



**INTRODUCTORY REMARKS BY THE HONOURABLE
MINISTER OF JUSTICE, LEGAL AND PARLIAMENTARY
AFFAIRS**

HON. ZIYAMBI ZIYAMBI

**AT THE OCCASION OF THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE
CHINHOYI HIGH COURT AND MAGISTRATES' COURT
COMPLEX**

- 3 SEPTEMBER 2021 -

YOUR EXCELLENCY, Distinguished guests, ladies and Gentlemen,

Before I introduce the next speaker, allow me to abuse the opportunity presented to me to speak and say a few remarks. I stand here today wearing various hats. That of Minister of Justice, Legal & Parliamentary Affairs; Member of Parliament for Zvimba West Constituency in this Province; Member of politburo of the ruling party and indeed as a resident of Mashonaland West Province. Irrespective of which hat you give me I am a beneficiary of the construction and commissioning of this Chinhoyi court complex today.

As Minister of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs, you will be aware that one of my briefs from you **YOUR EXCELLENCY** is to superintend over the administration of justice of this Country. A key component of the administration of justice includes provision of court infrastructure to promote and enhance Access to Justice. Access to justice has developed to be a key Human Rights issue internationally. For that reason, it is one of the strategic focus areas of my Ministry to ensure that the citizens of this Country are able to access the courts

close to their homes and travel the shortest of distances possible to the nearest court.

We acknowledge as a Ministry, **YOUR EXCELLENCY**, that it is undesirable that we still have presence of the High Court only in five Provinces in the country at this stage of our development. We are happy that the **National Development Strategy 1 (NDS1)**, which is instructive on the need to decentralize our courts including the High Court to all Provinces will soon correct this anomaly. It is for this reason **YOUR EXCELLENCY**, that I am gratified with this giant step forward taken by the Judicial Service Commission by constructing this multi-purpose court that will house the High Court, Magistrates' Court, the Master of the High Court and the Sheriff of the High Court. As already alluded to by the Chief Justice, the Chinhoyi project was one of the projects we had in our latest one hundred days cycle under the justice sector. It is therefore a plus on my Ministry.

YOUR EXCELLENCY, my other hats are that of Member of Parliament for Zvimba West Constituency and a member of the Politburo of the ruling party. Such a massive court building in our Provincial capital is a fulfilment of the party's election promises of

infrastructural development in the Country. Over the years in my interactions with the Secretary of the JSC, Mr Chikwana, I would always ask him of the progress of this project and put pressure on him to ensure that the construction of this court is completed. It is a project that was of sentimental value to me because this building had been lying idle, derelict and abandoned for more than a decade. To have the construction resume and completed within a period of three years is indeed remarkable.

I wish to urge the JSC to continue with this expansion trajectory. By 2030, we want to have the High Court located in every province in the Country. Now we are at five and five to go.

Having said this, allow me **YOUR EXCELLENCY, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen**, to introduce the **Vice President of the Republic of Zimbabwe and Minister of Health and Child Care, Honourable General (Rtd) Dr. C.G.D.N Chiwenga** who will take us to the next stage of our programme. The Vice President is himself a decorated military commander with glittering liberation war credentials. He rose through the ranks in the ZANU PF military wing up to that of ZANLA high command holding positions such as that of

Deputy Political Commissar to the then Political Commissar, Josiah Tungamirai. Post-Independence, he continued to serve with distinction in different roles in the Zimbabwe National Army holding ranks of Brigadier, Major General and Lieutenant General until he became the Commander of the Zimbabwe Defence Forces. With the advent of the Second Republic, he became the Vice President of the Republic of Zimbabwe and currently he also holds in addition the portfolio of Minister of Health and Child Care. He is a results-oriented leader known for his demand for performance, and implementation of tasks while leading from the front.

YOUR EXCELLENCY, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, it is my honour and privilege to now invite the **Honourable Vice President of the Republic of Zimbabwe, Dr. C.G.D.N Chiwenga** to the podium.

Hon. Vice President, Sir!