



SPEECH

BY

THE PRESIDENT

HIS EXCELLENCY, DR.E.D. MNANGAGWA

**AT THE COMMISSIONING OF BUSES FOR THE PUBLIC SERVICE
COMMISSION**

1 DECEMBER 2021

MORRIS DEPOT

Director of Ceremonies;

Vice President and Minister of Health and Child Care, Gen. (Rtd), Dr. C. G. D. N. Chiwenga;

Minister of State for Harare Metropolitan Province, Hon. Sen. Eng. O. Chidawu;

Minister of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare, Hon. P. Mavima;

Other Ministries here present;

Chairman of the Public Service Commission, Dr. Vincent Hungwe:

Public Service Commissioners;

Secretary to the Service Commission, Amb. J. Wutawunashe;

Commissioner General of the Zimbabwe Republic Police, Godwin Matanga;

Senior Government officials here present;

Ladies and Gentlemen.

It gives me great pleasure to once again officiate at this momentous occasion to commission buses for the Public Service Commission, which Government has acquired to address the transport needs of its workers.

In March 2020, we were gathered at this same venue to commission 33 buses that were integrated into the Public Service Commission fleet. This followed the commissioning of the initial 25 buses in 2019.

Today, for the third time in this New Dispensation, I am pleased to commission 13 more buses and 30 service delivery vehicles.

These new buses, together with the already existing fleet, bring the total number of buses disbursed to the Public Service Commission, to the total of 108. This is part of the National Fleet acquired to date of over 300 buses under ZUPCO, which service various routes in both rural and urban areas.

I am confident this additional fleet of buses for the Public Service Commission will make a great difference in expanding and enhancing the coverage of different routes for our workers, throughout the provinces.

Plans are underway for the procurement of an additional 100 buses. Government will continue to provide the much needed non-monetised benefits to civil servants in the form of subsidised transport, and to spur enhanced service delivery to our citizenry. Indeed, a sustainable transport model is a critical instrument for enhanced public service delivery.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

As Government, we are determined to continue providing both the soft and hardware transport infrastructure, which promotes empowerment, employment and social inclusion, while serving as a spring-board for improving the quality of life for our people.

A comprehensive road rehabilitation programme is ongoing and will lead to improved road safety in both urban and rural areas. Hence, our quest to achieve Sustainable Development Goal number 11, with regards to “Sustainable Cities and Communities,” anchored on an affordable transport system, among other key fundamentals, remains guaranteed.

It, therefore, gives me pride that the Public Service transport system is distributed throughout our ten provinces in line with our national imperatives and the Devolution and Decentralisation Agenda. The buses are great enablers for workers to connect to their work places regardless of where they live.

My Government is constantly channelling resources towards improving the conditions of service for our public sector workers. The workers are indeed the most important resource that facilitates the implementation of the National Development Strategy 1 (NDS-1); as we work “Towards a Prosperous and Empowered Upper Middle Income Society by 2030”.

Indeed, Government’s commitment to better the plight of its workforce is demonstrated by the recent award of United States dollar bonuses extended to civil servants. Ensuring a motivated, well looked after and productive workforce, which delivers quality and efficient public services, remains a key priority of my Government.

I commend the Public Service Commission and its partners such as the Harare Institute of Technology for introducing e-ticketing in the form of the Tap and Go Card System, which increases efficiency and convenience to the commuting workers. This is applauded and dovetails with our thrust to grow a Digital and Knowledge Based Economy as espoused in our NDS-1 and Vision 2030.

In addition to the buses, the vehicles we are commissioning today add to the already existing fleet of the Public Service Commission buses and will be distributed to the provinces to enhance service delivery across the length and breadth of our nation. The vehicles will further facilitate the monitoring and evaluation of Government programmes and projects.

Today's gathering is proof that my Government is achieving notable milestones with regards to reform measures of the Public Service and overall national priorities. One of which is to ensure that our workers continue to live a decent life.

Besides the buses and vehicle, through the Public Service Commission, my Government also has an array of other non-monetary benefits. These include residential stands, low cost housing, and duty-free importation of cars as well the newly introduced Government Employees Mutual Savings Fund.

Regrettably, while as an employer, Government is implementing all these measures, it is disheartening that some employees, as has now been revealed, are working with foreign Governments to undermine workplace harmony as well as national peace and security.

Fortunately, my Government has the requisite capacity to ensure workplace harmony and guarantee national peace and security.

Lastly, I want to take this opportunity to thank all patriotic, committed and loyal Government workers for the patience that they have shown in the face of various socio-economic challenges, including the COVID-19 pandemic, which has wreaked havoc on a global scale. I applaud you for remaining resolute and for wholeheartedly serving our great nation. Let us continue on this path guided by our mantra that; “ Nyika inovakwa nevene vayo”.

With these remarks, it is now my pleasure and honour to officially commission the fleet of buses and service delivery vehicles that are lined up here.

God bless you all.

God bless Zimbabwe.

I thank you.