

# 'Media must promote healing'

## Herald Reporter

THE Organ on National Healing, Reconciliation and Integration has lashed out at the media for trying to create divisions in the inclusive Government despite the significant progress registered since its formation early last year.

Minister of State responsible for National Healing in the Prime Minister's Office Sekai Holland raised the issue after meeting members of United States-based Christian organisation the American Centre for Law and Justice in Harare yesterday.

Also present at the meeting were Vice President John Nkomo and the Special Advisor on National Healing in Deputy Prime Minister Arthur Mutambara's Office.

VP Nkomó was Minister of State for National Healing before his elevation to the Presidium last year.

Yesterday, Minister Holland said: "There is need for the media to recognise certain facts that the structures born out of the Global Political Agreement are unique.

"The roles of media are to educate, entertain and inform but surprisingly they are just a watchdog."

She said it had taken the nation several years to reach the current level of tolerance and it was imperative for all people to embrace harmony.

"The goal of the inclusive Government is to come up with a model on how to bring peace to the country. The healing process is not going to be achieved in one year, but it is going to be long and we are

going to have thorough consultations," she said.

The consultation process, Minister Holland said, would cover all Zimbabweans including Diasporans.

The Organ on National Healing was created last year as per the provisions of the Global Political Agreement.

It has been tasked with promoting harmony across the country and has said it will be particularly active during the constitution outreach programme that was launched in Harare on Wednesday.

ACLJ director Mr Jordan Sekulow said the media were peddling falsehoods about the situation in Zimbabwe.

"We need to tell the story as it is because some of the stories we heard about Zimbabwe are not true. The work between Christian organisations and the Organ on National Healing, the Government and how they are working together to rebuild the country are stories that need to be out in the Western media," he said.

Mr Sekulow said the purpose of their visit was to encourage participation in the constitution-making process.

"Our aim is to go into the whole country through our teams and explain why it is important to participate in the constitution-making process," he said.

Mr Sekulow added that people should not think about retribution for any past wrongs that might have been committed.



**VICE PRESIDENT John Nkomo shares a lighter moment with the visiting director of the American Centre for Law and Justice, Mr Jordan Sekulow, Special Advisor on National Healing Mr Gibson Sibanda and Minister of State for National Healing Sekai Holland after a meeting in Harare yesterday.**