



ZIE BI-ANNUAL CONGRESS 2005 SUMMARY

The Congress was held on 30 June and 1 July 2005 at the Harare International Conference Centre. The theme of the Congress was “Engineering and the Current Socio-Economic Reforms in Zimbabwe” . The Congress attracted over 200 delegates and senior government officials. The Congress was officially opened by the Hon Minister of State for Water Resources and Infrastructural Development, Eng Munacho Mutezo and the keynote address was presented by Dr Gideon Gono, the Reserve Bank Governor. The Congress was also graced by the presence of Minister Rugare Gumbo who presented a paper on “The Governments Position and Policies Pertaining to the Economic Challenges the Country is Facing”. All the presentations focused on the economic revival of the country and the Institution was invited to participate actively in the economic revival of the economy by the senior government officials.

There were six plenary sessions during the congress and they covered most aspects of engineering. Participation during the congress reflected that the engineers were geared towards contributing in the economic revival of the country. Resolutions passed at the congress were:-

1. Whereas engineers are the cog in the development machine, their role is not adequately recognized in the appointment of organizational boards, proper remuneration and incentives and acknowledged as partners in national developments programmes. We resolve that the appointment of engineers in decision making positions to enable engineers to take a leading role in technological and engineering development issues.
2. Engineering practice in Zimbabwe is not regulated. This has resulted in the public receiving substandard service and unprofessional service from incompetent and in some cases unqualified “engineers and technicians”. The finalisation of the registration of all practicing engineers and technicians is of vital importance.
3. The state of infrastructure in Zimbabwe has not realized its full potential and existing infrastructure needs to be maintained sustain to development. Our roads, railways, buildings and reticulations need rehabilitation and upgrading. To this we resolve the following, mobilization of alternative funding and prioritizing of boot projects, resuscitate the engineering construction industry in Zimbabwe. Introduce tariffs that are able to sustain and develop the infrastructure.
4. While the agrarian reform has seen more Zimbabweans having access to land, the agricultural mechanization system inherited is inadequate and in most cases inappropriate. Engineers through research and development need to design and improve appropriate agricultural machinery and equipment for Zimbabwe. Engineers need to be beneficiaries of land reforms rather than being observers.
5. The national energy supply capacity is inadequate and unreliable. The impending electrical power shortages in the southern African region in



- 2007 pose a challenge to take holders. A number of researchers on available alternative energy source and production of diesel have been done but have not been implemented. The government must expedite the implementation of projects to alleviate energy shortages. Power saving strategies such as demand side management should be implemented as part of the strategies to mitigate the 2007 power shortages.
6. Informal gold panning has had a negative impact on our environment, accelerating environmental degradation and damage to existing infrastructure. It has also resulted in loss of lives. Any informal gold panning should conform to minimum EIA and safety standards.
 7. Our nation is facing foreign currency shortages. We also do not realize full value of our resources as they are exported as raw materials. The government should make a policy to encourage organizations to invest in research and development for import substitution. Organisations should also be given incentives for this development. Minerals should be exported after value addition (processing)