

2025

JAN - MARCH



MINISTRY OF JUSTICE,  
LEGAL & PARLIAMENTARY  
AFFAIRS

# NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the 1ST Quarter edition of the Justice newsletter! We're excited to share some exciting updates, insights, and upcoming events. Dive in to see what the sector holds and get involved!

## JUSTICE UPDATES

### Updates

We are thrilled to announce significant advancements within the Justice sector of the Zimbabwe United Nations Development Corporation Framework as reviewed during the Peace Pillar Review and Planning Meeting

### Mechanisation

ZPCS commitment to sustainability and mechanization is making impressive progress as noted at Ridigita Prison in Marondera

### Upcoming Events

The Ministry is making tremendous preparations to Exhibit at the Zimbabwe International Trade Fair from the 21st to 26th of April 2025.

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# OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE 2025 LEGAL YEAR IN HARARE



Hon. E. Gwaunza officially opened the 2025 Legal Year in Harare, under the theme: "Building Public Confidence in the Judiciary through Stakeholder Participation." This theme emphasizes the crucial need for the legal sector to refocus and collaborate in order to enhance public trust in our judiciary.

## **Commitment to Collaboration**

The official opening was attended by the Deputy Minister, Hon N.T Mazungunye and Permanent Secretary, Mrs V. Nyemba, showcasing the sector's commitment to collaborative efforts. Their presence underscores the importance of unity among stakeholders in fostering a transparent and accountable judicial system.

## **Promotion of Decentralisation**

In an effort to promote decentralization, Chief Justice L. Malaba officiated the program in Bulawayo, while in Mashonaland West Province, the official opening was led by Deputy Judge President Justice G. Mawadze at the Chinhoyi High Court. The event celebrated the remarkable achievements of Zimbabwe's courts, reflecting the dedication of our judiciary to serve the public effectively.

## **Impressive Court Performance**

A standout achievement highlighted during the event was the performance of the High Court of Chinhoyi in 2024. The court finalized 1,830 out of 1,836 cases, achieving an impressive 99.6% completion rate! This accomplishment is a testament to the hard work and commitment of our judicial officers.

Deputy Minister, Hon N.T Mazungunye and PS V Nyemba and Deputy Attorney General N.Dias after the official opening of the Legal Year in Harare.



# NEWSLETTER

by: C.T Chaleka  
Communications & Advocacy

2025

## Enhancing Food Security through Prison Agriculture

*The Minister of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs Hon Ziyambi and Hon N.T Mazungunye during a tour of Ridigita Prison in Marondera on the 31 st of January 2025*



The Ministry of Justice is committed to enhancing food security in our nation by improving agricultural activities within our prison system. During a recent tour of Ridigita Prison Farm in Marondera on the 31st of January 2025, Hon. Ziyambi announced exciting plans to introduce mechanization equipment aimed at boosting agricultural productivity.

Hon. Ziyambi emphasized the importance of this initiative not only for food security but also for equipping inmates with essential skills that will aid in their rehabilitation and reintegration into society. He praised the resilience of Ridigita Prison, highlighting its ability to maintain agricultural activities through manual labour despite facing challenges due to inadequate equipment.

This initiative marks a significant step toward fostering sustainable agricultural practices within our prisons, ultimately contributing to the nation's food security





# Progress and Priorities

## Peace Pillar Review & Planning Meeting

### Highlights

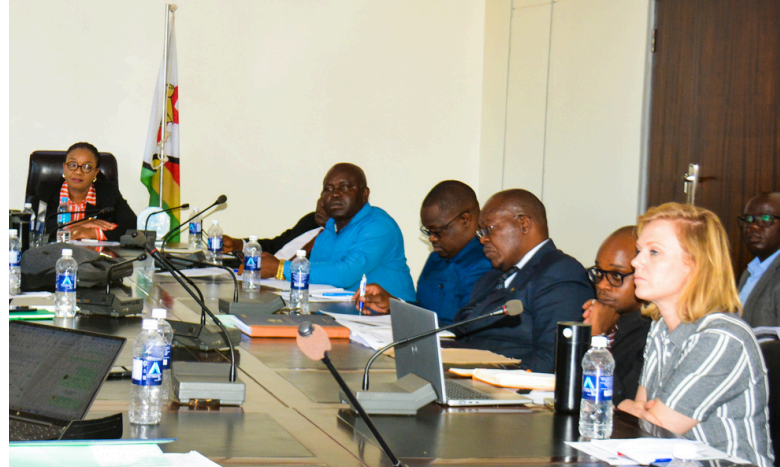
In the Peace Pillar Review & Planning meeting of the Zimbabwe United Nations Development Corporation Framework (ZUNDAF) held at the Ministry of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs (@MoJLPA) headquarters on the 7th of February 2025, Permanent Secretary Mrs V. Nyemba shared encouraging updates on the Ministry's ongoing efforts to promote empowerment, resilience, and equity. She underscored the importance of collaboration as the Ministry strives towards achieving access to justice for all by 2030.

