



ZIMBABWE

**SPEECH BY HON. MINISTER OF PRIMARY AND
SECONDARY EDUCATION**

PROF.P MAVIMA

AT THE 2019 NASH CONFERENCE IN VICTORIA FALLS

DATE

18 TO 22 JUNE, 2019

Salutations:

- **The Acting Permanent Secretary- Mr J Dhehwa**
- **The Provincial Affairs Minister for Matabeleland North Province**
- **His Worship the Mayor of Victoria Falls**
- **Principal Directors here present**
- **All Ministry Directors**
- **The NASH President and the Executive**
- **All District Schools Inspectors**
- **All Government officials from various departments**
- **Invited guests from the private and public sector**
- **All teacher associations**
- **All heads of schools gathered for the conference**
- **Ladies and gentlemen. Comrades and Friends**

It is my singular honor and pleasure to be part of this important 2019 NASH conference, here in the resort town of Victoria Falls. This annual event has attracted not only heads of schools and senior education officials but also the business community and stakeholders in trying to create a platform for professional exchanges and cross pollination of ideas on education sector matters. This is a worthwhile event as clearly shown by the number of those attending each year.

It is of paramount importance that as heads of schools, you find time to share your rich experiences in the different schools that you run. As we engage, we need to be aware of the current global issues affecting education and how best we can address them. School heads need to have knowledge of the requirements for the 21st Century education so that they create the best teaching and learning environments in their areas of jurisdiction.

Your theme, “***SKILLS BASED EDUCATION IS THE PANACEA FOR A MIDDLE INCOME ECONOMY***”, resonates very well with the vision of creating a middle income economy by 2030 already articulated by our national leadership. I want to congratulate you for coming up with such a relevant theme especially given that the ministry has introduced the Competence Based Curriculum that is premised on acquisition of practical skills by learners. The intention is to equip learners with skills that are critical for socio- economic development. Such skills will enable learners to be creative and enterprising. The learners should be able to create employment. Gone are the days when learners were educated to enable them to get employment. As a ministry, we are already feeding into the national grid as we produce graduates with exit profiles required in Industry and Commerce.

Let me take this opportunity to encourage every school head here present to make sure that there is effective implementation of the Competence Based Curriculum in our schools as we join forces with other sister ministries in the realization of the national vision. I am aware that as a nation we are going through economic challenges and that these do not spare our institutions. We need to try our best under these circumstances and ensure that we do not lose the gains that we have already made as a sector.

At this point in time, let me register my discomfort over the general appearance of some of our schools. Some of you are failing to carry out basic maintenance of infrastructure in their schools, such things as replacing broken window panes, making sure that all classrooms have doors and that the school premises are clean and conducive for teaching and learning. These things can be done with very minimum resources and it only takes a school head with a vision and passion for development. I also continue to hear of some school heads who are misappropriating school finances and resources despite the efforts that we are making as ministry in capacitating them in financial management. I condemn such unprofessional behavior in the strongest of terms. I want to say to such heads of schools; this conference presents a good opportunity for you to learn best practices in terms of efficient and effective school management. You are the managers of change in those institutions so that together we transform Zimbabwe into a knowledge-based society through providing quality education. We need to continuously support our teachers, by giving them training so that we leave no one behind. We need to strengthen learning area platforms so that teachers are staff developed at all levels in the system. Access to and integration of ICT tools into teaching and learning to facilitate quality and

accessible learning, teaching and research still need to be addressed by most of our schools.

I note from your deliberations that it is your wish to see the collection of fees complemented by an enabling act that will enforce parents to prioritize the child's education. Whilst that concern is appreciated, government is making efforts towards the progressive realization of the right to education through the education amendment bill.

I should also acknowledge that I have seen schools that are doing very well. I want to salute the heads of those schools and their School Development Committees for making the best out of the available resources. The ministry is currently consulting on the possibility of establishing champion heads and schools.

Allow me ladies and gentlemen, to wish you fruitful deliberations during your stay here. I hope all the delegates will leave Victoria Falls re-energized and equipped with requisite skills for effective school administration. I wish to thank you for the invitation and at the same time encourage you as NASH to continue the good work.

I now declare the ***NASH 2019 CONFERENCE*** officially opened.

I Thank you

Tatenda

Siyabonga

Twalumba