



## **PRESS STATEMENT: THE 2019 NATIONAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT SURVEY COVERING SMALL TO MEDIUM ENTERPRISES AND COOPERATIVES**

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### **Introduction**

The Research Council of Zimbabwe (RCZ) is conducting a National Survey to identify and measure financial, personnel and other resources devoted to Research and Development (R&D) activities by Small to Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and Cooperatives.

### **Background**

R&D is a key success factor for Zimbabwe's socio-economic transformation and competitiveness as the Country strives to attain Vision 2030. R&D statistics must therefore be available for informed decision making at all levels, national, provincial to individual SMEs or Cooperatives. RCZ working in collaboration with ZIMSTAT, Ministry of Higher and Tertiary Education Science and Technology Development (MHTESTD), Ministry of Women Affairs, Community, Small and Medium Enterprise Development, Ministry of Local Government, Public Works and National Housing, Ministry of Information Publicity and Broadcasting Services and other stakeholders is conducting a nationwide R&D Survey covering SMEs and Cooperatives. SMEs and Cooperatives should use research results to produce improved goods and services that hold their own in external markets.

### **The Survey Objectives:**

- ❖ To increase awareness of the importance of R&D among SMEs and Cooperatives.
- ❖ To measure R&D efforts among SMEs and Cooperatives in Zimbabwe, in human, capital and other resources towards attainment of Vision 2030.
- ❖ To measure performance of national R&D efforts to inform the SMEs and Cooperatives R&D budgetary requirements for 2020 going forward; and
- ❖ To inform decision makers (SMEs and Cooperatives included) on policies and interventions for socio-economic development.

### **Survey overview**

The Survey comprises training of all respondents, completion of the questionnaire by trained respondents and analysis of completed questionnaires. A pilot was conducted in June 2019. The full survey will be conducted in July and August 2019. For the Pilot, two SMEs were selected from each Province. The training workshop was held on 21 June 2019. In addition to the training, final revisions to the questionnaire were also made. The questionnaire was then distributed and completed. The results are now being analysed.

Training days for the full survey for each province are as given below. Only those SMEs and Cooperatives who attend the training will be given the questionnaire to complete.

**Table: Training Dates**

| Provincial Town               | Training Date |
|-------------------------------|---------------|
| Mashonaland Central (Bindura) | 15 July 2019  |
| Mashonaland West (Chinhoyi)   | 16 July 2019  |
| Matebeleland North (Lupane)   | 22 July 2019  |
| Bulawayo                      | 23 July 2019  |
| Matebeleland South (Gwanda)   | 24 July 2019  |
| Midlands (Gweru)              | 25 July 2019  |
| Masvingo (Masvingo)           | 29 July 2019  |
| Manicaland (Mutare)           | 30 July 2019  |
| Mashonaland East (Marondera)  | 31 July 2019  |
| Harare                        | 1 August 2019 |

### Benefits to the SME or Cooperative

- Tax Rebate – all monies spent on research are deductible (Income Tax Act section 15m)
- Registering your presence and willingness to use research results raises the potential of your type of product or service being researched on
- Research results show where to go and where not to go.

### Who Can Participate?

SMEs or Cooperatives across Zimbabwe willing to embrace R&D to improve their goods and services.

- ❖ An SME is a business with a turnover of less than US\$240 000 or assets less than US\$100 000 with one to seventy-five employees.
- ❖ A cooperative is a private business organisation that is owned and controlled by the people who use its products, supplies or services. Although cooperatives vary in type and membership size, all were formed to meet the specific objectives of members, and are structured to adapt to members' changing needs.

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