural Development, Hon. Dr. A. J. Masuka;

Other Honourable Ministers;

Chief Secretary to the President and Cabinet, Dr. M. Rushwaya;

Senior Government Officials;

Chairperson of the Land Technical Committee, Mr. K. Tagwirei, and other Members;

Your Excellencies, Members of the Diplomatic Corps;

Presidents of Farmers' Unions and Farmers;

Captains of Industry and Commerce;

Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is my singular honour and privilege to officiate at the National Launch of the Production Booster Kit Programme, which marks yet another significant milestone in our country's agricultural transformation agenda.

**Ndinotenda nekundigamuchira kwamaita mose mhuri yeMashonaland Central Province.**

Our Vision of a prosperous and empowered upper-middle-income society by 2030 remains anchored by a vibrant and robust agriculture sector. We must continue to guarantee food security and food sovereignty, improved nutrition security and overall improvements in the quality of life of our people.

It is in this context, therefore, that my Government implemented the “Agriculture, Food System and Rural Transformation Strategy: 2020-2025,” which focuses on climate-smart agriculture, among other critical aspects.

Due to the existential threat of climate change, Zimbabwe like many African countries, is at risk of becoming drier in the decades ahead. Against this backdrop, it is necessary that we build greater resilience, as well as adaptation and mitigation strategies.

In this regard, my Government has embarked on an array of climate-smart agriculture initiatives. These interventions are at two levels, beginning at the household level. The sustainable intensive Conservation Agriculture Model, popularly known as Pfumvudza / Intwasa, has been widely adopted and has helped to bolster our food security mix. This is being complemented by the matching of specific crops to the respective agro-ecological regions of our country.

It is commendable that these practices have led to a threefold increase in the production and productivity of maize and sorghum, as well as improved household food security and incomes.

At the national level, my Government is climate-proofing agriculture through extensive dam construction. A corresponding development of modern irrigation systems is being prioritised and scaled up. Under our ongoing irreversible national thrust of being a nation capable of feeding itself, irrigation development has become an invaluable tool in our fight against the adverse effects of climate change.

The devastating effects of the El Niño-induced drought during the 2023/2024 season, among other experiences, have shown us the urgent need to climate-proof agriculture. To this end, we have set for ourselves an ambitious and achievable target to develop 496,000 hectares of land under irrigation by 2030, with over 350,000 hectares under summer cereal production.

I, therefore, applaud efforts by stakeholders in the agriculture sector for the milestones realised in irrigation development. To date, the area under irrigation has increased from 175,000 hectares in 2019 to 222,000

hectares in 2025. This represents a 27% increase, the fastest irrigation development phase since Independence in 1980.

These ongoing efforts have seen us attaining yields of 1.8 million tons, which is equivalent to our annual food and feed requirements as a nation. Well done, Makorokoto. Congratulations.

**Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen;**

My Government has explored several initiatives and financing models available to support investments in irrigation systems for A2 farmers. The Accelerated Irrigation Investment Conference, which was held on 5 July 2024, under the umbrella of the Irrigation Development Alliance, a government-private sector consortium, has resulted in accelerated irrigation development. It is pleasing that implementation is now underway, with notable projects having started, for the development of 37 500 hectares.

We commend the private sector for playing its part towards mobilisation of the requisite funding, with Government being the guarantor. This is in keeping with our private sector-led economic development thrust and the mantra ‘Zimbabwe is open for business.’

Going forward, I invite more participants to collaborate with Government, farmers, and communities to expand irrigation development, including enhancing local capacities for climate change adaptation and resilience.

Meanwhile, in 2024, I launched a more secure tenure for A1 and A2 farmers in the form of transferable and bankable Title Deeds. These title deeds, as collateral, will enable many more of our farmers to access affordable financing towards increased production and productivity, mechanisation and on-farm infrastructure development. This must in turn, have spill-over effects that drive on going rural industrialisation, and the nationwide transitioning from subsistence farming, to farming as a business.

Today, I will be handing over title deeds to 1,000 farmers under the Presidential Title Deeds Programme.

**Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen;**

The Second Republic, in its people centred development policies, leaves no one and no place behind. To guarantee inclusion of A1 farmers that did not benefit from the various irrigation schemes throughout the country, I am pleased to announce the launch of the Productivity Booster Kit Programme. 10,000 A1 farmers will benefit under the first phase of this Programme. Through this initiative, each farmer is set to get a loan of US\$6,000 for the purchase of Productivity Booster Kits to irrigate between 1 and 3 hectares.

My Government plans to allocate US\$1.98 billion over 10 years as a loan for the Productivity Booster Kit Programme. Additionally, five banks have committed to provide additional working capital.

The Productivity Booster Kits will also be made available to smallholder tobacco farmers, to localise the procurement of farming equipment and other aspects of the tobacco value chain.

To support the Programme, Technical Service Centres will be established in each of the 10 provinces of our country to serve A1 farmers. The centres, which will be run and operated by banks, will provide five functional services. These include:

1. Tillage services;
2. Technical and Extension services;
3. Irrigation and Mechanisation services;
4. Harvest and post-harvest services and
5. Monitoring and evaluation services.

It is envisaged that, once capacitated, A1 farmers will be producing in excess of 10 million tons of cereal grain per annum.

Resultantly, A1 farmers alone will be contributing an extra **US\$6.14 billion** to the agricultural sector GDP with an excess of **US\$1.59 billion** in household disposable income.

Guided and inspired by our national development philosophy, **Nyika inovakwa, inotongwa, inonamatigwa nevene vayo/ ilizwe lakhiwa, libuswe, likhu-le-ke-lwe ngabanikazi balo**, let us join hands to build our beloved motherland, Zimbabwe. In this spirit, I challenge our farmers, the youth and women to take up this transformational innovative initiative, which will have far reaching impacts, spanning from the household level to export potential of our country.

As we set our focus on the 2025/2026 summer cropping season, I call upon our farmers and stakeholders in the agriculture sector to continue with unity of purpose for the realisation of a successful season. Scaling up preparations and improving our yields per hectare must

be our key focus in the on-going quest to realise maximum land utilisation.

Last week, I was in Japan for TICAD 7, which is a forum that brings together African countries and Japan to discuss areas of cooperation, partnership and investment. At the sidelines of that Conference, I had occasion to meet Mrs Cindy McCaine, the Head of the World Food Programme, who indicated that they are ready to purchase grain from Zimbabwe for food deficient countries. The onus, therefore, is on us, the people of Zimbabwe, to increase production output to feed ourselves, the region and beyond.

In concluding, I applaud all stakeholders for their collaboration and partnerships, which have seen the launch of the Production Booster Kit Programme, marking a significant step in our total empowerment journey, towards Vision 2030.

Together, through hard honest work, focus and determination, the targets we set for ourselves in the agriculture sector to ensure food security and food sovereignty, as well as the establishment of viable agro-industries and other related value chains, are indeed becoming a reality. **Congratulations, Makorokoto. Amhlophe.**

With these remarks, it is now my singular honour and privilege to declare the Production Booster Kit Programme officially launched.

**God bless you.**

**God bless Zimbabwe.**

**I thank you.**