

# UNACCEPTABLE

*...Mukoko rejects out of court settlement offer  
...State proposes to pay \$30 000*

HARARE-Zimbabwean authorities have offered to pay compensation to prominent human rights defender Jestina Mukoko, seven years since she was abducted from her home in Norton and was subjected to torture for several weeks by State security agents.

The defendants include former State security minister Didymus Mutasa, now a prominent member of the opposition Zimbabwe People First party. Mutasa as state security minister defended the actions of the abductors and refused to divulge their identities, claiming they carried out the heinous crime in the pursuit of their duties.

***‘We have rejected this amount on the basis that the case they are relying on merely involved an unlawful arrest and detention and did not involve criminal abduction, torture over a three week period by State actors in what was an arranged and coordinated State abuse of power’***

- Mtetwa

Mukoko was abducted by seven State security agents whose identities are only known by Mutasa and others who worked with him in the security sector at the time.

She was forced to leave her home while wearing only a night gown.

During the period she was held incommunicado, the former news presenter at the State-owned Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation was repeatedly tortured by being assaulted, being forced to kneel on sharp gravel and subjected to psychological torture.

She was also deprived access to lawyers.

She was only delivered to the police “blindfolded” on 22 December 2018 after vigorous campaigns by her family, and civil society groups such as Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights.

She was then slapped with criminal charges.

According to Mutasa, the abductors were “State security agents acting in the course and within the scope of a mandate to protect and promote the security of the State.”

But the prominent human rights campaigner, who received the compensation offer last month following a lawsuit launched in 2009, has rejected the State’s proposal to pay \$30 000 to settle the case.

Beatrice Mtetwa, who is Mukoko’s lawyer, described the offer as “unacceptable”, especially because the State is not offering to pay for the torture that the Zimbabwe Peace Project national director went through in December 2008 for about three weeks.

“We have rejected this amount on the basis that the case they are relying on merely involved an unlawful arrest and detention and did not involve criminal abduction, torture over a three week period by State actors in what was an arranged and coordinated State abuse of power,” Mtetwa told *The Legal Monitor* last week in an interview.

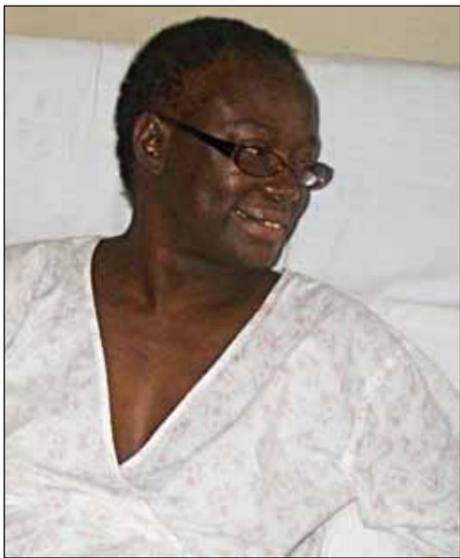
Mukoko, a prominent television presenter turned human rights activist, filed a \$220 000 lawsuit in 2009 after enduring a three week ordeal: being held incommunicado and facing daily torture.

She was subsequently charged with terrorism, although the charges later fell away after the Full Bench of the Supreme Court ruled that her so called arrest was illegal.



