

The IMF and World Bank Reports: Economic Recovery or Delusions Underpinned by Conventional Motives?

Stop the music.
and I start
Good evening. Can you hear me?
Can you hear me? Hello. We can
hear you. loud and clear.
Greetings to you all and
welcome to the dialogue. The
dialogue Forum on Zoom Also,
live streaming on Facebook. and
on YouTube. Today, our topic is
the recent IMF and World Bank
reports on Zimbabwe. evidence
of economic recovery or
delusions. undermined by
conventional motives. Question
mark. The context Zimbabwe's
economic history. It's always
been within the orbit of the
international economic system.
not withstanding claims in
early post independence. that
Zimbabwe was on a socialist
course. or an autonomous Of
course. If there was such
claims. and even in the first
decade of in of post
independence, They don't soon
thereafter with the injunction
of the economic structure to
adjust to the program of the
early 90s This leads to growth
in commerce. with the last
positive figures reported in
1996. with the enhanced
downward spiral Ever since a
combination of our own
mismanagement of the economy
and the burden of complying
with the demands of the
international financial
institutions by the late 90s

Zimbabwe fell into the bad books of these international financial institutions leading to a rain death summaries of which you only have only recently been cleared With respect to the IMF in 2016, both sides will banks.

Der

this June

and a week earlier,

the world Report Someone said

it's almost like a beauty

contest. between the two

financial institutions. but

it's so indicates shortly. on

the seventeenth of June. the MF

released a report on Sudan So,

before I make any conclusions

or try to make the conclusions,

let me look briefly at what

these reports say. without

paying the details, leaving the

teachers to the presenters

here. So, on June 16th, 2021,

an international fund staff

team led by Gouda. a virtual

visit to the Zimbabwe

authorities during the first of

June to the fourteenth of June

to discuss recent economic

developers and the economic

outlook to go Zimbabwe has

shown resilience in the face of

the COVID-19, pandemic and the

other exogenous shocks. The

pandemic on in a protracted

drought and weak policy.

Buffers has taken a severe toll

on the economic and the

situation despite the

authorities, timely actions to

support the most vulnerable and

businesses during the pandemic.

The real GDP contracted by 4% in 2020, after a 6% decline in 2019. However, an economic recovery is underway in 2021 with real GDP expected to grow by about 6% reflecting a bumper agricultural output, increased energy production, and the resumption of greater manufacturing and construction activities. However, the uncertainty remains high, and it could depend on the pandemic's evolution, the pace of vaccination, and implementation of sustainable policies. The IMF Mission knows the authorities' efforts to stabilize the local currency and low inflation in this regard contained budget deficits and reserved money growth as well as the introduction of a foreign exchange system. Uh, policy measures in the right direction and it goes on and say Zimbabwe has been a member in good standing since it cleared. It's outstanding areas to the late 2016 Fund provides extensive technical assistance in the areas of economic governance and financial sector reforms as well as macroeconomic statistics. However, the MF is pre-prudent for providing financial support to Zimbabwe due to an unsustainable debt and official external areas. A financial arrangement would require a clear path to destruction of Zimbabwe's debt including the creators of you

know, the assurance from creditors have a plan that is consistent with me. Economic stability, growth, and poverty reduction, a reinforcement of the social safety net and governance, and transparently forms so on and so forth. So, really, that is the nature of the IMF report. They're the World Bank

a week earlier. on the tenth of June. begins with the following the number of extremely poor citizens in is where we rose to 7.9000000 in 2020 due to the the COVID-19 pandemic and it's impacts according to the World Bank's economic analysis for the country. which has caused the Zimbabwe economic update of economic challenges, natural disasters, and epidemic, social and economic impacts. It's it's service conducted in 2020 which show nearly 500 500 thousand in Zimbabwe. Households have at least one member who lost her, her or his job causing many houses to fall into poverty. and was in the plight of the existing poor fully integrated was was also exacerbated by inadequate breed coverage or of relevant social protection programs less than a quarter of the increased number of extremes receive food aid in June. 2020 and this shared dropped to 3% of Rural Hospitals in September, 2020, and so on and so forth and also ends with some recommendations as what should be done.

Domestic policies will support price stability and optimal use of public's resources especially given large financial needs to prevent a deterioration in New England capital relocate spending from inefficient distorted subs to targeted measures that lift the toll of the pandemic.

should

take into account the country's limited fiscal space in the significant financing required to arrest further deterioration and so on and so forth. So, we have these two reports and as I said earlier, the reports are released almost the same time as one on it. one uh on Sudan and leading others to the import of these reports. are less to do with the with the claim of economic recovery. Then, the objective roping in the so called rogue states.

them in into the orchids. And insisting on discipline in commerce. to help us in this discussion today. has a very imminent Hello, of economic gurus. political activists, and academics and the former minister of finance Our first speaker.

It will be. it will be the chief economist and head of strategy at the AFC, West Bank, formerly Agri Bank Joseph is 20 years or more experience in comic research. and economic policy and business development. Having joined the

RP as an assistant economist in 1992, right to the position of assistant director in 2000 and chief economist in 2005. He owns ABS Economics degree in economics from you there in 1991. Then, he had a shoveling scholarship to the UK uh doing an MBA International Banking and Finance at Birmingham University Yes And one various professional courses at the Institute of Business Sciences and School of Economics Bank of Malaysia, Bank of England Reserve Bank of South Africa, and the treasury of South Africa. Joseph is married to Emily. I was, I will ask you to come in just now and then our second speaker is Janet. Janet is not a newcomer on our forum. She's a director of zinc. She's a prominent uh uh activist and running an organization that is more sensitive to the plight of the poor and the vulnerable in our society. Our speaker, Nada, well known academic uh what the doctors from Oxford and has done tremendous work in the fields of rural development political analysis in and he has graced this for many times. Last but not least, yes. my former minister of finance during the year lawyer economic economist, snow through the experience that he's had in practice as a minister and also as a politician and uh more recently, I shared the chair of the Public Accounts Committee of Parliament We also have a

host of discusses from across the political spectrum in Zimbabwe and abroad from Pierce would have had uh but sadly, uh Chris uh was also a young brother of man who lost his brothers today as we're unable to join us, we have Richard Mamba from BF Of course, we have members of the Presidential Advisory Committee on standby. We are officials be it. other gurus such as Tony Hawkins. Dana, and of course, the World Bank and IMF people are listening in and abroad. We have to Moss Washington DC in the Uk. We shall go many others such as those who are often on this program. and before we uh bring in Joseph and we'd like to play a video clip minister.

interview with Richard Quest of Cnn would have liked and we hope the minister is listening in in this discussion but in the absence in his absence, we think this video clip might have to summarize what his reaction to the IMF and World Bank reports and also his position on the nature of the economy. and it's Zimbabwe. So, please uh reach out if you need to. Give us a clue.

Let's let's go.

This is an important point. The the the worsening situation economically as a result of COVID the the the the limited fiscal policy that you have and monetary policy. How bad do you think it's how much worse do

you think it's going to get Zimbabwe? the other way? Actually, it is the opposite of what you've just said. So basically, we're finding that's why we're able to balance the budget and that's what I've been doing Last 2 years. Secondly, we've a strong economic recovery where Zimbabwe will grow faster than its peers in the region and its peers uh uh in Africa, we have set aside a decent amount of resources to acquire vaccines and in fact, in the next few weeks, we're going on a blitz uh to basically vaccinate people to the tune of two and a half a million people over the next few weeks. So, that's opposite we are doing well there. No, no, no. Hang on a second. minister. The World Bank says that the number of people in extreme poverty in Zimbabwe, more than half of the Zimbabweans are in extreme poverty uh is the latest statistics from the World Bank. Now, I admittedly, many of them were already there but you're painting a picture a rosy picture and I'm suggesting it's not that rosy Uh well, the the picture is never Rosy Rosy Richard. We're all really under the impact of the pandemic but I can assure you that Zimbabwe is doing all it can to deal with the social impact of the pandemic. We have a very robust social protection program which is various elements. First of

all, there's a productive social protection element in the agricultural sector where we give free inputs to citizens to farm and they've done very well. They've produced about a 1 million metric tons of maize and beans. We're also protecting the vulnerable rural areas through cash transfers and through free free and medication and the vaccine is free. So, we have a very robust social protection program that also includes uh you know, free schooling for vulnerable children. This is this is going very well indeed. Of course, we're doing this with the assistance of our judicial partners as well. So, something is being done and we believe that we have had the the best response to the pandemic so far in our vaccination program is fairly robust and uh well run. In fact, and and as you look to obviously the the Delta variant moving in and and that there is this. I mean, there are two things going on here, aren't there? There's the race against virus versus vaccine and then you've got the race, the balance act of livelihoods versus lives. So, where are you balancing? Where you see Zimbabwe at the moment in both of those balancing acts? Richard, we arrived that we have to balance every time the the need to save lives and they need to save livelihoods and we have we have to balance that

carefully. So, why we have this lockdown? We've made sure that essential industries continue to be open. Uh the private sector continues to function, Exports continue to be moved around uh to to the rest of the world Of course, the we've introduced a shorter working day and not that again to restrictive movement as well as the transmission of the virus. So, so it's a balancing act. We've done this for just for 2 weeks after 2 weeks, we'll see where we are, right? See what we need to or or extent but we can be sure we are watching these things like a hawk. I do that. I know that an extended lockdown can reduce revenues and therefore, you know, reduce our ability to respond to the pandemic in in in in the first place. So, we are balancing this very carefully and I think we're in the right equilibrium. If you look to the future now that I mean, let's look beyond COVID, there is disappointment at the extent of transparency measures taken by the government. There was a lot more hope than reality has proven in changes of openness and transparency from this government. Are you going to do more to make Zimbabwe a more open and uh economy and more transparent and anti-corruption economy? Zimbabwe is open for business. Zimbabwe is transparent and it is obvious for for all to see and and

where is this optimistic optimism coming from. Just look at the latest IMF report. It will tell you that things are improving and we are managing public finance is better Uh again, we're looking to watch balancing the budget as we as I did last year. We have a surplus. The exchange rate is is is stable. We have a very well functioning and financial policy uh you know, uh system which coordinates very well with the fiscal side of things. So, the economy is very stable. It is growing. Everything is transparent. We're well functioning, anti-corruption that is bringing cases to book. The justice is attacking its course. So, so transparency is improving and Zimbabwe has improved his rankings in the environment for for doing business which are a global and and introduced in Zimbabwe. Uh you know, investment development agency which is explaining to the world how investments are down, how investments are protected. Transparency is improving and the environment for doing business is improving and so a macroeconomic and we'll talk about it the future minister grateful that you've taken time. It's a it's early evening where you are and I'm grateful for your time. Thank you sir. Thanks. Thanks a lot. Thank you for that. Uh and I think we'll we'll without any further ado,

