



**Remarks by the UCAZ President, Cllr. J. Makombe  
on the opening of the Connective Cities Regional  
Dialogue Event: 20-22 August 2019: Sabre Business  
World, Harare**

**Salutations**

I feel greatly honoured to stand before you this morning to say a few remarks at this very important event in the partnership between UCAZ and GIZ (Zimbabwe). This event is a milestone for both UCAZ, Connective Cities and GIZ.

This event is being held under the theme *“Improving Public Service Delivery at Local Level – Solutions for Participatory and Accountable Management”*. I am informed that amongst us here, there are participants from municipalities from Sub-Saharan Africa and

municipal experts from Germany in the sectors of water, sanitation, waste management and transport.

I am sure that this selection is not by accident, but a result of careful analysis of the recurrent challenges that cities are going through. Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) services are key and cannot be ignored in our quest for efficient service delivery. The prevalence of Typhoid and Cholera outbreaks are testimony of the pivotal role that WASH services play in human development and the health of citizens in any city establishment.

While the dialogue event is largely interactive and premised on exchange of best practices in service delivery, I would like to implore on Zimbabwean cities to grab this rare opportunity and maximise on the experiences of our colleagues from the north on how they have been able to build resilient cities in the face of a host of natural and man-made disasters, including those which are a result of climate change.

I am fully aware of the business nature of this workshop. In this regard, I wish to thank the organisers of this workshop, the financial and technical support that they have extended to the Zimbabwean local authorities towards the realisation of this event. Although Zimbabwean local authorities have had their fair share of the political and economic challenges in the country, there are noticeable best practices worth your attention. These would be show-cased through the 3 days that you will be here.

Last but by no means least, I would like to join my fellow Mayor for the City of Harare and colleague mayors from the other cities to extend to our foreign visitors a hearty welcome to Zimbabwe, and wish you all a pleasant stay and fruitful deliberations.

I thank you