Woman of courage...Jestina Mukoko

# The story of Jestina



## Timeline Jestina Mukoko

- 03 December 2008:** Mukoko is abducted from her Norton home by 15 unidentified men in a pre-dawn raid.
- 08 December 2008:** ZPP employees Broderick Takawira and Pascal Gonzo are abducted from their offices by unidentified men.
- 09 December 2008:** High Court Judge Justice Gowora orders the police to search for Mukoko, to work with her lawyers and report daily on their progress; as well as to place a missing person notification in the media. The order was never complied with and the police denied that they had custody of Mukoko.
- 23 December 2008:** At least 14 abductees, including Mukoko, located at various police stations in Harare by Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights (ZLHR). The lawyers' task of tracing them was hindered by lack of cooperation by officers in charge and the transfer of individuals and groups from station to station. The lawyers were not allowed access to any of their clients.
- 24 December 2008:** Mukoko appears at Harare Magistrates' Court. Officials from the Attorney-General's office refuse to inform defence lawyers of the charges until the matter was finally in Court. High Court Judge Justice Yunus Omerjee issues a final order directed to the Commissioner-General of Police Augustine Chihuri and Chief Superintendent Magwenzi to release Mukoko and Takawira as well as seven other abductees held under warrants of detention, forthwith to Avenues Clinic under police guard, where they should be accorded full access to their legal practitioners and relatives. Mukoko should remain at the Avenues Clinic until 29th December when they should be taken directly to their Magistrates' Court appearance contesting their placement on remand. The Order was not complied with.
- 25 December 2008:** Mukoko and eight others are transferred from Harare Remand Prison to Chikurubi Maximum Security Prison.
- 30 December 2008:** Magistrate Mishrod Guvamombe rules that all the abductees should be allowed to see a doctor of their choice at Chikurubi Prison Hospital and that medical examination should be carried out before the case reopens on 5 January 2009.
- 5 January 2009:** Magistrate Gloria Takundwa ruled that Mukoko must be allowed immediate medical treatment so that allegations of torture can be investigated before the case continues; the case is postponed to the following day. The case of seven other activists, accused of banditry, is postponed to 7 January, pending a High Court ruling on their access to medical treatment.
- 6 January 2009:** Mukoko's lawyers file a constitutional court challenge seeking protection and enforcement of the ZPP's executive director's fundamental rights, to have her released and not to be prosecuted pending a full investigation into her abduction and prosecution of all those involved.
- 14 January 2009:** The Supreme Court rules that Mukoko must be taken to a private clinic for urgent medical attention—an order which had not yet been complied with.
- 16 January 2009:** The Magistrate's Court rules in favour of Mukoko taking her constitutional challenge to the Supreme Court.
- 20 January 2009:** Mukoko is finally taken to the Avenues Clinic in leg irons and under armed escort. After being examined and admitted for treatment, prison warders refuse to let her stay and against her will, against the doctors' orders and still connected to a drip, they moved her back to Chikurubi Maximum Security.
- 04 February 2009:** The High Court rejects a bail application filed by Mukoko.
- 12 February 2009:** Mukoko is finally taken to hospital where she is examined by her doctors who says she needs to be admitted to hospital. However, later in the afternoon, prison warders take her to prison.
- 27 February 2009:** The Attorney General's Office summons defence lawyers and advise them that the State had changed its position and is no longer opposed to bail for the abductees.
- 02 March 2009:** Mukoko is granted bail and released from hospital.
- 05 May 2009:** Magistrate Catherine Chimanda revokes bail order and commits Mukoko together with 14 other abductees to Chikurubi Maximum Prison.
- 06 May 2009:** Magistrate Chimanda admits Mukoko to bail on the conditions outlined when she was initially granted bail.
- 25 June 2009:** The Full Bench of the Supreme Court sitting as a Constitutional Court hears Mukoko's challenge to determine a series of violations of her constitutional rights at the hands of State security agents. Chief Justice Godfrey Chidyausiku reserves judgment in the case.
- 20 July 2009:** Jestina Mukoko sues for US\$222 000 compensation in the High Court for mistreatment while in detention. Mukoko lists the the Ministry of State Security, and then its Minister Didymus Mutasa in his individual capacity. Co-Ministers of Home Affairs, Kembo Mohadi and Giles Mutsekwa, Defence Minister Emmerson Mnangagwa, Chihuri, Magwenzi, Attorney General Johannes Tomana and Brigadier General Asher Tapfumaneyi are cited as respondents.
- 28 September 2009:** In a unanimous judgment the Constitutional Court's Full Bench led by Chief Justice Chidyausiku, rules that Mukoko's constitutional rights were violated, and as a result her criminal prosecution had to be permanently stayed.
- 11 February 2013:** Police raid ZPP headoffice and seize several documents and other materials after searching for "subversive material and illegal immigrants". The police officers who carried out the raid charge that there are reasonable grounds that ZPP was in possession of some articles which the organisation intended to use for criminal use in contravention of Section 40 of the Criminal Law (Codification and Reform) Act. The police also suspected ZPP to have contravened the Immigration Act by permitting some unidentified illegal immigrants to enter the country without a work permit and to have smuggled some undisclosed goods in breach of Section 182 (1) of the Customs and Excise Act. After the three-hour raid and search the police seize some documents and other items such as mobile phone handsets, wind up radios, files with donor information, political violence reports and DVD's. No-one is arrested but the police indicate that they are going to "study" the information.
- 06 March 2013:** Police renew their onslaught against Mukoko by summoning her to report at Harare Central Police Station for allegedly operating an "unregistered" organisation.
- 07 March 2013:** Mtetwa writes a letter to Detective Chief Inspector Run'anga that ZPP's board had resolved that Dr Solomon Zwana, the organisation's chairperson would represent the rights group and not by Mukoko its employee and that she could not answer registration queries as she does not have board authority to speak or act on behalf of ZPP. Mtetwa advised Run'anga that ZPP is a registered organisation and had provided its registration papers and Constitution to the police last month. Mtetwa reminds the police that Mukoko has been a victim of State sponsored torture following her abduction by State security agents in 2008, where she later miraculously found herself in the custody of officers from the CID's Law and Order Section at Harare Central Police Station, who have to date refused to disclose how she had come into their custody and who her captors and tormentors were. Police boss Chihuri issues a personal call for the arrest of Mukoko after claiming that she was on the run.
- 08 March 2013:** Mukoko voluntarily reports at Harare Central Police Station accompanied by her lawyers. She is charged with contravening the Private Voluntary Organisations Act, the Broadcasting Services Act and the Customs and Excise Act. Police record a warned and cautioned statement from Jestina in the presence of Mtetwa, Harisson Nkomo, Tarisai Mutangi, Tonderai Bhatasara and Tawanda Zhuwarara who are all members of ZLHR. She denies all the charges and explains to the police that all ZPP's activities were legal. Mukoko is released into the custody of her lawyers after the interrogation and the police indicate that they would advise of any further action after assessing the docket.
- April 2016:** Mukoko launches her book titled "The abduction and trial of Jestina Mukoko: The fight for human rights in Zimbabwe" in which she narrates her abduction ordeal and the harrowing torture she endured at the hands of some state security agents.
- November 2016:** The State through the Attorney General's Office offers to pay compensation to Mukoko amounting to \$30 000 down from the \$220 000 she is demanding for damages. But the prominent human rights campaigner rejects the State's proposal.