I will ask uh
to come in. What are the facts
and figures? What your response
to the minister? What's your
response to the two reports the
World Bank and IMF reports but
more important, what are the
facts and figures is the
economic growth or are we being
further damage Joseph it. Thank
you, sir. Good evening. Uh
conveyor and good evening
colleagues. Uh good evening
Zimbabwe. Uh if you are here in
me, permit me to read briefly
from the IMF report that you
have summarized in the World
Bank report. Uh the IMF states
that uh following uh uh recent
years of contraction Real GDP
real GDP contracted by 4% in
2020 after a 6% declined in
2019. however, an economic is
underway in 2021 with real GDP
expected to grow by 6%. Uh uh
Bamba output and construction
activities That's a summary uh
from uh from the II Also read
uh briefly the well-being
report which is the economic
growth this year will be led by
recovering Actually, the
well-being states that Zimbabwe
is projected to reach 3.9. 3.9%
growth in 2021 Again, this is
led by uh agriculture will be
not that economic recovery in
Zimbabwe is expected to
strengthen further in 2022 and
beyond. uh with the GDP growing
at a projected average of 5.1%
uh particularly as the vaccines
deployment vaccination uh
progresses and also the

implementation of NDS. One of these are the two reports that you have highlighted and also the clip from the minister. My response is this, follow us and uh you you will permit me to summarize a few things particularly the issue to do with real GDP growth and the journey towards macroeconomic stability which the country is undertaking uh since two and a half years ago in terms of real GDP, the facts are clearly uh on the growth trajectory. They confirmed the the growth trajectory that the country is experiencing uh particularly a result of agriculture growth. We see um particularly all the cereals, all the sectors in agriculture. For instance, tobacco uh is likely to grow in excess of 150, closer to 200%. The tobacco is growing. cotton is growing nearly the oldest small grains are growing Essentially, the likelihood is that agriculture uh alone will grow by anywhere between eighteen to 22% in real terms uh because of the rains. uh the good rains and also the small, the producers of mas. um really turned up in terms of the output and production productivity this year. So, we we foresee a huge S in agricultural production also coming from a lower this year last year after the drought and and the the the COVID-19 El Nino in 2019. So we have a

lower and we have a surge in agriculture production which essentially is powering the economy forward this year towards the growth rates that uh the IMF and the world been pointed out and however, somewhere in between the IMF and the and the World Bank, I do think that real GDP growth might be somewhere around 4.4 4.4%. um with the half of that about 2.2% or 2.4% of that is coming from agriculture because agriculture share of GDP at 9.5. 9.5%. uh according to stats is still fairly very low. particularly if you compare to where we were in the 1990s where agriculture accounted for nearly 20% of GDP uh a third of exports and nearly 25% of uh of uh of employment in the economy in the early 1990s before the structure adjustment program. So So uh of agriculture Very low below 10% and so therefore, even a surge that we expect is likely to contribute somewhere around 22.4 percent in GDP. I do believe this economy is on growth trajectory this year. likely somewhere between 44.4 percent of GDP and further. the second aspect related to that is the issue of macroeconomic stability or the genitals macroeconomic stability which the IMF also highlights jointly also with the world being in their report. This is how I summarize it in terms of the journey towards macroeconomic stability. It's like one

embarking on a journey from
Atari and if you get to you are
within shouting distance of you
know, that you have ninety plus
a few kilometers to get you to
to to if you are traveling uh
from uh to Kola and you go past
towards members, you know that
you are left with hundred or so
kilometers to get to your
destiny Have we achieved
macroeconomic stability yet,
maybe No, but the direction is
towards stability particularly
with the uh the inflation and
front headline in flesh and are
coming down from a peak of 834
4% in June, July and uh
collapsing now to June around
106 percent in all likelihood
infection will continue to
trend further down unless they
are significant shocks uh that
might occur from a policy point
of view uh but in all
likelihood for the inflation
and deceleration further maybe
to 5558 percent by July, likely
in the range of 35 to 40% or
thirty to 35% by year end. If
that way to be achieved it it
is a huge surge in particularly
if you compared to the
inflation or spiral that we
experience in the end of 2018
and 2019 and 2020 in 2022 with
policy refinements and uh of
fiscal and Metropolis Nation.
It is quite possible for
inflation to decelerate further
to somewhere between fifteen to
20%. Again, the assumption is
there are no policy, uh mishaps
or there are no policy

reversals. There is definite work that we need to do that needs to be done on the structure of in terms of strengthening fiscal and metropolis and inflation is within reach or will likely be within reach of to 20% by next year. And what does that tell us that you are within range of single digit inflation by 2023. Again, the key assumption is essentially exactly the as the IMF phrase, if there is authorities strengthen uh fiscal and infrastructure reforms, strengthen coordination of man and fiscal policy and implement measures on um which must be implemented on the foreign exchange auction to make it more efficient and more durable and more reflective of market fundamentals then essentially The economy is on course for further deceleration in in in inflation. So, the next 18 months will be defining in my view very much defining in terms of the policy framework and the policy implementation metrics we are the journey so far is in the right direction. We may not have achieved more stability yet but within distance within calling distance thing I would like to highlight is again, the public perception, the business perception but that's the third thing I would highlight. I've got with me here is a number of documents among them there.

business and the intelligence report which was released in May and again, the highlight, the kind of confidence that has been prevailing in the business sector since June of last year with the inception of the foreign exchange and I caught the report. Their capacity utilization. The highlight is 47% which is very low compared to what could actually obtain but the important thing is they also highlight that they are and this patient is for capacity utilization growth up to 56% in Q two and of course, they are the baseline assumptions underpinning uh those kind of forecast from and optimism from the business community the of foreign currency. The issue of strengthening mantra and fiscal policy. The issue of refinements and and implementation of the foreign exchange. um uh auction to make it more efficient. They assume that if this is sustained or continued We are likely to uh experience further growth and capacity. maybe even to a six to 1% by year end. However, we also also their vulnerabilities in the economy and uh both the World Bank and the the Msg, these vulnerabilities. I'll summarize a few few of them. The of COVID, the pandemic is an ongoing problem continues to disrupt economic activity. The lockdowns is impacting on business and supply disruptions

or supply chains and so forth but again, On the other hand, the government's program on vaccination is likely to continue to be another vulnerability has to do with the power and power outages particularly with one. Now, uh the capacity of 900 megawatts slightly uh uh to be significantly lower than that. we are experiencing uh quite severe power cuts at the present moment. That's that's also a huge vulnerability likelihood also of interest rates going up. Global interest rates going up and impacting on floors and the price of money coming to Zimbabwe. We are seeing in many parts of the globe how countries are responding to the pandemic. The Us with it's a 1.9 1.9000000000000000 stimulus package is the likelihood that interest rates This might overheat the US economy which may intend for the end of the Fed and maybe other central banks in the world. Big central banks in the world to raise interest rates and which will impact of course on the price of money. Uh coming into the These are vulnerabilities In addition, of course to possible uh policy reversals that might happen along the way. but the key issue conveyor is that durable macroeconomic stability is not far. We are not yet there but it's not far. If authorities stay the course

continue on the path of reforms and continue on the path of uh um strengthening the foreign exchange market framework for instance, I genuinely believe that durable stability is not far which will then create the conditions for sustainable growth. The economy in Zimbabwe is everywhere in the rest of the world. The economy grows out of investment both domestic and foreign. We will only be able to sustain uh growth of the economy to the extent that we are able to attract investment in key sectors of the economy um in agriculture, in mining in uh in industry manufacturing in the construction sector, in many other subsets sectors of the economy. The key going forward in my view must be to deepen structural reforms and to focus in particular First things first, I would say is the first thing. my principle. it is to make sure that we do everything uh to strengthen macroeconomic stability to not to stop it or not to stop to stay the course, go all the way to and go all the way to investment in health in education, in social infrastructure, and services. which we have neglected over the past decades that needs to be sustained and we need more investment in education, more investment in social and health and social sectors in health, physical infrastructure as well. These are the key

components that will sustain uh economic growth on a sustainable basis. if we are thinking and gleaming in terms of medium term growth such as will be necessary for broad-based transformation for youth and gender mainstream. We have to stay the course. It's going to be a little bit more painful but I think the economy is already endured much more pain from where we come from in 2018 going forward, what really needs to be done is to stay the course, financial inclusion support, and investment in S Es. All these will be critical for for creating and a broad uh growth of the economy that is that creates jobs and opportunities for everyone. We we must improve doing business conditions. We must make sure that it is easy for investors to come and invest in Zimbabwe and and of course, the issues to do with border delays. All these have to be to be addressed. issues to do with corruption. We have to adopt a zero tolerance for corruption and and really fight corruption in a very visible um manner and that way we in my view, it will form the basis of what needs to be done to stay the difficult part will be in my view, how we deal with fiscal consolidation. We expanded uh mandatory reforms, tightening of mantra going forward in 2020 and and and 2023 against the background of course of the many demands

that we see the limited fiscal space and the rising demands for financing the COVID, the vaccination process to ensure that millions of our people in the country are sufficiently vaccinated. So, the challenges are huge and the vulnerabilities are there and let's not gloss over them but the potential also in my view is very huge for the country to now move forward. The elusive uh stability that has eluded us over the past 10 years or so twenty we are in my view within the shores of that. I think mister uh where where we were where Vietnam was in nineteen or 1994. He finally gave that you would know uh the case for Vietnam is particularly very striking uh more than ten times twelve times growth in per capita income in the past 30 years average GDP growth somewhere between six to 7% on an annual basis thirty 30 million people out of poverty um over the 30 years. after three wars. The first defeating the French in 1954 and then the Americans moving in and defeating the Americans and in 1975, then beginning the reforms in 1986. the reforms which which were expanded in 1991. I think Zimbabwe is somewhere where Vietnam was in 1994 and 1995 uh at the beginning of the funds they because and they have achieved remarkable growth over the past and they've achieved remarkable

