



## **3<sup>rd</sup> Pan-African Capacity Development Forum**

**“Developing Capacity for Africa’s Economic and Social Transformation”**

**May 5, 2016  
Harare International Conference Centre  
Harare, Zimbabwe**

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**Welcoming remarks – Anniversary**

**Prof Emmanuel Nnadozie**  
*Executive Secretary*  
*The African Capacity Building Foundation*

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**Right Honourable, Emmerson Mnangagwa, Vice President of the Republic of Zimbabwe;**

**Hon Patrick Chinamasa, Zimbabwe's Minister of Finance and Economic Development, and ACBF Governor for Zimbabwe**

**Honorable Miriam Chikukwa, Minister of State for the Metropolitan Province of Harare**

**Honorable Ministers here present;**

**Dr Shehu Misau, Representative of the Chair of ACBF Executive Board;**

**Distinguished Members of the ACBF Board of Governors & Executive Board present here;**

**Former Executive Secretaries here present;**

**Top Government officials from Zimbabwe;**

**Top Government officials from other countries;**

**Members of the Diplomatic Corp;**

**Representatives of development partners;**

**Distinguished panelists and experts;**

**Distinguished participants;**

**Members of the media;**

**Ladies and gentlemen:**

Let me welcome you, Honorable Vice President to the closing ceremony of the ACBF 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary which has been organized by ACBF in partnership with the Government of Zimbabwe.

I would like to reiterate my sincere appreciation to the Government of Zimbabwe, through you Honorable Vice President, not just for the generosity and support towards this event but for hosting ACBF in Harare since inception in 1991. Zimbabwe's political and financial support has remained unwavering throughout.

**Honorable Vice-President, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen:**

The past three days have unearthed very key capacity development issues pertinent to meeting the aspirations of the people on the continent as espoused in Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). I would like to thank you all for your contributions and recommendations which are key to the continent's developmental progress, and particularly the key role of capacity development institutions in the continent.

Just to recap some of the key issues that came out of our deliberations. The discussions during the Capacity Development Forum and the Anniversary Celebrations have clearly stressed on the need for renewed, improved and sustained commitment to capacity building in Africa as well as identification of the capacities required for Africa's socio-economic transformation. Further, a strong and elaborate message was made on the need to develop synergies through effective coordination of capacity building efforts in Africa and sharing of experiences and best practices, realizing that lack of investment in capacity development will inhibit the continent's attainment of its vision, Agenda 2063.

More importantly, the call made by Governments here present, the private sector, civil society and all other key sectors, for ACBF to spearhead a Capacity Development Platform that will coordinate capacity building on the continent at all levels and across different disciplines and stakeholders, is an opportunity for us to continue building capacities as we transform Africa's economies.

ACBF listened attentively and is happy that these issues really resonate well with what is lined up in our 2017-2021 Strategic Plan. Let me reiterate that building on our 25 years' experience, our vast network of partners and think tanks; our deep understanding of continental issues; competent core staff and highly functional governance structure; strong ownership and support by African Governments; strong partnerships with the African Union Commission as well as African Development Bank, UN Economic Commission for Africa and NEPAD, *inter alia*, we plan to develop programmes specific in addressing the capacity gaps, identified during this conference. Specifically, we propose to do 5 things:

- Support high-level tripartite dialogue between the private sector, training institutions and African Governments around how to develop capacity for implementing Agenda 2063 and in particular the critical technical skills for implementing the flagship projects under the first 10 year plan of Agenda 2063;
- Invest massively in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) and vocational skills. As part of our commitment to this, our flagship publication for 2016 is on understanding the capacity imperatives on Science Technology and Innovation;
- Mobilize diaspora capacity to support the continent's development agenda;
- Develop Africa-focused professionals – for example producing regional integration experts; and
- Devise strategies for capacity retention, harmonization and utilization on the continent.

**Honorable Vice-President, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen:**

Let me assure you that ACBF has these elements fully developed into programmes under our Strategic Plan pillars.

However, for ACBF to do this, it needs to be fully supported politically and financially by African Governments. Secondly, partners especially the non-traditional ones, need to recognize that the continental capacity needs are enormous and re-inventing the wheel will be retrogressive at this point. Hence the need to support institutions that already have the experience in capacity development as well as solid understanding of the continent's development architecture (which includes understanding the key players) so as to effectively coordinate capacity development efforts for Africa's sustainable and inclusive development. ACBF brings that unequivocal value to the table – building on its 25 years of appreciated work on the continent.

**Honorable Vice-President, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen:**

Let me conclude by sincerely thanking our African Governments, World Bank, UNDP, Africa Development Bank, bilateral partners, our network of think tanks, civil society, media and private sector partners that have supported ACBF over the years. We are who we are because of you and the achievements we are showcasing are actually yours. By extension, if we fail in meeting our mandate because of your low political and financial support, it will be your failure too. But future generations will not forgive us for not doing what we knew needed to be done.

Once again, I wish to thank the Government and leadership of Zimbabwe for the support provided to ACBF throughout the past 25 years and for hosting this event. Your support is catalytic and hence critical to sending the important message to all African Governments and partners on the need for having an institution that coordinates capacity on the continent.

Let me also conclude by extending my gratitude to ACBF staff, Ministry of Finance and Economic Development staff and officials from various Government Departments, for working tirelessly to the organization and facilitation of this monumental event.

Thank you very much for your attention.

***Professor Emmanuel Nnadozie***

*Executive Secretary*

*The African Capacity Building Foundation*

*May 4, 2016*