



**SPEECH BY THE MINISTER OF PUBLIC SERVICE, LABOUR AND
SOCIAL WELFARE, HON. PROF. P. MAVIMA (MP)**

**AT THE 8TH EDITION OF AFRICA PUBLIC SERVICE DAY
COMMEMORATIONS**

IN VICTORIA FALLS,

21-23 JUNE 2021

Director of Ceremonies,

The Honourable Vice President, Gen. (Rtd) Dr Constantino Guveya
Dominic Nyikadzino Chiwenga

The African Union Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and
Security, His Excellency, Amb. Bankole Adeoye,

The Minister of Public Service Management and Good Governance for
the United Republic of Tanzania and AU Specialised Technical
Committee (STC) Chair, Hon. Mohamed O. Mchengerwa,

All Cabinet Ministers Here local and from AU member States here
present and those following us virtually,

Your excellencies Ambassadors of countries here present,

The Chairman of the Public Service Commission, Dr. V. Hungwe,

The President of the Zimbabwe Confederation of Public Sector Trade
Unions, Ms Cecilia Alexander

Senior Government officials here present,

Our esteemed Public Servants,

Comrades and friends

It is my singular honour and pleasure to welcome you to this event to mark the 8th Continental Africa Public Service Day commemorations, which we are delighted to host. I would like to thank those of you who are here present and those following us virtually for joining and participating in this unique 8th edition of Africa Public Service Day as we celebrate this very important event on the AU calendar. These celebrations are unique as this is the first time we are celebrating them in an unfamiliar fashion due to the menacing effects of Covid 19 that have overhauled the way we operate as the Public Service.

These commemorations are historic, given that they are being held at a time the Covid-19 pandemic has engulfed the world since its outbreak in November 2019. As a nation, we continue to take all necessary precautions prescribed by the World Health Organization (WHO) to stop the spread.

Given this background, the Eighth Africa Public Service Day commemorations, took this hybrid format involving the Government of Zimbabwe, the African Union and the champion states who are congregated here in the City of Victoria Falls, while the rest of the delegations are participating virtually.

Africa, like any other part of the world has been hard hit by the COVID-19 pandemic and everyone here can attest that the past 18 months were characterized with lockdowns and stoppages in the operations that drive our economies as we focused on saving lives, a move we should continue to uphold since the danger is still around us and some countries are being hit by the third wave.

None the less, we are here to celebrate the Africa Public Service Day, a day that originated from the 1st Pan African Conference of Ministers of Public Service and Administration that was held in Tangier, Morocco in 1994. In their Declaration, the Ministers resolved that the 23rd of June of every year should be celebrated as the Africa Public Service Day.

The objective of the day is to unite and commit African countries to the ethos and practice of good governance in the delivery of services

to the African population. Africa Public Service Day was adopted at Pan-African Ministers Conference held in Stellenbosch, South Africa in May 2003 and the African Union placed the Africa Public Service Day as a key event on its calendar. Accordingly, the event is commemorated annually at national level and biannually at continental level.

The main purpose of the Day is to appreciate and recognize the work by public servants in the discharge of their duties to the communities they serve as well as their contribution to national development and ultimately the prosperity of the African people. In addition, the celebrations are designed to build public awareness and appreciation of the role of the Public Service in the developmental trajectory.

This platform is strategic as it enables us as Public Servants in Africa to interrogate and reflect on the functions of the public service and how to make them better and more effective, efficient and representative.

We should make sure that, in the discharge of their duties, public servants should be sufficiently remunerated and provided with proper tools to make them effective and protected from job related risks. The advent of the Covid-19 pandemic further exacerbated the workplace challenges, which, unfortunately, saw some of our frontline workers losing their lives. It is our role as Governments to honour the public service workers. Of fundamental importance is the need to recognize and reward performance.

Our frontline workers who include health personnel, port of entry personnel, teachers and the security forces continued to serve under the covid-19 environment and their efforts led to the saving of many lives.

COVID -19 has highlighted the Indeed we need to adopt the use of ICTs. We want to thank the AU for encouraging this shift to ICTs through such theme, “**Deploying technology to sustain and**

enhance service delivery in the face of this challenging Covid-19 pandemic climate”

The Africa Public Service Day we are commemorating today is anchored within the African Union Agenda 2063 which is the continent’s master plan of transforming Africa into a global power house. The goal is to attain an inclusive and sustainable society which is a manifestation of the African drive for Unity. We can only achieve Agenda 2063 to the extent that we sustain an effective, efficient, democratic and ethical Public Service.

It is our conviction, ladies and gentlemen that the AU will continue to uphold the hopes and aspirations of the founders of APSD as gatherings such as this will continue to provide insights about preserving ethical public service and administration systems, as epitomized by this year’s theme, ***“Building the Africa we want through embracing an ethical culture that underpins purpose driven leadership in the Context of a Crisis”*** .

As we move towards this direction we should always bear in mind that a disgruntled workforce is less productive. Therefore as we leave this conference let us continue to promote an ethical public service.

Zimbabwe’s hosting of the 8th edition of the continental commemorations in the resort city of Victoria Falls is historic. We took over from Kenya who hosted the 2019 Edition and it is our hope that the next host country will maintain the vibrant legacy.

I thank you.