things. 75% of Vietnam was living in chronic poverty in 1991 today. It's just uh somewhere under 20%. If you are able to stay the course, raise GDP growth on a sustainable basis, ensure a low and stable inflation uh single digits not for a for 1 month, not 2 months, not for 1 year but year after year after year after year for a decade for 15 years for 20 years, then, you are on the path for really making a difference in terms of reducing chronic poverty in the country. You spoke about Uh I think it was at the quest who was speaking to the minister but the levels of chronic poverty in our country which I which is I and also high income inequalities which we all see everywhere you go. The level of staggering wealth on for you and the of poverty everywhere among the roar and sprawling Uh we can do Those are the point really uh uh of the discussion that perhaps um it's macroeconomic stability and even growth. Uh it's it's claimed to be at at at the expense of the majority of the population and the World Bank puts more than 50% of the population in poverty and we're looking at uh economic growth in as one as a one sided and conventional way in the moment in which they were all bank and IMF has always viewed these things that uh the poverty, the condition of the people on the

other side of the of the stream becomes secondary to the quest for growth. At any rate, How would you answer that? That that's quite a view, mister chairman. That that's that's one way to view Uh I thought I would quite disagree with that perspective and here is why. for all those of us in the social sciences in economics and many other uh social scientists whose dream is for broad-based transformation and to end poverty in our generation. reality of the matter is there is no alternative to economic growth. every country that has made progress. on gender upliftment, on poverty reduction on youth, uh investment, in youth, every single country from China to Malaysia, to Indonesia, to Vietnam, to Brazil, nearly 36, million people out of poverty since 1994. Every single country that wants to make a permanent impact not a single period or or or single period in the vengeance if we want to make permanent uh uh to end poverty on a permanent basis. Then the pathway to that or the beginning of that has to be economic growth but to get economic growth, you must first have macroeconomic stability. No country can sustain growth without macroeconomics that so first things first, if macroeconomic growth macros stability, which becomes the basis for economic growth,

sustained economic growth, not for 2 years, not 5 years ten 20 years. then you are able, you are able to reduce poverty on an ongoing basis That that's exactly how I view it. We'll come back to that. We'll come back to you on that.

Hello, Yes, sir. Yes. you can play back to you. Let me go. Let me go to Janice now. Uh the debate is on uh because basically the the human, the erosion of human capital. in the country, in the form of the health, the condition of health facilities, education, uh which sector was a revolution in the 80s has been eroded, uh enormously but let me ask uh uh Janet to come in. Janet Thank you.

Thank you very much uh for this opportunity that uh you have given me to talk to this very important topic. uh for me but also for the Zimbabwe Coalition on Debt and Development and it's friends um with regards you're asking critical questions is to the obsession to the economic growth metrics uh that we have been using We look at um the GDP. We look at issues of inflation. Um we call on governments uh around fiscal uh consolidation um is of doing business and they like but sometimes um it does not make sense to the person who is um on the ground to the lived experiences of different uh demographics and community

level like women, people with disabilities, youths and they're like reading. the IMF and the World Bank reports and also the clip uh that you have shared from from the minister What we see at the notable progress. um that has been made or that have been made uh within the macroeconomic um context particularly around um reversing the economic recession despite the different challenges, the enormous challenges that are highlighted in the reports highlighted as well by as he was making his presentation that um challenges are really huge. There is uh some level of positive economic growth threats uh that is really reversed or kind of reversed the recession and they are positive. Uh definitely projections in terms of the economic growth. They also highlights, you know, the great fiscal consolidation efforts that have been made by the authorities and um the surplus that he has there been recorded consecutively uh in 2019 and in 2020 this the minister has also spoken to it on quite a number of platforms and in quite a number of presentations that he has made particularly to the parliament and to the citizens of Zimbabwe. We we can come to the questions in terms of saying where is the where has it been targeted? Um what is it meant for people's lives and

livelihoods that they are seeking to to to defend and to protect particularly with them pandemic that we are facing and the different uh shocks it has caused uh the challenges that it has caused the other progress that they have highlighted and uh given a pat on the back uh for the fiscal authorities for the authorities and the government in Zimbabwe is the ease of doing business. I think the mantra for this administration has always been Zimbabwe is open for business. Um they've gone through the ease of doing business. We now have an authority uh that's looking to this issue but um again, I think the main issue here is on opening for business uh for foreign direct investment and um I believe that those um who are in business in Zimbabwe, they continue to face challenges particularly transitioning from the informal sector. uh to formality So is of doing business once again may not mean much uh to those that are in the informal sector, those that continue not to be supported without financial access, without policy support uh for them to be able to operate but actually maybe facing not even maybe facing harassment demolition uh of the structures where they operate There is progress on the inflation and II won't repeat on that Um also be noted and

give a pep on the back around the jaw and going back or reverting to the dual currency uh system noting that the economy was not holding um with the mono currency uh context that um he had come or policy that the government had um had um adopted but they are also challenges that they they they highlight and these are mainly around the policy missteps uh particularly uh activities by the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe. uh the natural disasters droughts the cyclones, the COVID-19 but also the slow progress on currency reforms or mandatory reforms. The issue of low interest rates that kind of suppressed in business um debt distress and lack of concession or external credit lines, low production, and the like. So, these are the challenges and the enormous challenges that um that's the economy um is is is facing on the human development front. I think the issue of extreme poverty is key and um facilitate you you you have highlighted what the world Bank is saying in terms of extreme poverty half of the population of Zimbabwe lives in extreme poverty and um for me, these poverty statistics, the a certain face. which the reports have not really been gone deeper to identify those faces to then proper policy prescriptions that will ensure that those who wear the face of poverty are lifted up from

poverty and are not left behind. So, when I look at the 49% or the 7.9 7.9000000 people that are in extreme poverty, I see a woman's face. I see a youth face, a child's face, a person with disability face a cross border, a vendor, um the difference. Many other faces we live with on a daily basis. The highlights, the widening inequalities, despite the prescriptions that we have gone through, the staff monitored the fiscal consolidation, um the what did they call it? The transitional stabilization uh program that we went through. They are widening inequalities despite the vision for being an upper middle income country. we see erosion of the purchasing power by 25% for those that are that are poor but Um those that have reached, they are in power increasing by about 17% which is typical uh for middle income economies because they they focus on economic growth and not human development growth and human development indexes. So, in many times, you then leave quite a lot of people behind because the assumption of the Trickle-down effect does not actually uh exist. Um or or or assist in uplifting livelihoods and living standards of the majority. are poor but I wanted to say that on the widening inequalities, why is um I've spoken about the face of extreme poverty. those that as well are on the other

side of the inequalities. the poor ones, they also wear the face but the rich ones as well. They do have a face. Those that had their purchasing power increased by 17% and those are the few political elites. the cartel that we have seen in Zimbabwe. I think they have been two very, very incisive reports to this issue. So, only a few political elites are benefiting from this economic growth indicators that we are talking about or that we are now seeing. So, this is where what brings in the question of who exactly is owning this world Who exactly is benefiting from this uh this economic growth that we are talking about because on inequalities, the informal trade that the teacher, the nurse, the doctor had there uh purchasing power eroded uh during this period that we are talking about. We are talking about uh social service delivery and we know that the poor depend on public services but we don't have water. We don't have health. We don't have education magnified. um immensely by the COVID-19 as well. The cyclones that we saw the droughts in the like but the limited as well. Social protection for the boundary is another key issue uh that a major challenge. Um if you're in the context of the reports uh that we have received that showed the positive uh economic growth trajectory on the

prescriptions by these um international uh financial institutions. They talk about the macroeconomic stability and um I think economies um every economist and everyone would want a macroeconomic stability we talk about they talk about public service, delivery, investments. Um they uh in the health education, social protection, food, and the like but also the abolishing of ineffective incentives and subsidies to which I totally agree. Uh this will definitely eliminate arbitrage. uh corruption in the sectors as we have seen around the agricultural sector. um around the fuel sector. uh the millimeter subsidies and the like and how that is kind of promoted arbitrage but for me, I think it's and then beyond uh just saying they're the ineffective incentives or subsidies. we have them to address. What do we do with the 49% of the population that is in extreme poverty Actually, the whole population at the end of the day except for a few means they are in poverty. So, for me, it is a drive. I think um which we should go towards um the basic income grant for example. I don't think it will harm anyone to to think and to begin really talk about a basic income grants way. half of the population lives in extreme poverty. Then, we do away with subsidies and incentives that

benefits only a few. uh that's uh playing in all sectors of the economy uh because maybe they're politically connected uh with the big businesses So, on this prescriptions I just noted some gaps um and some macroeconomic indicator deficit and um as I was just listening to the clip once again by the minister, the word that came to my mind as I was trying to really think about how to describe this economy looking as well. It's the um the reports by the World Bank and the IMF is you know, it's it's it's as if we are in this is soren economic growth where the interpretation of our economic growth and We are seems so divorced from the reality they lived the realities of the people that are on the streets that are in the economies. It's it's so abnormal. It's like it's people that are talking of an economy some way. Um we can, it only makes sense maybe for the economist. it makes sense for the technocrats. um and the like but it does not relate to the lived daily lived experiences of the people and I'm talking about this because we continue to talk about the uh economic growth metrics. this human development metrics without asking uh who owns our wealth, who is gaining uh from the material gains of this wealth of this um economic growth that we are talking about III hear the economist,

the authorities uh continue to push for the green and be it stands where if it is not here, then it's not working. If the medicine is not bitter, then it does not work. I think being african IIII relate to that because any any any medicines, any hips that we take, the they they really are bitter and the bitterness describes uh how much that medicine works but I want to believe that this is a single approach that we are taking and we are talking with decades of an economy that has been going down and run down and neglected but at the time. Um they can be a dual approach with the the the the state plays its role. It's mundane functions of ensuring that uh it gives self sustenance, incapacitate its citizens to be able to participate in the economy. It can play its role in the economists regulatory role in redistribution of wealth role. Um such that the pain and the tightening of belts is not only by the poor. it's not only You know. citizens, least a few do not tighten their belts and we tighten and tighten and we have to keep on dreaming and we are told that it's going to work. It's actually working. It's actually working when we continue to suffer, we see the austerity, the retrogrades, policy taxation in Zimbabwe, Um the World Bank indicates that the 2% is a progressive

