



**ZIMBABWE**

**MINISTRY OF YOUTH DEVELOPMENT, INDIGENISATION AND  
EMPOWERMENT**

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**SPEECH**

**BY**

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**MINISTER OF YOUTH DEVELOPMENT, INDIGENISATION  
& EMPOWERMENT**

**At the**

**HANDOVER OF FIELD OFFICER'S EQUIPMENT: ILO  
SKILLS FOR YOUTH EMPLOYMENT AND RURAL  
DEVELOPMENT IN ZIMBABWE**

**ILO HEAD OFFICE, HARARE: 10 JANUARY 2013**

Director of Ceremonies

The Director, ILO Zimbabwe Office

Members from the Danish Commission

The Principal Director, Department of Youth Development

ILO Members of staff

Government officials

Employers

Workers

Representatives of Development Partners

Youth Representatives

Invited Guests

Ladies and gentlemen

It is a great pleasure and honour for me to address this gathering today as we witness the handover of computers and motor bikes for the Field Officers that are participating in the joint initiative between the ILO and the Ministry of Youth Development, Indigenization and

Empowerment. The initiative of “**Skills for Youth Employment and Rural Development**” is aimed at uplifting the marginalized communities and youths in line with the government’s key mandate for youth development and entrepreneurship as a tool for national economic development.

In Zimbabwe, youth unemployment remains one of our major challenges confronting us and therefore the promotion of productive youth engagement in the economy is key in addressing these challenges.

In an effort to address these challenges and create employment opportunities for the youth as well as facilitate their participation in the mainstream economy, the government through the Ministry of Youth Development, Indigenisation and Empowerment are implementing a number of programmes such as the Vocational Training Programme, Integrated Skills Outreach Programme (ISOP), Youth Build Zimbabwe and also administers the Youth Development Fund.

All these programmes have the sole thrust of promoting Youth to acquire technical and entrepreneurship skills to start viable enterprises within their home environments and communities hence bonds well with the programme we are gathered for today.

The current economic situation prevailing in the country where companies are closing on a daily basis or cutting on production and

employment levels requires a concerted effort from both the Government and development partners as clearly Government cannot succeed alone.

In line with this I take this opportunity to extend my Ministry's appreciation of the continued support both technical and financial and the cordial relationship we have shared with ILO for years on now as well as express gratitude to the Danish Commission as it is through the "Africa Initiative on Promoting Post Primary Education for Out of School Youths in Africa" that support for this programme has been realised.

It is through such positive partnerships that the nation can move forward. I am reliably informed that this pact we have enjoyed is yielding results as almost all the set targets have been achieved thus far. I am particularly encouraged by the fact that the Skills for Youth Employment and Rural Development Programme is targeting out of school youths which are one of the most vulnerable groups in the present situation. As a Ministry and as a Nation we look forward to more years and new initiatives that promote empowerment for the youths by providing decent work.

The computers and motor bikes we are receiving today are meant to facilitate effective monitoring and evaluation as these will ensure mobility and enhanced information development and storage for the programme as the current trends in development have identified

monitoring and evaluation as critical elements for any development drive.

I take this opportunity to express our recognition and appreciation of this timeous support and reaffirm support for the programme. As a Ministry we will make sure that the support will be put to good use for the benefit of the youth's and communities that are benefitting in the programme.

May I take this opportunity to recognize and thank all who have come to participate at this grand event. Let me particularly thank all the technical staff and the field officers as well as once again officially receive the computers and motor bikes.

I thank you.