



SPEECH

BY

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

AT THE

**OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF THE
ZIMBABWE NATIONAL ARTIFICIAL
INTELLIGENCE STRATEGY.**

**NEW PARLIAMENT BUILDING,
13 MARCH 2026**

Director of Ceremonies;

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

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

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

Speaker of Parliament, Hon. Adv. J. F. N. Mudenda;

President of the Senate, Hon. Amai. M. M. Chinomona;

Minister of Information Communication Technology,
Postal and Courier Services, Hon. T. Mavetera;

Other Honourable Ministers;

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

Public Service Commission Chairman, Dr. V. Hungwe;

Senior Government Officials;

Captains of Industry and Commerce;

Academics, Researchers and Innovators;

Comrades and Friends.

Artificial Intelligence and accompanying technologies are at the very heart of the ongoing seismic technological transformation, reshaping economies and societies at an unprecedented pace. Further, the current paradigm brings to the fore, the urgent need to increase capacities towards digital architecture and sovereignty.

The Zimbabwe we all envision, must be a digitally robust and agile. We have the duty to embrace emerging technologies to unlock numerous Artificial Intelligence driven opportunities that will propel modernisation, industrialisation and sustainable socio-economic growth.

It is, therefore, with immense jubilation that I address this occasion, as we launch the Zimbabwe National Artificial Intelligence Strategy, which will undoubtedly ignite a new chapter in our country's ongoing development trajectory.

The Strategy is a declaration of our collective readiness for the transformative impact of Artificial Intelligence. It is a bold response to the disruptive effects of the ever-evolving technological era. As a key development enabler, the Strategy should help unleash our full potential and new frontiers in agriculture, mining, healthcare, finance and education, among other aspects of our economy.

It is commendable that the Strategy incorporates various perspectives of a broad cross-section of stakeholders as outlined in the Zimbabwe Artificial Intelligence Readiness Assessment Report.

The four critical foundational pillars which anchor this comprehensive Strategy must serve as the beacon of our journey.

Under the **Talent and Capacity Development Pillar**, my Government will deliberately develop and enhance our human capital skills.

Focus is on revamping our education system from primary right up to tertiary level to include STEM as a vital cog in everything we do, coding and data literacy. Centers of Excellence in Artificial Intelligence shall be established at our institutions of higher and tertiary education. The prioritisation of research funding as well as attractive career pathways for our specialists, remain critically important to Government.

Similarly, to guarantee **Artificial Intelligence Infrastructure and Computational Sovereignty**, the operationalisation of the Data Protection Act is now urgent. Additionally, the promotion of open data initiatives and secure data market places must be scaled up, while investments in our digital infrastructure, including cloud computing capacities remain essential. The maximum usage of the High-Performance Computing Center should help empower our research and development community

ecosystem in line with Heritage Based Education 5.0. priority areas.

The Third Pillar relates to **Artificial Intelligence Adoption and Service Transformation**. I challenge all stakeholders to be guided by the outlined roadmap for the seamless and widespread adoption of this strategy across all sectors. On its part, my Administration stands ready to offer incentives to businesses that integrate Artificial Intelligence to augment efficiencies and productivity. In the public sector, flagship projects are set to be rolled out in key areas such as precision agriculture, predictive healthcare diagnostics, smart mining operations, together with Artificial Intelligence driven systems to improve service delivery and fight corruption.

Meanwhile, the **Governance, Ethics and Regulatory Framework** under the Strategy seeks to establish a robust legal and ethical framework for the development and use of Artificial Intelligence in Zimbabwe.

This includes the creation of national guidelines for data privacy, fairness and accountability.

We are committed to ensuring that the use of Artificial Intelligence is human-centric, transparent and free from bias. The protection of our national interests as well as the dignity of all Zimbabweans, remain central to the legal parameters we are putting in place.

