



Remarks

By

Mrs T.M Bandama; Director General

On the Launch of the National Migration Data Strategy, 2025-2030

Director of Ceremonies,

Senior Government Officials here present

Esteemed representatives of the International Organisation for Migration,

Colleagues from the Civil Society,

Members of the Migration Statistics Technical Working Group,

Members of the Fourth Estate

Ladies and Gentlemen

It is both an honour and a privilege to stand before you today as we launch Zimbabwe's first-ever National Migration Data Strategy (NMDS) 2025–2030. This is a historic milestone. For the first time, our nation has developed a comprehensive, action-oriented, and participatory framework to guide migration data collection, management, and utilization.

Migration is not a peripheral issue it is central to our national development, regional integration, and global cooperation. The NMDS is therefore more than a technical document; it is a strategic instrument that will shape how we understand, govern, and harness migration for inclusive growth.

Why the NMDS Matters

Migration touches every sector of our society labour markets, education, health, social protection, and national security. Yet, for too long, our policies have been constrained by fragmented data, inconsistent reporting, and limited coordination. The NMDS seeks to change this reality.

Our vision is clear: to establish a robust, evidence-based migration governance system that delivers timely, reliable, accurate, and accessible data. This strategy will empower policymakers, researchers, and stakeholders with the information they need to make smart, forward-looking decisions.

It is aligned with Zimbabwe's National Development Strategy (NDS2), Vision 2030, and regional frameworks such as the SADC Migration Policy Framework and the African Union's Agenda 2063. Globally, it resonates with the principles of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.

A Collective Achievement

The NMDS was not developed in isolation. It is the product of an intensive, participatory process involving the Ministry of Home Affairs and Cultural Heritage, the Department of Immigration Control, the Migration Statistics Technical Working Group, and numerous other ministries and agencies.

Between June and September 2024, a baseline survey captured inter-sectional perspectives on migration dynamics. This was validated through a week-long workshop in Kadoma, where stakeholders deliberated, refined, and co-owned the strategy. The inclusivity of this process is a hallmark of the NMDS it reflects the voices of government, civil society, academia, and international partners.

Strategic Objectives

The NMDS is anchored on four strategic objectives:

- Improving migration data collection and management
- Harmonizing and strengthening data analysis
- Enhancing collaboration among stakeholders
- Maximizing data utilization for evidence-based policy-making

These objectives are underpinned by guiding principles: inclusivity, accountability, responsiveness, and ethical use of data. The strategy emphasizes sex-dis-aggregated and inter-sectional data, recognizing that migration affects men, women, youth, the elderly, and persons with disabilities differently. It also prioritizes digitalisation, data privacy, and the cultivation of data talent.

Implementation and Impact

Implementation is at the heart of the NMDS. A Multi-Year Action Plan (2025–2030) outlines concrete outputs, outcomes, and impacts, supported by SMART and CREAM indicators to ensure measurable progress.

Resource mobilization, financing, and institutional capacity strengthening are central to this effort. Partnerships with international organizations, regional bodies, and local institutions will be leveraged to ensure sustainability. Monitoring and evaluation mechanisms will track our progress, allowing us to adapt as migration dynamics evolve.

Alignment and Partnerships

The NMDS complements national instruments such as the Immigration Act and the National Migration Policy. Regionally, it supports the SADC Labour Migration Action Plan and the AU Migration Policy Framework. Globally, it contributes to the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly Goal 10 on reducing inequalities and Goal 17 on partnerships.

ZIMSTAT, together with IOM and the Migration Statistics Technical Working Group, brings comparative advantages in data collection, analysis, and dissemination. The NMDS crystallizes these strengths into a coherent strategy that will deliver value for Zimbabwe and beyond.

Call to Action

Colleagues, the launch of the NMDS 2025–2030 marks a new chapter in Zimbabwe’s migration governance, a chapter defined by evidence, inclusivity, and accountability. But a strategy is only as strong as its implementation.

I therefore call upon all stakeholders, Government ministries, civil society, academia, private sector, and international partners to commit to this journey. Together, we can harness migration data to drive inclusive and sustainable development, strengthen regional integration, and contribute to global migration governance.

Let us embrace this strategy not as a document, but as a living framework that will guide our collective action.

On behalf of ZIMSTAT, I extend my deepest gratitude to all who contributed to the development of the NMDS. Your dedication, expertise, and collaboration have made this achievement possible.

Let us now move forward with determination, knowing that the NMDS 2025–2030 will position Zimbabwe as a leader in evidence-based migration governance. I would like to end the remarks on a high note that we should all celebrate the fact that Zimbabwe is the first country in the SADC region to launch the NMDS.

I Thank you.