

PRESS RELEASE



Ministry of Women Affairs, Community, Small and Medium Enterprises Development

Harare, Zimbabwe, 18 May 2021 – Every year, the International Families' Day celebrations reminds the entire world that family is a vital cog for survival. Families constitute the foundation of communities thus, should be accorded comprehensive protection and assistance to effectively discharge their responsibilities within the society. Today the nation of Zimbabwe has joined the UN member countries in the commemorations of this important day.

Multitudes of people joined the national launch hosted by the Ministry of Women Affairs, Community, Small and Medium Enterprises Development. The International theme for this year is ***"Families and Urbanization"*** and Zimbabwe has adopted this theme for the national 2022 celebrations.

The Minister of Women Affairs, Community, Small and Medium Enterprises Development, **Honourable Dr. Sithembiso Nyoni**, in her keynote address, said:

"Zimbabwe has over the years celebrated this day as we believe that families drive societies which in turn drive the nation"

The Constitution of Zimbabwe, Section 25, upholds the importance of a family as a natural and a fundamental entity in society. Families constitute the foundation of communities thus, should be accorded comprehensive protection and assistance to effectively discharge their responsibilities within the society. Today, there is more acceptance than ever before that the nation should focus on ploughing into the impact of digital technologies on work-family balance and overall family-well-being.

For generations, women have been pillar in the family institution, but they have received so much violence and some have lost their lives. It is regrettable that the Covid 19 regulations, particularly, the national lockdown confined families indoors and resulted in increased Gender Based Violence cases, mostly perpetrated against women and girls. Families are also facing challenges of girl child pregnancies, drug abuse, migration of heads of households and guardians and poverty.

Hon. Dr. Sithembiso Nyoni said: *The process of urbanization comes with many adverse effects on the structure of society as gigantic concentrations of people compete for limited resources”.*

Urbanisation is a unique developmental phenomenon that has impacted the existence of the family unit over time, and has exposed families to a multitude of socio-economic experiences since its inception at the start of the modern, industrial era. Zimbabwe as a nation has not been exempt from the impacts of urbanisation.

“Cities should use realistic population projections as the basis for investing in public infrastructure and implementing supportive land policies.” **Hon. Dr. Sithembiso Nyoni reiterated.**

The varying levels of urbanisation between regions has seen phenomenon such as economically motivated migratory patterns from less urbanised to more urbanised areas, being a common experience for a number of families in the country.

The Ministry in partnership UN Agencies and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), have set out media interviews, discussions and provincial launches to recognize the importance of families in national development. Provincial launches will be organised for respective provinces to commemorate this important institution, which has produced leaders and news makers around the world.

The national theme for this year`s International Families Day Commemorations is **“Families and Urbanisation”**. Feel free to watch the Launch, which was posted on the Ministry Facebook.

For more information and media queries please contact

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