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A Peaceful Zimbabwe For All Generations

National Peace and Reconciliation Commission's Message on the International Day of Peace

On the 21st of September each year, the world commemorates the International Day of Peace in which countries are called upon; through the United Nations; to dedicate efforts towards peaceful communities; national, regional, continental and global unity. This 43rd commemoration of the Global Peace Day runs under the universal theme “**Actions for Peace: Our Ambition for the #GlobalGoals**”. The United Nations Secretary General’s message for this year’s Day of Peace reckons that, “Peace is needed today more than ever. War and conflict are unleashing devastation, poverty and hunger, and driving tens of millions of people from their homes...and even peaceful countries are gripped by gaping inequalities and political polarization.” This is a poignant message that calls for concerted efforts to come up with actionable programs to promote peaceful co-existence and social cohesion within and among states.

The country’s national development framework sends strong pointers about the actions that need to be pursued towards the furtherance of peace, national unity and mutually edifying inter-relatedness as we journey towards Vision 2030. These include the promotion of inclusive dialogue and tolerance, promotion of peace building initiatives and the strengthening of national and sub-national peace infrastructures (National Development Strategy 1 2021-2025). This resonates with Sustainable Development Goal 16 which enjoins nations to promote just, peaceful and inclusive societies.

Coming on the backdrop of the recently held harmonized elections, this year’s International Day of Peace serves as a reminder for all Zimbabweans to foster a culture of peace, tolerance and harmonious co-existence. The National Peace and Reconciliation Commission thus urges the nation to take heed of the clarion call for peace by the President of the Republic of Zimbabwe, His Excellency Dr. E.D Mnangagwa. In his 2023 inauguration message, the President’s national **Action for Peace** call was; “In the enduring spirit of unity and peace that characterized this past election, I once again call upon all Zimbabweans to say no to violence, tribalism, regionalism, hate speech and other divisive tendencies. Peace, love, harmony and tolerance are in our DNA as a people.” This call, strongly founded on Section 10 of the Constitution of Zimbabwe, is a compelling and rallying intonation that individually and collectively, we can be agents of national unity, peace and stability.

The National Peace and Reconciliation Commission joins Zimbabwe and the rest of the world in commemorating the 2023 International Day of Peace and calls upon individuals, institutions, state and non-state actors to be part of sustainable **Actions for Peace** as we build a peaceful and harmonious future for all generations.

Peace Begins with me, Peace begins with you, Peace begins with all of us.