



ZIMBABWE

MINISTRY OF YOUTH, SPORT, ARTS AND RECREATION

**REPORT ON THE NATIONAL LANGUAGES INDABA
14-16 JUNE 2022
HELD AT THE ELEPHANT HILLS HOTEL, VICTORIA FALLS**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Attendance	5
Guest of Honour	6
Host	6
Directors of Ceremonies	6
Assistant Director of Ceremony	6
Minister of Religion	6
Chief Editor	6
Editorial Team	6
Chief Rapporteurs	7
Rapporteurs	7
Entertainment Coordinating Team	7
Entertainment Groups	7
Poets	8
Executive Summary	9
1. Introduction and Background	11
2. Justification	11
3. Indaba Sub-Themes	12
4. Specific Objectives	13
5. Outcomes	14
6.0 INDABA PROCEEDINGS	14
6.1 Day 1: National Languages Indaba Kicks Off	14
6.1.1 <i>Welcome Remarks: Ms S. Ncube Secretary for Matabeleland North Provincial Affairs and Devolution</i>	14
6.1.2 <i>Introductory Remarks and Acknowledgement: Dr T. Chitepo – Secretary for Youth Sport, Arts and Recreation</i>	15
6.1.3 <i>Programme Outline and Objectives: Dr B. Samwanda – Director of Arts and Culture</i>	16
6.1.4 <i>Statement from Chairperson: Hon Dr T Moyo (MP) – Chairperson Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Primary and Secondary Education</i>	16
6.1.5 <i>Statement: ACALAN Executive Secretary on AU's ACALAN</i>	

	<i>Roadmap: Dr L.F. Dampha</i>	18
6.1.6	<i>Statement from Honourable M. Tongofa (MP) – Chairperson Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Youth, Sport, Arts and Recreation</i>	19
6.1.7	<i>Statement: The envisaged role of the Public Service Commission in implementing the language policy once it is in place - Dr I. Ndebele</i>	19
6.1.8	<i>Some tricky terms in language policy formulation: Professor H. Chimhundu</i>	20
6.1.9	<i>Language raising and services for national development in Zimbabwe: The case of the Midlands State University National Languages Institute: Professor W. Magwa</i>	21
6.1.10	<i>Panel Discussion 1: Preservation and promotion of indigenous languages: Opportunities and challenges</i>	22
6.1.11	<i>Panel Discussion 2: The role of Chapter 12 Commissions in the promotion, preservation, safeguarding and implementation of indigenous languages</i>	24
6.1.12	<i>Indigenous languages and cultural creative industries: Dr I. Mabasa</i>	26
6.1.13	<i>National languages and constitutionalism: Professor L. Madhuku</i>	27
6.2	Day 2: Official Opening of the Indaba	30
6.2.1	<i>Introductions and overview of the National Languages Indaba by the Secretary for Youth, Sport, Arts and Recreation: Dr T. Chitepo</i>	30
6.2.2	<i>Welcome remarks by Minister of State for Provincial Affairs and Devolution Matabeleland North: Honourable Richard Moyo</i>	30
6.2.3	<i>Remarks by the African Union Commission, Director for Social Development, Culture and Sports Representative: Dr L. Fafa Dampha</i>	30
6.2.4	<i>Remarks by the Honourable. Minister of Higher and Tertiary Education, Innovation, Science and Technology Development: Professor dr A. Murwira</i>	32
6.2.5	<i>Remarks by Honourable Minister of Youth, Sport, Arts and Recreation, Dr K. Coventry and Introduction of the Vice President and Minister of Health and Child Care, Honourable Dr C.G.D.N. Chiwenga</i>	33
6.2.6	<i>Remarks and introduction of the Guest of Honour by the Honourable Vice President of the Republic of Zimbabwe and Minister of Health and Childcare, Honourable. Dr C.G.D.N. Chiwenga</i>	34
6.2.7	<i>Keynote Address by the His Excellency the President of the Republic of Zimbabwe: Dr E.D Mnangagwa</i>	34
6.2.8	<i>Presentation of gift to the Guest of Honour by the Honourable Minister, Dr K. Coventry</i>	37

6.2.9	<i>Vote of thanks: Honourable O. Muchinguri-Kashiri standing in for the Vice President of ZANU PF Honourable K.C.D. Mohadi</i>	37
6.2.10	<i>National Anthem</i>	37
6.2.11	<i>Plenary Discussions: CCIs and Indigenous Languages: Spearheading Sustainable Socio-economic Development</i>	37
6.2.12	<i>Plenary Discussions: Voices from the ‘margins’: Speakers from indigenous languages recognised by the Constitution and others not yet recognised</i>	39
6.2.13	<i>Plenary Session: Disability and National Languages</i>	40
6.2.14	<i>Questions and Responses by Panellists and Participants</i>	41
6.2.15	<i>Plenary Discussions: The Role of Civic Organisations (CSOs) or Non- Governmental Organisations in Promoting Indigenous Languages for National Development</i>	42
6.3	Day 3: Feedback and Closing of the National Languages Indaba	43
6.3.1	<i>Parallel Session 1: The role of language in achieving an upper middle income society by the year 2030</i>	43
6.3.2	<i>Parallel Session 2: National Languages Policy Framework</i>	44
6.3.3	<i>Parallel Session 3: National Languages Bill Framework</i>	44
6.3.4	<i>Parallel Session 4: National Languages Board</i>	45
6.3.5	<i>Parallel Session 5: Language and Technology</i>	47
6.3.6	<i>Declaration</i>	47
6.3.7	<i>Closing Remarks and Vote of Thanks</i>	48
	Appendices	50

ATTENDANCE

(Refer to the Attendance Register)

Event: National Languages Indaba
Date: 14 – 16 June 2022
Venue: Elephant Hills, Victoria Falls
Theme: ***‘Re-defining the role of Zimbabwean languages for national development towards Vision 2030 and beyond.’***



The President His Excellency Dr.E.D.Mnangagwa, the Vice President and Minister of Health and Child Care Hon. General (Rtd) Dr C.D.G.N. Chiwenga, Minister of Defence and War Veterans Affairs Hon.O.C.Z Muchinguri- Kashiri, the Minister of Youth, Sport, Arts and Recreation Hon.Dr K. Coventry and the Minister of Provincial Affairs and Devolution for Matabeleland North Hon. R. Moyo (Front Row) with Ministers of Provincial Affairs and Devolution, Deputy Ministers, Permanent Secretaries, Senior Government Officials and Members of the National Languages Advisory Committee at the Elephant Hills Hotel immediately after the National Languages Indaba was officially declared open by the President of the Republic of Zimbabwe.

GUEST OF HONOUR

HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZIMBABWE DR. E.D. MNANGAGWA

HOST

MINISTER OF YOUTH, SPORT, ARTS AND RECREATION, HONOURABLE DR KIRSTY COVENTRY

DIRECTORS OF CEREMONIES

1. Dr Thokozile Chitepo – The Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Youth, Sport, Arts and Recreation
2. Mr Alson Mfiri, Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe Spokesperson

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF CEREMONIES

1. Dr Biggie Samwanda, - Director, Arts and Culture in the Ministry of Youth, Sport, Arts and Recreation

MINISTER OF RELIGION

1. Reverend Trever Masuku - General Secretary of Evangelical Fellowship of Zimbabwe

CHIEF EDITOR

1. Professor Wiseman Magwa-Executive Director, National Languages Institute, Midlands State University

EDITORIAL TEAM

1. Professor Wiseman Magwa – Executive Director, National Languages Institute, Midlands State University.
2. Dr Eventhough Ndlovu - Senior Lecturer, Department of Languages, Literature and Culture, University of Zimbabwe.
3. Dr Biggie Samwanda – Director, Arts and Culture, Ministry of Youth, Sport, Arts and Recreation
4. Mr Elisha Ndanga – Managing Director Human Resources, Tertiary Education Council, Ministry of Higher and Tertiary Education, Innovation, Science and Technology Development
5. Ms Charity Manuhwa –Mhene, Deputy Director, Arts and Culture, Ministry of Youth, Sport, Arts and Recreation

CHIEF RAPPORTEURS

1. Dr Eventhough Ndlovu - Senior Lecturer, Department of Languages, Literature and Culture, University of Zimbabwe.
2. Mr Elisha Ndanga – Managing Director Human Resources, Tertiary Education Council, Ministry of Higher and Tertiary Education, Innovation, Science and Technology Development
3. Charity Manuhwa Mhene – Deputy Director of Arts and Culture

RAPPORTEURS

1. Dr Busani Maseko- Senior Lecturer, Department of African Languages, Lupane State University
2. Ms Lucy Ngosolo, Director, Indigenous Languages News Desk, ZBC.
3. Dr Steyn Kesani Madhlome – Senior Lecturer, Department of Languages, Great Zimbabwe University.
4. Professor Enna Gudhlanga- Department of Languages and Literature, Zimbabwe Open University.
5. Mr Vuso Mhlanga -Lawyer and Lecturer, Department of Languages, Literature and Culture, University of Zimbabwe.
6. Mr Memory Chirere, Lecturer, Department of Languages, Literature and Culture, University of Zimbabwe.
7. Dr Patrick Ngandini – Research Officer, Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education.
8. Mrs Spiwe Zemura Jiri - Principal Arts and Culture Officer.
9. Mr Omega Sibanda Principal Arts and Culture Officer.
10. Mr Canaan Mathema – Arts and Culture Officer.
11. Mrs Priscilla Viriri - Principal Arts and Culture Officer.
12. Mr Ian Nyamundanda – Arts and Culture Officer.
13. Mrs Kunyepa Magwere – Sign Language Teacher at Emerald Hill School of the deaf and dumb.

ENTERTAINMENT COORDINATING TEAM

1. Mr Milton Masaka - Arts and Culture Officer
2. Ms Josephine Tokonye - Arts and Culture Officer
3. Ms Cordelia Ncube - Arts and Culture Officer

ENTERTAINMENT GROUPS

1. Inkume Performing Arts
2. Simunye Arts Ensemble
3. Ubuntu Bomuntu
4. White Stars Traditional Dance Group
5. Vuli Ndlela Theatre Company
6. Kim Makumbe

7. Bekezela Nkomo
8. Umkankaso vaMajaya
9. Dura Mazwi Mbira Group
10. Chicken Bus Band
11. Mokoomba Band

POETS

1. Luckmore Magaya
2. Obert Dube

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Ministry of Youth, Sport, Arts and Recreation organised an all-inclusive, stakeholders National Languages Indaba at the Elephant Hills Hotel, Victoria Falls on 14-16 June 2022. The aim was to generate national consensus to come up with a roadmap for the crafting of the National Languages Policy and National Languages Bill. The Indaba was in pursuit of the goal of aligning the linguistic resources of the nation to Vision 2030 guided by the National Development Strategy 1 (2020-2025). The President of the Republic of Zimbabwe, His Excellency Dr E. D. Mnangagwa was the Guest of Honour at the historic National Languages Indaba. Other notable delegates at the event were the Vice President and Minister of Health and Child Care, Honourable General (Retired) Dr C. G. D. N. Chiwenga, the Minister of Defence and War Veterans Affairs and Chairman of the ruling ZANU (PF) party, Honourable O. C. Z. Muchinguri-Kashiri, the Minister of Youth, Sport, Arts and Recreation, Honourable Dr K. Coventry, Deputy Minister of Youth, Sport, Arts and Recreation Honourable Tino Machakaire, Ministers of Provincial Affairs and Devolution, Deputy Ministers, Chairpersons of Commissions, Permanent Secretaries, Vice Chancellors of Universities, Principals of Polytechnics and Teachers' Colleges, Traditional Leadership, Zimbabwe National Commission for UNESCO, Language and Culture experts, Captains of the Cultural and Creative Industries (CCI), Heads of Parastatals, the Clergy, Traditional Healers representatives, Civic Society Organisations (CSO) and members of the Media.

The National Languages Indaba had the following two key objectives:

- To redefine the role of Zimbabwean languages in achieving an upper middle-income society by 2030 and beyond.
- To make recommendations for the crafting of a National Languages Policy, a National Languages Bill, a National Languages Board and a National Languages Fund.

The inaugural National Languages Indaba was indeed a huge milestone in the country. It marked a deepened commitment by the Government to promote the use and development of indigenous languages. The Indaba outcomes will certainly foster maximum and active citizen participation in all national development programmes and the process cultivate social cohesion, patriotism, national pride and inclusivity. Proceedings of the Indaba were carried out in three days as follows:

Day 1 presentations set the tone and mood of the inaugural Indaba by outlining clearly the overall aim and objectives of the three-day event. The different presentations by the Ministry of Youth, Sport, Arts and Recreation, Parliamentarians, the African Union Culture Commission, the Public Service Commission, Universities, and Zimbabwe's Chapter 12 Commissions of the Constitution emphasised the need to promote mother tongue-based multilingual language policies. Government ministries were urged to work closely with Traditional leaders, speakers of indigenous languages and language associations during national events.

Day 2 saw the official opening of the Indaba by His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Zimbabwe, Dr E. D. Mnangagwa. His Excellency underscored that

indigenous languages are critical resources and enablers of social transformation, human capital development and wealth creation. Institutions, organisations and agencies in the country were implored to domesticate the provisions of the National Language Policy and foster a culture of multilingual service provision to ensure maximum and active citizen participation, engagement and collaboration. The Honourable Vice President, the Minister of Defence and War Veterans Affairs, the Minister of Youth, Sport, Arts and Recreation, and the Minister of Provincial Affairs and Devolution for Matabeleland North took turns to urge Zimbabweans to embrace indigenous languages and support the implementation of policies which seek to champion the use and development of indigenous languages. All Day 2 speakers emphasised that the development of the National Language Policy and the National Languages Act should be informed by research. Local industries were challenged to prioritise packaging local products using indigenous languages.

Day 3 was reserved for parallel sessions' reports and feedback by rapporteurs and the closing of the National Languages Indaba. After receiving the reports from the different session representatives, the delegates resolved and declared that:

- (i) There shall be a National Languages Policy
- (ii) There shall be a National Languages Act
- (iii) There shall be a National Languages Board and
- (iv) There shall be a National Languages Fund.

In closing the Indaba, the Ministry of Youth, Sport, Arts and Recreation's Chief Director, Dr Dube expressed profound gratitude to the National leadership for their unwavering support to and for the National Languages Indaba. The closing remarks also highlighted that the Ministry values an all-inclusive stakeholder approach in its execution of tasks and that it anchors its operations on concerted efforts, consultation, engagement, cooperation, coordination and collaboration with all stakeholders. The Ministry ended by thanking all the participants for the fruitful, insightful and informative engagements during the three days of the Indaba.

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

The Republic of Zimbabwe has many languages spoken across the nation and 16 of these have been granted official recognition status in terms of Section 6 (1) of the Constitution of Zimbabwe Amendment (No.20) Act, 2013. The country is therefore regarded as a multilingual nation. The 16 officially recognised languages are: Shona, Ndebele, Tonga, Nambya, Kalanga, Tswana, Khoisan, Sotho, Xhosa, Venda, Shangani, Ndau, ChiBarwe, English, Chewa and Sign Language. The Government of Zimbabwe believes in the equitable treatment of these languages.

The Ministry of Youth, Sport, Arts and Recreation, in particular, acknowledges that language is a powerful vehicle and carrier of a people's culture and identity. To this effect, the National Languages Indaba aimed to promote, preserve and develop all the officially recognised languages of Zimbabwe taking on board those that are yet to be granted recognition. Given the diversity of languages in the country, the recommendations of the Indaba will help to promote multilingualism, linguistic diversity and respect for language rights.

The Second Republic of Zimbabwe likewise has prioritised language planning and development anchored on the mantra, '*Nyika inovakwa nevene vayo vachitaura mitauro yavo/ Ilizwe lakhiwa ngabaninibalo besebenzisa indimi zabo*'; hence no nation can develop based on a language or languages of other nations. Driven by a clear sense of decolonisation, the National Languages Indaba was in pursuit of the goal of aligning the linguistic resources of the nation to the spirit of Vision 2030 guided by the National Development Strategy 1 (2020-2025). The Indaba was an all-inclusive stakeholder initiative whose aim was to generate consensus and come up with a roadmap for the crafting of the National Languages Policy and the National Languages Bill.

2. JUSTIFICATION

2.1 The Government of Zimbabwe recognises that language is a powerful vehicle and carrier of a people's culture and identity. The National Languages Indaba aimed to promote, preserve and develop all the officially recognised languages of Zimbabwe.

2.2 The lack of a National Languages Policy is a challenge and a hindrance to national progress; as such, the languages of Zimbabwe have not been adequately promoted and developed to preserve them as well as safeguard the cultures and the inherent human dignity that goes with the African people who speak them.

