



**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 COMMERCIAL  
DIVISION OF THE HIGH COURT**

~

**AT  
BRISTOL HOUSE  
6 MAY 2022**

## **SALUTATIONS**

**YOUR EXCELLENCY, THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZIMBABWE DR. E. MNANGAGWA, THE VICE PRESIDENT OF ZIMBABWE AND MINISTER OF HEALTH AND CHILD CARE, HONOURABLE GENERAL (RTD) DR D.C.N.G CHIWENGA, DISTINGUISHED GUESTS, LADIES and GENTLEMAN,** 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.

We are gathered here today to witness, extol as well as celebrate the Judicial Service Commission for its unparalleled industry, hard work and its remarkable efforts in realizing its vision and mandate. Not long ago, we were gathered at Mashonaland West Province in Chinhoyi when **HIS EXCELLENCY**, officially opened the state-of-the-art Chinhoyi Court Complex and just before we conclude the first quarter

of **2022, HIS EXCELLENCY**, is officially opening yet another Court here today. All these milestones are reflective of the Judicial Service Commission's drive in contributing towards the attainment and implementation of the Government's trajectory in improving the **ease of doing business**.

**YOUR EXCELLENCY, DISTINGUISHED GUESTS** I am pleased to say that the relationship between the Ministry of Justice Legal and Parliamentary Affairs and the Judicial Service Commission continues to strengthen in our quest to improve justice delivery in Zimbabwe. Our respective mandates carry the constitutional obligation of ensuring the efficient and effective delivery of justice to all. Informed by this important mandate, the Judicial Service Commission continues to set, important and achievable goals in tandem with the **National Development Strategy 1, Visions 2030**, regional and international standards and best practices. The

commissioning of the Commercial Division of the High Court is a significant trajectory in the justice sector. Not only will the Commercial Division join the genus of specialized courts in our jurisdiction but it will be one of the first paperless courts in implementation phase of the **Integrated Electronic Case Management System (IECMS)** which was launched on the **1<sup>st</sup> of May 2022**.

The commissioning of the Commercial Division of the High Court will create an environment in which investor interests are well protected and safeguarded. This development is part of the Ease of Doing Business Reforms that the new dispensation set in motion under **Vision 2030** to improve the investment climate in the country. This Division of the High Court is specifically dedicated to the hearing and resolving of commercial matters. The Division follows the design of other dedicated Divisions such as the Criminal Division that

seek to determine matters in specific areas of the law. The Commercial Court will specifically be mandated with expeditiously resolving commercial disputes, therefore making Zimbabwe a safe investment destination. This effort will see an increase in efficiency within the courts and expertise in the specific area of law.

The Ministry of Justice Legal and Parliamentary Affairs will play its role in ensuring that the rule of law is realized for all citizens and for foreign investors whilst championing investment and business opportunities for all. A non-efficient judicial system is a threat to the rule of law, a principle which is key to the enforcement and upholding of the **Constitution of Zimbabwe, 2013**. The steps taken by the Judicial Service Commission in this regard, are reflective of its capabilities as the custodian of our judiciary, an obligation entrusted to it by the Constitution of Zimbabwe.

As will be noticed, the Commercial Division of the High Court is now part of the genus of specialized courts in Zimbabwe, the court will be dealing with high value national and international business disputes. By means of this court, the level of accountability for presiding judges and the justice sector has increased tremendously. This means an increased accountability to the nation and foreign investors at large. This places a deserved burden on us to ensure that our courts are not damaged through the lack of accountability. Foreign investors from various jurisdictions will be approaching the Commercial Division of the High Court to enforce contracts and resolve insolvency issues based on the trust and confidence they repose on our judiciary.

The commissioning of the Commercial Court puts us on the same level with progressive judiciaries and economies alike. As a result, we now share common interests and features with other top-ranking economies which are providing regulatory

efficiency and quality justice. In driving this agenda forward, all ministries, organizations and JLOS are mandated to play their part in the dispensation of justice.

Lastly let me emphasize that as the Ministry of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs, part of our mission is to promote an effective justice delivery system that endorses the rule of law. We very much value the principles of diligence, efficiency and accessibility. It is our great pleasure to be associated with an organization such as the Judicial Service Commission that exceeds in all three principles. The Judicial Service Commission has continuously strived to enhance justice delivery in Zimbabwe as prominently evidenced today by the official opening of the Commercial Division of the High Court. This court will go a long way in enhancing access to justice and it will further create a safe haven for investors in the country.

I would to take this time and to congratulate the Honourable Chief Justice, Mr. L. Malaba and the Judicial Service Commission for being the torch bearer in the Justice Law and Order Sector. Through the **Judicial Service Commission Strategic Plan (2021 – 2025)**, the Judicial Service Commission has managed to achieve its set goals within the requisite timelines. I also thank the Minister of Local Government and Public Works and National Housing for coordinating and assisting the Judicial Service Commission in refurbishing Bristol House which today houses the Commercial Division of the High Court. These Ministries have collaborated on numerous occasions in ensuring the decentralization of courthouses as well as the promotion of access to justice throughout the country. I further extend my profound gratitude to **His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Zimbabwe, Dr. E. D. Mnangagwa** for creating an enabling environment which relates which our drive and commitment in improving the

**ease of doing business.** This is a memorable event in the justice sector as we are now convergent towards a new Zimbabwe which is envisioned in **Vision 2030** and the **NDS1**.

Lastly let me also thank each and every person gathered here today for the support you are giving to the Judicial Service Commission and the justice sector as a whole.

I thank you.