taxation because mainly it's it's it's targeted at the population that uses mobile money than the but for me, every Zimbabwean, there's the trend of poverty, People are in the informal sector in the urban areas and they are, they are the ones who make use of the mobile market. So, where is it? Progressive sites on that taxation as well. We see the citizens being taxed but companies like grits are giving tax incentives, harmful tax incentives. If we are looking at raising revenue, domestic resources given the the the limited fiscal space uh given the fact that we cannot access extend our credits uh and resources. So, we have to depend on our domestic resources but we give a harmful tax incentives while we protect our citizens. So, this is a really a major issue in a major challenge and what the policy mistakes. I think we have to balance here the balancing act. Yes, fiscal hygiene but we also need fiscal support because of where we are and um um especially to the social sectors. um so that we don't leave that rationalization on on on fiscal activities by the other. So, for me, it's still uh falls on the on the on the on the fiscal authorities and on the fiscal policy as well when we do our budgets are we adequately budgeting? Are we allocating resources to the

sectors that are going to be likely um to to to require resources after budgeting that. Then, we have the fiscal activities that uh that we we we are talking about. So, our challenge for me that the reports and the minister have not really addressed um have to do with the crisis in end of the state. I think it's an issue of identity of our state, the capacity of our state and the capture of the state. um which these reports have not really uh addressed. We have it has not addressed the development of the the state. dichotomy uh that we have. then, there's the issue of the rule of law. the rule by law. So, we continue to have the right deficit. We will continue to have to have the economic and political reforms deficits that will ensure that we truly get on a um an economic recovery uh trajectory or a democratic economic recovery trajectory that does not leave uh one aspect of another or we end up having this bright light kind of economy. Uh we don't look at human development. Uh they say we don't look at issues of inequality and how to address them. We also have a crisis of the developmental model that we have to deal with which leads us to the endangered future around the climate, around the world, around the fire and I will and um moderator by talking about

where do we go then is the citizens because we definitely have a crisis of the state. We have a crisis of the development um and endangered future for the citizens and for me, it it it it goes to the issue of redefining our current challenges and um I want to talk about our own internal system that we have particularly around the auditor general reports. They highlight what our problems are, the prescription that we are getting around uh around the macroeconomic context without dealing with the real issues of corporate governance, the governance, the political that we need to address uh corruption to address, to address public finance, uh abuse, uh to address the the the the the pillars that we have seen the illicit financial flaws that we have seen. So, the auditor general reports they clearly show us when we are losing our our our our resources why we we the inequalities that we have. Um why we have the extreme poverty that we have because resources are leaking They are leaking simply because of the kind of politics that we have that continue in the policies that we have that continue to only power a few political elites or those that are privileged and can play a role in the economy. So, I think we need to deal with the uh so there are issues

of public sector governance.
There's the issue of corruption
and poor oversight exacerbated.
We know that currently
parliament is decimated local
author Is that decimated? So,
where do we get oversight?
These are the real issues of
governance of administration
that we have to deal with. um
and and and give prescriptions
to over and above just the
macroeconomic context and and
dias our problems only as it's
it's macroeconomic level
without bringing in the
political economic question. Um
that has taken us to where we
are. I've I've referred to the
reports um and um I guess I
will I'll I'll end by um
talking to the issue of
austerity that is on the
targeted at the it's the
majority of citizens and leaves
those who are responsible for
primitive accumulation. uh
which will not lead us to any
prosperity and to betterment of
the underclass. What are the
victims of the current uh
development model that that
that we see and uh our
government has to begin to
think about creating decent
jobs is to to to think about
maintaining our roads, our
bridges, our social services,
Uh we have to talk about
tackling inequality,
discrimination, and exclusion,
poor service delivery, and
access to services and have
these accessed on equal terms

by all citizens. The land, the property be it assets, be it credits, and I will conclude by saying that we do not want and we say no to jobless ruthless future Voiceless, ruthless economic growth that we are currently talking about. Thank you very much. uh moderator. I hand over the mic to you. Thanks, Janet. I couldn't stop you. I just couldn't stop you. you. I found this most enthralling and really hard of the matter. Economic growth versus human development That is the access of your of your of your presentation and thank you for the that you've put on the screen. We we will let you know. uh uh published this policy briefs and we are going to hurry to put this out as soon as possible. This uh policy dialogue session Now, I want I want to quickly move on to the next person that is um I'm here please. We're coming at once. I wanted to just wanted to say while he's getting ready to come in uh that uh he presented a very wonderful people a few weeks ago. Um the Afro parameter and we have asked him to to tweak that presentation of his to address the subject before us. I have no doubt that he would do it as a as he has done the previous report So, you and I am well, thank you chairperson. Thank you viewers. I am very privileged to be able to be on this platform.

tonight. So, the title of my presentation tonight is a MF World Bank Reports versus the people's verdict. I think Doctor Mandaza and Madam they've already made reference to the World Bank and uh projections and the positives and I have no doubt whatsoever that the former finance minister and I will come back to that. So, I will not repeat it. What I'd like to do tonight is to widen the debate by weaving economic growth and why the development So, why did the West support? in the first place? The West supported President Ima Sun, a headliner to take over during the military coup because they thought he won could bring macroeconomic stability which is conducive for foreign direct investments cut deals with the business community in the west to them. understands the nuts and bolts of business capital So, the underlying philosophy was that you can actually have economic development without liberal or democratization just like in Zimbabwe and in other uh nations So, on some in the still think they can do business with him. They can twist him to promote and and entrench a development ideology based on world banking of templates which favor capital big business and the rich in society and they also think that he's the only option because the opposition is

deemed weak and cannot wrestle the state power from Pf It is therefore not surprising that uh the minister of finance has adopted whoop line and singer. all the new policies despite Zimbabwe's extraordinary circumstances and it is within this paradigm that uh the minister is fixated with GDP inflation, and targeting and declaring huge budget surpluses of 9.8000000000 whilst the Zimbabweans poor uh mister uh made similar emphasis on So, even if we are to believe the IMF and World Bank projections, a substantiated by mister B's projections. I argue that it is not likely to lead to socioeconomic development of the poor and vulnerable in a fragile political context. and corrupt Zimbabwe. Uh has gone to say it is a captured state uh by cartels and the statistics is already contradictory here. Uh mister one. Get one. the statistics are already contradictory. Mister said 4.5% IMF. I think 6% World Bank uh uh 3.9 3.9%. Uh if you call another new plastic or economist, they will give you another figure and so forth but in African countries, we have seen that Nigeria Angola, equatorial Guinea Govern. We are told that the GDP is constantly increasing and economic growth lived realities that are far detached from the same economic growth. Him is emphasized. This

point, it's almost like the structural adjustment programs and we know the consequences in the 1990s across Africa and let us turn uh to the live realities now. So, the reflections are on these findings almost quarters. Seventy-two. 72% of Zimbabweans described the country's economic condition as fairly bad for a very bad 67% of Zimbabweans say the country is going in the wrong direction and the majority of the citizens in the rural areas. 62% actually feel that the country is going in the wrong direction. So, in addition to the old way of heaven, discontent that started in the 1990s. partly due to the structural adjustment programs from the same Britton Woods institutions. There's a new wave of rural uh discontent building and the urban rural divide is narrowing even if we look at development as a basic human need last year. most Zimbabweans went to several periods without enough food. 52. 52% Medicine Fifty-five. 55%. Cash. 87. 87%. Clean water. 51. 51%. So, my sister, you are talking about tightening belts but as we can see, the poor, I have no belts in the first place to tighten and let's also look at development as people's verdicts Only Thirty-five 35% of Zimbabweans approve or strongly approved man's

performance in the past 12 months, The lowest rating for his predecessor, Robert Mugabe was 20% in 1999 and large majorities say the government is performing badly on creating jobs nine to 1% keeping prices stable. seventy-eight. 78%. Uh but we're talking about in flesh and targeting here improving living standards of the poor 75% and so forth and this is striking because this loss of approval is also permeating to Zoe's electoral promos in the rural areas. only 44% approve of Nan's performance and 40% disapproved in the rural constituents uh in the past 12 months. So, even if you go to the provinces, the people are saying economic conditions are bad. It's about half east and west and all the other seven provinces have about 70% of people saying the economic condition is bad I think this is an important point Uh that's uh and my brother, brother uh didn't address. We should also think of development as freedom not just numbers because the core values of development must include self esteem to their person and freedom and the right to choose. So, constraints are not just about power at one COVID-19 is important as they are Listen. 45% of Zimbabweans say they are not very free or not at all. to say what they think of Jesus. So, are we having GDP numbers

uh with people, You know, 79% say they often or always have to be careful about what they say regarding politics 885 percent of women are un free to talk about politics. People can't even freely join political organizations. They want and 30% of Zimbabweans are not free uh to vote. So, let let us now review the dream of economic growth without democratization. A narrative that I see uh that is it's being resuscitated in the context of these reports and in the context also of this debate. I want to emphasize that uh the dream of economic growth without democratization is perhaps up in Rwanda or China and many other parts of the world. will not be sustainable in Zimbabwe for four primary reasons and they are political There is a competitive opposition MDC party in Zimbabwe. The official, you know, results actually show us polarization. I don't think uh Nelson Charissa is going to be quiet. I don't think II know him as a warrior. He's not going to exhaust all means to fight and you can't wish away the fact that there's a competitive opposition in Zimbabwe The there is a legitimate and active civil society. The third, the effects of the post 2000 Pros movement should not be understated Democracy is a form of governance was

consistently and ideologically brewed in the masses for the past two decades. All service tell you. Zimbabwe's for democracy and for you have the digitally connected diaspora and its influence on modes of governance. So, it is a dream that is not likely to be realized in Zimbabwe. Meanwhile, the crisis is on whilst their efforts uh to pay in Zimbabwe is Africa's rising giant. The reality is that citizens in urban and rural areas have converged to acknowledge that there's attracted political and economic crisis. which is a UPF government alone cannot resolve This is why 73 73% of Zimbabweans are calling for a national dialogue that extends beyond political parties to include businesses, churches, and civil society. This can be kick started by a national regional, or international conference but what is striking is that in fact, rural residents. 76%. A 68. 68% are supportive of an all-inclusive national dialogue. So, given the dire economic situation, some voices from below are even calling for more responses. This is a situation that World Bank and IMF must be aware of and they are believers. I caught The MDC Alliance MP. Who said 2 weeks ago? There are people who are saying, maybe it is time for us to learn from the struggles of the past where

they ended up coming with um where in South Africa and Zebra in Zimbabwe for now, I do not think we have reached that stage where we can talk about armed resistance to the regime. military intervention but who in the future. it might happen. I do not want to spoil the positive mood but a model of economic growth without Democrats will not apply to the Zimbabwean context. at best. this can be temporary benefits. for example, where where where will you get the sustained economic growth we we're talking about when general elections are pronounced in the next eighteen to 24 months Just one example. So, the citizens is high demand for dialogue is legitimate and urgent. It can take many forms as a starting step to address deep and structural, political, and economic problems for a sustainable solution. I think that would be better. Uh than technical fixes. thinking that they're sustainably change. Uh the It's livelihoods. Uh thank you listeners. Thank you chairperson.

