

**SETTING THE TONE**

**STRATEGIC PLANNING WORKSHOP**

**CHAIRPERSON’S SPEECH**

The Vice Chairperson of the National Peace and Reconciliation Commission

Commissioners

The Executive Secretary

Members of the Secretariat staff

It is my pleasure to extend a cheerful welcome to you all to our Strategic Planning workshop.

Your presence in these numbers is testimony to a committed team, ready to put all hands on the deck and produce a fine piece of work, as always.

Over the next 5 days we will be working together as one team to review the NPRC Strategic Plan which runs from 2021 to 2025, alongside the National Development Strategy 1.

Our Strategic plan has a clearly articulated vision and goals. However, the environment we are operating in is fast changing and it will be important to ensure that our vision and goals continue to speak to the current situation in Zimbabwe, more so as the season for the Harmonised elections is upon us.

Our mandate is very clear on how Peace is to be achieved.

We must reach out to the people of Zimbabwe, because no amount of Victim support, Conflict prevention, healing and reconciliation can ever take place from the comfort of our desks.

Commissioners, Executive Secretary, Secretariat, the time is now when our visibility must be enhanced, the Commission must now be seen in the remotest of areas in Zimbabwe.

The mantra of leaving no one and no place behind should be our driving force. Let us go out to the Communities, let us go out to the people and let that start in earnest in 2023.

You might be thinking that resources cannot allow us to reach out that far, but then I challenge you to work SMART. Dream big, but work SMART.

In order to effectively reach out to the Communities in all corners of Zimbabwe, we must work as ONE TEAM, I repeat, ONE TEAM. If we pull our resources together instead of trying to achieve as individual thematic areas, we will achieve more.

Let us see more of “One Commission programs” than individual Thematic based programs.

Commissioners, Executive Secretary, Secretariat, Conflict is inevitable where individuals of different personalities and traits work together, but Love, forgiveness and unity of purpose should concur conflicts that may arise.

Furthermore, let us live by our peace mantra of “Peace begins with me”. If we all allow peace to begin inside of us, it will be easy for peace to begin with the next person and subsequently with all of us.

Our program for the week ends with the development of performance contracts.

Having agreed on working as ONE COMMISSION, I implore us all to see the performance contracts, not as a tool for fault finding, but as a tool to achieve on our mandate.

A scholar once wrote, “Leadership is the capacity to translate vision into reality.”

Ladies and gentlemen, that is the task before us this week. We must translate the vision encapsulated in the Strategic document and the NDS1 into lived reality of a peaceful Zimbabwe for all generations.

I look forward to seeing everyone contribute towards creating our future together.

Peace begins with ME

Peace begins with YOU

Peace begins with all of US

I thank you