



CLOSING REMARKS

BY

THE MINISTER OF MINISTER OF DEFENCE AND WAR VETERANS

THE HONOURABLE O. MUCHINGURI- KASHIRI

AT THE COMMISSIONING OF BRISTOL COMMERCIAL COURT

HOUSE BUILDING

ON 06 MAY 2022

SALUTATIONS,

HIS EXCELLENCY CDE EMMERSON DAMBUDZO MNANGAGWA, the Vice President Comrade General Constantine Chiwenga, Honourable Ministers of State and the Cabinet here present, the Honourable Chief Justice and Judges, Secretaries of various commissions represented here present, the Secretary of the Judicial Service Commission Mr. Walter Chikwana SIR, and all our most valued distinguished guests we have reached the end of this prestigious event. We have engaged our various senses, toured and seen the magnificent building, listened to the various speakers, and celebrated together.

I have been given the responsibility of delivering the words of thanks, and in that light, may I express deep gratitude to you **YOUR EXCELLENCY**, for accepting the invitation and having taken time off your many presidential obligations to be with us here today to officiate this ceremony.

The establishment of the Bristol House Commercial Court, is another massive step towards achieving world class justice in Zimbabwe. Indeed, we have an outstanding independent judiciary that is widely admired as a continental leader. This step taken today is only going to cement this position. We are right to be proud of our Judicial Service Commission, delivering justice for the past 12 years and influencing so many jurisdictions.

As was mentioned by the various speakers, the Commercial Court will assist in curbing the enormous backlog which was facing the High Court Civil Division through hearing and settling disputes specifically of a commercial nature. That is not the only positive addition this court will bring. It will also ensure that the plans for economic development that have been set in motion by the Second Republic through various national documents is catapulted into reality, sooner rather than later.

As this event has shown, the Judicial Service Commission will continue to pursue the road of enhancing efficiency of the judiciary through advancement and the use of technology. Amongst its notable achievements, it is wholly remarkable and yet very commendable that the Judicial Service Commission launched the first phase of the Integrated Electronic Case Management System on the **1st of May of 2022**. The IECMS initiative was designed to deliver speed and efficiency improvements to the justice system.

The Judiciary has a mandate to uphold the rule of law and is doing so through the use of technological avenues. The virtual court system will in addition, save time and resources used by the litigants and legal practitioners in ensuring their presence before a court is reduced. The virtual court will definitely be a welcome addition, and is surely to make the processes smoother than they already are.

But there are real challenges still to address. Looking ahead, we need to make sure that our justice system continues to lead in the Region – that its impressive reputation is strengthened and that legal

professionals and ordinary people are equipped to seize every new opportunity. To do this, our system needs to continue with radical change, to advance modern IT and processes and to be located in buildings which are fit for purpose.

The reforms outlined here will achieve that by combining our respected traditions with the enabling power of technology. The vision is to modernize and upgrade our justice system so that it works even better for everyone, from judges and legal professionals, to witnesses, litigants and the vulnerable victims of crime. When they have to engage with the system, we want everyone to have available to them the finest justice system in the world.

As we prepare to break bread and depart, we are all reminded again of the duties that we have to further our agenda as a nation. We all have important tasks that are largely linked in a web of interconnected efficiency. One individual, organization, or task may not necessarily depend on the other, but the republic benefits more if all work together. We are all individual units that are fully functional in their own right, but when there is unity, collaboration, togetherness, we transcend even our own weaknesses, shatter ceilings and go beyond limits.

YOUR EXCELLENCY, as we close, we thank all the various stakeholders who have contributed and will continue to contribute. What we have started today will continue to affect generations to come, and it is our duty to show them what collaboration yields. As we look to the future,

we anticipate with pride and excitement, the projects that will succeed this one.

I would like to especially mention and thank the Minister in charge of the Harare Metropolitan Provincial Affairs and Devolution, and thank the Honourable minister for the warm welcome. We felt more than at home.

Special thanks go to, deservedly so, the Director of today's ceremony, Mr. Walter Chikwana for proficiently steering the events of the day. He did so with grace, professionalism and dexterity.

I also wish to thank all our service providers who contributed in one way or another to the end result that is today's programme.

YOUR EXCELLENCY, before I declare this programme closed, allow me to express gratitude to all the guests who have displayed their patriotism by travelling from near and afar to celebrate this emblematic milestone for justice. Justice must be celebrated, and your dedication has demonstrated just how important this is.

I THANK YOU.