



**REMARKS BY CHAIRMAN, SERVICE
COMMISSIONS
DR VINCENT HUNGWE
ON THE OCCASION OF THE
INTEGRITY PLEDGE SIGNING CEREMONY
29 MAY 2023
DURING PSC 17th COMMISSION MEETING
10TH FLOOR BOARDROOM**

- Chairperson to ZACC, Honourable Justice Matanda Moyo;
- Deputy Chairpersons of Public Service Commission and of ZACC;
- Commissioners of Public Service Commission and ZACC here present;
- Honourable Judge of the High Court;
- Secretary to Service Commissions, Dr Tsitsi Choruma;
- PSC Heads of Agencies and General Managers and Directors, here present;
- All ZACC Management here with us;
- All staff here;
- Members of the Media;
- Ladies and Gentlemen

Good morning to you all.

It is both a pleasure and an honour to make some remarks at this auspicious occasion where we have gathered to give expression to our unwavering commitment, as the Public Service Commission in the Second Republic, to integrity, honesty, prudence, transparency, accountability, servant

leadership, among a host of other noble values we stand for. These are all values that we are diligently and relentlessly working to usher in within the file and rank of the Public Service as a whole. This is within the context of the Work Culture Transformation we are spearheading as part of a raft of measures Government is implementing towards Public Sector Transformation.

At the very advent of the Second Republic, His Excellency, President Emmerson Dambudzo Mnangagwa, identified corruption as one of the main impediments for the country's economic growth and vowed to take measures against it. This has seen the establishment of anti-graft bodies such as the Special Anti-Corruption Unit housed in the Office of the President and Cabinet as well as the strengthening of ZACC, among other interventions.

Our particular relationship with ZACC goes back a long way. In February 2021, the Public Service Commission and ZACC signed a Memorandum of Understanding. The purpose of

the MoU is to provide a broad base for cooperation between the two Commissions with the intention of combating corruption and economic crimes committed by public officials in the course of their duties.

Article 3(g) of the above-mentioned MOU provides for collaboration in enforcing systems, policies and legislation aimed at combating corruption within the public service sector. It is in line with article 3(g) of the MOU that The National Anti-Corruption Strategy Committee (NACS) mooted the idea of the signing of Integrity Pledges by members of the Service and the general public.

Integrity pledges by their nature are social contracts through which participants, that is, individuals or sectors, proclaim their commitment to act against corruption. The idea of coming up with Integrity Pledges was adopted by the NACS steering Committee in April 2021.

The rationale behind the need for the signing of pledges is that the Government of Zimbabwe declared zero tolerance to corruption. To facilitate the achievement of zero tolerance for corruption, integrity pledges have been seen as one of the key measures to fight corruption through the promotion of high standards of ethical behaviour and good corporate governance as it heavily relies on voluntary individual oaths. Best practices from other countries, such as Malaysia and India, that in their Anti-corruption strategic frameworks have experienced phenomenal changes in the moral fabric of their societies resulting in successful efforts to curb corruption.

This initiative requires a deliberate and intentional effort by all citizens through a commitment to act in a transparent and accountable manner. Therefore, the implementation of the integrity pledge by all citizens is envisaged to instil good ethics that ultimately lead to an improved standard of living with a positive impact.

The Integrity Pledges that we are signing today are social contracts through which you and me proclaim our collective commitment and efforts to fighting corruption. The Zimbabwe Anti-Corruption National Steering Committee thus is facilitating the signing of the Integrity pledges across the country, with the major objectives as to: -

- Prevent corruption,
- Help protect public resources,
- Promote transparency and accountability,
- Enhance service delivery, promote fairness at the workplace

In this view, the subject matter binds participants to proclaim and live by the highest level of commitment to shunning corruption at all levels. Noteworthy are the categories of participants in the broader exercise of integrity pledge signing. These can be members of Government, candidates for office, public officials, political parties, as well as other stakeholders.

Notably, ZACC has been empowered by the Constitution of Zimbabwe to steer the fight against corruption but every organisation should either prevent or minimize corruption in their own spheres of influence. In our own case as the Public Service Commission, we commit to heralding this exercise of Pledge Signing throughout the Civil Service. It is our intention to demonstrate, in the first instance, exemplary steps towards re-asserting our dedication to fighting corruption for the benefit of the nation and citizens we serve through our public service delivery system.

One can never over-emphasise the crucial need for prudent stewardship of national resources. As the Public Service, we intend to safeguard, protect and preserve those resources under our purview in order for maximum value to be derived.

Our Integrity Pledge Signing Ceremony of today is thus critical as we seek to foster and bolster a transformed culture of integrity, honesty and accountability amongst the

Public Service. We stand with ZACC as they gear up to cascade this in the whole of the Public Service and support and enable them all the way. We are together in this for the long haul.

Without taking much of your time **Ladies and Gentlemen**, let me make way for our further proceedings in this our very auspicious Ceremony.

I Thank you!