Over and above these four pillars, the importance of international collaboration and partnerships, cannot be over emphasised. I urge players in the sector to adopt best practices, from this onset and attract responsible investment, while making sure that Zimbabwe is an active participant in the ongoing global dialogue, on the future of Artificial Intelligence.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

It is pleasing that, under the Second Republic, Government has been purposeful in building as well as facilitating

digital infrastructure that forms a sound base to anchor our country's development aspirations.

Concerted investments in the ICT and telecommunications sector are bearing fruit, and guaranteeing the requisite connectivity for a data-and knowledge future.

To date, progress continues to be made with regards, mobile services coverage. The level of connectivity in the country's digital ecosystem is bringing information and communication tools, closer to the majority of our citizens.

Internet access has grown, with many Zimbabweans having access to the global digital space and tools. This commendable internet penetration forms a vital pool of potential users and creators in the Artificial Intelligence value chain. Well done.

It is praiseworthy that the Postal and Courier Services sub-sector has been modernised and integrated into the

e-commerce enabled platforms. These successes represent a country and nation positioning itself towards a prosperous and brighter future.

On a broader scale, I am encouraged by the positive spill-offs from our own home-grown Artificial Intelligence ecosystem which have taken root. These are driven by the ingenuity of our young talented boys and girls, academics and tech-savvy entrepreneurs. **Well done, Makorokoto. Amhlophe.**

Esteemed Guests;

Following my Administration's deliberate support for start-ups and the roll out of innovation hubs, the increased development of Artificial Intelligence powered solutions addressing the needs of our communities is commendable. These include chat-bots in local languages to assist farmers, machine learning models predicting commodity market prices and computer vision systems for early detection of crop diseases, among others.

While, remarkable progress has been recorded within our institutions, research on the application of Artificial Intelligence in areas such as public health and environmental monitoring should be scaled up to improve national capabilities in this respect.

The use of Artificial Intelligence in Financial Technology and the Public Sector is going a long way towards accelerating automation, service delivery, the modernisation of urban planning and land use management, as well as optimising energy distribution.

Through this Strategy, the Whole-of-Government and Society Approach must be leveraged towards the realisation of the desired national development aspirations and impactful results.

As engines of innovation and adoption, the private sector is challenged to invest in Artificial Intelligence, partner

with startups to transform our industries and leap frog our country's modernisation and industrialisation.

I, urge, both the public and private sectors to engage the young talented and skilled Zimbabweans residing in other jurisdictions, to help propel this onerous and ground breaking field.

To the youthful '*techno-preneurs*, creators and inventors, I challenge you, to always push your creativity limits and break new grounds, mindful that; **'Nyika inovakwa, inotongwa, inonamatigwa nevene vayo /ilizwe lakhiwa, libuswe, likhu-le-ke-lwe ngabanikazi balo.**

Develop solutions, innovate and create as you play your part in building our, motherland, Zimbabwe. In this respect, my Administration will continue to support the growth of Artificial Intelligence industry, your start-ups and ventures.

By launching this strategy, here at the New Parliament Building, the sector, along with Parliament, must speed up the development of legislation that will guarantee online protection of our children and minors, in particular against, harmful effects of social media and digital platforms. We have a duty to raise them up in the rich ways of our cultural heritage and traditions, in spite of the inroads made by external influences. We dare not drop the ball.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

We must look to the future, inspired by our country's rich past. Let us, implement this Strategy with a renewed sense of purpose, unity, focus and determination. We must work together, to ensure that the benefits of Artificial Intelligence impact every village, ward, district, town and city.

The ability to achieve greatness is in our nature. This new age of Artificial Intelligence shall equally be conquered and leveraged to quicken socio-economic growth and a higher standard of living for our people.

A smarter, more efficient and prosperous Zimbabwe, driven by the proficiency of our people and the promise of technology, is a reality.

With these remarks, it is now my singular honour and privilege to officially launch the Zimbabwe National Artificial Intelligence Strategy.

God bless you all.

God bless Zimbabwe.

I thank you.