- 2.3 It is against this backdrop that the imperative for developing a comprehensive, coherent and clear National Languages Policy and National Languages Act is anchored.
- 2.4 The Indaba sought to strengthen all languages that are spoken in Zimbabwe as vehicles for inter-generational transmission of living heritage or intangible cultural heritage of all mother-tongue speakers.
- 2.5 In holding the National Languages Indaba, the nation will ultimately advance the achievement of the objectives of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the 1986 Organisation of African Unity (OAU) Language Plan of Action for Africa, African Union's Agenda 2063: 'The Africa We Want, with particular reference to Aspiration 5', the Constitution of Zimbabwe Amendment (No. 20) Act 2013, Vision 2030, NDS1, the National Arts, Culture and Heritage Policy, National Intellectual Property Rights Policy and the National Cultural and Creative Industries Strategy among others.
- 2.6 The National Languages Indaba was a step further in harnessing national languages into an all-inclusive development and constitutional democracy anchored on the national ethos of inclusive citizenship, dignity, equality and the promotion of basic freedoms and fundamental human rights entitlements.

3. INDABA SUB-THEMES

- 3.1 National languages and inclusive citizenship.
- 3.2 National languages and constitutionalism.
- 3.3 Officially recognised indigenous languages in relation to other internationally recognised languages.
- 3.4 Harnessing indigenous languages as intangible cultural heritage for tourism.
- 3.5 Indigenous languages and film production: Challenges and opportunities.
- 3.6 Research, teaching and learning of national languages across all levels of the education system: Opportunities and threats.
- 3.7 The role of language teaching at universities, innovation and research in promoting sound international relations and commercial efficacy.
- 3.8 Indigenous languages, media freedom and access to basic information.
- 3.9 The role of Chapter 12 institutions in promoting indigenous languages.

- 3.10 The role of Parliament in ensuring participatory democracy and national development.
- 3.11 The role of Civic Society Organisations (CSOs) or Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) in promoting the teaching of indigenous languages and translation of policy documents into the officially recognised indigenous languages.
- 3.12 National indigenous languages and the preservation of cultural diversity.
- 3.13 Voices from the 'margins'; Speakers from indigenous languages.
- 3.14 The role of the MSU National Language Institute in national and languages development.
- 3.15 National languages and their role in technological development.
- 3.16 National languages and gender issues.
- 3.17 The role of indigenous languages in promoting access to quality basic services.

4. SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

- 4.1 To redefine the role of Zimbabwean languages in achieving an upper middle-income society by 2030 and beyond.
- 4.2 To consult and engage stakeholders to build a consensus on language issues.
- 4.3 To make recommendations for the following frameworks;
 - 4.3.1 National Languages Policy.
 - 4.3.2 National Languages Bill.
 - 4.3.3 National Languages Board.
 - 4.3.4 National Languages Fund

5. OUTCOMES

5.1 National Languages Policy.

5.2 National Languages Act.

5.3 Inclusive citizen participation in all national development programmes.

5.4 Patriotism.

6.0 INDABA PROCEEDINGS

6.1 Day 1: National Languages Indaba Kicks Off

6.1.1 Welcome Remarks: Ms S. Ncube Secretary for Matabeleland North Provincial Affairs and Devolution

6.1.1.1 The Representative for the Secretary for Matabeleland North welcomed all the participants present and acknowledged all present and those who were yet to attend the Indaba.

6.1.1.2 He conveyed the Secretary's apologies since she could not attend the Indaba due to ill health.

6.1.1.3 He expressed hope that the Indaba will put forward feasible measures for acknowledging, validating, valorising and mainstreaming indigenous languages in development as critical enablers for inclusive sustainable human development.

6.1.1.4 He also expressed hope that the Indaba will be a platform for dialogical intervention strategies to come up with measures for ensuring the use of indigenous languages as enablers for realising Vision 2030.

6.1.1.5 He also highlighted that the Province is home to a significant number of the indigenous languages spoken in the country.

6.1.1.6 In concluding his remarks, he invited all the Indaba participants to take time to tour the tourist resort areas in the Province, especially given that it is a site of vast tourist resort areas.

6.1.2 Introductory Remarks and Acknowledgement: Dr T. Chitepo – Secretary for Youth Sport, Arts and Recreation

- 6.1.2.1 Dr Chitepo acknowledged all dignitaries present and those who were still yet to join the Indaba and welcomed all the Indaba participants.
- 6.1.2.2 She highlighted that the inaugural Indaba is a huge milestone in the country which marks a deepened commitment by the Government to promote the use and development of indigenous languages.
- 6.1.2.3 She acknowledged the critical role of the all-inclusive stakeholders approaches in the Indaba.
- 6.1.2.4 She stressed the need for an all-inclusive nature of the Indaba to ensure that no one and no place is left behind.
- 6.1.2.5 She noted that the Indaba seeks to build a consensus on indigenous languages and engage in honest discourses in re-defining the role of the indigenous languages in the quest to become an upper-middle-income society by 2030.
- 6.1.2.6 She thanked all the participants who availed themselves of this important event despite their busy schedules.
- 6.1.2.6 She expressed hope that through dialogical intervention strategies and development communication, the Indaba will come up with a consensus on the way forward in implementing the language provisions of the Constitution.
- 6.1.2.6 She noted that Indaba is anchored on the mantra: Leaving no one and no place behind and *Nyika inovakwa nevene vayo vachishandisa mitauro yavo/ Ilizwe lakhiwanga baninibalo indimi zabo*.
- 6.1.2.7 She noted that the Indaba is laying the essentials for the nation's vision regarding its indigenous languages.
- 6.1.2.8 She underscored that the Indaba is in line with the language provisions of the Constitution, the 1986 OAU Language Plan of Action for Africa, Agenda 2063, Sustainable Development Goals, Vision 2030 and NDS1 among other key instruments and blueprints.
- 6.1.2.9 She noted that the overall aim of the Indaba is to ensure inclusivity and national pride as well as to enable inclusive sustainable human development.
- 6.1.2.10 She highlighted that the Indaba seeks to develop four key frameworks, namely the:
 - ✓ National Language Policy, a regulatory framework for regulating language use in the country.

- ✓ National Languages Act, a regulatory framework for supporting and entrenching language rights.
- ✓ National Languages Board, an institutional support structure and regulatory body.
- ✓ National Languages Fund, to support the crafting and implementation of the relevant policy frameworks and support the work of the regulatory body.

6.1.2.11 She noted that these four frameworks are essential for the development of the indigenous languages and increasing their functional space in high-function domains.

6.1.2.12 She concluded by thanking all the Indaba participants and wished them fruitful engagements and deliberations.

6.1.3 Programme Outline and Objectives: Dr B. Samwanda – Director of Arts and Culture

6.1.3.1 Dr Samwanda welcomed all the participants and acknowledged all dignitaries present and those who were yet to join the Indaba.

6.1.3.2 He outlined the purpose, theme, structure and objectives of the Indaba as detailed in the programme and underscored that the Indaba seeks to unlock the value of indigenous languages as drivers of socio-economic development.

6.1.3.3 He also noted that the Indaba seeks to redefine the role of indigenous languages in achieving Vision 2030.

6.1.3.4 He highlighted that the Indaba will provide a platform for stakeholder engagement and lead to the crafting of the National Language Policy and National Languages Bill as well as the constitution of the National Languages Board and the National Languages Fund.

6.1.3.5 He also noted that the other envisaged outcomes of the Indaba are; citizen participation in national programmes, patriotism and inclusive citizenship.

6.1.4 Statement from Chairperson: Hon Dr T Moyo (MP) – Chairperson Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Primary and Secondary Education

6.1.4.1 Dr Moyo outlined the role of Parliament in supporting the teaching and learning of indigenous languages in primary and secondary education.

- 6.1.4.2 He noted that Parliament has a role in enacting enabling legislation to support the teaching and learning of indigenous languages.
- 6.1.4.3 He underscored the value of mother tongue-based multilingual education in fostering inclusivity and respect for educational linguistic human rights and the right of access to quality education as envisaged in SDG 4.
- 6.1.4.4 He also underscored that the promotion of mother tongue-based multilingual education is in line with the aspirations of NDS1 of ensuring increased use of indigenous languages in education.
- 6.1.4.5 He noted that mother tongue-based multilingual education facilitates effective learning and cultural transmission, language preservation, intergeneration transmission of language, cohesion, unity and identity.
- 6.1.4.6 He expressed concern over the continued dominance of English in the education system and challenged the nation to glean lessons from China, Japan and Russia which have developed using their languages.
- 6.1.4.7 He commended the Government for according 16 languages the status of officially recognised languages and appealed for the recognition of other languages which have not been included in the list of officially recognised languages.
- 6.1.4.8 Dr Moyo also cautioned members on the use of derogatory terms such as minority languages.
- 6.1.4.9 He highlighted that the non-use of indigenous languages in high-function domains endangers them.
- 6.1.4.10 He stressed the need for the decentralisation of teacher deployment and to ensure that teacher deployment takes into account the teachers' language competencies.
- 6.1.4.11 He emphasized the need to avail funds to support the effective implementation of the language provisions of the Constitution of Zimbabwe Amendment (No.20) Act.
- 6.1.4.12 He also highlighted the need to provide financial support for the production of teaching and learning materials to address the current critical shortage.
- 6.1.4.13 He also noted that there is a need to invest in teacher training programmes for indigenous languages to address the current critical shortage.

6.1.4.14 He also underscored the need for a multi-stakeholder engagement, consultation and collaboration approach in the crafting of the National Languages Policy and National Languages Bill.

*6.1.5 Statement: ACALAN Executive Secretary on AU's ACALAN Roadmap:
Dr L.F. Dampha*

6.1.5.1 Dr Dampha conveyed regards from the AU Commission Director for Social Development, Culture and Sport, Mrs CM. Mohammed who could not be at the Indaba due to other pressing commitments.

6.1.5.2 Dr Dampha commended and congratulated the Zimbabwean Government for hosting its inaugural Indaba on indigenous languages noting that this is a step in the right direction in implementing the provisions of the 1986 OAU Language of Plan of Action for Africa.

6.1.5.3 He also commended the Government's all-inclusive stakeholder approach to policy development.

6.1.5.4 He explained what ACALAN is and its role, mandate, organogram and activities.

6.1.5.5 He noted that ACALAN's vision for all AU member states is that of the increased use of African languages as critical enablers for inclusive sustainable human development.

6.1.5.6 He indicated that ACALAN oversees the member states' implementation of the 1986 OAU Language of Plan of Action for Africa.

6.1.5.7 He highlighted some of the key activities of ACALAN, namely:

- ✓ The development of literature in African languages through incentivising literature production by awarding literary prizes of excellence.
- ✓ Training language technical experts in the AU Pan African Universities.
- ✓ Developing frameworks for terminology development
- ✓ Cross-border languages project
- ✓ Language and technology and natural language processing project
- ✓ The linguistic atlas project.

6.1.5.8 He emphasized the need to also acknowledge, mainstream, validate and valorise Sign Language in the country.

- 6.1.5.9 He underscored the need to ensure that the policy allows for the use of African languages in high-function domains since many citizens are functionally illiterate in English or other ex-colonial languages, and as a result, they are linguistically excluded due to the use of an unfamiliar language.
- 6.1.5.10 He also stressed the need to ensure that African languages are used as languages of instruction across all levels of education.
- 6.1.5.11 He challenged the Government to avail the requisite financial resources to support the implementation of a multilingual language policy which entrenches linguistic human rights.
- 6.1.5.12 He also emphasized the role of Universities in promoting corpus language planning initiatives, language development, intellectualisation and human capital development of technical language experts and language practitioners.

6.1.6 Statement from Honourable M. Tongofa (MP) – Chairperson Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Youth, Sport, Arts and Recreation

- 6.1.6.1 The presenter was not in attendance.

6.1.7 Statement: The envisaged role of the Public Service Commission in implementing the language policy once it is in place - Dr I. Ndebele

- 6.1.7.1 On behalf of the Public Service Commission, Dr Ndebele acknowledged the mandate of all Government institutions and agencies across all levels in promoting multilingual service provision.
- 6.1.7.2 He indicated that the Commission is seized with developing relevant instruments for giving effect to the language provisions of the Constitution of Zimbabwe Amendment (No.20) Act, 2013.
- 6.1.7.3 He acknowledged the need for the Commission to make indigenous languages a requirement for employment in public service.
- 6.1.7.4 He highlighted the need for the Commission to craft and adopt an appropriate workplace language policy, which responds to local needs and is acceptable to all.
- 6.1.7.5 He emphasized the need to make linguistic considerations in the deployment of civil servants to ensure that people's language preferences are taken into account in service delivery.

- 6.1.7.6 He also stressed the need for civil servants to have competence in Sign Language to effectively offer services to the Deaf community.
- 6.1.7.7 He challenged Universities to train civil servants who are linguistically competent to serve in the areas where they are deployed.
- 6.1.7.8 Dr Ndebele also indicated that the Commission is currently translating its key documents into all the officially recognised to ensure that information is accessible in the languages of the masses.
- 6.1.7.9 He stressed the need for the policy to indicate short-term, medium-term and long-term goals and to clearly define the problem (s) to be addressed.
- 6.1.7.10 He also emphasized the need for the language policy to be informed by thorough research, fact-finding and sociolinguistic surveys.
- 6.1.7.11 He noted that there is a need for the policy to promote linguistic human rights to ensure the active participation of all the citizens.
- 6.1.7.12 He concluded by pledging the Commission's support and eagerness to actively participate in the process of crafting and implementing the National Languages Policy and wished the participants fruitful deliberations.

6.1.8 Some tricky terms in language policy formulation: Professor H. Chimhundu

- 6.1.8.1 Professor Chimhundu highlighted some of the problematic terms in language policy development and emphasised the need to disambiguate them in the policy.
- 6.1.8.2 He singled out such terms as officially recognised languages, the national language, official language, international language, equality, equitable, community language, the language of record, mother tongue and indigenous language.
- 6.1.8.3 He stressed the need for the language policy to disambiguate these terms and include a dedicated section in which these problematic terms are defined.
- 6.1.8.4 He also underscored the need for the National Languages Policy to be translated into all the officially recognised languages.
- 6.1.8.5 He also noted that there is a need to avoid confusing officially recognised languages for official languages, highlighting that the

16 languages in section 6 of the Constitution are not official languages.

- 6.1.8.6 He noted that there is a need to use indigenous languages in high-function domains to ensure their development because non-use leads to a vicious cycle of underdevelopment.
- 6.1.8.7 He underscored the need for resourcing the policy to ensure its successful implementation.
- 6.1.8.8 He also expressed concern over the invisibility of African languages in the cyber space and noted the need to invest in efforts of migrating and using indigenous languages in the cyber space.
- 6.1.8.9 He stressed the need for Government to go beyond status planning and invest in corpus language planning initiatives to ensure language intellectualisation, raising and development.
- 6.1.8.10 He also underscored the need for the policy to be informed by thorough research, fact-finding and language surveys.
- 6.1.8.11 Professor Chimhundu concluded by emphasising the need for the policy to promote mother tongue-based multilingualism to produce a community, of national and international citizens.

6.1.9 Language raising and services for national development in Zimbabwe: The case of the Midlands State University National Languages Institute: Professor W. Magwa

- 6.1.9.1 Professor Magwa shared the projects which are undertaken by the Midlands State University's National Languages Institute.
- 6.1.9.2 He also shared the organogram of the Institute and a flier which detailed the activities which are undertaken by the Institute, namely translation services, terminology development, lexicography activities, brailing services, orthography development, literature development, speech therapy, Sign Language services, language technology and language instruction courses.
- 6.1.9.3 He also indicated that the Institute has translated the following documents and materials;
 - The Constitution of Zimbabwe
 - NDS1
 - Covid-19 messages
 - Consumer Protection Act
 - Compendium of Projects of the Second Republic

- National Disability Policy
- Consumer Protection Act
- National Youth POLICY
- Highway Code
- Disaster Risk Reduction Module

6.1.9.4 Professor Magwa underscored that dependence on non-indigenous languages perpetuates a vicious cycle of poverty among the speakers of these languages.

6.1.9.5 He emphasised that depriving people of the right to use their language is a form of injustice.

6.1.9.6 He also noted that in Africa there is no development, education and renaissance without African languages.

6.1.9.7 He highlighted that expressing one's culture using a foreign language is not authentic and amounts to cultural bankruptcy.

6.1.9.8 He also underscored the President of Zimbabwe's view that national languages express the speakers' cultural values, ethos, ideals and aspirations.

6.1.9.9 He concluded by emphasising the need to develop and optimally manage indigenous languages just other national resources and avail the requisite resources for their development.

6.1.10 Panel Discussion 1: Preservation and promotion of indigenous languages: Opportunities and challenges

6.1.10.1 The panellists emphasized the need to promote a mother tongue-based multilingual family language policy.

6.1.10.1 They stressed the need for regular and periodic monitoring and evaluation exercises for policy implementation.

6.1.10.2 They also emphasized the need for technocrats to work closely with the speakers of the languages and to also involve language associations in national events.

