



ADDRESS

BY

**THE PRESIDENT, HIS EXCELLENCY,
DR. E. D. MNANGAGWA**

AT

**THE 150th RECRUIT CORRECTIONAL
OFFICERS COURSE PASS-OUT PARADE**

NTABAZINDUNA

27 JUNE 2022

Director of Ceremonies;

Minister of State for Provincial Affairs and Devolution,
Matabeleland North Province, Hon. R. Moyo;

Minister of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs,
Hon. Z. Ziyambi;

Other Ministers here present;

Commissioner General of the Zimbabwe Prisons and
Correctional Services; Commissioner General M. C. N.
Chihobvu;

Senior Government Officials here present;

Commandant Zimbabwe Prisons and Correctional
Services Ntabazinduna Training School, Assistant
Commissioner S. Gate;

Senior Officers, from the Uniformed Forces;

Our Traditional Leaders here present;

Recruit Correctional Officers of the 150th Pass Out
Parade;

Distinguished Guests;

Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is my singular honour and privilege to officiate at this 150th Zimbabwe Prisons and Correctional Services, Recruit Correctional Officers' Course pass out parade.

I congratulate the 150th Zimbabwe Prisons and Correctional Services graduating class for the successful completion of your training course. This achievement, under the COVID-19 induced new normal, is a demonstration of your focus, great determination and clarity of purpose with regards joining one of our country's strategic organisation. Well done, Congratulations, Makorokoto, Amhlophe.

In the spirit of leaving no one and no place behind, it is impressive that some of the graduands of this pass out parade were drawn from the San Community. In addition, the inclusion of a significant number of women in the Zimbabwe Prisons and Correctional Services recruitment, training and staff development programmes is commendable.

This dovetails with my Administrations' thrust to ensuring equal participation by all our citizens, in Government's various broad-based empowerment and development programmes. It also demonstrates our commitment to recognise and promote gender equality as set out in our country's National Gender Policy, the African Union's Agenda 2063 and Sustainable Development Goals.

These conscious decisions further ensure that all our people enjoy the true meaning of our hard won independence, freedom and democracy, while realising their full potential. The task of the graduating class now and into the future is to resolutely help entrench public safety and security as we march towards the realisation of the Vision 2030.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

The 150th Recruit Correctional Service Officer training course, which had an enrolment of 771 students, saw no drop-outs notwithstanding the demands and high

expectations of the training programme. I, thus, applaud the graduating class for their adherence to COVID-19 guidelines and protocols, including receiving vaccine doses under the National COVID-19 Vaccination Programme.

Meanwhile, I want to commend the various stakeholders and experts who contributed towards the delivery of a comprehensive training course. Through a well-coordinated multiple stakeholder approach, the 150th Recruit Correctional Training Course class received lectures on Constitutionalism, Human Rights, Gender, Drugs and Substance Abuse, among other modules. These equipped the cadets with contemporary skills on dealing with emerging complex issues and broader global realities, characterised by the rise in the use of ICTs and associated cyber security threats, and acts of terrorism, among others.

The mutually beneficial and co-operative approach bolsters the effectiveness of our correctional services in bridging the gap between the offender, society and our quest to attaining sustainable development. This is more important as the Zimbabwe Prisons and Correctional Service is driven by the dictum **‘For the incarceration and rehabilitation of offenders and their successful re-integration into the society’**. This is more so as offenders come from the society, commit crimes against those in the society and ultimately through your work, they will go back to the same communities. It is therefore, my expectation that as competent and professional Correctional Officers, you are now ready to execute your mandate as enshrined in Part 5, Section 227 of our National Constitution.

In addition, the advancement of the vision of your organisation should remain your guiding force as you serve our beloved mother land. This must include ensuring that the correctional services lead to the successful reintegration of inmates into society

as well as inculcating a developmental, productive, and ‘forward thinking’ mind-sets among the inmates.

