



Employers' Vote of Thanks:

On the occasion of the awards ceremony for the Awards Ceremony of the 2018 Simuka-Phakama Green enterPRIZE Innovation Challenge

15 March 2019

Harare

[Greetings and Salutations]

I am greatly honoured to have this opportunity to address you at this celebration of Green Entrepreneurship in Zimbabwe. I am particularly delighted by the diversity and innovation showcased by the contestants of the **2018 Simuka-Phakama Green enterPRIZE Innovation Challenge**. I think it is a good day for enterprises in Zimbabwe when the respect and promotion of the environment is encouraged and rewarded. This contest is also relevant to the Employers' Confederation of Zimbabwe (EMCOZ) as it also reflects themes from the Enabling Environment for Sustainable Enterprises (ESEE) framework particularly the pillars on: Entrepreneurial Culture; Education, Training and Lifelong Learning; and Responsible Stewardship of the Environment.

On behalf of employers, I would like to start by acknowledging the entrepreneurs. After all, we are gathered here to appreciate their work. The support of entrepreneurship is important for Zimbabwe's economic recovery. As employers we believe entrepreneurship is the key driver of **new job creation** in Zimbabwe.

I would also take this opportunity to acknowledge the continuing support the International Labour Organisation (ILO) has provided to the tripartite partners in Zimbabwe over the years. As Employers we believe in **Social Dialogue** and **Tripartism** in our approach, as it is the only way through which we can find sustainable solutions for *job creation* and *good stewardship of the environment*.

I wish to express gratitude and show appreciation to the Government of Sweden. The financial support they have provided allows us to work toward achieving a **Green Dream** in Zimbabwe. This program is especially suited to address the Sustainable Development Goals, In particular SDG number 8 on '*Decent Work and Economic Growth*' and SDG number 13 on '*Climate Action*'.

Thank you for your time and attention.