6.1.10.3 They commended teacher training colleges which are spear-heading teacher training in indigenous languages.

6.1.10.4 They also underscored the need to include cultural events in teacher training programmes to foster pride in indigenous languages.

6.1.10.5 They highlighted the need to increase the visibility of indigenous languages across all levels of the education system.

6.1.10.6 They also emphasized the need for the education system to promote mother tongue-based multilingual education.

- 6.1.10.7 They indicated that there is a need to translate all critical policy documents into the local languages.
- 6.1.10.8 They expressed concern over the Maths requirements for indigenous languages majors in teacher training colleges, noting that this is a challenge to promoting increased enrolment for these language majors.
- 6.1.10.9 The panellists also noted that investing in local languages promotes access to and success in education, improved learning outcomes, unity in diversity, cohesion, national identity, language development, language maintenance, preservation and increased active citizen participation in national debates and programmes as well as eliminates language-based exclusion and discrimination.
- 6.1.10.10 The panellists also commended language activists who engaged in sustained lobbying and advocacy which has yielded the desired outcomes.
- 6.1.10.11 They identified the following challenges that hinder the increased use of indigenous languages:
- Negative attitudes towards indigenous languages by the speakers and non-speakers.
 - Linguistic imperialism involves ex-colonial languages and dominant indigenous languages.
 - Shortage of qualified teachers and language technical experts.
 - Shortage of teaching and learning materials.
 - Lack of funding to promote the increased use of indigenous languages.
 - Lack of relevant institutional support legal frameworks to support multilingual service provision.
 - Lack of relevant institutional support structures to support corpus language planning.
 - The slow pace in developing the Sign Languages syllabus.
 - Lack of incentives for learning indigenous languages
 - Exclusion of the hearing impaired learners in radio lessons.
 - Resistance from policy implementers.

6.1.11 Panel Discussion 2: The role of Chapter 12 Commissions in the promotion, preservation, safeguarding and implementation of indigenous languages

- 6.1.11.1 The panellists from the Chapter 12 institutions which support democracy highlighted their mandates as enshrined in Chapter 12 of the Constitution of Zimbabwe Amendment (No.20) Act, 2013.
- 6.1.11.2 The Zimbabwe Electoral Commission acknowledged its key role in implementing the language provisions of the Constitution in executing its mandate but highlighted financial constraints as a major hindrance to multilingual service provision.
- 6.1.11.3 The Commissioner highlighted that they operate mainly in English and translate into the other local languages resources permit.
- 6.1.11.4 The Commissioner also noted that voter education initiatives at grassroots levels are conducted in the languages through initiatives which include peer educators, radio programmes and educational materials.
- 6.1.11.5 She underscored the need to develop a national database of language mediators to support multilingual service provision.
- 6.1.11.6 She emphasized the need for supportive budgetary allocations to foster multilingual service provision.
- 6.1.11.7 She concluded by challenging planners to craft a realistic and feasible National Language Policy.
- 6.1.11.8 The Commissioner representing the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission emphasized the Commission's role as a watchdog and champion of linguistic human rights.
- 6.1.11.9 The Commissioner noted that it monitors compliance with the language provisions of the Constitution and other regional, continental and international instruments on human rights.
- 6.1.11.10 The Commissioner cited resource constraints as a major challenge in ensuring the visibility of the Commission in all the Provinces.
- 6.1.11.11 The Commissioner also shared several initiatives in which they are involved in, enforcing the promotion of linguistic human rights, namely;
- Investigating the exclusion of the Hwesa speakers.
 - Investigating the Khoisan language concern of extinction.

- Collaborative initiatives with local universities to support the promotion of linguistic human rights.
- 6.1.11.12 The Commissioner acknowledged that there are still worrying gaps in terms of levels of compliance with the language provisions of the Constitution.
- 6.1.11.13 The Commissioner representing the National Peace and Reconciliation Commission underscored the role of language as a critical tool in fostering national unity, peace, stability, cohesion and integration.
- 6.1.11.14 The Commissioner noted that inappropriate language planning can cause conflict and divisions.
- 6.1.11.15 Citing examples, the Commissioner noted case studies of Zimbabwean communities which are organised according to linguistic lines and highlighted that in such settings, tensions are usually fuelled by linguistic differences.
- 6.1.11.16 She also noted that language has also emerged as a potential source of conflict in mixed marriages and emphasized the need for linguistic tolerance.
- 6.1.11.17 She highlighted that all the Commission's outreach programmes take into account the people's languages of preferences and embrace multilingual service provision.
- 6.1.11.18 She indicated that the Commission's recruitment policy prioritises multilingualism.
- 6.1.11.19 She also highlighted that the Commission commemorates all relevant days which promote indigenous languages and culture in a bid to foster social cohesion and unity in diversity.
- 6.1.11.20 The Commissioner indicated that the Commission is currently working with a local university in developing a glossary of peace terms.
- 6.1.11.21 The Chairperson of the Zimbabwe Media Commission emphasised the Commission's constitutional mandate to promote multilingual service provision and the use of indigenous languages and forms of communication suitable for persons with disabilities.
- 6.1.11.22 She expressed concern over the use of abusive and profane language on social media.
- 6.1.11.23 She underscored the Commission's role in ensuring that indigenous languages are used in the media.

6.1.11.24 She highlighted the key enabling legislative instruments which have been enacted to support the implementation of the language provisions of the Constitution and promote access to information, namely;

- The Broadcasting Services Act
- The Freedom of Information Act
- The Zimbabwe Media Commission Act.

6.1.11.25 She expressed concern over the lack of an enabling media practitioners' regulatory framework which will allow them to fully exercise their language rights in their quest to solicit information.

6.1.11.25 She commended the Government for supporting the licensing of community radio stations as a key measure of increasing the use of indigenous languages and promoting the right of access to information.

6.1.11.26 She also acknowledged the Commission's failure to fully cater for the needs of the visually impaired on television.

6.1.11.26 She concluded by calling on parents and politicians to embrace a mindset shift and value the use of the indigenous languages in all domains.

6.1.12 Indigenous languages and cultural creative industries: Dr I. Mabasa

6.1.12.1 Dr Mabasa expressed concern over the neglect of indigenous languages in the creative industries in Zimbabwe.

6.1.12.2 He noted that creative works in indigenous languages are looked down upon and producers are not incentivised and do not realise much returns leading to a situation where most content producers prefer English.

6.1.12.3 He underscored the need for financial support for the creative industries in indigenous languages.

6.1.12.3 He highlighted the great untapped potential of investing in content in indigenous languages citing that the few available productions in the indigenous languages have been widely viewed and well received.

6.1.12.4 He also noted that most artists in the creative industries who are producing content in local languages are not engaged full-time, and this affects the sustainability of this industry.

6.1.12.5 He commended the Government for its 75% local content requirement but appealed for funding to support artists producing content in indigenous languages.

- 6.1.12.6 He called on funders to avail grants to support content development in the indigenous languages since the available grants prioritise English.
- 6.1.12.7 He also noted that the diaspora community provides a viable market for content in indigenous languages.
- 6.1.12.8 He expressed the dire need for a curriculum which trains content producers in indigenous languages.
- 6.1.12.9 He underscored the need for talent identification, nurturing and mentorship programmes for creative writers.
- 6.1.12.10 He challenged participants to seriously think about investing in a one-stop internet platform which will host content produced in local languages.
- 6.1.12.11 Commenting on his presentation, participants noted that there is a need to come up with enabling intellectual property laws to protect the intellectual property of artists.
- 6.1.12.12 Some participants underscored the need for a curriculum that will not discriminate against non-5 Ordinary Level holders from enrolling in university programmes for training artists.
- 6.1.12.13 Participants also expressed concern over the little time allocated for discussions during the Indaba.

6.1.13 National languages and constitutionalism: Professor L. Madhuku

- 6.1.13.1 Professor Madhuku began by defining constitutionalism and related it to the language provisions of the Constitution, emphasising that indigenous languages are key vehicles for promoting constitutionalism.
- 6.1.13.2 He commended the Government for translating the Constitution into all the indigenous languages, including Sign Language noting that this is a key mechanism for fostering constitutionalism.
- 6.1.13.3 Professor Madhuku also emphasised the need to distinguish between indigenous languages and national languages as well as officially recognised languages and to correctly use these words.
- 6.1.13.4 He also unpacked Section 6 of the Constitution emphasising that the Constitution presents a hierarchical ordering of languages where there are officially recognised languages vs non-officially recognised languages and languages of record.
- 6.1.13.5 He also highlighted the need to appreciate the differences between equal and equitable.

- 6.1.13.5 He noted that speakers of officially recognised languages have the right to have their language preferences taken into account.
- 6.1.13.6 He indicated that the constitutional provisions on language promote human dignity, equality, peace, unity in diversity, cohesion, tolerance, and fairness which are all key hallmarks of constitutionalism.
- 6.1.13.7 He also noted that officially recognised languages are not necessarily languages of record.
- 6.1.13.8 He highlighted that section 345 of the Constitution gives supremacy to English.
- 6.1.13.9 He underscored the need for a language policy and Act which will envisage spreading the notion of equality of languages.
- 6.1.13.10 He also noted that the inclusion of sections 16 and 63 in the Constitution was an additional measure for fostering constitutionalism using language and culture as the rallying points.
- 6.1.13.11 Professor Madhuku noted that section 63 constitutes the legal basis for challenging language-related rights violations for both officially recognised language speakers and non-speakers of these languages.
- 6.1.13.12 Professor Madhuku indicated that constitutionalism involves taking into account the language preferences of people.
- 6.1.13.13 He also noted that the language provisions of the Constitution support constitutionalism and make clear the role of language in supporting the founding values.
- 6.1.13.14 Professor Madhuku highlighted that there are four types of languages in the Constitution, namely;
- ✓ Officially recognised languages, i.e. the constitutionally recognised languages
 - ✓ Additional languages, i.e. those which will be added through an Act of Parliament
 - ✓ Languages of record which will be prescribed by an Act of Parliament
 - ✓ Non-officially recognised languages, those which will not be accorded the above-mentioned statuses.
- 6.1.13.15 Professor Madhuku concluded his remarks by availing himself to work closely with the Committee that will be tasked to craft the National Language Policy and National Languages Act.

- 6.1.13.16 Comments from the participants confirmed Professor Madhuku's observations of the hierarchical ordering of languages in the Constitution noting that this does not indicate a departure from the past policies.
- 6.1.13.17 Participants indicated that there is a need for the National Language Policy and National Languages Act to flesh out section 6 of the Constitution.
- 6.1.13.18 Professor Madhuku's presentation marked the end of Day 1 of the Indaba with all parallel sections scheduled for Day 1 being deferred to Day 3 due to time constraints.
- 6.1.13.18 The Day ended with participants being guided on how Day 3 will proceed.

*****End of Day One*****

6.2 Day 2: Official Opening of the Indaba

6.2.1 Introductions and overview of the National Languages Indaba by the Secretary for Youth, Sport, Arts and Recreation: Dr T. Chitepo

6.2.1.1 The proceedings started with a national anthem from Mosi-oa-tunya High school and then prayer by Rev Masuku (EFZ).

6.2.1.2 After greeting the chiefs, Dr Chitepo gave an overview of the National Languages Indaba in her remarks of introducing the Minister of Youths, Sport, Arts and Recreation.

6.2.1.3 It was noted that the Indaba is to springboard from the keynote by His Excellency focusing on the theme of re-defining the role of the indigenous languages under the mantra; leaving no place and no one behind in matters of development and achieving Vision 2030.

6.2.1.4 She applauded the Ministry of Youth, Sport, Arts and recreation for all the efforts to make sure that this Indaba is successful.

6.2.1.5 She emphasized the importance of indigenous languages in achieving Vision 2030.

6.2.2 Welcome remarks by Minister of State for Provincial Affairs and Devolution Matabeleland North: Honourable Richard Moyo

6.2.2.1 Hon Moyo welcomed all the dignitaries and participants to the Indaba.

6.2.2.2 He applauded the Ministry of Youth, Sport, Arts, and Recreation for hosting such an important event.

6.2.2.3 He emphasised the importance of indigenous languages in the nation.

6.2.2.4 He noted that the issues raised in Indaba are in line with Vision 2030.

6.2.2.5 Concluding his remarks, Honourable Moyo wished all the participants fruitful engagements and invited them to take time to tour the majestic Victoria Falls and all its tourist resort areas.

6.2.3 Remarks by the African Union Commission, Director for Social Development, Culture and Sports Representative: Dr L. Fafa Dampha

6.2.3.1 Reading Mrs Mohammed's message, Dr Dampha greeted all the dignitaries and participants at the Indaba and conveyed Mrs

Mohammed's regards and apologies for not making it to this important occasion due to other pressing commitments.

- 6.2.3.2 He expressed his pleasure in attending the Indaba.
- 6.2.3.3 He congratulated the Government of Zimbabwe for its bold effort of setting out to develop a National Language Policy.
- 6.2.3.4 He described the Government's initiative as a milestone in the development of indigenous languages and the implementation of the 1986 OAU Language Plan of Action for Africa.
- 6.2.3.5 He summarised the salient provisions of the 1986 OAU Language Plan of Action for Africa.
- 6.2.3.6 He noted that Heads of State are conscious of the role of African languages in development.
- 6.2.3.7 He underscored that the 1986 OAU Language Plan of Action for Africa encourages member states to craft and adopt clearly defined language policies which place at the centre the use of African languages alongside other languages.
- 6.2.3.8 He noted that languages are useful in fostering national, regional and international unity.
- 6.2.3.9 He highlighted that the AU has the mandate to support member states in developing language policies.
- 6.2.3.10 He indicated that February 2022 saw the endorsement of the AU's Dar es Salaam Plan of Action Act 29 of the AU charter which accorded Kiswahili the status of an AU official and working language.
- 6.2.3.11 He noted that this milestone was a follow-up to the January 2022's resolutions about 'The Africa we want.'
- 6.2.3.12 Dr Dampha also informed the participants of the recently launched week-long celebration which runs from January 24 to 30 to celebrate African Languages Week.
- 6.2.3.13 He noted that this celebration will be used to increase awareness and appreciation of African languages by looking at pragmatic ways of empowering and rendering them relevant to the lives of Africans.
- 6.2.3.14 He invited the nation to annually commemorate African Languages Week.
- 6.2.3.15 He acknowledged the following challenges which hinder the increased use of African languages;
 - ✓ Negative attitudes towards African languages.

- ✓ Lack of resourcing policies to support the implementation of multilingual language policies.
- ✓ The invisibility of African languages in the cyber space.

6.2.3.16 In concluding his remarks, Dr Dampha commended the Government of Zimbabwe for setting a good example and expressed hope that other AU member States will emulate this good example.

6.2.3.17 He wished all the participants fruitful deliberations.

6.2.4 Remarks by the Honourable. Minister of Higher and Tertiary Education, Innovation, Science and Technology Development: Professor dr A. Murwira

6.2.4.1 Honourable Machingura Deputy Minister for the Ministry of Higher and Tertiary Education, Innovation, Science, and Technology Development –standing in for Professor Dr A. Murwira, greeted all the dignitaries and participants.

6.2.4.2 Citing from Ngugi waThiongo, Honourable Machingura underscored that knowing all other languages of the world, but not knowing your mother tongue is enslavement, but knowing your language plus other world languages is empowerment.

6.2.4.3 He noted that the objectives of the Indaba are aligned with the nation’s mantra that ‘a country is built by its people.’

6.2.4.4 He underscored the need to adopt a policy which envisages the use of African languages as languages of instruction alongside European languages across all levels of the education system.

6.2.4.5 He noted that the Ministry’s Education 5.0. The philosophy emphasises heritage-based education, and African languages are a critical variable in this endeavour.

6.2.4.6 He noted that Education 5.0. Philosophy adds innovation and industrialisation to the traditional 3 pillars of Education 3.0.

6.2.4.7 He noted that Education 5.0 seeks to ensure the production of goods and services through institutions of higher and tertiary education.

6.2.4.8 He noted that under Education 5.0, upon completion of their studies all graduates in teacher training colleges should know 3 indigenous languages.

- 6.2.4.9 He also highlighted that the Ministry has demonstrated its commitment to support the increased use of indigenous languages by establishing Hwange Teacher Training College which is ear-marked to train indigenous language teachers.
- 6.2.4.10 He underscored the need for students to have a strong foundation in their mother language to learn a second language.
- 6.2.4.11 He also emphasized the need to use indigenous languages alongside English to propel techno-scientific development.
- 6.2.4.12 Concluding his remarks, Honourable Machingura also stressed the need for increased use of Sign Language across all levels of the education system.

