

ELEVENTH POST-CABINET PRESS BRIEFING

23RD APRIL, 2024

1.0 REPORT BY THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE INTER-MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE ON DRUG AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Cabinet approved the report by the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Drug and Substance Abuse as presented by the Chairperson, Minister of Defence, Honourable O.C.Z. Muchinguri Kashiri.

Government continues to intensify its response against drug and substance abuse across the country. Since January 2024, about 6 148 people were arrested, 677 were suppliers and 5 471 were end-users. A total of 106 illegal drug and substance trading bases were identified, raided and destroyed in Harare, Shamva, Chinhoyi, Bindura, Bulawayo and Mutare. Fifty-one liquor outlets were charged for operating without the correct licenses and while 268 operators were also arrested for violating license conditions, 17 outlets had their licenses cancelled for violating operating conditions. A total of 311 countrywide inspections on medicine outlets were conducted and 62 lines of medicines were confiscated.

Awareness campaigns on drug and substance abuse are being accelerated targeting adults, youths and children.

The Youth Service in Zimbabwe training programme will start in June 2024 at Dadaya and Vumba Training Centres. In addition, as a key measure to reduce indulgence, ensuring financial inclusivity is being heightened and a total of USD20 000 has been loaned to youths across the country for income generating projects through the Empower Bank.

Cabinet has approved the Zimbabwe Multi-Sectoral Drug and Substance Abuse Plan 2024-2030 that outlines a comprehensive strategic approach to address the escalating threat of drug and substance abuse to public health, economic growth, national security, and social stability in Zimbabwe.

The decentralization of the Drug and Narcotics Department will be expedited. Cabinet also approved the review and updating of fine structure of the organization and directed that suppliers must be prosecuted through the courts and not through spot fines. Establishment of outpatient Psycho-Social Support Centers and parenting groups countrywide as well as the purchase of psychotropic medicines and food provisions for rehabilitation centers will be expedited.

2.0 DRAFT PRINCIPLES FOR THE ZIMBABWE DRUG AND SUBSTANCE AGENCY BILL

The Minister of Defence, Honourable O.C.Z. Muchinguri Kashiri updated Cabinet on the Principles for the Zimbabwe Drug and Substance Agency Bill.

The Nation is advised that the prevalence of drug and substance abuse has become a global issue and Zimbabwe has not been spared. Drug and Substance Abuse has become a threat to economic development, social harmony, health and wellbeing, public order and security. Cabinet has thus approved the Principles for the enactment of the Zimbabwe Drug and Substance Agency Bill, 2024 that paves way for the establishment of an additional Security Service and specialized Drug and Substance Elimination Agency/National Drug Agency. The Agency will be responsible for the enforcement of laws that deal with drug and substance trafficking, use and abuse as well as coordinating efforts of other support services.

3.0 PROGRESS REPORTS ON THE 1ST 100-DAY CYCLE OF 2024

Cabinet received reports on progress made in the implementation of priority projects for the 1st 100-Day Cycle of 2024, as presented by the Ministers of Primary and Secondary Education; and Home Affairs and Cultural Heritage.

3.1 The Minister of Primary and Secondary Education, Honourable Torerai Moyo reported progress on projects under his purview as follows:

- i. the registration of 40 newly built and existing satellite schools in all the provinces is on course for completion before the end of the cycle;
- ii. the upgrading of school infrastructure (rehabilitation and upgrading of classroom blocks, administration offices, accommodation, water and sanitation hygiene facilities) at 11 schools is on course for completion before the end of the cycle;
- iii. the construction and conversion of 10 laboratories at schools in Manicaland, Matabeleland North; Harare Metropolitan, Masvingo and Mashonaland provinces is on course for completion before the end of the cycle; and
- iv. the construction of four sustainable and affordable boarding facilities in Manicaland, Masvingo and Mashonaland East provinces to reduce walking distances for learners is on.

3.2 The Minister of Home Affairs and Cultural Heritage, Honourable Kazembe Kazembe reported progress on projects under his purview as follows:

- i. the establishment of the Howard Mission Community archive in Mashonaland Central province is 20% complete;

- ii. Resource mobilisation for the decentralization of e-passport services to Gokwe South, Midlands province is currently under way;
- iii. the storyline development and the collection acquisition exercise in all wards have been conducted for the refurbishment of Nambya Community Museum at Hwange, Matabeleland North province; and
- iv. 15% of the overall works on the Online Border Management System has been completed.

4.0 JOINT VENTURE AGREEMENT FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A CABLE MANUFACTURING PLANT

Cabinet considered and approved the proposed Public Private Partnership Project between ZESA Enterprises (Pvt) Ltd. and Management Services as presented by Honourable Mthuli Ncube, Minister of Finance, Economic Development and Investment Promotion.

The nation is advised that in support of the initiative to promote investments and access to reliable and affordable energy. Cabinet approved ZESA Enterprises (Pvt) Ltd. to conclude an agreement framework with Management Services Company establishment of a US\$25 million transmission cable manufacturing plant in Harare. The joint venture project will enable the transfer of technology and expertise to ZESA Enterprises and its staff. The project will ensure availability of power cables for the revitalization and expansion of transmission and distribution networks to meet national targets for increased access to electricity.

Cabinet advises that players in the mining and cable manufacturing value chains and downstream industries will also benefit significantly from the project. The local copper mines will have a local market for their produce, and there will be significant employment opportunities for Zimbabweans. The value chains will also contribute to increased gross domestic product, through local, regional and continental cable and related product sales which will also include exports.

5.0 REPORT ON THE STATE VISIT BY HIS EXCELLENCY DR. WILLIAM SAMOEI RUTO, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA

Cabinet received and noted the report on the State visit by His Excellency Dr. William Samoei Ruto, President of the Republic of Kenya as presented by Honourable Dr. F.M. Shava, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Trade.

The nation is informed that His Excellency the President Dr E.D Mnangagwa invited his counterpart, His Excellency, Dr. William Samoei Ruto, President of the Republic of Kenya to officiate at the Zimbabwe International Trade Fair (ZITF) 2024. The two Presidents will witness the signing of a number of Memoranda of Understanding agreed upon by the officials at the Zimbabwe/Kenya Joint Permanent Commission.

I THANK YOU!