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**SPEECH BY THE GUEST OF HONOUR, THE HONOURABLE  
DEPUTY MINISTER OF HIGHER AND TERTIARY EDUCATION,  
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT, ON THE THEME  
"CREATING WEALTH IN ZIMBABWE THROUGH TECHNICAL  
VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING "**

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**By  
Guest of Honour**

**The Deputy Minister of Higher and Tertiary Education,  
Science and Technology Development**

**Hon. Dr G. Gandawa (MP)**

**At Mupfure Self Help College**

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**17 JULY 2015; CHEGUTU**

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**Address By the Guest of Honour, the Honourable Deputy Minister of Higher and Tertiary Education, Science and Technology Development, Dr Godfrey Gandawa at the Graduation and Prize Giving Ceremony at Mupfure Self Help College, Chegutu, 17 July 2015**

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**SALUTATIONS**

- The Director of Ceremonies; **Mr. E. Mpandaguta**
- The Principal of Mupfure Self Help College; **Mr. C. Ncube**
- The Chairman of ZIMFEP Board, **Mr. Nyengera** and other Board members here present
- The Director of ZIMFEP; **Cde. Chitofu**
- The Acting Director of Tertiary Education Programmes; **Mrs. Zivanayi**
- Mupfure Staff and Students
- Distinguished guests
- Graduands
- Ladies and gentlemen
- Comrades and friends

It is with great honour that I come to Mupfure Self Help College to officiate on this 26th Graduation and Prize giving ceremony. I would like to join all the invited guests, parents, relatives and students in their joy and excitement. It is indeed a memorable experience for me to be with you all and to share the joy by celebrating the success and achievements of the graduands.

Let me hasten to say that this is the day that unfolds the achievements of Zimbabwe Foundation for Education with Production (ZIMFEP) Board in conjunction with government through the Ministry of Higher and Tertiary Education, Science and Technology Development, in an endeavour to produce human capital that are hands-on and productive in various sectors of our economy. The graduates that are churned out are critical to the accumulation of capital, exploitation of natural resources, building of social, economic and political organisations and thus, carrying forward the, Zimbabwe Agenda for Sustainable Socio – Economic Transformation (ZIMASSET).

Ladies and gentlemen, I am delighted to note that Mupfure Self Help College is the cornerstone for education with production hence your Motto, ***"Pinnacle for Education with Production"***. This is indeed very befitting. Education with Production is evidenced by live projects which are being run such as the construction of a guardroom, renovations to the clinic, the Bata Shoe project and the Sable Foods project, all of which are being run by students in training. This is also a clear testimony of your theme, ***"Creating Wealth in Zimbabwe through Technical and Vocational Education and Training"***.

Learning which is unrelated to life experiences is retrogressive to the Zimbabwean situation. The system of education which once produced intellectuals and administrative elites who were completely cut off from manual work and productive activities must end. At the National Conference on Education with Production in 1984, Cde. Mutumbuka once said: ***"A nation of clerks and bureaucrats cannot on their own expand the wealth in Zimbabwe because it is only the productive industries which can bring about an expansion to our economy."***

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, I have no doubt in my mind that these graduands we have today are well equipped with the requisite knowledge and skills in their respective disciplines. To you the graduands, as you prepare to face challenges in life, it is a test time to prove what you are made of.

Mr. Principal, I am glad that your institution has maintained its philosophy of Education with Production since its establishment in the early 1980s. Today, the Government has set up the Ministry of Psychomotor Skills to facilitate skills training from lower levels up to tertiary levels. It is of great importance that institutions like Mupfure Self Help College, link closely with the industry so that the student produced is productive.

In this regard, I also encourage business and commerce to play an active role in supporting and promoting the acquisition of technical and entrepreneurial skills by the students. Public Private Partnerships (PPPs)

should be established within training institutions which enhance skills and technology exchange programmes. I am reliably informed that the Bata Shoe Project and Sable Foods broilers projects are part of your PPPs. This is commendable in view of the government's thrust of socio-economic transformation. These tripartite agreements create conducive environment for students in training so that they become, productive and innovative. The achievement of this noble objective, calls for concerted efforts from all sectors of the economy to join hands and work together as a team.

My ministry has responded to economic challenges by way of acquiring training equipment through Zimbabwe Manpower Development Fund (ZIMDEF) which enables trainees produce goods and services that are scarce within the country. Training on live marketable goods and services for resale becomes a source of livelihood and sustainability for institutions while addressing the Ministry's mandate of human capital development.

Mr. Principal, I therefore wish to take this opportunity to urge the graduands, to seriously consider establishing your own enterprises as opposed to seeking formal employment. It is through such entrepreneurial activities that you are able to sustain yourselves and your families. This should also create jobs for others and contribute to the development of your local communities and nation at large.

In conclusion, ladies and gentlemen, I wish once more to congratulate the graduands for the successful completion of their programmes. What we witness here today, is a true reflection of years of sacrifice, determination and dedication to skills acquisition processes. Graduands, we are proud of your achievement. We have high expectations of you in the world of work and self – employment. I am quite grateful to the Principal and members of staff, who in diverse ways nurtured and shaped the young minds who are graduating today. I also thank the industrialists and other stakeholders who provided industrial attachment places for the graduands. I would also like to take note of the contributions by parents and guardians through provision of fees and other needs of the students. Finally I would like to thank the responsible authority ZIMFEP for the unwavering support especially in linking education with the world of work.

I say to you all, well done graduands,

Makorokoto! Amhlope! Congratulations!

I thank you.