



Seated from left: Minister of Defence and War Veterans Affairs, Honourable Oppah Muchinguri-Kashiri, Vice President, General (Retired), Dr. Constantino Dominic Guvheya Nyikadzino Chiwenga, His Excellency President, Dr. Emmerson Dambudzo Mnangagwa, Child President Unathi Nyoni and other guests, pose for a group photo with Child Service Chiefs at the City Sports Centre, Harare

Stakeholder approach key to ending drug and substance abuse

—By Staff Reporter—

A co-ordinated approach by stakeholders is required for Zimbabwe to realise its target of a drug free society. This was emphasized by His Excellency, Head of State and Government President Emmerson Dambudzo Mnangagwa when he officially opened the 30th Junior Parliament Session at the City Sports Club in Harare.

The event coincided with commemoration of the Day of the African Child, celebrated annually on 16 June, in remembrance and honour of young students who were killed in 1976 during the Soweto uprising in South Africa.

To mark the celebrations, the Zimbabwe Republic Police provided a Child Service Chief and the *aide de camp*, who were part of the grand parade.

In his speech, President Dr Emmerson Dambudzo Mnangagwa commended the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Drugs and Substance Abuse in trying to help young people to move away from drugs.

“More work must be done with regards to realising our targets of a drug-free society. The Committee, law enforcement agencies, families and communities in general must work together to deal decisively with drug cartels, including their supply chains,” he said.

President Mnangagwa added that government is committed to support programmes and projects that argument the establishments of ‘functional, fully equipped and multi-purpose Youth Recreational Centres’ and other facilities among the communities that would help keep the youth away from drugs.

With regards to cyber bullying and cyber threats that have become a challenge among the youth, His Excellency, President Mnangagwa also called for the adaptation and development of a culture that transforms Information and Communication Technology (ICT) tools to solve problems of the society.

“We must therefore continue to sharpen strategies which ensure that the use of technologies advance problem solving capabilities, innovation and inventions by young people. Equally improving their safety and self-expression, their empowerment and competitiveness across the various sectors of the economy must be pursued with greater focus,” said President Mnangagwa.