6.2.5 Remarks by Honourable Minister of Youth, Sport, Arts and Recreation, Dr K. Coventry and Introduction of the Vice President and Minister of Health and Child Care, Honourable Dr C.G.D.N. Chiwenga

- 6.2.5.1 Dr Coventry greeted all the dignitaries and participants and expressed her profound gratitude to all the participants who took time from their busy schedules to grace this occasion.
- 6.2.5.2 She noted that she was pleased to have a platform for discussion on language issues.
- 6.2.5.3 She highlighted that the key resolutions of the Indaba should include the development of the National Language Policy, National Languages Bill, the establishment of a National Languages Board and National Languages Fund.
- 6.2.5.4 She underscored the Ministry's approach of fostering all-inclusive stakeholder participation in mapping the way forward concerning the indigenous languages to ensure that no one and no place is left behind.
- 6.2.5.4 She highlighted that Indaba's theme emphasizes the need to redefine the role of indigenous languages in achieving Vision 2030.
- 6.2.5.5 She concluded her remarks by inviting the Honourable Vice President of the Republic of Zimbabwe and Minister of Health and Childcare, Honourable Dr C.G.D.N. Chiwenga who was going to give his remarks and introduce the Guest of Honour.

6.2.6 Remarks and introduction of the Guest of Honour by the Honourable Vice President of the Republic of Zimbabwe and Minister of Health and Childcare, Honourable. Dr C.G.D.N. Chiwenga

6.2.6.1 Hon. Dr C.G.D.N. Chiwenga greeted all the dignitaries and participants and expressed his profound gratitude to all the participants for attending this important event.

6.2.6.2 He underscored the need for a clear definition of the roles of indigenous languages in sustainable development.

6.2.6.3 He highlighted that the move towards recognising indigenous languages is imperative to save them from being down-trodden by ex-colonial languages.

6.2.6.4 He emphasized the need for the nation to leverage diversity in cultures and languages.

6.2.6.5 He noted that in commemorating our culture, we enjoy the use of indigenous languages and traditional cuisines and well as remember our history.

6.2.6.6 He stressed the need to build a story of indigenous languages in representing our values of *ubuntu/ unhu*.

6.2.6.7 He noted that our languages are key in preserving our arts and cultural values which bind us in our cultural diversity.

6.2.6.8 Hon. Dr C.G.D.N. Chiwenga concluded his remarks by inviting to the podium the guest of honour, His Excellency the President of the Republic of Zimbabwe, Dr E.D Mhangagwa.

6.2.7 Keynote Address by the His Excellency the President of the Republic of Zimbabwe: Dr E.D Mhangagwa

6.2.7.1 His Excellency the President of the Republic of Zimbabwe, Dr E.D Mhangagwa greeted all the dignitaries and participants.

6.2.7.2 He expressed his gratitude for being invited to officiate and open the event, which he felt should be referred to as Indaba and not a Conference given the weight of the engagements.

6.2.7.3 He noted that this Indaba is the first of its kind and marks the Second Republic's unwavering commitment to ensuring the increased use of the indigenous languages.

6.2.7.4 He noted that the theme of the Indaba read together with Sections 6 and 63 of the Zimbabwean Constitution reflects the Government's commitment to ensure that no one and no place is left behind.

- 6.2.7.5 He noted that recognising 16 languages does not mean that there are only 16 languages in Zimbabwe. He made a clarion call for the need to include those who were left out.
- 6.2.7.6 He noted that the Parliament of Zimbabwe uses only three languages and there is a need to come up with measures for ensuring inclusivity.
- 6.2.7.7 He acknowledged the imminent challenges of using all the 16 languages in Parliament and expressed that there is a need to find the most optimal solution.
- 6.2.7.8 He noted that God knows where different speakers are found- Spanish, English, Russian, Portuguese, etc., but lamented that many African countries still use languages which are not indigenous to them.
- 6.2.7.9 He indicated that the Second Republic is committed to preserving all the Zimbabwean languages by not leaving any languages behind.
- 6.2.7.10 He noted that there is a need to weed out local linguistic imperialism where dominant indigenous languages are subduing and thwarting the use of other local languages.
- 6.2.7.11 He indicated that languages are used for social cohesion and inclusivity, nurturing national and cultural identity and heritage, education and economic well-being.
- 6.2.7.12 He made a clarion call to the participants to engage in the Indaba with the conscious understanding that, '*Nyika inovakwa nevene vayo/ Ilizwe lakhiwa ngabanini balo.*'
- 6.2.7.13 He noted that since God made us equal we should not look down upon others.
- 6.2.7.14 He highlighted that indigenous languages, including Sign Language, should be used broadly in agriculture and socio-economic development.
- 6.2.7.15 He acknowledged the global efforts under the auspices of the UN to promote and preserve African languages through initiatives such as the Decade of Indigenous Languages: The year 2022 – 2032).
- 6.2.7.16 He noted that Zimbabwe applauds the resolution of the UN General assembly for setting the period of 2022-2032 as a Decade for Indigenous Languages.
- 6.2.7.17 He, however, expressed his concern that the UN official and working languages exclude African languages.

- 6.2.7.18 He challenged all the participants to channel their enthusiasm towards progressive results during the Indaba.
- 6.2.7.18 He commended that the delegates for the Indaba were drawn from a wider community, including the custodian of the culture and languages, the chiefs.
- 6.2.7.19 He expressed that he is looking forward to seeing how the Ministry will craft the National Language Policy.
- 6.2.7.20 He emphasised the central of the family as the first classroom where the mother is the first teacher of the language.
- 6.2.7.21 Using his own family as an example, the President lamented the negative attitudes toward indigenous languages at the family level and challenged families to foster mother tongue-based multilingualism.
- 6.2.7.22 The President indicated the Government's commitment to supporting capacity building of indigenous languages as well as mainstreaming linguistic and cultural diversity.
- 6.2.7.23 Highlighting his expectations, the President noted that there are;
- ✓ Need to build a solid foundation which guarantees a future where citizens can articulate their values and norms in their languages.
 - ✓ Need to ensure the digitalisation of indigenous languages and their increased use in the cyber space.
 - ✓ Need to enhance our self-worth using our indigenous languages as rallying points.
 - ✓ Need to increase the functional space of the indigenous languages.
 - ✓ Need to promote unity in diversity.
 - ✓ Need to mainstream our languages in national development.
 - ✓ Need to encourage citizens of Zimbabwe to be proud of whom they are using indigenous languages as rallying points.
- 6.2.7.24 In concluding his remarks, the President wished all the participants fruitful deliberations and engagements which will culminate in the mapping of the way forward.
- 6.2.7.25 He also invited all the participants to take time to visit the resort town of Victoria Falls, especially the majestic falls.
- 6.2.7.26 After these remarks, he declared the Indaba duly opened.

6.2.8 Presentation of gift to the Guest of Honour by the Honourable Minister, Dr K. Coventry

6.2.8.1 In presenting the gift to the Guest of Honour, Honourable Dr Coventry explained the symbolised 8 heads on the piece as family heads which meant that each of them represents that human beings must speak at least 2 languages in line with Vision 2030 of leaving no one and no place behind.

6.2.9 Vote of thanks: Honourable O. Muchinguri-Kashiri standing in for the Vice President of ZANU PF Honourable K.C.D. Mohadi

6.2.9.1 Honourable Muchinguri-Kashiri thanked His Excellency the President of the Republic of Zimbabwe for gracing this auspicious occasion.

6.2.9.2 She thanked him for giving guidance and words of wisdom, especially emphasizing the point of building our nation using our resources without leaving anyone and no place behind.

6.2.9.3 She commended the President for the assurance that this Indaba will culminate in the crafting of the National Language Policy and National Languages Act as roadmaps for the establishment of a National Languages Board and National Languages Fund.

6.2.9.4 She thanked Mrs Mohammed from the AU who was represented by Dr Dampha for her solidarity message.

6.2.9.5 In concluding her remarks, she wished all the participants a productive time during the Indaba.

6.2.10 National Anthem

6.2.10.1 Learners from Mosi-oa-tunya High School closed the session with a national anthem.

6.2.11 Plenary Discussions: CCIs and Indigenous Languages: Spearheading Sustainable Socio-economic Development

6.2.11.1 It was noted that creative industries play an important part in society.

6.2.11.2 It was noted some developed countries like Australia have invested a lot of millions of dollars in CCI and the nation was challenged to emulate such strides to grow this industry.

6.2.11.3 It was noted that film festivals can be used to harness local languages.

6.2.11.4 It was indicated that there is a need to offer training for artists.

6.2.11.5 It was noted that there is a need to explore partnering with big productions in documenting indigenous languages.

- 6.2.11.6 Higher and tertiary institutions were challenged to prioritise and take indigenous languages seriously and not to only concentrate on teaching them as Second Languages.
- 6.2.11.7 It was noted that a collection of artworks speak a lot of our languages.
- 6.2.11.8 It was highlighted that the National Arts Gallery seeks to repatriate Zimbabwean heritage which was looted.
- 6.2.11.9 It was emphasised that people without a language and culture are dead people.
- 6.2.11.10 It was noted that ZBC must be alive to its role as a conduit which should be used by every person.
- 6.2.11.11 It was noted that ZBC has taken some of the national indigenous languages on board.
- 6.2.11.12 It was noted that ZBCTV has remained predominantly English and has prioritised Shona and Ndebele over other indigenous languages.
- 6.2.11.13 ZBC acknowledged its shortcomings of failing to fully embrace the use of all the officially recognised languages and expressed commitment to rectify this.
- 6.2.11.14 It was noted that National FM broadcasts in 15 languages whilst Khuluma FM broadcast in 8 indigenous languages.
- 6.2.11.15 It was noted that financial constraints make it difficult to foster multilingual broadcasting.
- 6.2.11.16 It was noted that there is a need to embrace digital media and technology to merge our languages and technology.
- 6.2.11.17 It was highlighted that there is a need for children to be taught some skills at home so that they are exposed to their languages. There should be festivals to showcase different cultures and languages.
- 6.2.11.18 A plea was made to suggest measures for protecting heritage sites from being destroyed by elephants in some areas.
- 6.2.11.19 It was noted that there is a need to ensure the increased use of indigenous languages in the cyber space.
- 6.2.11.20 Participants emphasized the need to have products in indigenous languages.
- 6.2.11.21 It was noted that products in indigenous languages should be of high quality.
- 6.2.11.22 Radio presenters were challenged to play more indigenous music than foreign one to support local content.

6.2.12 Plenary Discussions: Voices from the 'margins': Speakers from indigenous languages recognised by the Constitution and others not yet recognised

6.2.12.1 It was noted that education across all levels should foster mother tongue-based multilingual education.

6.2.12.2 It was noted that there is a need to support the production of materials and personnel in indigenous languages.

6.2.12.3 It was highlighted that there is a need to explore sharing of resources in situations involving cross-border languages, but ensure that these are localised to reflect local contexts.

6.2.12.4 It was noted that there is a need to acknowledge the still marginalised languages to ensure that no one and no place is left behind.

6.2.12.5 It was indicated that failure to make linguistic considerations in the Registrar General's office has seen the distortion of other peoples' names and surnames.

6.2.12.6 It was highlighted that there are strides in the Chikunda language where the Bible Society is translating the Bible into Chikunda and other renowned Zimbabwean authors have given the right to the Chikunda authors to translate their works into Chikunda.

6.2.12.7 Parliament was commended for accepting the petition from the Chikunda speakers to recognise it as an officially recognised language. A plea was made for this matter to be concluded since it has taken a long time to be brought to finality.

6.2.12.8 The Tjikalanga community commended Government for licensing community radios and supporting teacher training in the previously marginalised languages.

6.2.12.9 The following challenges were cited in the development of previously marginalised officially recognised languages:

- ✓ The languages are not yet digitised.
- ✓ Unavailability of trained teachers, authors and language practitioners.
- ✓ Certificates for teachers trained in some universities do not indicate their language majors.
- ✓ Exclusion in main national cultural events.
- ✓ It was also noted that some policy implementers in schools are resisting the teaching of previously marginalised languages.

- ✓ It was also noted that there are entrenched negative attitudes concerning the teaching of indigenous languages at universities and colleges.
- ✓ It was indicated that financial constraints and shortage of materials affect the teaching of indigenous languages.
- ✓ It was noted that student enrolment numbers for majors in indigenous languages in universities and colleges are decreasing.

6.2.12.10 *Recommendations:*

- i. There is a need for a very serious attitude change across all levels of the education system.
- ii. There is a need to foster multilingualism and unity in diversity.
- iii. There is a need for the nation to adopt a devolved language policy.
- iv. There is a need to allocate more resources for corpus and acquisition language planning initiatives.
- v. There is a need to set up institutional support structures, such as literature bureaus, terminology and lexicography units across all universities teaching indigenous languages.
- vi. There is a need for honest and sincere all-inclusive stakeholder consultation and engagements in mapping the way forward.
- vii. There is a need for dedicated training sponsorship just like the one for STEM subjects.
- viii. There is a need for linguistic remapping and enumeration of speakers to formulate a language policy informed by research.

6.2.13 *Plenary Session: Disability and National Languages*

6.2.13.1 It was noted that language and forms of communication keep them on the peripheries.

6.2.13.2 It was highlighted people with disability wish for a language that preserves their dignity unlike the use of words such as *ogogekileyo, isilima, isacuthe, chirema, bofu, inkawu*.

6.2.13.3 It was noted that there is a need to describe the body part which is not performing rather than labelling.

6.2.13.4 It was underscored that there is a need for resident interpreters, e.g., at police stations.

- 6.2.13.5 Institutions of higher and tertiary education were challenged to expand the training on special needs education.
- 6.2.13.6 The Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education noted that it takes cognisance of the issues of inclusivity and promotes the teaching of indigenous languages, including Sign Language.
- 6.2.13.7 The Ministry acknowledged the need to develop syllabi for ChiBarwe and Khoisan.
- 6.2.13.8 The Ministry noted that it emphasizes the mother tongue at the ECD level.
- 6.2.13.9 The Ministry highlighted the need for teacher capacity-building programmes to ensure the effective implementation of a mother tongue-based multilingual language-in-education policy.
- 6.2.13.10 The Ministry called for an attitude change among personnel, parents, ministry officials and learners to foster mother tongue-based multilingualism.
- 6.2.13.11 The Ministry noted that there is a need to support the production of teaching and learning materials to support the teaching and learning of indigenous languages.
- 6.2.13.12 It was also noted that there is a need for dedicated monitoring and evaluation of policy implementation programmes.

6.2.14 Questions and Responses by Panellists and Participants

- 6.2.14.1 Some participants raised concern about why there was a rush to have national languages, yet some languages are still yet to be officially recognised.
- 6.2.14.2 It was suggested that the media should mainstream indigenous languages for people to learn these languages and appreciate each other's culture
- 6.2.14.3 It was noted that administrators should take to task those school heads who refuse to adhere to regulations.
- 6.2.14.4 Some institutions of higher learning admitted that they stand accused of attitudinal issues, and hence there should be a policy that mandates these institutions to take indigenous languages on board.
- 6.2.14.5 It was noted that there is a lack of resources to expand the teaching of the visually impaired.
- 6.2.14.6 Members of the academia were challenged to work closely with the communities to research and come up with materials and develop indigenous languages.

6.2.14.7 It was noted that researchers have to include speakers of the languages to avoid problems e.g. in spelling.

6.2.14.8 The Zimbabwe Indigenous Languages Promotion Association highlighted its role in lobbying for the inclusion of Chikunda as an officially recognised language and appealed to parliament to swiftly conclude the consideration of the Chikunda petition.

6.2.14.9 It was emphasised that indigenous languages should be included on digital platforms.

6.2.14.10 Speakers of the indigenous languages were challenged to work hard to produce materials to continue lobbying for policy implementation.

6.2.15 Plenary Discussions: The Role of Civic Organisations (CSOs) or Non-Governmental Organisations in Promoting Indigenous Languages for National Development

6.2.15.1 It was noted that some of these organisations distribute pamphlets written in local languages.

6.2.15.2 Organisations operating in communities were challenged to embrace the cultures and languages of the people they work with within communities.

6.2.15.3 Organisations working in communities were challenged to make consultations and engagement with local communities in all their activities.

*****End of Day Two*****

6.3 Day 3: Feedback and Closing of the National Languages Indaba

Below is a summary of key recommendations which came from presenters in parallel sessions 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5.

