

SPEECH BY THE RPAZ BOARD CHAIRMAN DR N. NDLOVU  
AT THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE STAKEHOLDER  
CONSULTATION WORKSHOP AT HOLIDAY INN HOTEL,  
HARARE: 9 FEBRUARY 2015

Distinguished participants

Government officials here present

RPAZ CEO, Mr. Reward Severa

RPAZ management and staff

Ladies and gentlemen

A good morning to you all

Ladies and gentlemen, it gives me great pleasure to be in your midst today to officiate at this very important second stakeholder consultation workshop by RPAZ for the development of our strategic plan. Some of you may recall that we held a similar workshop in August 2011 as we were developing the Authority's inaugural 5-year strategic plan for 2012-2016. Having mentioned the 2012-2016 strategic plan, I am sure that quite a few of you may be wondering why then are we here given that the current

plan is supposed to run until 2016. I will delve into the reasons shortly.

In 2011, our esteemed stakeholders highlighted four priority areas which included capacitating the RPAZ, effective service provision, information dissemination as well as legislative relevancy and adequacy. I am pleased to inform this gathering that a number of achievements have been made and a lot has been done to address the areas identified to-date.

The Government of Zimbabwe has provided funds for procurement of operational vehicles and personal monitoring equipment, which have gone a long way in improving service delivery and other administrative operations of the Authority. There has been a steady increase in the number of inspection of facilities conducted every year and by end of 2014, the Authority managed to conduct 94% of the planned inspection activities.

The procurement of a new personal monitoring system has increased the capacity to monitor occupationally exposed workers from 1000 to 5000 in the period under review. Currently more than 1500 workers are under monitoring and the Authority is able

to enroll workers for monitoring immediately as required due to the increased capacity.

However, let me hasten to say that, there is still more that needs to be done in terms of capacitating the Authority to effectively carry out the mandate. At the same time we still need to be awakened to the reality that government has a serious funding burden due to a number of challenges in the macro-economic fundamentals. As such the new strategic plan should come up with innovative, alternative ways of bridging the resource requirement gap that exists.

Ladies and gentlemen, the national and operating environment has drastically changed since the development of the current strategic plan, thereby calling for an urgent need to re-trace our footsteps and come up with a fresh strategy to direct the Authority for the next five years.

Zimbabwe now has a new socio-economic blueprint, ZIM-ASSET which is guiding the national development priorities. All government institutions have to realign their programmes in a

way that meets the set development targets. Therefore, the new strategic plan will ensure that RPAZ plays its deserved part in the realization of national development targets.

Similarly, Zimbabwe received an Integrated Regulatory Review Services (IRRS) mission conducted by international experts coordinated and supported by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in November, 2014, to review progress made in the national infrastructure for radiation safety.

The national infrastructure was assessed against the international safety standards and requirements and a number of recommendations and suggestions were made to both the government and RPAZ on areas that fall short of requirements.

As a regulatory body, the Authority functions well when its plans and strategies are focused towards meeting stakeholders' expectations. In this regard, RPAZ board and management have realized the importance of your very valued input to enable the Authority to move forward in its operations and achieve its plans now and into the future.

It is my expectation that you will provide your valuable comments and views pertaining to operations of the Authority with a view to facilitating improvement in service delivery where necessary.

The RPAZ has a mammoth task of protecting the nation and the environment against radiation effects, which can only be achieved with support and cooperation between the Authority and you our esteemed stakeholders.

With these few words I would want to wish all of you successful deliberations.

I thank you....