

**NATIONAL PEACE AND RECONCILIATION COMMISSION**

**REMARKS BY ACTING CHAIRPERSON, REV. DR. C. MOYO**

 **AT THE**

**COMMEMORATION OF THE 22ND ANNIVERSARY AND AWARENESS RAISING ON THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 1325**

**8 NOVEMBER 2022**

**CROWNE PLAZA, MONOMOTAPA**

 ***Salutations***

1. Event Director, and Secretary for the National Peace and Reconciliation Commission.
2. Commissioners of the National Peace and Reconciliation Commission.
3. Honourable Members of Parliament.
4. Ambassador Magado, Chief Director in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Trade.
5. Ambassador Rudo Chitiga
6. Representatives from the Ministry of Women Affairs, Small and Medium Enterprise Development.
7. Representatives from Government Ministries and Departments.
8. The UN Women Country Representative, Fatou Aminata Lo.
9. UNDP Representatives.
10. Representatives from the Zimbabwe National Technical Committee on Women Peace and Security NAP.
11. Representatives from Zimbabwe’s Chapter 12 Institutions.
12. Women’s Coalition of Zimbabwe Coordinator, Ms Sally Ncube
13. Our Distinguished Panelists from different organisations.
14. Representatives from the African Women’s Leadership Network (AWLN) Zimbabwe National Chapter.
15. Distinguished Guests Ladies and Gentlemen.

Good morning and welcome to this Breakfast Meeting.

1. I am honoured to welcome you all at this year’s commemorations of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325, on Women, Peace and Security 22nd Anniversary and awareness raising event.
2. This event is being held drumming up to the NPRC’s 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence commemorative programmes with the objectives to -;
3. Sustain conversations and call for accelerated implementationof United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325as a framework that supports actions for the prevention of Conflict-Related Gender Base Violence, supporting response, and protection of victims of Conflict Related Gender Based Violence.
4. Bring awareness on the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 noting the low awareness of the resolution by the general populace and other stakeholders.
5. Raise awareness on the work of the Commission in dealing with Conflict-Related Gender Based Violence and fostering peace in the Nation.
6. Provide a platform for consolidating strategies for the prevention of Electoral Conflict-Related Gender Based Violence.
7. The United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 22nd Anniversary Commemorations come at an opportune time when all stakeholders need to strengthen efforts for the prevention of Electoral Conflict Related Gender Based Violence.
8. The NPRC considers the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security as an important Global framework to guide gender-inclusive peacebuilding as it calls for the need to increase women’s participation in peacebuilding, peacebuilding.
9. Increase frameworks and actions rallying against conflict-related gender-based violence and supporting the protection of victims of conflict-related Gender Based Violence are pertinent in the wake of the 2023 harmonized election.
10. Gender Based Violence which is a form of conflict and a consequence of conflict, often increases during the electoral period as other individuals take advantage of such national programmes. In all instances, violence assumes a gendered and often sexual nature where women, girls, children, youths, the elderly, persons with disabilities, and other marginalised groups are impacted more and differently. Electoral conflicts and violence present a major barrier to women’s engagement in peace-building processes and deter women’s effective participation in politics and ultimately hindering the realization of women’s political rights and closing of the gender gap in politics.
11. In consideration that the imminent 2023 harmonised elections, going forward, the NPRC has prioritised implementing conflict prevention initiatives, thus including calling for the need to end conflict related Gender Based Violence. The conflict and violence preventative agenda as well as the need to address concerns and needs of victims of Conflict-Related Gender Based Violence is clearly spelt in the NPRC Constitutional mandate. Sections 252 (d), (g), (h) and (I) of the Constitution of Zimbabwe.
12. Building momentum on its electoral conflict prevention drive, the NPRC thus seeks to sustain conversations and call for accelerated implementationof Resolution 1325as a framework that supports actions for the prevention of Conflict-Related Gender Based Violence, supporting response, and protection of victims of conflict related Gender Based Violence. The NPRC thus calls for the need to strengthen response approaches, adopt robust preventive approaches and supporting substantive participation and agency of all women in peace building and conflict prevention efforts at all levels.
13. While we acknowledge that a lot still needs to be done in implementing Resolution 1325, we also celebrate various initiatives by different stakeholders in pursuit of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda in Zimbabwe.
14. The National Peace and Reconciliation Commission as the national infrastructure for peace working with other like-minded institutions remains committed to support Government processes in developing Zimbabwe’s National Action Plan on Resolution 1325.
15. While celebrating and commemorating the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 22nd anniversary, we continue to call for collective efforts in strengthening implementation of Resolution 1325 in Zimbabwe. The involvement of all stakeholders is thus critical. This includes meaningful engagement and involvement of men in supporting the Women, Peace and Security Agenda, hence our theme for today ‘Men as Partners in Supporting the Women, Peace, and Security Agenda’
16. As I conclude, let me encourage you all to actively participate in today’s discussions as we come up with concrete actions on means to strengthen implementation of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda in Zimbabwe and as we strengthen the NPRC’s process of consolidating the 2023 electoral violence prevention strategies particularly looking at preventing violence against women during electoral processes.

Again I say to you all welcome. I thank you.

Peace.