Under your care, inmates must thus develop ‘growth and innovative mind-sets’, for them to neatly fit in the fast changing social, business and economic environment.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

Prisons and Correctional management systems the world over, are evolving in response to the emerging realities. In our case as Zimbabwe, the focus has changed to the Correctional aspect as opposed to the punitive and retributive approach, synonymous with the colonial era. Hence, Cabinet’s approval of the principles of the Prisons and Correctional Service Bill of 2022 is one major milestone as we scale-up modernising and reforming of our prison operation and management systems.

In addition, the opening of the Female Open Prison in Marondera, bears testimony to my Administration's commitment towards reducing the challenges associated with over-crowding and improving the living conditions within prison institutions.

It is also imperative that a culture of production and productivity, hard honest work, while swiftly detecting and eliminating criminal behaviour in communities be inculcated across all levels. This must also be augmented by the use of our heritage based dispute and conflict resolution mechanisms.

Meanwhile, I am aware that work is in progress with regards to the adoption and implementation of the 'Smart Prison Concept'. The institution is challenged to accelerate the adoption of modern technological systems and applications so as to keep abreast of the ongoing digital revolution while improving prisons administration efficiencies.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

My Administration remains committed to accelerating infrastructure development across many of our Prisons and Correctional facilities, while also improving the general conditions and welfare of staff in the Zimbabwe Prisons and Correctional Services.

To date, a number of achievements have been realised towards the provision of transport and institutional accommodation for the Zimbabwe Prisons and Correctional Service. I, however, exhort the Ministry of Justice and Parliamentary Affairs to prioritise the construction and completion of outstanding staff accommodation. Our Prisons and Correctional Service Officers and their families deserve access to institutional accommodation, thus in a way contributing to improved standards of living.

Children's rights are a key tenet of the Second Republic, therefore, the construction and renovation of schools and health centres within and around the prison communities must be attended to with greater urgency.

On the agriculture front and other income generating projects, I urge the Zimbabwe Prisons and Correctional Service to fully utilise its prison farms, water bodies and an array of agriculture equipment in order to produce enough and also achieve self-sustainability. Given the support and level of capacitation which my Government has rendered to you, I expect improved production, productivity, profitability and subsequently improved service delivery.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen;

I want to challenge the 150th Recruit Correctional Service Officers' Course graduands to live up to the task at hand of ensuring that security and peace prevail in the country.

Be loyal, patriotic, disciplined, professional and dutifully uphold the precepts of your organisation's mandate.

It is your duty and responsibility to always defend our independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity, country image and interests. Your conduct in every situation must never demean the security ecosystem. Protect and safeguard the confidence our people have in the country's security establishment. Refuse the temptation and reject corrupt conduct. Corruption, involvement in crime and other acts of misconduct remain an anathema within the Uniformed Forces and the country at large.

Meanwhile, I commend the excellent contribution of our security deployees in various United Nations Peace keeping missions. The nation takes pride in the professionalism, competency, skills, knowledge and responsible attitude you our country security officers continue to display in both regional and international missions.

In light of this development, I exhort the 150th Recruit Correctional Training Course graduating class to take a leaf and learn from your senior officers, while aiming high as you progress with your individual careers.

I want to commend the Commandant of the Ntabazinduna Training School and his entire staff for their commitment and tireless efforts in transforming these graduands into professional officers, men and women. I urge you to continue providing lifelong learning guidance to officers within the Zimbabwe Prisons and Correctional Service to ably suit the dynamics in Prisons and Correctional Service Management, among other critical skills.

In conclusion, I once again applaud the 150th Recruit Correctional Service Officers' Course graduating class for taking a bold and conscious decision to be servants of our nation. You must, therefore, deliver your duty with pride, honour and distinction. Serve the nation whole-heartedly.

I also express my gratitude to the families, parents, and guardians of the 150th Recruit Correctional Service Officers' Course graduating class, for the prayers, guidance and moral support you gave these sons and daughters of our beloved mother-land, Zimbabwe.

With these remarks, it is now my honour and privilege to declare the 150th Zimbabwe Prisons and Correctional Service Pass Out parade, officially commissioned. I wish you great success in your careers.

Gods bless you all.

God bless Zimbabwe.

I thank you.