6.3.1 Parallel Session 1: The role of language in achieving an upper middle-income society by the year 2030

6.3.1.1 The following key recommendations were put forward by the presenters and participants in these sessions:

- i. Participants emphasised the need to intellectualise indigenous languages.
- ii. They underscored the need to utilise Information Communication Technology to promote indigenous languages and ensure their increased use and visibility in this space.
- iii. Participants emphasized the need to acknowledge co-existence and unity in diversity in linguistic communities.
- iv. Participants highlighted the need to encourage trans-linguaging as a key measure of promoting linguistic tolerance and accommodation.
- v. They also underscored the need to build corpora for specialised subject fields in all indigenous languages.
- vi. They highlighted the need to invest in cross-border languages that are already developed to promote the development of indigenous languages of this kind.
- vii. They emphasised the need to know who the Zimbabweans are through the use of local languages in tourism, and culinary industries among others.
- viii. They stressed the need to ensure the increased use and teaching of indigenous languages not only as subjects but also as media of instruction across all levels of education.
- ix. They underscored the need to use local languages as key enablers for activating maximum citizen participation.
- x. They also stressed the need to package local products using indigenous languages.

6.3.2 Parallel Session 2: National Languages Policy Framework

- 6.3.2.1 It was noted that there should be a Ministry deliberately assigned to promote indigenous languages.
- 6.3.2.2 Participants agreed that the National Language Policy should be aligned with international best practices and consider linguistic diversity, social justice, the principle of equal access to quality public services and programmes and respect for language rights.
- 6.3.2.3 It was noted that the policy must embrace community, national and international citizens.
- 6.3.2.4 Participants also noted that there is a need for the policy to take cognizance of international communications.
- 6.3.2.5 It was noted that the policy should consider other Government policies implemented at local, provincial and national levels.
- 6.3.2.6 It was noted that at the family level, there is a need for a positive family language policy which supports mother tongue-based multilingualism which includes Sign Language.
- 6.3.2.7 It was noted that there is a need for all other Ministries, Government institutions and agencies across all levels to domesticate the National Language Policy by adopting institutional language policies and establishing well-resourced language units within their structures, institutions and agencies.
- 6.3.2.8 It was noted that there is a need for a clear resourcing policy to finance language policy development and implementation.
- 6.3.2.9 Participants also underscored the need to embrace an all-inclusive stakeholder approach in the crafting of the National Language Policy.

6.3.3 Parallel Session 3: National Languages Bill Framework

- 6.3.3.1 Participants noted that the envisaged Bill should regulate the use of indigenous languages of Zimbabwe.
- 6.3.3.2 They noted that the Bill should take cognizance of the country's liberation values and promote peace, multilingualism, inclusivity, tolerance, co-existence, harmony and unity in diversity.
- 6.3.3.3 They noted that there should be a National Language Policy to promote the increased use of indigenous languages in high-function domains.
- 6.3.3.4 They noted that peoples' language of choices should be respected by law.

- 6.3.3.5 They underscored the need for the National Languages Bill to spell out the role of private and public institutions in promoting indigenous languages.
- 6.3.3.6 They highlighted that there is a need for the National Languages Bill to provide for interpretation and adaptation institutions.
- 6.3.3.7 They also indicated that the National Languages Act should have a provision for the establishment of a Regulatory Authority/ Board which shall be called the National Languages Board which will be representative of the speakers of the different languages.
- 6.3.3.8 They noted that the National Languages Act must provide for the establishment of the National Languages Fund which will finance the crafting and implementation of the National Language Policy and National Languages Act.
- 6.3.3.9 They indicated that the National Languages Act must promote the increased use of indigenous languages in Information Communication Technology.
- 6.3.3.10 They stressed that the National Languages Act must make it mandatory for all teacher training colleges and universities to teach and develop indigenous languages.
- 6.3.3.11 Participants also underscored the need to embrace an all-inclusive stakeholder approach in the crafting of the National Languages Act.
- 6.3.3.12 It was noted that the National Languages Act will:
- ✓ Provide for the establishment of the National Languages Board and National Languages Fund.
 - ✓ Provide for the regulation and monitoring of the use of the indigenous languages.
 - ✓ Require the adoption of institutional language policies by all ministries, Government institutions and agencies across all levels.
 - ✓ Provide for the establishment and functions of institutional support structures such as language units and lexicography units and language committees.
 - ✓ Provide for monitoring of and reporting on the use of indigenous languages.

6.3.4 *Parallel Session 4: National Languages Board*

6.3.4.1 Participants noted that just like in other countries, it shall be called the National Languages Board.

6.3.4.2 They noted that the National Languages Board should have a dedicated secretariat that deals with language issues.

6.3.4.3 Composition of the Board should be as follows:

- a) Chairperson
- b) Vice Chairperson
- c) Secretary
- d) Committee Members
- e) Competent users of indigenous languages who must be seconded by the Language Associations
- f) A seconded representative from the Chief's Council
- g) Language specialists who have extensive knowledge in respect of the languages of Zimbabwe, language planning, policy and management.
- h) Technical experts i.e. Lawyers. Accountants just to mention a few.
- i) The Language Board should have regional as well as gender representation.

6.3.4.4 Appointment to the Board

6.3.4.4.1 They noted that members of the Board must be appointed using a public and transparent process.

6.3.4.5 Purpose of the Board

6.3.4.5.1 It was noted that the Board will be mandated to promote and ensure high professional standards in the teaching and researching of officially recognised languages.

6.3.4.5.2 It was noted that it will advise Government in the use, development, intellectualisation, teaching and learning of languages and literature production and promotion of culture in learning institutions.

6.3.4.5.3 It will serve as a regulatory body and watchdog for enforcing the use of indigenous languages and their development.

6.3.4.5.4 It will make recommendations about any proposed or existing legislation, practice or policy dealing directly or indirectly with language matters.

6.3.4.5.5 It will promote awareness of multilingualism as a national resource.

6.3.4.5.6 It will promote the development of previously marginalised languages

6.3.4.5.7 It will conduct research aimed at promoting and creating conditions for the development and use of the indigenous languages

6.3.4.5.8 It will establish provincial language committees and national language bodies and advise on any language matters affecting a province or a specific language.

6.3.4.5.9 Oversees the establishment of institutional support structures such as national lexicography units.

6.3.5 Parallel Session 5: Language and Technology

6.3.5.1 Participants noted that languages themselves are a primary technology which carries us into the future.

6.3.5.2 All schools and educational institutions must teach all the officially recognised languages, i.e. full language degrees and their literature instead of teaching these languages only taught as second languages as is currently the case in some higher and tertiary institutions.

6.3.5.3 It was noted that the government should invest in technological gadgets that will ensure increased use of indigenous languages.

6.3.5.4 Participants underscored that there is a need for language and technology issues to be carried over even when the ministries change their structure.

6.3.5.5 Participants highlighted the need to explore ways of infusing culture, language and technology in education.

6.3.5.6 Participants noted the need to infuse cultural material in educational and entertainment fields.

6.3.5.7 It was noted that there is a need to broadcast language festivals through Information Communication Technologies.

6.3.5.8 It was underscored that there is a need to invest in efforts of increasing the visibility and use of indigenous languages in cyberspace, and language technology initiatives such as natural language processing among other similar initiatives.

6.3.6 Declaration

6.3.6.1 The National Languages Stakeholders Indaba held in Victoria Falls from 14 to 16 June 2022, hereby declares that:

- i. There shall be a National Languages Policy

- ii. There shall be a National Languages Act
- iii. There shall be a National Languages Board; and
- iv. There shall be a National Languages Fund.

On this day, the 16th of June 2022, Victoria Falls City, hereby known as the Mosi –oaTunya Declaration of 2022

6.3.7 *Closing Remarks and Vote of Thanks*

- 6.3.7.1 The Ministry expressed its profound gratitude to the national leadership for its unwavering support to and for the Indaba on indigenous languages.
- 6.3.7.2 The Ministry also thanked all the participants for the fruitful, insightful and informative engagements during the three days of the Indaba.
- 6.3.7.3 The Ministry expressed that it values the contributions and submissions, and expressed optimism that the contributions and submissions will go a long way in supporting the efforts of crafting the National Language Policy, National Languages Act and in establishing the National Languages Board and the National Languages Fund.
- 6.3.7.4 The Ministry expressed that the Indaba was successfully hosted, and it offered a platform for dialogical intervention strategies and development communication to inform, influence, inspire, shape and direct policy, thought and practice.
- 6.3.7.5 The Ministry noted that the Indaba marks the beginning of more similar engagements in future in the quest to chart the way forward and integrate indigenous languages as key enablers for inclusive sustainable human development, leaving no one and no place behind.
- 6.3.7.6 The Ministry highlighted that it values an all-inclusive stakeholder approach in its execution of tasks and anchors its operations on concerted efforts, consultation, engagement, cooperation, coordination and collaboration with all stakeholders.
- 6.3.7.7 The Ministry pledged its commitment to walk the talk and deliver in the shortest possible time through continued extensive stakeholder engagement, involvement, engagement, consultation and collaboration.
- 6.3.7.8 The Ministry noted that the Indaba offered a viable platform for building consensus on the way forward in implementing the

language provisions of the Constitution and enacting the relevant regulatory frameworks and establishing the requisite institutional support structures which will give effect to the language provisions of the Constitution.

- 6.3.7.9 It was these efforts that will facilitate the Ministry's vision of redefining the role of indigenous languages in achieving Vision 2030.
- 6.3.7.10 It was also noted that the inaugural Indaba marks the country's bold steps of giving effect to the provisions of the 1986 OAU Language Plan of Action for Africa.
- 6.3.7.11 It was noted that the key resolutions of this Indaba include among other things the following four key areas:
- a) Crafting a National Language Policy
 - b) Crafting the National Languages Act
 - c) Setting up a National Languages Board
 - d) Establishing a National Languages Fund.
- 6.3.7.12 The Ministry pledged its commitment to run with this vision and task and deliver on the mandate entrusted to it through wider all-inclusive stakeholder engagements, involvement, participation, consultations and collaborations.
- 6.3.7.13 The Ministry pledged its unwavering commitment to deliver on the four key deliverables that have been set and agreed on at the Indaba.
- 6.3.7.14 It was noted the engagements during the Indaba made clear the key role of indigenous languages as critical enablers for achieving the nation's Vision 2030 and other key developmental blueprints that the nation has set for itself.
- 6.3.7.15 The Ministry is committed to continuing all-inclusive stakeholder involvement, engagements, consultations and participation to bounce its ideas and gather input and suggestions as it delivers on the four key deliverables agreed upon at this Indaba.
- 6.3.7.16 In conclusion, the Ministry profoundly thanked all the participants and wished everyone a safe journey and duly declared the gathering closed.

*****End of Day Three*****

APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Programme



ZIMBABWE

MINISTRY YOUTH, SPORT, ARTS AND RECREATION

NATIONAL LANGUAGES CONFERENCE

14 - 16 JUNE 2022

ELEPHANT HILLS, VICTORIA FALLS, ZIMBABWE

***'Redefining the Role of Zimbabwean Languages for National Development
Towards Vision 2030 and***

Beyond'



DAY ONE – NATIONAL LANGUAGES CONFERENCE KICKS OFF ON 14 JUNE 2022

TIME	ITEM	PRESENTER	FACILITATOR
07:30-08:30	Arrival and Registration	NALAC Secretariat and Protocol	Dr B. Samwanda – Director of Arts and Culture
	Entertainment	White Stars Traditional Dance Group	
08:30-08:40	National Anthem and Prayer	A/Provincial Head Matabeleland North MYSAR	Dr B. Samwanda – Director of Arts and Culture
08:40-09:00	Welcome Remarks	Ms S. Ncube - Secretary for Matabeleland North Provincial Affairs and Devolution	Dr B. Samwanda
09:00-09:10	Entertainment Interlude	Vulindlela Theatre Company	
09:10-09:30	Introductory Remarks and Acknowledgement	Dr T. Chitepo – Secretary for Youth, Sport, Arts and Recreation	Mr A. Mfiri
09:30-09:45	Programme Outline and Objectives	Dr B. Samwanda – Director of Arts and Culture	Mr A. Mfiri
09:45-10:00	Entertainment Interlude	White Stars Traditional Dance Group	Mr A. Mfiri

10.00-10:30	TEA BREAK		
10:30-11:00	Statement: ACALAN Secretary-General on AU's ACALAN Roadmap	Dr L. F. Dampha	Mr A. Mfiri
11:00-11:10	Entertainment Interlude	Vulindlela Theatre Company	
11:10-11:20	Statement from Chairperson: Harnessing and promoting our national languages for inclusive youth participation	Hon. M. Tongofa (MP) - Chairperson of Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Youth, Sport, Arts and Recreation	Mr A. Mfiri
11:20-11:30	Statement from Chairperson: Role of Government in promoting the teaching of indigenous languages in Primary and Secondary Education	Hon. T. Moyo(MP) - Chairperson of Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Primary and Secondary Education	Mr A. Mfiri
11:30-11:40	Statement: The envisaged role of the Public Service Commission in implementing the Languages Policy once it is in place	–Secretary for Public Service Commission, Defence Forces Service Commission, Police Service Commission, Prisons and correctional Service Commission Represented by Dr I. Ndebele	Mr A. Mfiri
11:40-11:50	Entertainment Interlude	White Stars Traditional Dance Group	
11:50-12:05	Presentation: Language raising and services for national development in Zimbabwe: The case of Midlands State University National Language Institute.	Prof. W. Magwa - Midlands State University National Language Institute	Mr A. Mfiri
12:05-12:35	Panel Discussion – Preservation and promotion of indigenous languages; Opportunities and challenges Moderator: Dr W. Muchono – Dean Faculty of Humanities, Education and Social Sciences, Zimbabwe Ezekiel Guti University Zimbabwe Indigenous Languages Promotion Association(ZILPA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hon. J. Chinotimba– Member of Parliament Buhera South • Mrs. M. Dube– Director ZILPA • Dr. B. Maseko - Lupane State University • Ms L. Sibindi - Hillside Teachers College • Mrs T. Thabela - Secretary for Primary and Secondary Education 	Mr A. Mfiri
12:35-13:00	Panel Discussion– The role of Chapter 12 Commissions on the promotion, preservation,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hon. Justice P. Chigumba- Chairperson ZEC 	Mr A. Mfiri

	<p>safeguarding and implementation of Indigenous Languages</p> <p>Moderator: Dr E. Ndlovu - Senior Lecturer, Department of Languages, Literature and Culture, University of Zimbabwe</p> <p>Zimbabwe Gender Commission (ZGC) Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC) Zimbabwe Media Commission (ZMC) National Peace and Reconciliation Commission (NPRC) Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission (ZHRC) Judicial Services Commission (JSC)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs. M. Mukahanana - Sangarwe – Chairperson ZGC • R. Magosvongwe – Chairperson ZMC • Rev Dr C. Moyo– ViceChairperson NPRC • Dr E. H. Mugwadi - Chairperson ZHRC • Mr. W. T. Chikwanha – Secretary JSC 	
13:00 LUNCH			
<p>14:30-15:30</p>	<p>Parallel Breakaway Sessions</p> <p>Session 1 -The role of language in achieving an upper middle-income society by the year 2030</p> <p>Moderator -: Prof. R. Magosvongwe Chairperson Zimbabwe Media Commission</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr R. Nhongo - The role of Indigenous Languages in promoting sound international relations and commercial efficacy. • Prof. M.E. Dlodlo - The role of higher and tertiary education institutions in promoting the teaching, learning and intellectualisation of indigenous languages. • Dr I. Mabasa - Indigenous languages and Cultural Creative industries. • B. Moyo - Role of Indigenous languages in promoting business development. • Prof. J. Mapara - Harnessing indigenous languages as intangible cultural heritage for tourism. • Chief Shana - National Chiefs’ Council Provincial Chairperson for Matabeleland North 	
	<p>Session 2: National Languages Policy Framework</p> <p>Moderator-: Mrs. R. Kavhiya-Legal Advisor - Ministry of Higher and Tertiary Education</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs B. Nyangairi - Sign language teaching and translation: voices from the ‘differently-abled’. • Prof. K. T. Gondo and Mrs Kaira - Exploring the role of Indigenous languages in teaching and learning of Science and Mathematics. • Chief Masendu–National Chiefs’ Council Provincial Chairperson for Matabeleland South 	

