

## CONCEPT NOTE ON THE 4<sup>TH</sup> ZIMBABWE ANNUAL DIASPORA CONFERENCE (ZADC): GWERU, MIDLANDS PROVINCE: 9-11 APRIL 2026

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### INTRODUCTION

1. The Government of Zimbabwe recognises the Diaspora as a key partner in advancing the pillars of Local Production Promotion; International Trade and Investment; and International Tourism Promotion in line with the national development mantra "***Nyika Inovakwa neVene Vayo, iLizwe Lakhiwa ngaBanikazi Balo***"
2. In fulfilment of its constitutional obligation to promote prosperous, happy and fulfilling lives for all citizens, including those in the Diaspora, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Trade through its Consular Services and Protection of Citizens Living Abroad pillar, safeguards Diaspora rights, facilitates access to consular services and integrates their contributions into national development, ensuring "***No ne and no place is left behind.***"
3. Zimbabwe also plays a critical role in promoting safe, orderly and humane migration, through its cooperation with international development partners. As an active member of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), Zimbabwe contributes to its budgets, programmes and policy development, ensuring targeted and timely Diaspora support.
4. Since the advent of the Second Republic, the Government has pursued a robust Diaspora engagement drive, reshaping the narrative of its relations with its Diaspora. To date, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Trade has successfully convened three (3) editions of the Zimbabwe Annual Diaspora Conference (ZADC) in Bulawayo, Masvingo and Manicaland, in line with the national devolution agenda. These conferences have mobilised Diaspora investment, facilitated skills transfer and showcased provincial investment opportunities.
5. The **4<sup>th</sup> Zimbabwe Annual Diaspora Conference (ZADC)**, will be held in **Gweru, Midlands Province**, at a venue to be advised, from **9-11 April, 2026**, under the theme: "***Diaspora Powering Progress: Driving Partnerships, Innovation and Sustainable Growth Towards Vision 2030.***"The event will be held in hybrid format enabling

both physical and virtual participation with a view to maximise inclusivity and global reach.

6. The proposed dates will also enable Diasporans to take part in the Independence Day celebrations and the Zimbabwe International Trade Fair (ZITF), scheduled for 20–25 April 2026.

### **OBJECTIVES OF THE CONFERENCE**

7. The **Main Objective** of the Conference is to strengthen collaboration between the Government and the Zimbabwean Diaspora by leveraging innovation, partnerships and investment for inclusive and sustainable growth towards the achievement of Vision 2030.
8. Specific Objectives:
  - i. **To provide a networking platform for dialogue and collaboration** that enables structured frameworks for mutually beneficial partnerships in national development between Government, the private sector and the Diaspora.
  - ii. **To market Zimbabwe’s investment opportunities** and boost confidence among the Diaspora and global partners, attracting sustainable capital inflows into key sectors such as agriculture, energy, mining, tourism and ICT.
  - iii. **To promote local production and industrial growth** by deepening collaboration between the Government, private sector and the Diaspora in developing value chains and supporting homegrown enterprises.
  - iv. **To tap into Diaspora resources and expertise** by facilitating investment, skills transfer and knowledge exchange to accelerate innovation and national development.
  - v. **To harness the Diaspora as trade ambassadors** in promoting Zimbabwean products abroad, including exploring mechanisms for establishing international warehouses and distribution hubs.
  - vi. **To provide an avenue for the Diaspora to reconnect with their culture and heritage** fostering a shared sense of national identity and pride.

## **PARTICIPATION**

9. Participation will include relevant Government Ministries Departments and Agencies (MDAs), Zimbabwean professionals, entrepreneurs and youth innovators in the Diaspora, business leaders, private sector players, development partners, financial institutions and international organisations.

## **THE DIASPORA TRADE AND INVESTMENT EXPO**

10. Alongside other programme engagements, the Conference will feature a **Diaspora Trade and Investment Expo**, a dynamic platform for Diaspora entrepreneurs, Private Sector players and Small and Medium Enterprises to showcase their goods, services and innovations.
11. The Expo, will provide participants an opportunity for networking, exploring Diaspora collaboration in establishing warehouses for Zimbabwean goods, promoting local products in global markets and strengthen local production by linking entrepreneurs with Diaspora investors.

## **ZIMBABWE DIASPORA ACHIEVERS' AWARDS**

12. The Guest of Honour will present the Zimbabwe Diaspora Achievers Awards during the Conference. This prestigious honour celebrates outstanding Zimbabweans abroad who have made exceptional contributions to national development and enhanced the country's global image.
13. The Awards will be conferred in three categories:
  - **Social Support Award:** Diasporans undertaking social support initiatives to improve communities at home.
  - **Business Excellence Award:** Diaspora entrepreneurs driving investment and innovation in Zimbabwe.
  - **Patriotism Award:** Diaspora patriots who have upheld and promoted Zimbabwe's identity and image abroad.
14. Awardees will be nominated through Zimbabwe's Diplomatic Missions abroad, in collaboration with Diaspora Associations.

## **CONCLUSION**

15. The **4<sup>th</sup> Zimbabwe Annual Diaspora Conference** stands as a unifying platform that reaffirms the nation's commitment to inclusive development. It amplifies the voice and participation of Zimbabweans abroad in shaping the country's future. Through dialogue, innovation and strategic partnerships, the Conference invites the global Zimbabwean community to be active architects of transformation, driving progress toward Vision 2030 and beyond.

**Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Trade**

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