



**SPEECH BY THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE, LEGAL AND  
PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF  
ZIMBABWE,  
THE HONOURABLE ZIYAMBI ZIYAMBI  
ON THE OCCASION OF THE OFFICIAL  
OPENING CEREMONY OF THE LUPANE MAGISTRATES  
COURT  
~  
AT  
LUPANE  
30 SEPTEMBER 2022**

## **SALUTATIONS**

**Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen**, I extend my profound gratitude to the Chief Justice Hon. Luke Malaba and the Judicial Service Commission (JSC) for providing me with the opportunity to address you all at this illustrious event.

It is my great pleasure to speak at the official opening of the new court complex here at Lupane, Mataberland North province of Zimbabwe. We gather here at the provincial capital of the province for this important event.

On the 6<sup>th</sup> of May 2022, we gathered in Harare when the **President, His Excellency Dr. E. D. Mnangagwa** officially opened the Commercial Division of the High Court at Bristol House. Not so long ago, we assembled at Mashonaland West Province in Chinhoyi when **HIS EXCELLENCY** officially opened the state-of-the-art Chinhoyi Court Complex.

We also gathered in February this year where I presided over the official launch of the virtual courts at Harare Magistrates Court. All these milestones are reflective of the Judicial Service Commission's drive in contributing towards the attainment of decentralizing courts in all provinces.

As we gather to officially open this newly-built courthouse for Lupane Magistrates' Court, it is prudent to congratulate the Judicial Service Commission for a job well done and for completing this project. I celebrate this win with you as this court is ultimately a win for justice. As the Minister responsible for justice, it is important to me to see that the Judicial Service Commission is taking its role in the administrative of justice seriously. Like I stated at your 12<sup>th</sup> year anniversary celebrations, your win is my win therefore, this is our win.

Lupane Magistrates' Court is an important court for Matabeleland North as it is the court that is in the provincial

capital. Matabeleland North is important to Zimbabwe as it is home to one of the seven natural wonders of the world. The Judicial Service Commission has done a good thing in prioritizing to build this state-of-the-art court in this tourism province. The standard of the courts the Judicial Service Commission has been building is quite world class.

The fact that we are gathered to witness the successful completion of this project also signifies the Second Republic's resolve and commitment to deliver on its development-oriented policies and programs. The era of starting projects that never get completed is long gone.

**Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,** the opening of Lupane Magistrates' Court enhances access to justice for the people of Lupane. The right to access to justice is a fundamental human right which is vital to the protection and enforcement of other human rights. Access to justice is the

enabler for the ultimate realisation of all other fundamental human rights.

Every person, regardless of gender, color, race, creed, class or other status is entitled to the equal protection of the law and to seek and obtain judicial remedies from the courts. It is therefore important that the courts are closer to the people. This is the direction that the Second Republic is going in with its decentralization and devolution agenda. We are looking forward to the continued decentralization of the courts and the establishment of the High Court in all the provinces. We also look forward to the establishment of specialised courts in all the provinces.

The Second Republic is moving under the direction laid out for us by **His Excellency** under the Vision 2030 policy document where we are saying that we are moving towards an Upper Middle-Income Society by 2030. In the interim, we

are being guided by the National Development Strategy 1 2021-2025 (NDS1) which is our first 5-year Medium Term Plan which came after the Transitional Stabilisation Programme.

Under the NDS1, we have already achieved a lot under the justice delivery system. This is evident through the decentralization and digitization of the courts which is meant to benefit the general citizenry of Zimbabwe as it makes accessing the courts convenient, transparent and effective. For this, I have to commend the Judicial Service Commission for its continued efforts to improve the justice delivery system and for setting important and achievable goals in tandem with the **NDS 1, Visions 2030**, regional and international standards and best practices.

**Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen**, the relationship between the Ministry of Justice Legal and Parliamentary

Affairs and the Judicial Service Commission continues to improve justice delivery in Zimbabwe. Even though the Judicial Service Commission was weaned from us, its continued adherence to its constitutional mandate results in continued wins for both of us.

Once again, let me congratulate the Judicial Service Commission for this achievement. I also take this opportunity to thank the Government of Zimbabwe for its support of the projects that enhance access to justice. Indeed, we are leaving no one and no place behind.

**I thank you.**