Thank you very much. Need I say more. Thank you very much. I think I don't even want to ask any questions at this at this stage, I want to move to the next speaker in diabetes. Please, sir.

I think some chairs put it all out there. Yeah. Well, thank you. Thank you very much. Uh

thank you doctor. Thank you, Janet. Thank you, doctor. Uh thank you. uh Ibbo. Yeah. So, the starting point I want to make is that uh This is Zimbabwe in 2021. and we keep on uh getting stuck in the same land for decades. We have had these debates before and I remember particularly uh in 2014 and in 2015 when it appeared that Chia Masa was pushing uh the economy uh after the Lima, the World Bank uh uh annual meetings in Lima uh on the eighth of October. 2015. when the entire international community with the possible exception of the United States government uh lock stock and barrel uh supported the program uh for debt relief that Nasa was pushing and some of us at the time argue that you cannot have uh uh you cannot have economic reform without political reform. and that's in any event you can never have purported economic reform without reformers. We argued the time that was a fascist organization. incapable of reforms. We argued at the time that uh uh in any event class commits suicide and that will never commit political suicide by reforming itself out of power. So, it appears that we are back to that same way. There is a naive assumption. It a dishonest assumption particularly on the part of the because they are so well vested in Zimbabwe's recent economic

history. The assumption that a purely economic centrist approach can actually achieve no growth and change and to be can actually build a sustainable Zimbabwe. The kind of talk that uh I heard from my friend uh Doctor and uh you know, it it is fiction Zimbabwe is made in a in a in a political crisis and since 2017, we've seen the massive rise in authoritarian uh controlled education uh we've seen the total take over of our country by the bureaucrats by the military. They're in every government department. They're in every in every police making a decision At least there was AA veneer of a resemblance of civilian uh authority and Emerson it doesn't exist. You see, massive uh uh reproduction of authoritarian consolidation and Rotarian manifestations every day. we have seen an increase in violence people were shot dead on the fifth of August. Uh twenty 1819 people were killed in January of 2019. Since then, there's been a start of a abductions. Uh there's an increase use of and weaponization of of the law. A simple things like bail applications have been have been have been weaponized A civil society activities are denied bail the journalist like you've spent months in in in in in prison. Jeffrey Moy, the York Times correspondent. it's been weeks in prison 24 of age,

He spend 60 days in prison. Uh
people like uh like uh you
know, you know, you know, those
those lovely young girls,
Joanna Mamba, Cecilia, he spent
at least 6 months in prison in
the last uh 12 months, a COVID
has been weaponized. COVID is
being used as a means of
denying political expression to
We are denied the right to
freedom of expression, freedom
of movement. in the name of uh
a COVID regulations but they
themselves uh uh uh uh, uh uh
uh are carrying out uh you
know, you know, you know,
political, you know, activities
that in primary elections,
they're choosing their
candidates. they're having
public meetings, those sections
of the community that are
deemed loyal to them are
allowed to have activities
There are thousands and
thousands of members of the
Joanne Maui. that are gathered.
right now is I'm talking to you
thousands and thousands of
them. yet every citizen is is
is is is is prescribed. There's
a formal and sustained attack
on the MDC through a dub
judgement. Uh we have lost
members of parliament. We have
lost councils. We've lost our
own head office. So, all these
things are happening and and
and and and you in the past 3
years and it's not just the
political movement huge
communities are being displaced
II. act for a community in in

with thousands and thousands of villagers The threat of being ejected from their ancestral homes to make way for a project to be done by one of Amazon's uh Billy Rutenberg, one of the most pretoria characters in Zimbabwe wants to evict thousands and thousands of peasants uh in to make way for his sugar you know, you know, in project in a mining by the Chinese is being allowed in a national park with thousands of animals in the communities. They in the communities, the Nubia in the communities are being ejected and displaced uh to make way for for Chinese mining uh ventures in the past few weeks, we've seen hundreds of homes being destroyed without orders. by this regime. We've seen a informal sectors like CSO being destroyed without court orders. by this, by this regime. So, in that context of a of a nefarious state that is implementing totalitarian consolidation, it is fiction to talk about any growth. It is fiction to talk about any sustainable recovery. It actually becomes pathological when you watch the interview. Tu. and and Richard Quest. The lies are pathological. The man needs treatment from experts because it's it's not normal. He's talking about the Zimbabwe which none of us, you know, relate to and you know, it is dangerous for someone to lie

without blinking someone to lie without, you know II grew up in a couch where you must have shame but in there, what TS Elliot the people without conscience, people without guilty people without the elasticity, people that are totally a shameless and when the state is taken over by this dangerous group of people, it reminds me of the of the third Reich in in there are no limits and II suggested that that is the biggest problem that we are facing in Zimbabwe at the present moment but let me get, let me get technical now. The the government they say that uh it's projected growth rate in 2021 is going to be 7% The MF is not produced a report. We keep on referring it to reports. They didn't produce a report. They produced a press statement uh on the sixteenth of June. 2021 but that first statement naive and dishonest. It reminded me of uh I am of reports that used to be issued in twenty 2015, and 2016 by an IMF chief known as Dominique Fea later on to the IMF joints, the African Development Bank. those reports So, they were so dishonest and so dangerous. They sounded like they've been written and ordered. It is for a head office. It looks like we are now back to that same level of naivety uh by the by the IMF. So, you have a group of people and I don't think the the economist is actually ever

been to Zimbabwe. So they they they they conduct zoom interviews by Zoom officials. They conduct Zoom interviews with Zimbabweans carefully selected by the local office which has been aiding and updating this and then suddenly, they're experts in Zimbabwe and they can write a report on Zimbabwe. This is typical decades of of IMF intervention on the African continent which has been consistent with siding with autocrats which has been consistent with the with the with the siding with an anti democratic agenda. If you trust the the 70s, the 80s constantly, they were writing reports oblivious to the atrocities of people like Ibarra Bosa, Sonia stealing billions in Nigeria. with various Ugandan governments from Milton. It's now who just by the way, only last week got a 1 billion dollars loan from despite the atrocities and the electoral disputes uh in uh in uh in in Uganda. So, it appears that the IMF particularly under the new uh managing director Georgina Cristina at least Christine La was smart and wise and I think it's because she had no of Africa. The new regime in is naive. uh is is extremely naive. I mean that and and and and and and and and and dishonest. So, we're back to the old days that uh they're desperate for success stories.

They would do anything legally and extra legally to prop up these regimes. Now, the the the assumptions around the 7% growth rate is number one a decent agricultural season According to the MF. number two, an increase in the sector output in the sector. Number three, an increase in construction. That's that's the assumption. Now, let's revisit these issues. agriculture Now, please. An insignificant contribution to GDP it's own share of GDP has shrunk from a period where downstream agriculture used to contribute Thirty-five 35% of GDP agriculture now actually contributes 8% of GDP. So, even assuming you are the 50% growth in agriculture, it's contribution is multiplier is very limited because it's a aggregates that fit in to our to our GDP but we know that it most We know that it most There'll be 1.5000000 tons to 1.7000000, tons of maize that will be delivered to the GMP of this year. They will call it a bamba harvest but I know a bamba harvest because I've lived through one under President Mugabe. You're talking about 3 million tons. You're talking about 3.2000000 tons and remember, remember Malawi with the less than one fifth of the resources is got 3.5000000 this year. That's a harvest. So, but let's give it to them. 2 million tons of maize

that doesn't qualify to be called the office but yes, it will help people. Uh it will help people because our people, the producers of mas are subsistence. So life will be better in 2021 than in 2020. There's no question about that but that's a growth even of 25% in agriculture can then spare a GDP overall disagree growth rate of 6% or 7% is is fiction and the experts in the MF ought to know that they are intelligent, educated economists in the Mf. I once worked with them. They ought to know that they speak about the growth in electricity is one of the justifications of a 7% growth rate we have now become a, you know, you know, a blackout capital of South Africa in the last 3 weeks alone, we've hardly had any electricity in the reasons are very simple. There's hardly anything that is coming from one one. to 611 to six Installed capacity is 2000 Megawatts less than 300 Megawatts is coming from. So, you are now left with the A car installed capacity of car is 700 with low water levels in the last 3 years, it has been producing 20300 megawatts, The water levels are high this year so expect 600 but 600 Mega out of installed capacity of 2000 Megawatts is a joke and in fact, it's So, Zimbabwe's electricity, the electricity we are having now, we're actually

importing from from from the South Africans and from HBC Kasa. So, it's a fiction and dishonest to think that GDP growth rates can be spared by by uh by electricity. The third uh basis for the growth according to the MF is increase in called construction Again. Another fix it. Yes, there's demand of cement by people of beauty. The same houses that are being uh that are being destroyed but there's no gross capital formation in Zimbabwe. When was the last time you saw a crane? There there's there's been no gross capital of formation in the last 40 years. If you wake up, someone who died in 1968 and you put him in a rally today, you won't get lost. What will confuse him is where there was Gemstone Avenue. there is now Samoa where there was Mu There's now. Taka. There's not been any gross capital formation. That is so significant to justify an increase in construction that will justify a rapid growth in GDP of six 7%. So, the question is, where are they getting uh the 6% with what I'm doing here is being taken care and I'm saying there is no basis for the growth of 6%, 7%, the worlds 3.9%. I ask where where? So if you ask me, yes, a modest growth is there because of agriculture but if it's beyond 2%, it's a it's a miracle. We must go go to church and pray and thank god uh uh you know,