14:30-14:40	Entertainment Interlude	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vulindlela Theatre Company • White Stars Traditional Dance Group
14:40-15:40	<p>Session 3: National Languages Bill framework</p> <p>Moderator-: Mr. J. Mukaratirwa - Director Legislative Drafting - Attorney General's Office</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof. H. Chimhundu - Some tricky terms in the language policy formulation • V. Mhlanga - Normative values that inform the languages bill • Prof L Madhuku - National languages and Constitutionalism • Mrs G. Pise - Counsel to Parliament - Parliament of Zimbabwe • Chief Ngungumbane -- National Chiefs' Council Provincial Chairperson for Midlands
	<p>Session 4: National Languages Board</p> <p>Moderator-: Prof. W. Magwa-- Midlands State University National Language Institute</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr N. Maraire – Board Chairperson National Arts Council Zimbabwe (NACZ) • Dr S. Guramatunhu – Board Chairperson National Gallery of Zimbabwe (NGZ) • Dr J. Tayi – Board Chairperson Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation (ZBC) • Chief Masendu - National Chief's Council Provincial Chairperson for Matabeleland South
15:40-15:50	Entertainment Interlude	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • White Stars Traditional Dance Group • Vuli Ndlela Traditional Dance Group
15:50-16:50	<p>Session 5: Language and Technology</p> <p>Moderator-: Prof. H. Chimhundu - Midlands State University National Language Institute</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof. L. Khumalo - South African Centre for Digital Language Resources • Dr Eng. Mudondo– Principal Harare Polytechnic • Mr A.P.T Makanda – Director Curriculum Development and Technical Services, Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education • Chief Engineer Makumbe- National Chief's Council Provincial Chairperson for Manicaland
	<p>Session 6: National indigenous languages and the preservation of culture</p> <p>Moderator -: Chief Chivese - National Chiefs' Council Member</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chief Chitanga - National Chief's Council Provincial Chairperson for Masvingo Province • Chief Ngezi - National Chief's Council Provincial Chairperson for Mashonaland West • Chief Whange - Matabeleland North Province Traditional Leadership • Chief Nekatambe - Matabeleland North

		Province Traditional Leadership
17:00	***End of Day One***	

DAY TWO–OFFICIAL OPENING DAY WEDNESDAY 15 JUNE 2022

TIME	ITEM	PRESENTER	FACILITATOR
07:30-09:00	Arrival and Registration	NALAC Secretariat and Protocol	Ms C. Manuhwa – Deputy Director of Arts and Culture
07:30-09:00	Entertainment	Duramazwi Mbira Group	Ms C. Manuhwa – Deputy Director of Arts and Culture
09:00-09:10	The arrival of the Guest of Honour	Hon. Dr K. Coventry	Dr T. Chitepo– Secretary for Youth, Sport, Arts and Recreation
09:10-09:30	Briefing of The President of the Republic of Zimbabwe His Excellency Dr E.D Mnangagwa	Hon. Dr K. Coventry	Dr T. Chitepo– Secretary for Youth, Sport, Arts and Recreation
09:30-09:35	National Anthem	Mosi-oa-Tunya High School	Mr A. Mfiri
09:35-09:40	Prayer Kuomberwakwa Mambo Hwanhe	Bishop M. Kanye District Development Coordinator Hwange	Mr A. Mfiri
09:40-09:45	Poem – Ndimi Dzedu/ Our Languages	Luckmore Magaya	Mr A. Mfiri
09:45-09:50	Introductions and Overview of National Languages Conference by Secretary for Youth, Sport, Arts and Recreation	Dr T. Chitepo– <i>Government and national languages towards the formulation of a Languages Bill</i>	Mr A. Mfiri
09:50-09:55	Welcome Remarks by Minister of State for Provincial Affairs and Devolution Matabeleland North	Hon. Richard Moyo	Mr A. Mfiri
09:55-10:15	Remarks by African Union Commission’s Director for Social Development, Culture and Sport Representative	Mrs C. M. Mohammed – <i>Represented by Dr L. F. Dampha</i>	Mr A. Mfiri
10:15-10:25	Remarks by Hon. Minister of Higher and Tertiary Education, Science and Technology Development	Prof. A. Murwira	Dr T. Chitepo– Secretary for Youth, Sport, Arts and Recreation
10:25-10:30	Entertainment –	Ubuntu Bomuntu	Mr. A. Mfiri
10:30-10:35	Remarks by Hon. Minister of Youth, Sport, Arts and Recreation and introduction of Vice President and Minister of Health and Child Care Hon.	Hon. Dr K. Coventry	Dr T. Chitepo– Secretary for Youth, Sport, Arts and Recreation

	Dr C. G. D. N. Chiwenga		
10:35-10:40	Remarks and Introduction of the Guest of Honour by The Hon. Vice President of the Republic of Zimbabwe and Minister of Health and Child Care	Hon.VPDr. C.D.G.N. Chiwenga	Dr T. Chitepo– Secretary for Youth, Sport, Arts and Recreation
10:40-11:10	Keynote Address by The President of the Republic of Zimbabwe	The President His Excellency Dr E. D. Mnangagwa	Dr T. Chitepo– Secretary for Youth, Sport, Arts and Recreation
11:10- 11:15	Entertainment Interlude	Dura Mazwi Mbira	Mr A. Mfiri
11:15-11:20	Presentation of Gift to the Guest of Honour by Hon. Minister Dr K. Coventry	Hon Minister Dr K. Coventry	Dr T. Chitepo– Secretary for Youth, Sport, Arts and Recreation
11:20-11:25	Vote of Thanks	V.P for ZANU P. F. Hon K.C.D. Mohadi	Hon Minister Dr K. Coventry
11:25 -11:30	National Anthem	Mosi-oa-Tunya High School	Mr A. Mfiri
11:30-11:40	Photo Shoot Session	Hon Minister Dr K. Coventry	Dr T. Chitepo– Secretary for Youth, Sport, Arts and Recreation
11:40-13:30 LUNCH AND END OF OFFICIAL OPENING PROGRAMME			
PLENARY DISCUSSIONS CONTINUE			
1330-1335	Entertainment – Imbube	Ubuntu Bomuntu	
1335-1345	Remarks by the President of the Chiefs’ Council of Zimbabwe	Senator Chief F. Charumbira	
1345-1355	Entertainment – Poem: My Identity/UphawuLwami	Obert Dube	
13:55-14:55	Panel Discussion – CCIs and Indigenous Languages: Spearheading sustainable socio-economic development Moderator: V. Mhlanga - University of Zimbabwe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • R. Chikukwa – Executive Director National Gallery of Zimbabwe • N. Moyo – Director National Arts Council of Zimbabwe • Mr K Chikomo - Director of Creative Box • Ms M.MunzweWembiri – Chief Executive Officer Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation • Ms Sisassenkosi Sibanda - Director Natures Cradle • Chief Nechombo – National Chiefs Council Provincial Chairperson for Mashonaland East 	

14:55-15:55	<p>Panel Discussion: Voices from the 'margins'- speakers from indigenous languages recognised by the Constitution and others not yet recognised</p> <p>Moderator: Ms E. Ngosolo -Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr T. Malaba - Kalanga Language and Culture Development Association (KLCDA) • Dr N. Dhlamini - Ndebele Language Association • Mr P. Zumbo - MoPSE – A/D Director Communication Advocacy • Mr Ndlovu - Zimbabwe Association of the Visually Handicapped (ZAVH) • Ms N. Phuti - Tswana Language Association • Ms.S.Goche- Chikunda Language • Chief Goledama –Tsholotsho District, Matabeleland North Province Traditional Leadership
15:55-16:00	Entertainment Interlude	Duramazwi Mbira Group
16:00-17:00	<p>Panel Discussion - The role of Civic Society Organisations (CSOs) or Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) in promoting indigenous languages for national development</p> <p>Moderator: Rev T. Masuku – President Evangelical Fellowship of Zimbabwe (EFZ)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bishop R. M. M. Ncube - Zimbabwe Catholic Bishops Conference – Hwange Diocese • Mr M.Mafuta - President of Zimbabwe National Traditional Healers Association (ZINATHA) • Mr B. Twebaze - Director General African Regional Intellectual Property Organization • Dr. T. Matiyenga – National University of Science and Technology • Dr. O. Marupi - ZBC • Chief Matsiwo - National Chiefs Council Provincial Chairperson for Mashonaland Central
17:00-17:10	Entertainment Interlude and End of Day 2 Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kim Makumbe

**DAY THREE--FEEDBACK AND CLOSING DAY FOR NATIONAL LANGUAGES CONFERENCE
16 JUNE 2022**

TIME	ITEM	PRESENTER	FACILITATOR
08:00-08:15	Arrival andRegistration	NALAC Secretariat and Protocol	Ms C. Manuhwa – Deputy Director of Arts and Culture
	Entertainment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inkume Performing Arts 	Ms C. Manuhwa – Deputy Director of Arts and Culture

08:15-08:20	Prayer and Housekeeping	District Head Hwange MYSAR	Ms C. Manuhwa – Deputy Director of Arts and Culture
08:20-08:35	Recap of Day Two	Dr P. Ngandini - Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education	Dr B. Samwanda – Director of Arts and Culture
08:35-08:45	Entertainment Interlude	• Simunye Arts Ensemble	Dr B. Samwanda – Director of Arts and Culture
08:45-09:15	Feedback from Session 6 -	Chief Chivese	Dr B. Samwanda – Director of Arts and Culture
09:15-09:45	Feedback from Session 5 -	Prof. H. Chimhundu	Dr B. Samwanda – Director of Arts and Culture
09:45-10:00	Entertainment Interlude	• Simunye Arts Ensemble	Dr B. Samwanda – Director of Arts and Culture
10:00-10:30	TEA BREAK		
10:35-11:05	Feedback from Session 4 -	Prof. W. Magwa	Dr B. Samwanda
11:05-11:35	Feedback from Session 3 -	Mr J. Mukaratirwa	Dr B. Samwanda
11:35-11:45	Entertainment Interlude Chicken Bus Band		
11:45-12:15	Feedback from Session 2 -	Mrs. R. Kavhiya	Dr B. Samwanda
11:45-12:15	Feedback from Session - 1 -	Prof. R. Magosvongwe	Dr B. Samwanda
12:15-12:30	Summary of National Conference Resolutions and the Roadmap	Prof. F. Matambirofa	Dr B. Samwanda – Director of Arts and Culture
12:30-12:45	Closing Remarks and Vote of Thanks by deputy Minister for Youth, Sport, Arts and Recreation	Hon. T. Machakaire (M.P)	Dr B. Samwanda Director of Arts and Culture
12:45-13:00	Entertainment	• Umkhankaso Wamajaha	
13:00-14:30	LUNCH		
14:30-17:00	Recreation Excursion - '#ZimBho #iZimYami #Vhakatsha #Shanya'	Victoria Falls National Park Visit / Boat Cruise	NALAC Secretariat and Protocol
17:00	***End of Day Three***		
18:00– 21:00	NALAC 2022 Cocktail Night – Chicken Bus Band		

Appendix 2: Attendance Register



NATIONAL LANGUAGES CONFERENCE
14 – 16 JUNE 2022
ELEPHANT HILLS, VICTORIA FALLS, ZIMBABWE
ATTENDANCE REGISTER



VVIP Invites		
NAME	DESIGNATION	
1. His Excellency Dr E. D. Mnangagwa	The President of the Republic of Zimbabwe	
2. Hon. Dr Rtd General C. D. G. N. Chiwenga	Vice President of the Republic of Zimbabwe	
CABINET MINISTERS		
3. Hon. O. C. Z. Muchinguri-Kashiri (M.P)	Minister of Defence and War Veterans Affairs	
4. Hon. K. Coventry	Minister for Youth, Sport, Arts and Recreation	
5. Hon. E. Ndlovu	Minister of Primary and Secondary Education	
6. Hon. R. Moyo (MP)	Minister of State for Provincial Affairs and Devolution - Matabeleland North Province	
Hon. Abedinico Ncube (MP)	Minister of State for Provincial Affairs and Devolution - Matabeleland South Province	

8. Hon. Munzverengi	Minister of State for Provincial Affairs and Devolution – Mashonaland East Province	
DEPUTY MINISTERS		
9. Hon. T. Machakaire(M.P)	Deputy Minister for Youth, Sport, Arts and Recreation	
10. Hon. Dr J. Mangwiro	Deputy Minister for Health and Child Care	
11. Hon. E. Moyo (M.P.)	Deputy Minister for Primary and Secondary Education	
12. Hon. R. Machingura (M.P)	Deputy Minister for Higher and Tertiary Education, Science and Technology Dev.	
13. Hon. R. Mavhunga - Maboyi(MP)	Deputy Minister of Home Affairs and Cultural Heritage	
ZANU PF		
14. Hon. T. Mukusha	Politburo Secretary for Gender and Culture	
PARLIAMENTARY PORTFOLIO CHAIRS		
15. Hon. M. Tongofa (MP)	Chairperson Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Youth, Sport, Arts and Recreation	
16. Hon. T. Moyo	Chairperson Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Primary and Secondary Education	
17. Rev. Dr P. B. Damasane	Deputy Chief Secretary for Social Services Sector	
18. Hon. Justice P. Chigumba	Chairperson Zimbabwe Electoral Commission	
19. Rev. Chiropafadzo-Moyo	Vice Chair National Peace and Reconciliation Commission	
20. Dr E. H. Mugwadi	Chairperson Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission	
21. Prof. R. Magosvongwe	Chairperson Zimbabwe Media Commission	
22. Mr W. T. Chikwanha	Secretary Judicial Services Commission	
SIGN LANGUAGE TRANSLATORS		
23. Ms A. Magwenzi	Signing language expert	
24. Ms V. Mwanza	Signing language expert	
PERMANENT SECRETARIES		
25. Ambassador J. Wutawunashe	Secretary Public Service Commission Represented by Dr I. Ndebele	
26. Dr T. Chitepo	Secretary for Youth, Sport, Arts and Recreation	
27. Mrs T. Thabela	Secretary for Primary and Secondary Education	
28. Prof. F. Tagwira	Secretary for Higher and Tertiary Education	
29. Eng. J. P. Makumbe	Secretary for National Housing and Social Amenities	
REGIONAL DELEGATES		
30. Dr L. F. Dampha	Executive Secretary for African Academy of Languages (ACALAN)	Mali
31. Prof. L. A. Brito	UNESCO Regional Director for Southern Africa/Representative	Zimbabwe
32. Mr B. Twebaze	Director General African Regional Intellectual Property Organization	Zimbabwe
33. Ms D. Phuti	Director of Arts and Culture Government of Botswana	Botswana
NATIONAL CHIEF'S COUNCIL		
34. Chief Shanarepresented by Sibanda Gladys	NCC Provincial Chairperson for Matabeleland North	
35. Chief Makumbe	NCC, Provincial Chairperson for Manicaland	

36. Chief Masendu	NCC, Provincial Chairperson for Matabeleland South	
37. Chief Ngungumbane	NCC, Provincial Chairperson for Midlands	
38. Chief Nechombo	NCC, Provincial Chairperson for Mashonaland East	
39. Chief Chitanga	NCC, Provincial Chairperson for Masvingo Province	
40. Chief Matsiwo	NCC, Provincial Chairperson for Mashonaland Central	
41. Chief Ngezi	NCC, Provincial Chairperson for Mashonaland West	
42. Chief Nekatambe	Matabeleland North Province Traditional Leadership	
43. Chief Wange	Matabeleland North Province Traditional Leadership	
44. Chief Makumbe	Senator Chief	
45. Chief Chitango	Senator Chief	
46. Chief Siansale	Binga	
47. Chief Nelukoba	Hwange	
TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS REPRESENTATIVES		
48. Dr R. Nhongo	Midlands State University	
49. Dr O. Marupi	Great Zimbabwe University / ZBC	
50. Mr T. Ndlovu	National University of Science and Technology	
51. Dr T. C. Matiyenga	National University of Science and Technology	
52. Dr W. Muchono	Zimbabwe Ezekiel Guti University	
53. Ms L. Sibindi	Hillside Teachers College	
RELIGIOUS AND CHURCH REPRESENTATIVES		
54. Bishop N. Muparutsa	Evangelical Fellowship of Zimbabwe (EFZ)	
55. Bishop L. M. Khanye	President of Zimbabwe Council of Churches (ZCC)	
CULTURAL CREATIVE INDUSTRIES' REPRESENTATIVES		
56. Mr R. Chikukwa	Executive Director National Gallery of Zimbabwe	
57. Mr N. Moyo	Director of National Arts Council of Zimbabwe	
58. Ms Sisasenkosu Sibanda	Director Natures Cradle	
59. Mr P. Ndlovu	Zimbabwe Music Union	
60. Bothwell Nkomo	Creative Director- Nature Cradle	
61. Ms A. Chikunguru	Chief Executive Officer Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation	
62. Mr K Chikomo	Director Creative Box	
63. Ms P. Moyo	Amakhosi Theatre	
64. Mrs K. Magwere	School of Deaf	
65. Morrison Mafuta	Cultural Expert	
PRESENTERS		
66. Prof. H. Chimhundu	MSU National Languages Institute	
67. Prof. L. Madhuku	University of Zimbabwe	
68. Mr B. Moyo	President of Confederation of Zimbabwe Industries (CZI)	
69. Prof. J. Mapara	Chinhoyi University of Technology	
70. Dr Eng. T. Mudondo	Harare Polytechnic	
71. Prof. K. T. Gondo	Great Zimbabwe University	
72. Mrs Kaira	MoPSE	
73. Mr A. Mfiri	Communications Specialist - RBZ	