#### KEY HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MEETING:

A report presented during the session outlined significant strides made by the Ministry in fostering social cohesion, enhancing access to justice, and supporting peace building initiatives aligned with the "Peace" pillar.

#### 2024 Key Success Areas:

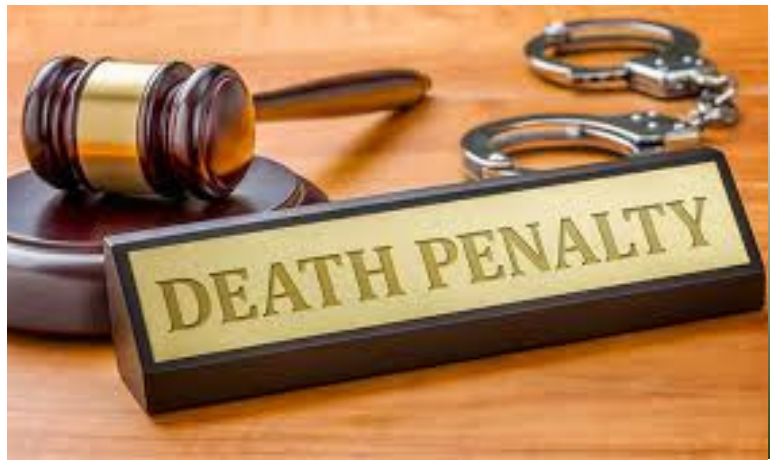
1. Completion of Judgments: The Ministry achieved a remarkable 100% completion in summarizing judgments (1,186 out of 1,067), surpassing the initial target of 90%. This accomplishment enhances transparency and ensures critical legal information is accessible to all.
2. Public Awareness Campaigns: Our outreach initiatives successfully reached diverse communities through radio broadcasts and exhibitions, raising awareness of legal rights and justice.
3. Child Offender Diversion: A total of 780 child offenders were diverted, reflecting a significant commitment to protecting vulnerable populations and ensuring their rehabilitation.
4. Decentralization of Legal Aid: The acquisition of new offices in Beitbridge, Plumtree, and Binga will mark a significant step towards devolution and decentralization of legal aid services, bringing justice closer to under served regions.
5. International Human Rights Obligations: The Ministry remains dedicated to fulfilling its international human rights commitments. It actively participated in key reporting processes, including the ICCPR reporting and the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR). Notably, Zimbabwe presented its report on the Rights and Welfare of the Child to the African Union.





# Zimbabwe Abolishes Death Penalty: A Landmark Step for Human Rights

Geneva, Switzerland - February 24, 2025



In a significant advancement for human rights, Zimbabwe's Minister of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs, Hon. Ziyambi Ziyambi, announced during the High-Level Segment of the 58th Session of the Human Rights Council that the country has enacted the Death Penalty Abolition Act as of December 31, 2024.

This historic legislation underscores Zimbabwe's commitment to the principles outlined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). By abolishing the death penalty, Zimbabwe affirms that the right to life is fundamental to all human rights, as emphasized in Article 3 of the UDHR and Article 6 of the ICCPR.

Hon Ziyambi further highlighted that the abolition represents a crucial step toward establishing a justice system that prioritizes human dignity and respect for life. The new Act revises several existing laws to remove any references to the death penalty, replacing them with a focus on rehabilitation, proportionality, and justice. Additionally, it includes provisions to ensure that individuals previously sentenced to death will be resentenced fairly, reflecting the ideals of dignity and justice.

This legislative change marks a pivotal moment in Zimbabwe's ongoing efforts to align its legal framework with international human rights standards, reinforcing the nation's dedication to promoting and protecting fundamental human rights for all its citizens.