you know very much. Yes, 2021 will be better than 2020 because of the better agricultural citizen. the citizens are able to feed. I'm spending a lot of time in the rural areas. I can see it. it's visible but to then translate that into a 7% growth rates. That's fiction of the highest order that is only peddled by a pathological liars and there are many around including in Washington, DC in Pennsylvania Street to be a particular. So, let me come to the other. Let me come to the other noises by the number one. They speak about the surplus. I'm going to speak about that. Number two, they speak about the government containing a broad uh you know, you know, you know, again, fiction and then they speak about exchange rate stability. Now, look, let me start with the exchange rate. The elephant in the room, the elephant in the room will always be the government's mismanagement of the exchanges, the attempt to deodorize. He has been an absolute failure is a is a historian. There is no country in the world that is involuntarily donor. that has been able to dial because what's makes involuntary takes place is not the genius of the government. It's the citizen who reject to occurrence that becomes a means and instruments of a the Zimbabwean do was caught in by it's own citizens

in nineteen. So in 2007, 2008, people lost faith in the Zimbabwe and when we When we came in as the government of National Unity and introduced the regime of multiple occurrences, it was not because we were geniuses, it was simply because we recognized that the public themselves had lost confidence in their own occurrence. So, where there's a broken down and remember, economics is is 40% Technicality. 60% is confidence is trust is the social contract so people don't have trust in the government. People don't have trust. in the reserve bank. people don't have trust in god. People don't have trust in the currents in the in the Zimbabwean do and and this is what's the doctors I was trying to to talk about that the reality on the ground is the Gentile to the statements of dishonest by the IMF to's pathological regular statements. The essence of the Afro barometer is a citizen that has lost a total control in the ability of the state to look after self. A citizen that feels he's left on it on its own. So, so with the with the Zimbabwean do, there is total mismanagement on two levels. Number one, You are maintaining a rigged system. The auction system since June of 2020 when it was introduced, he's been averaging in a straight line of one is to Eighty-three to the

US dollar. Now, if you were to compare strong occurrences, compare the movement of the rants to the dollar compared the movement of the pound to the dollar compared the movement of the euro to the dollar compared the the the movement of the to the dollar compared the movement of the Chinese It's been volatile ups and down and these are strong currencies and stronger economies. I live in Nigeria. but ours has been in a straight line because it's rigged and the reason why it's rigged is that it's not an auction. It's not an auction. There's no free market there. Anyone with his own money can't go and sell the only person who's selling money is the reserve bank. So, the reserve bank will sell its own money at any price that it wants and to maintain additional stability. It has maintained it at around 8283 and so forth for the past 12 months but it's so so you can't call it an auction. So, the premium now, the difference between the payroll market rates which is thriving which is alive and kicking and the official exchange rate is now a factor of more than 60% the US dollar on the open seat is spreading it around US one is to 150 the US. Dollar on the official exchange rate is threatening it. US one is 284 but there's no A right now. Thanks to 127 of 2021. There is

now an ad because poor people
what are the, what are the
majority of our country? The
world being says 50%, it's not
50%. 79. 79% of Zimbabweans are
living in extreme poverty,
surviving in less than US \$1.25
a day. We know it as
Zimbabweans. We call it you
survive on a little coke of
cooking four leaves of of of of
vegetables in in in the you
know, of that's how our people
are surviving in in in in in in
in macula, You know it. I know
it because we are uh we are we
are we are. we are. We We are.
We are. we are Zimbabweans. So,
what is now happening? Thanks
to SI 127 the poor people
trips. go on the black market
and buy the US dollar or they
receive religions from their
relatives abroad and and it's
obtained money. It's a premium
of US \$1 fee. but but they're
going to the supermarket where
that money they're going to
exchange it at 185 dollars on
the basis of prizes which have
been indexed by these shops at
the black market. or US one \$1
fifty. So, they're suffering
Which is why the the official
it is now become a means of
transferring wealth from the
poor to the rich and remember,
this is the same population
that has lost its patience as a
result of I-33 of 2020 that has
lost its salaries as a result
of SI. three of 2020 before
I-33 of action of 2019 seven
used to end a US \$500 in every

single is a result of the official that was Now aiming around \$35 which is why in the last 2 years, there's hardly been any teacher who is going to work which is why in the last 2 years, there's hardly been any nurse who has reported for duty only last week, teachers and nurses were burning their faces because they're earning peanuts. You know that. I know that because they're not aiming a real wages. So, I'm speaks of a surplus where he manipulation of the exchange. It is devalued by effect of over 85% people's wages, people's savings, people's uh and and people's So, so the net effect of mismanaging the exchange rate is that we now have four payroll economies that are existing in this four. The first one is the official US economy which trades at one is to Eighty-five where the elites exist because they go on the auction use their connection to the reserve bank and obtain money at US one to Eighty-five which they didn't sell in the streets That economy is there. The economy that trades in the US official US dollar. Then, there's a second economy which is the unofficial US dollar case. That's where the majority of us are. If you say in Zimbabwe, you have \$2, \$5, ten US dollars which we use to care as I used to say which we used to survive by the day. Then you

have the more money, the Echo
case Again, different rules
applying that economy. Again,
different rates applying that
economy. Then, you've got the
fourth economy which is the RTG
S economy, the bank transfer
economy. when you do bank
transfer a different exchange,
it applies. there's a different
market for that and it's a
different economy. So, you
cannot have stability. You
cannot talk of stability where
you have got a totally
disfigured macro environment in
which four economies are
actually surviving side by side
and for the IMF to then say
there's economic stability in
Zimbabwe, it eludes my wisdom.
whatever little wisdom uh
that's uh that's uh I have then
there's the fiction of
contained broad money supply
only in June, June alone
brought money supply rose to 24
billion dollars and we know the
reserve bank is Only yesterday,
they introduced the new not a
new \$50. Why would you
introduce a \$50 note from \$20
to fifty unless you are
bringing money. So, the fixing
of printing of not printing
money and stabilizing a broad
money supply fiction and for
me, for this to come from the
Mf, I find it totally
unacceptable because they know
better. They've got the experts
but they want to feed into this
narrative of recovery of
stability because they're

desperate for of this. success stories but Zimbabweans get worried about money supply because we know what money supply does. When you increase money supply and there's too much money and too few goods, there's inflation. There was a year that we were all billionaires in Zimbabwe. There was a year that we all millionaires in Zimbabwe but we are trillions. The last notes that the center of being printed in 2000 was 100 thousand. \$100000000000000000 Note and he couldn't buy you two bottles of soda. So, we have been reached before. We've been richer than Americans but we we're poor. So we know the consequences of abusing a manly, abusing him to abusing uh Mthree. then there's a talk of surplus

When you look at surpluses, you must look at two things. Number one, the extreme entree by this government. The extreme the extreme ret by this government on social expenditure in social capital. We've had the COVID pandemic despite lies, there's not a single household in Zimbabwe that is received a uh a cash payment yet in his COVID intervention of April Last year, there was the 18 billion package. There was money. that was provided for vocations.

It's a lawyer. I actually went to court representing poor people to say, but where's the money? Give us the hand outs

and of course, the government was not the upcoming. So, there's been physical retreat. the twenty, the 2020 budget was only funded to the tune of 36%. So, how can someone claim a physical surplus when health is not being funded, nurses are not going to work. Doctors are leaving the country and one of the things that the minister of health has actually done is to devalue the the A degree by removing certain causes so that our young doctors are not marketable in the UK Australia, South Africa, where they've been to going to. So they're devaluing the quality of that. Uh the quality of that degree is not going to work. They're there are no teachers Teachers have not been going to work. So, there's a massive cuts in social expenditure. So, the surplus is a fiction. So, when you read the statement measured against this, it's it's it's it's it's crazy. It's a ridiculous because it is no regulation uh to this uh to to our economy. It's it's pathological uh really the disconnect between reality and and and and fiction but there's another elephant in the living room which the does not mean which the aim of does not miss it which is corruption in this country. and corruption fits in to surplus to the theory of surplus and the theory of budget deficits because because the semblance

of stability is being hid by the massive levels of corruption that are being done through the fiscal activities at the reserve bank and in other sectors of the economy that I'm talking about. So, if you look 2017. the auditor general's report. reports of 2.7 2.7000000000 US dollars being stolen through treasure through the Ministry of Finance, The budget that year was 3 billion dollars. So, you've got 3 billion dollars. then you've got an official deficit then 2 months or 2 years later towards the general's report comes and says you stole \$2.7000000000 2018 three 3.5 \$3.5000000000 was stolen twenty. A 2019 which is the report that was released 2 weeks ago. 7.6 7.6000000000 US dollars was stolen. So, 2017, 2018, 2019, 3, years of the regime around 13 billion US dollars has been stolen. Now, I've been finance minister before and thanks to the infrastructure of accountability that was left by the by the British in the minister of Finance. You you can through the pain. You can't requisite any pain. They're like four signatures that are that are required. There are serious checks and balances that were there and remember the minister of finance is an oversight ministry. Yes, we are a

ministry but you are also a gatekeeper. So, I failed to understand how the gatekeeper becomes the gate crusher. I failed to understand how the menstrual finance can be at the center of the cryptocurrency of 2.7. \$2.7000000000 2017 \$3.5000000000 2018, 6.7000000000 \$6.7000000000. So 7.6 1. billion dollars. 2019 and remember pending before parliament right now is I'm talking to you is a It's a bill called the financial adjustment bill in the financial adjustment bill. the government is seeking condemnation of 10.6000000000 US dollars which they stole between 2015 and 2017. So at the 13 billion dollars to the 10.6000000000 US dollars. So you've got what is I call Aoc Democratic state, a rogue state, a state that steals now. now this Put a premium. See the banks, any notion that they can be growth in Zimbabwe. They can be growth. When the economy has now been transferred in the hands of cartels, The recent reports by the same organization on uh on on on on and other tags like Billy Rutenberg like John Breen Kemp like Nick Van Bustos like you know, Kenneth The economy is run by Mafia. So, in the key distinction feature between Mugabe is the emergence of this economy that is bleeding. Zimbabwe, I smuggling of gold. the passing out of platinum