74. Ms M Munzwembiri	ZBC	
75. Mr A.P.T Makanda	Director CDU MoPSE	
76. Professor W. Magwa	Executive Director, MSU National Languages Institute	
HIGHER LEARNING INSTITUTIONS REPRESENTATIVES		
77. Prof. R. J. Zvobgo	Vice Chancellor GZU	
78. Prof. V. Muzvidziwa	Vice Chancellor MSU	
79. Dr K. Kuipa	Vice Chancellor Lupane State University	
80. Prof. C. J. Chetsanga	Zimbabwe Ezekiel Guti University	
81. Prof. P. Mapfumo	Vice Chancellor – University of Zimbabwe	
82. Showa Kudakwashe	Midlands State University	
83. Mrs. J. Chirapa	UNESCO Representative	
LEGAL AND LEGISLATIVE EXPERTS		
84. Mrs G. Pise	Counsel to Parliament – Parliament of Zimbabwe	
85. Mr J. Mukaratirwa	Director Legislative Drafting – Attorney General’s Office	
86. Ms K. Bopoto	Legal Advisor – Ministry of Local Government and Public Works	
87. Ms E. Mangezi	Legal Advisor – Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education	
88. Mrs R. Kavhiya	Legal Advisor – Ministry of Higher and Tertiary Education	
89. Mrs P. Madziviridze	Legal Advisor – Ministry of Home Affairs and Cultural Heritage	
REPRESENTATIVES OF LANGUAGE ASSOCIATIONS		
90. Mr D. Chinyamunyamu	Chewa Language Association	Chewa
91. Mrs M. Dube	Zimbabwe Indigenous Languages Promotion Association (ZILPA)	Indigenous Languages
92. Mr S. Mudzudza	Barwe Language Association	ChiBarwe
93. Mr T. Malaba	Kalanga Language and Culture Development Association (KLCDA)	Kalanga
94. Mr D. Moyo	Tsoro-o-tso San Development Trust	Khoisan
95. Mr V. Nyoni	Nambya Language and Culture Association (NLCA)	Nambya
96. Mr P. Kusasa	Ndau Language and Culture Association (NLCA)	Ndau
97. Dr N. Dhlamini	Ndebele Language Association	Ndebele
98. Mr M. Ndlovu	ZAVH	
99. MS C. NDLOVU	ZAVH	
100. Mr T. Malaba	ZILPA	
101. Mr G. Macheke	Shangani Language and Culture Association	Shangani
102. Mrs B. Nyangairi	Deaf Zimbabwe Trust	Sign Language
103. Prof. K. T. Gondo	Shona Language and Culture Association	Shona
104. Mr D. Kulube	Sotho Language Writers Association (SOWA)	Sotho
105. Bishop Muleya	Tonga Language and Culture Association (TOLLACO)	Tonga

106.	Ms N. Phuti	Tswana Language Association	Tswana
107.	Mr S. Mulaudzi	Venda Language and Culture Association	Venda
108.	Mr P. Mzamo	Xhosa Language Association	Xhosa
109.	Mr Ndlovu	Zimbabwe Association of the Visually Handicapped (ZAVH)	Braille Writing
110.	Mr P. Zumbo	MoPSE – A/D Director of Communication Advocacy	Indigenous Languages
111.	Ms S. Goche	Chikunda Language	Chikunda
RELATED STAKEHOLDERS			
112.	Mr M. Madondo	Chairperson Zimbabwe Book Publishers' Association,	
113.	Mr K. Shamuyarira	Secretary General Zimbabwe Federation of Trade Unions (ZFTU)	
114.	Mr W. Magaya	President Law Society of Zimbabwe (LSZ)	
115.	Dr. P.L.N Sikosana	Executive Chairman Health Services Board (HSB)	
116.	Mr K. Matsheza	President Confederation of Zimbabwe Industries (CZI)	
117.	Mr C. T. Mugaga	Zimbabwe National Chamber of Commerce (ZNCC)	
118.	Mrs S. Muzite	Director Research Council of Zimbabwe (RCZ)	
119.	Ms. R. Siyachitema represented by Mr .C. Kamba	Executive Director Consumer Council of Zimbabwe (CCZ)	
120.	DR. E.C. Gahadzikwa		
LINE MINISTRIES			
121.	Mr D. Njenge	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	
122.	Mr S. Nyeperai	MPSLSW	
123.	Mr F. Banda	MPSLSW	
124.	Mr T. Matiyenga	NUST	
125.	Mr . Chirwa,	Home Affairs	
126.	Ms M. Mguni	MECTHI	
127.	Ms Mandy Changa	MECTHI	
128.	Mr Mugwadi	ZHRC	
129.	Mr P. Ndhlovu	ZIMU	
130.	Mr AMakanda	MOPSE	
131.	Mr A. Moyo	Public Service Commission	
132.	Mr J. Mtombeni	PSC	
133.	Mr I. Kanunga	OPC	
134.	Mr T. Ndhlovu	NUST	
135.	Mr L. Magaya	Artist Elysium	
136.	Mr D Sibanda	Zimbabwe Gender Commission	
137.	Shangu Tariro	MOPSE	

138.	Ncube Leonard	Chronicle	
139.	Kamba Christopher	Consumer Council of Zimbabwe	
140.	Dorothy Mutsibi	OPC Mashonaland Central	
141.	Chiwana Privilege	OPC Mashonaland Central	
142.	Mr P. Chidziva	MYSAR	
143.	Sibelo Esther	Protocol	
144.	Mutema Xaviour	OPC	
145.	Moyo Ribokile	Home Affairs	
146.	Robson Dakura	Home Affairs	
147.	T. Chimvinga	ZEC	
148.	F. Tagwireyi	ZEC	
149.	F. Gwangure	ZEC	
150.	Mr L. Magaya	Artist	
151.	I. KAnunga	OPC	
152.	Precious Moyo	Amakhosi Cultural Centre	
153.	T. Mugoriya	OPC	
154.	L. Muchemwa	MOSIPA	
155.	Allowance Sango	Ministry of Transport	
156.	Ndlovu Eunice	NACZ Mat North Province	
157.	Mutsipah Primrose	Ministry of ICT	
MINISTRY OFFICIALS			
158.	Mr A. Nyamajiwa	Director PMU	
159.	Dr B. Samwanda	Director of Arts and Culture	
160.	Ms C. Manuhwa	Deputy Director Arts and Culture	
161.	Mrs P. Viriri	Arts and Culture Officer	
162.	Mrs S. Jiri	Arts and Culture Officer	
163.	Mr M. Masaka	Arts and Culture Officer	
164.	Mr I.Nyamundanda	Arts and Culture Officer	
165.	Ms E. Veremu	Arts and Culture Secretary	
166.	Mr M. Manjeru	Acting Provincial Matabeleland North	
167.	Mr C. Mathema	Provincial Arts and Culture Officer Mat North	
168.	Mr C. Ncube	Arts and Culture Officer - Tsholotsho	
169.	Mr. J. Tokonye	Arts and Culture Officer - Hwange	
170.	Mr. O. Sibanda	Arts and Culture Officer - Mberengwa	
171.	Ms. G. Dube	Legal Department	
172.	Ms .A. Gunguwu	Arts and Culture intern	

173.	Mr R. Madzamba	Public Relations, Communication and Advocacy	
174.	Mr. S. Mangadza	Administration	
175.	Mr P. Chakona	Administration	
176.	Mr. H. Madenyika	Administration	
177.	Mr B. Sichewo	Administration-IT	
178.	Mrs L. Ndofeni	Administration	
179.	Ms. N. Garira	Protocol Officer	
180.	Mrs P. Nyakurerwa	Human Resources	
181.	Mr L. Mataire	Skills Development (Protocol)	
182.	Ms. J. Mfiri	Administration	
183.	Mr C. Madzivanyika	Procurement Management Unit	
184.	Ms A. Kadye	Monitoring and Evaluation	
185.	Ms. T. Mugodzeri	Finance	
186.	Mr. C. Nyambizi	Administration	
187.	Mr. T. Mutirori	Administration	
NATIONAL LANGUAGES ADVISORY		COMMITTEE (NALAC)	
188	Professor R. Magosvongwe	Chairperson	
189	Dr B. Maseko	Vice Chairperson	
190	Professor F. Matambirofa	Committee Member	
191	Dr S. Madhlome	Committee Member	
192	Professor W. Magwa	Committee Member	
192	Dr I Mabasa	Committee Member	
193	Mr V. Mhlanga	Committee Member	
194	Mr E. Ndanga	Committee Member	
195	Mr R. Chikukwa	Committee Member	
196	Ms L. Ngosolo	Committee Member	
199	Professor E. Gudhlanga	Committee Member	
200	Mr L. Chidemo	Committee Member	
201	Dr P. Ngandini	Committee Member	
202	Professor E. Ndlovu	Committee Member	
203	Mr M. Chirere	Committee Member	
204	Ms B. Mamvura	Committee Member	
205	Chief Chivese	Committee member	

Appendix 3: Keynote Speech



BY

THE PRESIDENT, HIS EXCELLENCY,

DR. E. D. MNANGAGWA

AT THE

NATIONAL LANGUAGES CONFERENCE

VICTORIA FALLS

15 JUNE 2022

Director of Ceremonies;

Vice President and Minister of Health and Child Care, Hon. Gen. (Rtd) Dr. C. G. D. N. Chiwenga;

Second Secretary and Vice President of Zanu PF,
Hon. Col. (Rtd) K. C. D. Mohadi;

Minister of State for Provincial Affairs and Devolution,
Matabeleland North Province, Hon. R. Moyo;

Minister for Youth, Sport, Arts and
Recreation, Hon. Dr K. Coventry;

Other Ministers here present;

His Grace, Bishop N. Mutendi;

President of the Chiefs Council in Zimbabwe,
Hon. Senator Chief F. Charumbira;

Chairpersons of the various Commissions here present;

The Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Youth, Sport,
Arts and Recreation, Hon. M. Tongofa;

The African Union Director for Social Development,
Culture and Sport, Mrs Cisse Mariama Mohammed;

Executive Secretary of the African Academy
of Languages, Dr Lang Fafa Dampha;

UNESCO Regional Director for Southern Africa,
Prof. L. A. Brito;

Senior Government Officials;

Your Worship the Mayor of the City of Victoria Falls, Councillor
S. Dhlamini;

Distinguished Guests;

Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is my honour and privilege to officiate at this opening ceremony of the inaugural National Languages Conference, here in this resort city of Victoria Falls. I warmly welcome our international guests and invite them to enjoy our Zimbabwean hospitality.

This National Languages Conference, which is being held under the theme “Re-defining the Role of Zimbabwean Languages for National Development Towards Vision 2030 and Beyond” is timely, and allows stakeholders to give due consideration to matters related to indigenous languages, more so in our country’s present national development epoch.

It further dovetails with Section 6 and Section 63 of the Constitution of Zimbabwe; which obligates that all officially recognised languages be treated equally and provide every person with the right to use a language of their choice.

The Second Republic is implementing development that leaves no one and no place behind. Equally, we are committed to keeping our languages alive by leaving no language behind.

To this end, my Government has supported the translation of national documents such as the Constitution, National Development Strategy and COVID-19 information, education and other communication materials, into the 16 national languages.

As you are aware, indigenous languages are critical for improving social cohesion as they give our communities a sense of inclusivity while nurturing national cultural identities, pride and the dignity of indigenous people. Our languages are also an indispensable cultural heritage which is necessary for unity, education, economic well-being and mass participation.

In the present national development agenda, which is guided by our development philosophy: “nyika inovakwa nevene vayo”, indigenous languages must, thus, be effectively deployed as vital cogs in the formulation, implementation and monitoring of all national development policies, programmes and activities.

Similarly, increased production and productivity in sectors such as agriculture, mining and manufacturing, among others, should be promoted through the use of our indigenous languages. The broader use of indigenous languages, including sign language, has to trigger active participation of our communities, across the

length and breadth of the country, towards nation-building and socio-economic development programmes, from the ward level, upwards. Indeed, an informed citizenry is more empowered and equipped to play their part in the building of our motherland, Zimbabwe, brick by brick, stone uponstone.

Drawing from our traditional customs and African value system of Ubuntu/Hunhu, the use of our indigenous languages should see our people concertedly fighting corruption and promoting unity, love, peace, harmony and non-violence, more so as we approach the 2023 Harmonised General Elections.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Distinguished Delegates,

At the global level, the UN General Assembly calls upon member states *‘to promote the preservation and protection of all languages used by peoples of the world’*. The sub-themes of the Sustainable Development Goals also entail the promotion of indigenous languages for quality, equitable and inclusive education; language skills and sustainable economic growth; as well as for peacebuilding and justice.

Zimbabwe applauds the resolution of the UN General Assembly declaring the period between 2022 and 2032 as the International Decade of Indigenous Languages. This programme, along with the African Union’s Agenda 2063, Aspiration 5, which envisions *‘An Africa with a strong cultural identity, common heritage,*

shared values and ethics” should vault Africa’s heritage-based modernisation and development.

The objectives of this National Languages Indaba are commendable and will undoubtedly facilitate the mobilisation of stakeholders and requisite resources, for the preservation, revitalisation and promotion of indigenous languages. After all, it is through language that we understand and adapt to the ever-changing world around us. The languages of our people are therefore a resource that should be harnessed, not only to ensure cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue but to also facilitate social transformation, human capital development and wealth creation.

I am encouraged by the fact that delegates to this Conference are drawn from a wide range of stakeholders, including Traditional Leaders; experts in culture and Indigenous Languages; Cultural Heritage historians; civic society; linguists; as well as researchers and writers from both public and private institutions.

These, together with those in the Cultural Creative Industries; the clergy; politicians; parliamentarians and the media are an impressive ensemble. Such multi-stakeholder synergy is a giant leap forward that must propel the development of an all-encompassing roadmap that will birth an implementable National Languages Policy and the subsequent enactment of a National

Languages Act that leaves no one and no place behind.

Meanwhile, the revitalisation of indigenous languages is essential for ensuring the continuation and transmission of culture, customs and history. To this end, the family is the first classroom and parents are a child's first teacher. I, therefore, call upon parents and guardians to set a good example by teaching our children their indigenous languages. This will also help reinforce our cultural norms which emphasise the respect of oneself and others, including elders, our community and the environment.

On its part, my Government will render the necessary support and resources for the implementation of various policies, programmes and legislation that build capacity around our national languages and the understanding of our cultural heritage. This includes the preservation, revitalisation and mainstreaming of linguistic diversity in Zimbabwe.

To date, Government continues to strengthen our education system, by increasing the number of language professionals, especially in the less commonly taught languages and also availing teaching tools in indigenous languages. Equally important is integrating training of indigenous languages for professionals in the various sectors of the economy to enhance communication, inclusivity and social cohesion.

It is, therefore, my expectation that this Conference will contribute to the building of a solid foundation which guarantees a nation where all citizens can articulate their thoughts, values, experiences and customs in their respective languages. Furthermore, encouragement of the use of indigenous languages, including their digitalisation, will ensure their survival, revival and continuity through generations. This must ultimately lead to an enhanced sense of self-worth, national pride and greater appreciation of the fact that as a nation, we are diverse but one people.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me to once again commend the Ministry of Youth, Sport, Arts and Recreation as well as other stakeholders for hosting this inaugural National Languages Conference. I exhort delegates to emerge from this forum with robust strategies that will guarantee the preservation of our indigenous languages. Mechanisms to mainstream our languages into the national development initiatives, and nurture citizens to be consciously proud to use their indigenous languages, must be equally prioritised.

Finally, I invite you to take time from your busy schedule to visit the majestic Victoria Falls as well as enjoy the vast array of facilities and activities that this Resort City has to offer.

With these remarks, it is now my singular honour to declare the National Languages Conference, officially opened.

God bless you.

God bless Zimbabwe.

I thank you.

