

JUDICIAL SERVICE COMMISSION



**INTRODUCTION OF THE GUEST OF HONOUR,
HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT OF ZIMBABWE DR
EMMERSON DAMBUDZO MNANGAGWA,**

BY

**THE VICE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZIMBABWE
AND MINISTER OF HEALTH AND CHILD CARE, HON.**

GENERAL (Retd) Dr. C. G. D. N. CHIWENGA

**ON THE OCCASION TO MARK THE OFFICIAL OPENING
OF CHINHOYI COURT ~~COPMLEX~~ COMPLEX**

ON

3 SEPTEMBER 2021

(CHINHOYI)

SALUTATIONS;

YOUR EXCELLENCY, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, I am honoured and elated to be part of this gathering today where **YOUR EXCELLENCY** is presiding over the official opening of Chinhoyi court complex, as well as the launch of the Judicial Service Commission Policies, Standard Operating Procedures and PoliciesManuals; and the Judicial Training Institute of Zimbabwe.

This is indeed a momentous occasion **YOUR EXCELLENCY** as it is in line with the Second Republic's call for infrastructural development and enhancement of access to justice. This call is clearly pronounced in the Government's economic turnaround policy document in the form of the Vision 2030 document augmented by the National Development Strategy 1 (NDS 1) document.

YOUR EXCELLENCY, as we accompanied you this morning carrying out a tour of this beautiful court house, I was gratified to note the effort that has been put in place by the Judicial Service Commission in coming up with new ways of having court sittings through the video conferencing and virtual hearings. The virulent COVID 19 Pandemic requires such innovation as it is no longer business as usual and this has

become the new normal. Both private and public institutions have no option but to adopt such behavioral changes and the Judiciary is no exception.

The establishment of a station clinic by the JSC in partnership with the Public Service Medical Aid Society (PSMAS) is a positive move which I applaud as your Minister of Health and Child Care. The Chief Justice, **YOUR EXCELLENCY**, announced that almost all members of the JSC have been vaccinated. Out of almost 2000 members of staff only 90 are yet to be vaccinated. This is by no means a small achievement. It shows that your message for us to be vaccinated is being received well.

Having made these few remarks allow me **Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen**, to introduce to you our Guest of Honour. The Guest of Honour is an experienced lawyer who has tirelessly worked to shape the landscape of the administration of justice in Zimbabwe. He qualified as a lawyer a very long time ago, having been admitted to the bar in 1976.

From 31 December 1989 to 1 July 2000, he was the Minister of Justice, Legal & Parliamentary Affairs. Having served government in other

different capacities, he returned to the Ministry of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs and served for the second cycle from 11 September 2013 to 9 October 2017, a portfolio he held simultaneously with that of Vice President of the Republic of Zimbabwe. In aggregate therefore, our Guest of Honour served as Minister of Justice, Legal & Parliamentary Affairs for a cumulative period of sixteen (16) years since independence, making him the longest serving Minister of Justice in the history of this country.

During this period, the Ministry of Justice introduced several interventions aimed at improving administration of justice in our jurisdiction. It was during his time as Minister from 2013 to 2017 that he worked tirelessly to capacitate the courts through provision of the necessary resources and financial support. He was instrumental in the introduction of the Courts Retention Fund to ensure efficient operations of the courts. This was a period when there was almost a total breakdown of service as the country was battling the effects of the sanctions which caused a myriad of economic hardships. At this time, circuit courts were failing to sit; witnesses especially women and children from disadvantaged communities failing to attend court; and

courts were operating without the minimum requirements such as bench paper; and court infrastructure was in a dilapidated state. I can state without any fear of contradiction that the Judiciary is in a-the good state it is today because of the efforts and innovations of our Guest of Honour.

On his inauguration as the first President of the Second Republic, he laid out a clear vision of taking the country to a prosperous and empowered upper middle income society by 2030. This is the **Vision 2030**. Only recently, he launched the **National Development Strategy 1** as a pedestal towards the achievement of this national vision.

Under the NDS 1, Justice Delivery is one of the cornerstones for achieving this vision as the Judiciary has a critical role to play in enhancing transparency and accountability. The JSC will be expected to establish the High Court and specialised Courts in all Provinces; construct additional Courts in small towns and remote areas as well as revamping outstanding court rooms to make them accessible to persons with disabilities.

The above should not come as a surprise given the Guest of Honour's sense of justice from early years. He found the policies of the colonial

Rhodesia to be an affront to basic notions of justice as it was characterized by hatred of the Black majority, deprivation of resources such as land and modes of production which were owned by a white minority and an institutionalized system of segregation. By reason of colour of the skin, blacks were not allowed to take up professions such as the practice of law.

Spurred by these inequities and his own sense of equity and justice, he, together with other nationalists, waged the war of liberation to attain justice for all and equitable distribution of resources including land until Zimbabwe attained its independence in 1980.

As a lawyer and leader of the liberation struggle, he was part of the delegation to Lancaster which came up with our first Constitution, popularly known as the Lancaster House Constitution.

After Independence, he held different portfolios as a Minister and Speaker of Parliament. He distinguished himself very well in all those cabinet posts which saw him leading different key ministries.

The history and achievements of the Guest of Honour are too numerous to exhaustively enumerate, suffice to state that he is a true champion of justice, empowerment and a visionary.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, Comrades and Friends, it is my Honour and please allow me now, to humbly invite our Guest of Honour **His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Zimbabwe, Cde. E.D. Mnanganwa to address us.**

I thank you!