concessions to the Russians through GDI investments, the passing out of chrome concessions to the to the to the to the Chinese. It's a it's a mafia state. It's a it's a rogue state. So, if it It's in that context. It's it's a fiction to talk of a growth. It's fiction to talk and sustainable recover. So, to put it very cruelly as long as this country does not resolve the political challenges and as long as we don't have as long as we have a government that's you know, like this one uh we're going nowhere. What are the solutions? Number one, there must be a resolution of the political crisis. There must be dialogue this country to to avoid an implosion, to create a soft landing. So, there must be a national transitional authority to oversee the transition from the current morals to AAAA matter of hope and stability. Number two, there must be an aging economically a transition program that must focus on the following things. Number one, uh the restoration of the regime of multiple currencies if we are going to keep our our our local dollar which I guess is possible, then, let's remove any controls on the exchange rates. Let's have a markets in exchange that is determined. that is possible. that is possible. Other countries, Kenya, they're doing

it. Ghana, they're doing Uh they're they're doing it Number two, let's ring fence savings. and and patience. You can't have a country which doesn't have patience. You can't have a country which doesn't have savings. successful countries including China. They've grown on the basis of savings At least 25% uh of GDP. Zimbabwe is the only country in the world where you put your money, 2 years later, it's not, it's gone. It has been eaten by by by bring charges. So, you you can't have an economy without savings. You can't have an economy uh without uh without uh pensions. Number three, number three, the social agenda, the social agenda at least to 30% of the budget must go to the social agenda because our people are suffering. People are suffering people living with disabilities, people living with the disease, chronic diseases, HIV aids. Now, there's COVID. So, so so the state needs to have handouts. Uh you know, you know, thirty US dollars per month. It's possible. Other countries are doing it. Social grants are needed. Social security needs uh uh uh uh are needed. There used to be a massive reinvestment in education. There has to be a massive reinvestment uh in the health and so forth. Number four, we must resolve the debt crisis The debt crisis is

putting a premium on our economy. We need at least 30 billion US dollars in the next 5 years to fix our roads, to fix the power sector. I've been speaking about to to fix our dams and so forth. So, that means that we must make peace with the we must make peace with the with the World Bank. So, it means we need an app staff monitored program with the with the tough, quantitative, and qualitative. you know, you know, you know, you know, you know, you you know, you know, targets real reform that will focus on what sector uh uh reform That was a focus on uh on the trenching unnecessary. You know, you know, expenditure uh uh you know, that that will focus on the you know, competitiveness is of doing business and so forth. Number five, corruption. This is the elephant in the living room. This is the elephant in the living room. Corruption is putting a text, a premium on our country and I reckon for my own a calculation that we are losing. It is 80% of every dollar 80% of every dollar is going to corruption and under President Amazon it has been accelerated in the century with it and besides the form of corruption that we've we are talking about, we need to do with the the scourge of illicit financial flows out of Zimbabwe. Africa loses 86 billion dollars in illicit

financial flaws and know that 86 billion dollars Zimbabwe is contributing 3 billion dollars. So, corruption, it is a financial flaws is something that we have to come down at uh uh hard on the other things. growth capital formation, they speak for themselves but I said before the preconditions for all of this is political reform. We must stop killing each other. We must stop stealing elections. We must stop raping women. We must stop harassing little children like Joanna Cecilia, and so forth. We must stop by arresting journalists like and others. In other words, we must restore the social contract first as a preconditions economic resolution and lastly, we must stop lying. You know why you lie?

I was talking about.

I don't know. Thank you very much. Thanks. I anointed. You know, I got some people waiting there. I was uh to uh can I have my uh discussions? ready, Tony Robbins. Todd Moss. Tony Hawkins, are you ready? Ibbo. I'm I'm happy to go. If Tony's not ready. That's it. I mean, Okay. great. Great to see you Ibbo and thank you for for convening. Such a great talk. I know everybody's been on on staring at Zoom for a long time. So, I'm going to be exceedingly brief. I just make three three quick points One is there's obviously a high degree

of cognitive dissonance over what going on in the Zimbabwean economy. Some of the GDP figures, figures look, okay. Um obviously, the country is suffering tremendously in poverty is getting worse. I don't think we have to get derailed in ideological debates about whether GDP. Growth is necessary or not. Um the the reality is that by whether you use that as a measure or not. um Zimbabwe is actually in a pretty terrible situation even if you get 4% growth this year and maybe six or 7% growth, you're still you're going back at best to where you were in 2018 which is way less than where you were in in 1980. So the the the room headroom is going to be much better. I mean, I'm sitting here in the United States. We should be growing slowly. because we're already a wealthy economy. The the convergence you'd expect from emerging economies like Zimbabwe. We're going to going to grow at 7% this year and inflation is going to be between two and 3%. So, Zimbabwe, if it was really recovering, we would see the um the figures that we saw when uh when I was finance minister as you'd see, ten to 15% growth um which is what you'd expect for an economy like Zimbabwe. that was actually growing. I also think it's ridiculous to to tout uh Lucky Reigns um as a driver of growth because the

luck can go the other way. Zimbabwe is if anything a greater threat to future droughts. So it's great that you're good rains this year but that's not something you would give anybody credit for. Um so I actually think The economic situation is actually pretty bad. Uh the second point is that the IMF and World Bank um they are smart people but they are naive. uh and you must remember that this is an internet. These are both international organizations of which the government of Zimbabwe is a shareholder um and so they treat uh which means they are an owner of that of those institutions. A partial owner, very small but they are partial owners and they are treated like owners of those institutions. So, the organization will talk in very diplomatic terms about how well their members are doing um and also the staff of those organizations face very strong incentives to engage with all of their members and people get promoted by pushing loans out the door. Nobody is ever promoted by stopping a bad program. So, all of the incentives are to be optimistic to whitewash the problems in Zimbabwe and to uh to So, that's why we keep seeing these repeated references to recovery that seem utterly ridiculous and detached from reality. um but that's that's where we are

and then uh just my very last point um and Doctor Doctor ZI Think made an excellent point in highlighting uh Equatorial Guinea as a potential um uh negative model for Zimbabwe. Now, we're here we heard from the finance minister that Zimbabwe is open for business but we now have three reports all very well sourced. We have the Maverick newspaper report. We have the arc report and we now have the century report which all point in one direction that Zimbabwe is not open business that Zimbabwe is actually increasingly being looted by a very small circle of politically well connected people and that's partially explaining why you could have headline growth figures that don't look terrible but most people are suffering that is exactly moving in a direction like Guinea. where a very small number of people uh own everything of value in the country and the vast majority of people get nothing and they suffer um and I think it's it's very important for the Zimbabwean Civil Society and for journalists to keep pointing out this disparity between the headline. Uh the headline figures and the reality of what's going on between the government and the cartels Zi government is not like most governments around the world. It's much closer to an organized criminal. uh

enterprise and that's now evident from those three reports uh and just my last thing I would say is if there are any enterprising journalists on this call, um I think it would be really useful for someone to go through and detail all three of those reports and pull them together uh because they're actually tackling different parts of the of what's going wrong in Zimbabwe not only to try to stop the bleeding now but because at some point in the future, hopefully, the near future, all of those assets will have to be recovered for the Zimbabwean people and these reports and others that will come will be important pieces of evidence for that effort. So, let me stop there and thank you again. Uh it's it's good. It's good to have you here. Thank you. Thank you very much. uh Tony Are you ready to Okay. Can you hear me? Yes, I can hear you. Alright. Um I I'm glad um to follow Todd because I think Todd said pretty much uh most that uh needed to be said. um in in this context. Um I think I would be a little more um uh um defense of the IMF World Bank position. I think this latest IMF report if you compare it with the article for one they did early last year. Um you have to bear in mind that it was a completely new team. Uh it was a bunch of guys sitting in Washington not

talking on telephones and Zoom machines uh who didn't come here. um and then they relied on mostly the information they were getting from official uh here. I think, you know, I'm not making excuses. I'm merely stating I think uh the reality. Um the GDP numbers that have been discussed at some links uh this evening. Um I don't think they're worth the paper they're written on to a great extent. We know that uh there has been a world bank or technical assistance team helping with the compilation of the revised figures We're told these are going to come out probably um end of next month whether there will be any better. Who knows? I'm certainly not holding my breath But uh the discussion we've had in the course of the evening has highlighted the huge discrepancy between uh GDP numbers, and the reality on the ground. I'll give you just just uh an excellent example of what happened in in 2020 during the the the uh the pandemic. Uh we find that the official figures show a very small reduction in of education to GDP but we know that the schools were closed for half the year. We know that something like we're now told um Twenty-three 23% of school kids dropped out of school. So, The thing is obviously nonsensical and the same is true for the public sector uh in terms of of of government

where for a long period of time, uh something like eighty 80% of the workforce was not uh reporting for work. So, how could output have only fallen by such a small amount. So, I'm very um cynical about that, right? What one item hasn't been mentioned and And that is the forthcoming SDR allocation. uh to Zimbabwe um which is of course a general uh SDI allocation to all members of the IMF Now, this I'm told is going to be close to a 1 billion dollars and the big question then will be uh there'll be no conditions attached to it. The big question I think is going to be um how is that money going to be used? Is it going to be used to support um this so called auction which is um uh I pointed out um it's it's certainly not an option. Uh you don't have an auction with the aim of the seller is to sell for the lowest possible price. Uh so is it going to be used for that? Is it going to be used to to to compensate farmers? Uh is it going to be used to um support uh government in non and priorities Obviously, the intention of the fund would be that the money should be spent um to alleviate the impact of the pandemic and we'll see but um the fact of the matter is that that the government will have the right to do what it likes with this money because

there'll be no conditional attached to it. I just make one final point. I found this whole session deeply depressing. Uh partly because um of the dialogue of the death which I think was um shown by what Joseph said at the beginning and what speakers have said since um and I think that to me was AAA. um uh a depressing aspect um people talking about national transitions and so on and so on. All of which Um would would be desirable and I keep coming back to the point that has bothered me for many for some years now and that is that after the period of the GU, when the GNU have done so much to rebuild the economy and to get it back on its feet. the electorate went off and voted for the government that had brought the economy to its knees and it seems to me that the same will happen again and again. I'm sorry So, so pessimistic but I'm afraid. Um it's been going on because that's a long time. It's very difficult to be optimistic.