**Appendix 4: REMARKS
BY THE MINISTER OF YOUTH, SPORT, ARTS AND
RECREATION**



ZIMBABWE

MINISTRY OF YOUTH, SPORT, ARTS AND RECREATION

**HONOURABLE DR KIRSTY COVENTRY
ON THE OCCASION OF
THE NATIONAL LANGUAGES CONFERENCE
@
ELEPHANT HILLS HOTEL,
VICTORIA FALLS**

ON WEDNESDAY 15 JUNE 2022



SALUTATIONS

- Your Excellency, The President of the Republic of Zimbabwe and Commander-in-Chief of the Zimbabwe Defence Forces – **Dr E. D. Mnangagwa**
- The Honourable Vice President of the Republic of Zimbabwe and Minister of Health and Child Care - **General (Rtd) Dr C. D. G. N. Chiwenga**
- Second Secretary and Vice President of Zanu PF- **Hon. K. C. D. Mohadi**
- Speaker of the National Assembly of Zimbabwe - **Hon. Advocate J. F. N. Mudenda**
- Minister of Defence and War Veterans Affairs and Zanu-PF Chairperson - **Hon. O. C. Z. Muchinguri-Kashiri**
- President of the Chief's Council in Zimbabwe -**Hon. Senator Chief F. Charumbira**, and our Esteemed Traditional Leaders, who are here present.
- Minister of State for Provincial Affairs and Devolution for Matabeleland North Province - **Hon. Richard Moyo** and Honourable Ministers here present
- The Deputy Minister for Youth, Sport, Arts and Recreation - **Hon. T. Machakaire** and all the Honourable Deputy Ministers here present
- ZANU PF Politburo Secretary for Gender and Culture - **Hon. T. Mukusha** and all the distinguished members of the Politburo and Revolutionary ZANU PF Party here present
- Chairpersons for Zimbabwe Electoral Commission, Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission, Zimbabwe Gender Commission, Zimbabwe Media Commission, Zimbabwe Anti-Corruption Commission and the National Peace and Reconciliation Commission

- The Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Youth, Sport, Arts and Recreation **Hon. M. Tongofa** and all Parliamentary Portfolio Committee Chairpersons and all Honourable Members of Parliament and Senate here present
 - The African Union's Director for Social Development, Culture and Sport - **Mrs Cisse Mariama Mohammed here represented by the Executive Secretary of the African Academy of Languages (ACALAN) -Dr L. F.Dampha**
 - The Zimbabwe National Commission for UNESCO - **Mrs M. Chirapa**
 - The UNESCO Regional Director for Southern Africa - **Prof. L. A. Brito**
 - Your Worship the Mayor of the City of Victoria Falls - **Councillor S. Dhlamini**
 - Secretary for the Ministry of Youth, Sport, Arts and Recreation – **Dr T. Chitepo** and other Permanent Secretaries here present
 - Senior Government officials and Heads of Government Departments and Parastatals here present
 - The Members of the National Languages Advisory Committee
 - The Clergy, African Indigenous Languages experts, Cultural and Legal experts and members of the Academia here present
 - Civic Organizations and Cultural and Creative Industries (CCIs) players
 - Members of the Media Fraternity
 - Distinguished Guests
 - Ladies and Gentlemen
1. Your Excellency Sir, I allow me to acknowledge the immense support that you continuously offer my Ministry every time that we

humbly ask you to be amongst us. I know how busy and demanding your work schedule is as the Head of State and Government. It is my sincere wish, Your Excellency, Sir, to welcome you to this **national Languages Conference** that my ministry is running for three days in this beautiful town of Victoria Falls.

2. This National Languages Conference, Your Excellency, Sir, ladies and gentlemen will abound with critical discussions that seek to re-define and state the roles that indigenous languages, as given in Zimbabwe's Constitution ought to be playing in our everyday lives within our diverse communities so that we continuously safeguard, promote and shape society and stir sustainable national development that is grounded in our cultural heritage.
3. Your Excellency, Sir, my Ministry has taken this multi-stakeholder approach in coming up with this National Languages Conference so that we can gather consensus, and participatory inclusivity that has a fair share of equality and equity in this process of trying to come up with a National Languages regulatory framework. This is guided by your well-enunciated principle, Sir, of **'Leaving no one and no place behind'**
4. It was to this effect, Your Excellency, Sir, ladies and gentlemen that the Ministry of Youth, Sport, Arts and Recreation had to seek counsel on how to undertake this critical process. It was after a call for expression of interest to serve in the National Languages Advisory Committee was advertised in the national press. Those with interest applied and a due process of considering their suitability was made and this resulted in the instituting of the National Languages Advisory Committee whose first important output, Your Excellency, is this National Languages Conference.
5. Therefore, the holding of this National Languages Conference is a key priority and policy intervention by my Ministry, Your Excellency, as we seek to understand and explore the potential that our indigenous languages have to offer in propelling your vision of attaining an upper -Middle-income society in 2030.

6. Your Excellency, Sir, Ladies and Gentlemen, allow me at this moment and time to call upon our Vice President and the Minister of Health and Child Care, the Honourable General (Retired) Dr C.D.G.N Chiwenga to come forward and give us his remarks then introduce our distinguished Guest of Honour for this National Languages Conference.

Honourable Vice President, Sir.

**Appendix 5: REMARKS BY
THE MINISTER OF HIGHER AND TERTIARY EDUCATION,
INNOVATION, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
DEVELOPMENT**



ZIMBABWE

**HON. PROFESSOR A. MURWIRA
ON THE OCCASION OF
THE NATIONAL LANGUAGES CONFERENCE**

**@ELEPHANT HILLS HOTEL,
VICTORIA FALLS**

ON WEDNESDAY 15 JUNE 2022



SALUTATIONS

- The President of the Republic of Zimbabwe and the Commander in Chief of The Zimbabwe Defence Forces – His Excellency Cde Dr E.D. Mnangagwa
- The Vice President of the Republic of Zimbabwe and Minister of Health and Child Care – **Hon Cde Dr N.G.D.C.Chiwega**
- Second Secretary and Vice President of Zanu PF- **Hon. K. C. D. Mohadi**
- Minister of Defence and War Veterans Affairs and Zanu-PF Chairperson - **Hon. O. C. Z. Muchinguri-Kashiri**
- Minister for Youth, Sport, Arts and Recreation - **Hon Dr K. Coventry**
- Minister of State for Provincial Affairs and Devolution for Matabeleland North Province - **Hon. Richard Moyo** and Honourable Ministers here present
- President of the Chief's Council in Zimbabwe -**Hon. Senator Chief F. Charumbira,**
- The Deputy Minister for Youth, Sport, Arts and Recreation - **Hon. T. Machakaire** and all the Honourable Deputy Ministers here present
- ZANU PF Politburo Secretary for Gender and Culture - **Hon. T. Mukusha** and all the distinguished members of the Politburo and Revolutionary ZANU PF Party here present
- Chairpersons for Zimbabwe Electoral Commission, Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission, Zimbabwe Gender Commission, Zimbabwe Media Commission, Zimbabwe Anti-Corruption Commission and the National Peace and Reconciliation Commission
- The Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Youth, Sport, Arts and Recreation **Hon. M. Tongofa** and all Parliamentary Portfolio

Committee Chairpersons and all Honourable Members of Parliament and Senate here present

- Director for Social Development, Culture and Sport - African Union **Mrs Cisse Mariama Mohammed represented by the** Executive Secretary of the African Academy of Languages (ACALAN)-**Dr. L. F. Dampha**
- Secretary for the Ministry of Youth, Sport, Arts and Recreation – **Dr T. Chitepo** and other Permanent Secretaries here present
- Your Worship the Mayor of the City of Victoria Falls - **Councillor S. Dhlamini**
- The Secretary General of the Zimbabwe National Commission for UNESCO – **Mrs M. Chirapa**
- UNESCO Regional Director for Southern Africa - **Prof. L. A. Brito**
- Senior Government officials and Heads of Government Departments and Agencies here present
- Esteemed Members of the National Languages Advisory Committee
- The Clergy,
- African Indigenous Languages experts and representatives
- Cultural and Legal experts and members of the Academia here present
- Civic Organizations and Cultural and Creative Industry players
- Members of the Media Fraternity
- Distinguished Guests
- Ladies and Gentlemen

Your Excellency, Sir allow me to dwell on the Indigenous Languages: Plans and Progress to date. Education 5.0 is a heritage-based philosophy, and language is the most important vehicle of cultural transmission.

The Ministry promulgated a policy on the teaching of Indigenous languages in all Teachers' Colleges which came into effect in 2019.

The Policy states that all graduate teachers, upon completion of their course, are expected to be proficient in at least three (3) indigenous languages for both communication and instructional purposes.

The Policy is in tandem with the dictates and object of the Constitution of Zimbabwe on the officially recognized 16 languages in the country.

All teachers' Colleges are now offering these indigenous languages as both applied and main subjects. Trainee teachers are taught how to teach these languages from Early Childhood Development upwards.

My Ministry has encouraged some institutions to even go a mile further to offer more than six indigenous languages. Of particular note is what is happening at Joshua Nkomo Polytechnic, Hillside Teachers' College, United College of Education and the recently established Hwange Teachers' College whose main mandate is the training of Indigenous Language primary school teachers. A fact aiding this realization is the fact that these institutions are also located in provinces endowed with language diversity.

Great Zimbabwe University has been doing tremendous work in producing competent and qualified language experts. These are being absorbed in our Teachers' Colleges as lecturers and as language teachers in our sister Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education. The university is also producing related literature in that respect.

As a Ministry, we are also excited that we now have the National Languages Institute housed at Midlands State University where top-notch work is being produced. The translation of the Highway Code, the National Development Strategy (NDS) 1 and the Zimbabwean Constitution stand out among many such works translated into indigenous languages.

The University of Zimbabwe's Center for Teacher Education and Materials Production Unit produce voluminous work, publishing literature

in all the 16 officially-recognised languages. This also includes Braille for the visually impaired and those who use Sign language.

The challenge that we need to address is the shortage of qualified lecturers in some of the indigenous languages; the demand is not matching the supply. However, we are positive that we will get there much sooner than later.

We are encouraging more publications of indigenous languages' literature in digital formats for drama, novels, textbooks as well as teaching and learning materials for use in our institutions of higher learning, be they colleges or universities.

We are on top of the situation in addressing issues of teaching indigenous languages through the ongoing curriculum harmonization process. This process is harmonizing the teacher education curriculum and the competence-based school curriculum. They are now in harmony as we speak. However, what is now left is the production of competent indigenous language teachers.

As such, Your Excellency, ladies and gentlemen, this National Languages Conference makes fertile ground that Education 5.0 as a heritage-based philosophy stand to ride on; our indigenous languages are the most important and the much-needed vehicle for cultural transmission needed to spur economic development.

I thank you.

Appendix 6: Remarks by Dr Lang Fafa Dampha, Executive Secretary of the African Academy of Languages (ACALAN)

African Union Commission (AUC)



Zimbabwe

African Academy of Languages (ACALAN)



National Language Policy Indaba, 'Redefining the Role of Zimbabwean Languages for National Development Towards Vision 2030 and Beyond'

14 – 16 June 2022

Salutations

Excellency Dr Emmerson Mnangagwa President of the Republic of Zimbabwe

Vice President of Zimbabwe of the Republic of Zimbabwe and Minister of Health and Child Care.

Hon Minister of State for Provincial Affairs and Devolution Matabeleland North

Hon Minister of Defense

Hon Minister of Higher and Tertiary Education, Science and Technology Development

Hon. Minister of Youth, Sport, Arts and Recreation

Distinguished Participants

Ladies and gentlemen

It is an immense pleasure for me to participate in this remarkable National Languages Policy Conference, whose theme is “Redefining the role of Zimbabwean Languages for National Development Towards Vision 2030 and Beyond”. On behalf of Her Excellency, Minata Samate Sessouma, Commissioner for Health, Humanitarian Affairs and Social Development of the African Union Commission, I immensely congratulate and thank the Ministry of Youth, Sports, Arts and Recreation and the entire government and people of Zimbabwe in their comprehensive effort to develop and implement a national language policy for this great nation and people of Zimbabwe. This conference is a milestone in the march toward the empowerment and promotion of African Languages as effective factors of African integration and development.

Yesterday, we presented the Language Plan of Action for Africa that was developed right back in 1984 by OAU Inter-African Bureau of Languages (OAU-IBL). The Language Action Plan was reviewed by the first session of the AU Conference of Ministers of Culture in December 2005 in Nairobi, Kenya, which adopted it as an important instrument for guiding the formulation and implementation of language policies and programmes in Africa. The revised version of the Plan was adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Member States of the African Union, in 2006, in Khartoum, Sudan at the same time with Statutes of the African Academy of Languages (ACALAN), the revised Charter for the African Cultural Renaissance.

In terms of its objectives and principles, the LPAA:

- i. Encourage every Member State to have a clearly defined language policy;
- ii. Ensure that all languages within the boundaries of Member States are recognised and accepted as a source of mutual enrichment;
- iii. Liberate the African peoples from undue reliance on the utilisation of non-African languages as the dominant, official languages of the state in favour of the gradual take-over of appropriate and carefully selected indigenous African languages in this domain;
- iv. Ensure that African languages, by appropriate legal provision and practical promotion, assume their rightful role as the means of official communication in the public affairs of each Member State, in partnership with former colonial languages, which have hitherto played this role;
- v. Encourage the increased use of African languages as vehicles of instruction at all educational levels;
- vi. Ensure that all the sectors of the political and socio-economic systems of each Member State are mobilised in such a manner that they play their due part in ensuring that the African language(s) prescribed as an official language(s) assume their intended role in the shortest time possible;
- vii. Foster and promote national, regional and continental linguistic unity in Africa, in the context of the multilingualism prevailing in most African countries.

The Primary mandate of the African Academy of Languages (ACALAN) as the African Union's specialised language institution is to provide technical support to the Member States of the African Union for the development and

implementation of vigorous and articulated language policies and strategies for language development and use as a factor of African integration and development.

Distinguished participants, Ladies and gentlemen

The Heads of State and Government of the Member States of the African Union during the 35th Ordinary Session in February 2022, adopted the Dar es Salam Framework for Action that ACALAN had developed as a collective commitment to action to ensure that Article 25 of the Constitutive Act of the AU (Previously Article 29 of the OAU Charter) is implemented by promoting Kiswahili as a working language of the African Union and a language of wider communication in Africa. The consultative meeting for the East African region in Kigali, the Republic of Rwanda on 10 and 11 May 2022 recommended that ACALAN engage in language policies advocacy to ensure all member states develop language policies that give status and valorising functions to African languages and recognise Kiswahili as a language of wider communication in Africa.

ACALAN organised the inaugural edition of the African Languages Week in January 2022 under the theme “African Languages: Levers for Africa We Want,” in which many member states participated. The launch of the African Languages Week was, in line with its adoption by the Third Specialised Technical Committee on Youth, Culture and Sport of the African Union (STC-YCS3), in October 2018 in Algiers, Algeria, and subsequently by the Summit in 2019 based on a proposal of the Executive Secretariat of the African Academy of Languages. The African Languages Week is a perpetual rendez-vous and major annual event to be held from 24 to 30 January that should be observed by all member states of the African Union, to commemorate the relevance of African languages and cultures in Africa and the African

Diaspora, as a special moment of the African identity. It is a pathway to realising Agenda 2063 of the African Union, specifically Aspiration 5 which promotes “*An Africa with a strong cultural identity, common heritage, shared values and ethics.*” The African Languages Week aims also to increase awareness and appreciation of African languages by looking at more pragmatic ways of empowering and rendering them relevant to the lives of Africans. It is to promote the dynamics of African worldviews and philosophies of life, through the empowerment and use of African languages, and to demonstrate the indispensable role of African languages in promoting cooperation, integration and fostering cohesion and sustainable peace and development of Africa.

Distinguished participants, Ladies and gentlemen

The most challenging part of our language development work we try to surmount has been to have attitude change vis-à-vis the statuses and capabilities of African languages and cultures especially the attitudes of we, Africans, ourselves. Language matters have not been the development discourse of most African decision-makers, in most States. This reflects the lack of essential support for African languages at the policy-making level because most policy-makers put culture and languages at the periphery of their development programmes.

Yet the role of language in the socio-economic development of a nation cannot be over-emphasised. Language is essential to the identity of a people. It is a factor of sustainable development and builds a harmonious relationship in local and global contexts. Language is the principal means of communication and interaction for humans in a manner that enables the sharing of common ideas. The acquisition of language skills is one of the primary means of advancement that enabled humans to flourish.

The primary purpose of language is effective communication, which in turn, is an important prerequisite and ensures development if it relates to the intended meaning as a vehicle to achieve the set of goals and not an end in itself. It is therefore a means of education and promotes the identity of citizens of the nation and hence national unity, and sustainable socio-economic development in a larger perspective.

Therefore, rather than seeing African languages and cultures as burdens and hindrances to the political processes, the economy, social cohesion and nation building, and rather than limiting African languages to mere communication at the local level, they should be an integral part of the factors of national development and Africa's integration and this is what this great nation and people of Zimbabwe are realizing.

Language empowerment is a process, and language policy development and implementation is a long process but a necessity to include the people of the nation in their development. In the process, we should embrace Agenda 2063 of the African Union.

Before concluding, I would like to thank His Excellency Dr Emmerson Mnangagwa, President of the Republic of Zimbabwe, and the entire government and people of Zimbabwe on behalf of Madame Cessouma Minata Samate, Commissioner for Health, Humanitarian Affairs and Social Development of the African Union Commission. All of Africa will emulate the Republic of Zimbabwe, and the African Academy of Languages (ACALAN) on behalf of the AU will work with the government in this endeavour to empower our languages and cultures as a factor in fostering African integration and development.

Long live the Republic of Zimbabwe

Long live the African Union

Long live African languages, for a peaceful, prosperous, integrated and healthy Africa

Ndatenda