

JUDICIAL SERVICE COMMISSION

“A Zimbabwe in which world class justice prevails!”



**CLOSING REMARKS BY
THE CHIEF JUSTICE OF ZIMBABWE
THE HONOURABLE MR JUSTICE LUKE MALABA**

**ON THE OCCASION OF THE CLOSING CEREMONY FOR
THE 7TH CONGRESS OF THE CONFERENCE OF
CONSTITUTIONAL JURISDICTIONS OF AFRICA (“CJCA”)**

**ELEPHANT HILLS RESORT,
VICTORIA FALLS**

1 NOVEMBER 2024

SALUTATIONS,

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, I am honoured to stand before you to deliver the remarks marking the end of the 7th Congress of the Conference of Constitutional Jurisdictions of Africa (“CJCA”). There is no doubt that the success of the 7th Congress was only possible through your full attendance and participation. The responses that the jurisdiction of Zimbabwe received to the invitations to attend this 7th Congress of the CJCA were both encouraging and reassuring of the importance of fostering constitutionalism on the African continent.

The 7th Congress of the CJCA was a success. In this regard, the theme on which the 7th Congress was founded bears repetition. It focused on human dignity as a fundamental value and principle, exploring its functions as a source of interpretation, the protection of fundamental human rights and interpretation. The theme brought to the fore the importance of human dignity in the entrenchment of constitutionalism in our various jurisdictions.

The participation of the delegates from different jurisdictions in the

proceedings of the Congress was enriching. We were able to break the language barriers and share our experiences with respect to our common obligations of delivering constitutional justice to our peoples. The materials presented by the different speakers were rich and demonstrated the unique thoughts and approaches to issues of human rights and constitutional interpretation. In all of the discussions, the underpinning factor was human dignity.

In concluding the Congress, I take a moment to reflect on the profound discussions we have had on the topic of human dignity. The insights and perspectives shared here are not just for today, but for us to carry forward into our daily lives and professional practices.

It is crucial that we all take the time to thoroughly digest the material we have covered, reflect on the principles of human dignity and consider how they can be integrated into our work and interactions. This is not just a theoretical exercise, but a call to action to uphold and promote dignity in all aspects of our lives. As shown by the discussions that we had, human dignity is an important concept running through all

constitutional processes on which our democracies are established.

On behalf of the judiciary of Zimbabwe, and indeed on my behalf, it is observed that the 7th Congress culminated in the commencement of Zimbabwe's chairmanship of the CJCA. Firstly, I express my sincere gratitude to this Conference for bestowing this important role to Zimbabwe. Secondly, I am pleased to express my own and Zimbabwe's commitment to entrenching and advancing the objectives of the CJCA during its tenure of the chairmanship of the Conference. For Zimbabwe, fulfilling the constitutional framework on which the CJCA is founded is an abiding commitment.

The Statute of the Conference of Constitutional Jurisdictions of Africa reaffirms the Conference's commitment to the promotion of constitutional justice in Africa. In this regard, the Judiciary of Zimbabwe commits to facilitating the attainment of the objectives of the CJCA as other past presidents have done and continue to do. The entrenchment of constitutionalism is a process that is founded on continuous efforts to adhere to the principles it emphasises.

Looking into the future, we look forward to the statutory activities set out in the Statute of the CJCA including the 8th Congress of the CJCA. We are confident that the upcoming Congress will build on the momentum that has been created here and it will continue to foster collaboration, solidarity and mutual aid among the members of the CJCA.

During the General Assembly of the CJCA held this afternoon, a resolution was made to host the next meeting of the Executive Bureau of the CJCA. The Supreme Constitutional Court of Egypt has agreed to host us during the important statutory meeting. We thank the President of the Supreme Constitutional Court of Egypt, Honourable Boulos Fahmy Iskandar for agreeing to host us.

Before I wrap up, I am delighted to announce as indicated on the programmes for this Congress that we have a wonderful experience planned for you. We will be concluding the Congress with a Cultural Day tomorrow during which we will visit the Victoria Falls rainforest.

The Cultural Day was deliberately included as a component of the programme. It is a continuation of the solidarity and brotherhood which we have celebrated in the past two days. The display of our different cultures tomorrow is hoped to strengthen the Pan-Africanism we share in the pursuit of the administration of constitutional justice. The visits to the different destinations for excursions will be an opportunity to relax and reflect on the insights we have gained over the past two days. The members of staff of the Judicial Service Commission of Zimbabwe will provide the necessary information about these visits.

In closing, I express my gratitude to the different persons that have made this Congress a success. I am grateful to the member jurisdictions, organisations, and observer countries that have joined us in making the 7th Congress of the CJCA a reality. Your presence and active participation were instrumental in the success of this Congress.

I also thank the President of the Constitutional Court of the Kingdom of Morocco Mr Mohammed Amine Benabdallah for his exceptional leadership and dedication in ensuring that the CJCA continues to

transform into an entity pursuing constitutional justice across all the African states. In the same vein, I am also grateful to Mr Moussa Laraba, the Permanent Secretary General for the CJCA. He worked tirelessly with the Judicial Service Commission to make the Congress a success.

I would also like to take a moment to express our deepest gratitude to the dedicated members of staff of the Judicial Service Commission of Zimbabwe, led by the Secretary, Mr Walter T. Chikwana. Your hard work and commitment have been pivotal in ensuring the success of this Congress. I also thank Dr I. Maja, who ably directed the proceedings of this Congress.

Finally, I extend my heartfelt thanks to His Excellency, the President of Zimbabwe, Dr E. D. Mnangagwa, for his and the Government's unwavering support for the 7th Congress. I also extend my gratitude to the Honourable Vice President of Zimbabwe, General (Retd) Dr C. G. D. N. Chiwenga for officiating at the opening ceremony. The support and participation of the Government of Zimbabwe greatly enriched the

Congress. We are truly privileged to have had the opportunity to hear the Honourable Vice President's valuable insights on human dignity.

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

I THANK YOU.