Thanks, Eva. I thank you. Thank you on that on that pessimistic not Uh I'll take just uh anyone else uh my home is there. is anybody else wants to speak? Yeah, I'm I'm good. Yes. Yeah, man. Yeah, I'm really really pleased. Okay. Yeah. Yeah. Thanks. Uh good. And uh I think uh the main observation that I've made really is that there is uh a resonating and very

emotive uh position Uh we put
it's a very important
What can I you do it?
Mamba. I think there's some
problems. Yeah, he's broken up.
We're going to. Okay, I love
you know, with a great to bring
this to to the end and ask each
one uh which says to spend um
Richard, do you have a problem
with that? with your
connection.
So, Richard,
study.
few words. Thank you. Thank
you. Thank you. Uh predictably,
I will. I will certainly not
delve into politics being uh a
very much and how much are in
that area and it is an area of
expect but just speaking uh on
the economic issues One one
thing I want to point out is
that we we are aware of all the
macroeconomic challenges that
we have faced over the past two
decades or so. Uh Forty-six.
46% decline in the economy in
cumulative GDP, decline. uh
from uh around 1997 since the
crisis of 14, November 1997
through to uh 208 and uh it's
it's it's it's of a decade of
decline continuous decline and
uh over the past two 3 years
has been highlighted
significant decline compounded
by supply side factors as well.
in my view cannot be corrected
in a single year's growth. Even
if we were to have 15% growth
that collects are highlighting
or fourteen or eighteen, it
would not be able to correct

half a day. 1010 years and a half then a decade and a half of economic decline. it goes back to the issue appointed at the beginning Do we want to achieve the issues, The social indicators, the human development indicators that have been pointed out by colleagues here. uh growth to the exclusion of jobs, social investment in education, and health. All of us who want to see for example, electricity in Japan and all of us want to see our young children going to school and not having to work perfect ten kilometers to the with the primary school or to make a primary all of us want to see in hospitals. All of us who want to see teachers going back again to schools the way it used to happen in the 1980s when I was in high school and secondary school, it's not going to be achieved in a year. It has to take as has happened in Brazil as has happened in Vietnam. I could go on and on in China. It will take 510 years of continuous successive growth that must be compounded on accumulative basis to begin to make a difference on per capita incomes on the living in standards of people on household incomes. It's like a tide tide lifts all boats in the harbor whether they are small boats or they are medium sized boats or they are big ships. The tide lifts everyone so they the key and the first

step is without stability which I think uh my colleague as new songs of of uh uh and economics but without macroeconomics, stability is the first step. There is no other road It's it's like Jesus is and the way the truth and the life. no one comes to the father but by me. there is no other road to to making conditions for our people better to accumulation of capital investment in social services, in health, in education, investment in sectors of the economy, in infrastructure. You cannot that on a sustainable business unless you begin the first step of stability, you whichever way we call it, that is the first step. and I would I would end with that. Mister chairman, I do acknowledge that many of the points that are being raised here, We must look at social indicators as well. We must not just confine ourselves to do statistics and numbers. People are important but to do that, the to step is stability, low and stable in single digit inflation sustained for 10 years for fifteen for 20 years. The way Uganda, Tanzania, and Botswana have achieved that is the first step Thank you very much for your contribution today and welcome to the club. Uh good, good having you. Thank you. Thank you so much for your contribution and as I said early on, your contribution will be will be of course it

was recorded. It's on Facebook.
It's on YouTube and we'll be
transcribing this into a policy
brief. uh uh carrying your
name. Thanks so much Joseph.
Thank you very much. Thank you.
Yeah,
Janice.

uh in which this crisis has um
has has presented itself and um
I'll come back to the issue of
addressing the crisis in and of
the state uh particularly the
state capture um and we have to
see action in terms of
arresting corruption. We have
to arrest prosecute convict and
recover assets. We need to look
at our developmental um model.
Uh this is the autocratic uh
predatory state and uh I was
just thinking as well with the
uh challenges that have been
posed by COVID-19 around the
vaccines, diplomacy and what
exactly we are giving into in
terms of our economy to where
we are getting our vaccines. We
need to look at the issue of
the rule of law. This is the
rule by law where we are still
quite a number of stationary
instruments. Um constitutional
amendments, uh different um
bills that being proposed by
the current government. Um that
leaves us wondering in terms of
um of the rule of law and our
move towards the rule by law
and uh and and cohesion. So, we
really need to look at the
state of the state. I think
that is where we we have uh a
big crisis in our development

partners, the international financial institutions have to look at this issue then the crisis of the development model that we currently have that's not addressing the human development deficits is fixated on on economic growth indicators and not addressing the burden of unemployment, poverty, and inequality which was the different faces that we've spoken about. We have a crisis uh within the developmental model around the extract industry and the ballooning resource backed loans uh which is really causing a serious debt burden that we do not know of and um the different um lack of transparency and openness in that uh in that regard. Then there's the issue of doing away with quantitative algorithms. The surpluses, everything we've spoken about and shift our conversations and our narrative uh towards how is this economy responding and ensuring that people have a decent living standard. Let us address our endangered future both in terms of climate in terms of food, in terms of health uh and in terms of our our our finance and I'll say it is really about rethinking our developmental model and the paradox of our developmental model the jobless uh growth voiceless. draw, draw, and ruthless growth and the state has to really um work on on on on ensuring that we we

we have growth that respect human development. Uh we move towards the human rights uh framework that measures uh direct development uh household economies, uh economies that makes sense uh to the people and not only look at the macroeconomic level but bring down the economics economics to the um households economies and how they are paying out it that level and II will definitely continue to push for a democratic developmental state uh that addresses our our our different challenges and takes away your voice uh from the citizens including the diaspora who are saved within the report. The World Bank reports that um actually the remittance is increased for example in 2020, what are we doing about their voice? What are we doing about uh freedom of exploration uh during the expression but also after so that we don't uh shrink the space and we have uh a simultaneous uh kind of approach uh multi pronged approach that address the different uh reforms that have to take place for us to be on a true genuine and sustained economic recovery. uh trajectory and which is not only temporary. Thank you very much. Uh a hand over back to you
Thank you, Janice. Thank you. As usual. always. So, thank you very much.
Uh thank you chairperson. I

don't have much to say Um at the moment, I almost did I almost got uh uh scared when uh mister just said that uh he doesn't want to talk about uh politics. It just reminded me of the Afro barometer survey that I was talking about. Uh seems to confirm that 79% of Zimbabweans are not free to talk about politics when they actually in the room is a is a political crisis. So, I just want to emphasize that uh you cannot economic reforms in a in a vacuum. Um you need to fix the political problem. I would really love to have this debate again. Uh mister and others in the next 18 months or so if we are going to have a general election before a resolution of the political crisis, then you'll see that there wouldn't be any sustained economic growth. So, let's not be afraid to talk about elephant in the room. Uh let us listen to the citizens who are saying that there's need for a resolution beyond include other political parties, business churches, ordinary citizens to find a lasting solution. I think uh I was I was told there uh tonight and I hope that they won't be any consequences given that I haven't been afraid to talk about politics tonight. Thanks to uh thanks very much indeed. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you very much indeed. And last but not the least,

your last words in just a minute.

how we're going to dismantle uh the structures of of corruption in the seven or heights of corruption that includes the US dollar the command command uh procurement contracts, uh substance, you know, the the the country is just way down uh by corruption and and one of the consequences the offshoot of corruption is the value system. You know, you have three decades of Zimbabweans. Uh we have noticed to education and who thinks that the likes of we and others at the euros of the day and we would think that uh why waste time going to school uh for 25 years when you can make money when when you can't write your name and so these are the things that are going to be hard to to to to to fix. I think turning around the economy. you can do this in in under a year but I would do, you know, with a value system that has been decimated by years and predatory extract. You know, you know, you know, group of men and women. So, the is is is is is huge. Uh the challenges that is huge but in Zimbabweans, collectively, we we have not, we have not time. There's absolutely no time at all and the longer the crisis persists, the more difficult it is to untangle and I'm afraid to say that uh the danger that will be permanently uh uh

Fragile society permanently fragile state are there. uh another TRC Congo, another Central Africa uh Republic, another South Sudan Uh uh if you like another Somalia uh if you like. so we need to we need to wake up. It can be business as usual. Thanks and thanks very much indeed. on that note is to not to summarize but just to first of all, to to say that uh this topic give us the opportunity to look at uh the nature of our Zimbabwe situation. Um the reports uh statement by the IMF and the report by the World Bank coming as a uh last month. uh has provided us all scanned on the information or controversial SS has been explained to they've nevertheless given us the opportunity to introspective lies our economy and lay bare as the the the panelists have done And of course, what's a way forward? they've been in and with some cheer. and diabetes. uh statements. We need a political settlement, a political solution. A few months ago, some of us wrote on this, the need for us to move towards uh a conference in Zimbabwe, an international conference in Zimbabwe. uh but faced by national dialogue. uh a regional consensus an international scaffolding, It was a transitional authority. The more we discuss this violent crisis, the more realize that the elections will

not resolve it. that we need to look at this animal authority I see in Switzerland where we started a fire. the Sikh Society is calling for transitional authority. We have seen in the Sudan. there's a transitional ecology of not of the model that we like but I think if anything, this conversation has given us some insight into the intractable nature of our problem. that cannot be resolved in. this has warned us. we cannot continue indefinitely. We simply have to put our hands together at the national level in consideration of the region. the support of the international community to begin to find solutions to our problem. I thank you again and we look forward to the next policy dialogue which may look at the way forward. Zimbabwe in the context of the discussion of the problems that we're facing. in both the region. as president illustrates but also the rest of Africa. Thank you and thank you to all those who have come and join us in the conversation to our friends at to Mosques our our our our audiences required to sell orders from the World bank IMF in Washington and the NRA officials in government. We've been listening to the Minister of Finance Thank you very much and good night.
You.