

## Government departments join the 2021 APSD virtual celebrations

Over 50 African countries have decided to mark the 8<sup>th</sup> Africa Public Service Day (APSD) by sharing how the continent's public servants continue to contribute in the management of the COVID-19 pandemic in their respective countries.

For 2021, the Department of Public Service and Administration in South Africa took a decision to invite all government departments to send contact details of a representative/s to represent each department on issues of how public servants continue to deliver services under the difficult conditions presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, in a virtual meeting scheduled for the 23<sup>rd</sup> of June 2021.

The APSD virtual celebrations take place from 21 to 23 June 2021 in Harare, Zimbabwe. This important strategic event on the African Union calendar aims to showcase amongst others, innovations in governance; recognise and acknowledge excellence; promote professionalism and the image of the public service; enhance trust in government; sharing of lessons and best practices nationally and across the African continent. The 2021 Africa Public Service Day celebrations are held under the theme "***Constructing the Africa we want through embracing an ethical culture that underpins purpose driven leadership.***"

The following sub-themes are outlined to give effect to and guide the APSD celebrations: **Celebrating** the contribution of the public servant - a story of courage and resilience in the management of the COVID-19 pandemic; **Embracing** Cultural diversity as a lever to strengthen institutions for a responsive and ethical public administration; **Deploying** technology to sustain and enhance service delivery in the face of this challenging COVID-19 pandemic climate; **Achieve** inclusivity through harnessing Arts and culture, as instruments to inform markets and build demand side capacity for effective and efficient service delivery.