



Ministry of Health and Child Care

PRESS STATEMENT BY HON. DR D. T. MOMBESHORA ON THURSDAY MAY 16 2024,

The Minister of Health Child Care, strongly rejects the allegations made in the Newsday publication that the Health And Child Care Ministry Is "Busy Fixing" the Mess Created By the Vice President and Former Minister of Health and Child Care, Hon. Gen. (RETD) Dr.C. G. D.N. Chiwenga

The Ministry considers the publication defamatory and devoid of any factual truth.

The current leadership in the Ministry of Health and Child Care are building on the successes of the previous leadership as led by the Vice President of the Republic of Zimbabwe when he was Minister of Health and Child Care.

His vision which is being carried forward by the current leadership was to have a national health system that ensures that all citizens of Zimbabwe have equitable access to healthcare services of sufficient quality, thereby leaving no one and no place behind as the country moves towards an Upper middle income economy by 2030.

Since 2018, the Ministry of Health and Child Care made significant achievements in the development of health infrastructure ranging from the construction of new health facilities to rehabilitation/ refurbishment of existing infrastructure

The National Health Strategy (NHS) 2021-2025 and its investment case was developed taking into consideration the challenges that the country had gone through which include macroeconomic challenges and the unprecedented Covid-19 pandemic.

Another significant milestone was the high COVID-19 - vaccination coverage compared to other countries in the region with vaccines mostly funded by the Government of Zimbabwe.

In 2023, the enabling environment provided by Ministry's leadership with the Vice President at the helm saw the re-launch of

Zimbabwe's only open-heart surgery facility at Parirenyatwa Group of Hospitals.

The Government procured medical equipment as an initiative of his leadership in the Ministry. Institutions continue to receive the equipment up to date.

During his tenure the Ministry embarked on the construction of new mini hospitals country wide. So far 4 (four) 22 bedded have been completed and the next phase is about to start.

To demonstrate Government commitment towards health infrastructure the Vice president when he was Minister of Health managed to resuscitate accelerate the works on Lupane provincial Hospital.

Following a series of fire breakouts in 2018, 2019 and 2021, which gutted two blocks of staff accommodation at Mpilo Central Hospital in Bulawayo, the Government intervened and renovated them into modern structures. The modernisation of the blocks was completed in April 2023, with junior doctors moving into the residence quarters in May, hence, going a long way in improving the delivery of health services at the institution.

One of the most important aspects of medical transport is safety and quick response time to mitigate casualty numbers. To this end, in 2023 Zimbabwe took delivery of new helicopters from the Russian Federation, which will go towards emergency air medical services, law enforcement and tourism.

In addition, the Ministry of Health and Child Care procured the upgraded model of ambulances for the 63-district hospitals, eight provincial hospitals and six central hospitals. These ambulances, which are a lifeline during emergencies, are equipped with the latest medical equipment and designed with the latest technology and software.

The pharmaceutical manufacturing strategy for Zimbabwe 2021-

2025 was launched to enhance productivity and competitiveness of the manufacturing industry in the country

The Ministry of Health and Child Care secured US\$6 million funding from the Global Fund and US\$25 million grant from the Chinese government and constructed state-of-the-art Natpharm warehouses across all provinces.

The Harare warehouse at Sally Mugabe Central Hospital was commissioned by President Mnangagwa in October 2022, while the Masvingo and Mutare warehouses were completed.

As an initiative from the Vice president, Zimbabwe is set to become a hub of pharmaceutical manufacturing for international and regional consumption, following the joint venture agreement between a global medical consumables manufacturing giant from the UAE and the Government.

Intrapharma will start by investing US\$100 million, and gradually grow its investment in response to market demand.

These are only but a few success stories of the Hon. Vice President Gen. (RETD) Dr.C. G. D.N. Chiwenga's tenure at the helm of the Ministry of Health and Child Care. He superintends the Economic Cluster to which the Ministry of Health and Child Care belongs. It is thus false and defamatory to our Hon. Vice President Gen. (RETD) Dr.C. G. D.N. Chiwenga to insinuate that he messed up the Ministry.