## **Commitment to Regional Cooperation and Human Rights**

Hon Ziyambi further emphasized Zimbabwe's role as the current Chair of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), noting that this position exemplifies the collaborative spirit of the nation and its commitment to fostering strong regional and global partnerships. The government is dedicated to ensuring that its legal framework aligns with domestic, regional, and international human rights standards.

In line with its human rights obligations, Zimbabwe continues to cooperate with special mandate holders and is proactive in meeting its reporting responsibilities. This year, the government is preparing for the upcoming Periodic Report to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, scheduled for review on March 6 and 7, 2025. Furthermore, Zimbabwe is set to host the Working Group on Violence Against Women and Girls, its Causes and Consequences, in August 2025, reflecting its commitment to addressing critical human rights issues in the region.





## Commitment to Ethical Practices and Good Governance

In a recent development, the Ministry's unwavering commitment to upholding the principles of justice and fairness was further evidenced by the commitment made by officers in the Ministry to live by the integrity pledge. Officers from the Community Service and Deeds department completed the final step of signing the Integrity Pledges at the @MoJLPA headquarters on the 13th of February 2025.

The Integrity Pledge signifies a formal commitment by public officials to adhere to high ethical standards in their professional conduct. It implies:

1. **Commitment to Ethical Practices:** Pledgers promise to uphold integrity and ethics in all their dealings, reflecting the Ministry's core values.
2. **Accountability:** The pledge emphasizes that officers will be accountable for their actions, promoting transparency in their roles.
3. **Public Trust:** By committing to ethical behavior, the officers aim to enhance public trust in the Ministry and its operations.
4. **Collective Responsibility:** The initiative highlights that integrity is a shared responsibility among all public officials, reinforcing a culture of accountability.

The important initiative highlighted the Ministry's unwavering dedication to ethical practices and good governance as public officials. The program was facilitated by the Zimbabwe Anti-Corruption Commission and commissioned by Mr. T.F. Godzi, Chief Director. This collaborative effort reinforces the Ministry's commitment to integrity and accountability within the public service.

We believe that these pledges will foster a culture of transparency and trust, ultimately benefiting the communities we serve as we strive to achieve access to justice for all by 2030.

## #No To Corruption

# 2025



## Empowering Tomorrow: Promoting Constitutional Awareness in Schools

Bulawayo, Zimbabwe — In a recent initiative aimed at fostering constitutional awareness, the Ministry of Justice recently visited multiple schools in Bulawayo Metropolitan including King George, St Bernards Primary, Sigombe, Njube, Tategulu, Mckeurtan Primary etc among many others focusing on promoting inclusivity and education for all learners, by distributing the sign and braille versions of the Constitution.

The visit was led by the Constitution and Parliamentary Affairs (CPA) department, who underscored the objectives of Section 7 of the Constitution, which mandates public awareness of constitutional rights. During the sessions, the department advised school headmasters and staff on the necessity of integrating constitutional education into the school curriculum, ensuring that students understand their rights and responsibilities as citizens.

The Constitutional and Parliamentary Department, engaged directly with the learners, explaining how the constitution protects individual rights and promotes social justice.

“The constitution is the supreme law of the land that guarantees your rights,” Legal Officers stated, encouraging learners to familiarize themselves with its contents. The CPA team prioritized inclusivity throughout the event, providing copies of the constitution in Braille and sign language formats for students with visual and hearing impairments. This thoughtful approach ensured that every learner had equal access to essential information regarding their rights.

Students actively participated in discussions listing their rights, sharing their thoughts on fairness and justice. Many expressed gratitude for the opportunity to learn about their rights in a manner that was accessible and engaging. The initiative not only educated the students but also inspired them to become advocates for their rights and those of their peers.

As the Ministry of Justice continues its efforts to raise constitutional awareness, the visit to Bulawayo metro marks a significant step towards creating an informed and empowered generation of citizens. Through such initiatives, the Ministry aims to instill a culture of respect for individual rights and freedoms paving the way for a more equitable society whose culture is constitutionalism.



# 2025



## UPCOMING EVENTS:



The Ministry will exhibit at the 2025 ZITF from 21st to 26th of April 2025.



The Ministry will host Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women and Girls, its Causes and Consequences in August 2025



Awareness Programs



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