

## **Annual General Meeting – 20 March 2026 Geological Society of Zimbabwe**

Good evening, Honourable Deputy Minister, distinguished colleagues, partners, and fellow geoscientists.

It is my privilege to welcome you to the Annual General Meeting of the Geological Society of Zimbabwe. Tonight is not merely a routine gathering, it is a moment of reflection on the strides we have made, and a moment of vision as we chart the course ahead.

Over the past year, we have not simply progressed—we have transformed.

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### **Legislative Milestone**

One of our most significant achievements has been the advancement of legislation and inclusion in the mines bill, to formally recognize and register geologists. This milestone enables licensed professional practice, safeguards ethical standards, and strengthens the credibility of our profession in Zimbabwe. It is a foundation upon which our future will be built.

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### **Exploration & Industry Impact**

We have also been strong advocates for exploration in Zimbabwe, promoting large-scale exploration and investment. We have put our recommendation and continue dialogue on how exploration and mineral exploration licenses should be administered in Zimbabwe. While concerns were raised by artisanal and medium-scale miners, constructive dialogue helped us reinforce the message that EPOs complement, rather than compete with, smaller-scale operations. This engagement has strengthened our vision of a balanced and inclusive mining ecosystem.

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### **Membership Growth & Mentorship**

Our Society has grown remarkably. Paid-up membership has expanded from just over 30 to more than 100, while associate membership has surged past 200. Beyond numbers, we have invested in mentorship—working closely with student bodies such as the Mennell Society at the University of Zimbabwe and the Midlands State University Geology Student Society. In doing so, we are nurturing the next generation of geoscientists.

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### **Technical Engagement & Knowledge Sharing**

Fieldwork and knowledge exchange remain central to our mission.

- The Eureka Mine field trip attracted 134 participants, offering invaluable geological insights and practical exposure.
- Our Orogenic Gold Workshop, led by international experts, deepened global collaboration and understanding.

- The Summer Symposium bridged science, technology, and industry, covering topics from mineral policy to artificial intelligence in mining.

These initiatives have enriched our collective expertise and positioned us at the forefront of innovation.

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## **Global Positioning**

Looking ahead, we are honoured to host the INHIGEO Conference in September 2026 at Victoria Falls. This global platform will bring together geologists, historians, and scholars from across the world, positioning Zimbabwe firmly on the international stage.

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## **Committee Appreciation**

None of these achievements would have been possible without the dedication of our 2025–2026 Committee, whose service and distinction have guided the Society forward. I extend heartfelt appreciation to each member for their commitment.

We also wish to acknowledge the invaluable collaboration between the British Geological Survey and the Zimbabwe Geological Survey, who have been working together to improve and update our one-in-a-million scale geological map. This effort is a cornerstone for advancing geological knowledge and national planning.

Special recognition must go to Gayle Hanssen, whose tireless efforts in organizing workshops and forging international partnerships have greatly strengthened our initiatives. Through her leadership, we have been able to attract renowned authorities from across the globe to Zimbabwe, where they have provided training and led field trips into some of our most critical geological sites. These contributions have enriched our knowledge and elevated the standing of our Society internationally.

We also note, with deep gratitude, the support of Honorable Fred Moyo. His interest in the affairs of the Geological Society of Zimbabwe has been unwavering, and his inputs go back decades to his time in mine management. His experience brings with it a profound understanding and appreciation of the role of geology in mine development, and his continued support has been invaluable to our mission

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## **Strategic Reflection**

Our strategic retreat in Kariba laid a strong foundation through collaboration and careful planning. As we move forward, our focus remains clear: growth, relevance, and impact.

Equally important are the synergies we have developed with the National History Museum and safari operators in the Kariba area. These collaborations demonstrate how geology and tourism merge—not only in showcasing the beauty of our landscapes, but also in deepening public understanding of the earth's history. They remind us that geology is inseparable from conservation, education, and the sustainable development of our natural heritage.

We must also acknowledge that these collaborations were made possible through the efforts of Tim Broadrick, an authority on the geology around Lake Kariba. His expertise and commitment have helped us build bridges between science, tourism, and conservation, ensuring that geology is appreciated not

only as a technical discipline but also as a vital lens through which we understand and care for our planet.

Through these partnerships, we are demonstrating that caring for the earth requires both scientific insight and stewardship. Geology provides the knowledge of how our land was formed, while tourism and conservation ensure that this knowledge is shared, preserved, and valued for generations to come

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### **Closing Message & Call to Action**

Zimbabwe's geological potential is vast—but potential alone is not enough. It requires vision, collaboration, and leadership.

Let us push boundaries.

Let us elevate our profession.

Let us unlock the mineral wealth of our nation.

The future of geology in Zimbabwe is not something we wait for—it is something we create.

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### **Closing**

Thank you all for your commitment, your passion, and your service. Together, we are shaping the future of geology and mining in Zimbabwe.

Caston Musa – Geological Society of Zimbabwe (Chairperson 2025-2026)