# Of village lawyers and a cow named 'Lawyer'

Peggy Tavagadza (PT), is one of Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights's lawyers, who have been on the frontline of fighting impunity and showing that people, no matter their station in life, can use judicial mechanisms to fight impunity.

From Chingwizi in Masvingo province to Chisumbanje and Honde Valley in Manicaland province, Tavagadza has made sure that the use of torture and other human rights excesses by both state and non-state actors is coming back to haunt perpetrators who have been forced to fork out their personal money to compensate their victims in recent years and months. Below, PT responds to some questions posed to her by *The Legal Monitor* (LM).

**LM: For how long have you been involved in human rights? How did it all start?**

**PT:** For the past six years, I have been litigating and advocating for the promotion and respect of human rights in Zimbabwe. I was first introduced to the human rights situation by Irene Petras, who was teaching Human Rights at the Faculty of Law at the University of Zimbabwe. I developed an interest in human rights and joined Zimbabwe Lawyers For Human Rights as a student member in 2008.

**LM: You have handled some political cases, assisted human rights defenders and fought for socio-economic rights...but what are some of the specific cases that touched you most and why?**

**PT:** The cases that really touched me were cases where ordinary civilians were assaulted by police officers during interrogation.

These are cases that involve acts of police brutality especially to the vulnerable members of our community. It is strange the rate at which police officers act with impunity in such cases. In 2015 alone, I handled more than 55 of such cases.

**LM: How do those cases relate to the current human rights situation and what needs to be done and by whom to improve the situation?**

**PT:** There is need for the Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP) to improve its public relations and also to be professional in the discharge of their duties. The members of the ZRP have a constitutional mandate to respect and promote human rights.

**LM: You have assisted several victims of police brutality, resulting in some of the victims receiving compensation... why are you so passionate about accountability and to what extent do such cases promote ZLHR's anti-impunity campaign?**

**PT:** The desire to make a change and promote human dignity motivates me a lot. When you get to a police station and you see your client soaked in blood and human waste, you just can't stand and do nothing. At that same station within earshot you hear someone screaming in pain, the least you can do is to do something.

**LM: At one time you handled a curious case, where a village woman in Honde Valley in Manicaland province chose to buy a beast from the money you helped her get as compensation.**

**Tell us your experiences with that case?**

**PT:** My greatest satisfaction comes in the form of a cow named "lawyer" in tribute to my work, which is testimony to my commitment to helping the downtrodden rural people to stand up to institutionalised impunity.

This is a case in which one of the beneficiaries of our work, an old woman in Nyanga who is a victim of police brutality was awarded damages and used part of her compensation to buy a cow she called "lawyer".

**LM: We have seen you trudge the rural breadth of Manicaland province conducting mobile legal clinics for villagers, what is the idea behind this initiative?**



Making a difference and giving hope... Peggy Tavagadza

**PT:** It is village lawyering, where we take access to justice beyond the reach of ordinary halls of justice.

**LM: What are some of the major concerns that are raised during such meetings?**

**PT:** The greatest concerns involve issues such as lack of accountability by state actors. It appears most people have lost confidence in the justice delivery system because of corruption. There is also a great fear to openly discuss even the Bill of Rights as most villagers fear state reprisal. Fundamental freedoms like freedom of expression, association and assembly, right to education are some of the issues that citizens normally complain about as they are violated and there seems to be no political will to address the concerns raised. We are also confronted with legal aid issues of inheritance and administration of deceased estates.

**LM: Is there much of a difference in terms of people's demands between rural and urban people, judging from the feedback you get at mobile legal clinics?**

**PT:** The rural communities complain mostly of partisan distribution of food aid and that it is also difficult to freely assemble and associate without notifying the police. In the urban set up, most complaints come in the form of poor service delivery, assaults in police custody, profiling of human rights defenders and labour matters.

**LM: Most of your work involves standing up to the State in a country where human rights lawyers are often harassed.**

**How does this affect you? Do you have any fears, or even regrets that you could have chosen a safer practice?**

**PT:** Human rights lawyering is a calling, it is hard to close your eyes when the least you can do is to use the law to bring the desired change, that is to foster a sustainable culture of the respect of human rights.

**help the Chisumbanje villagers in terms of both litigation and empowering them with human rights literacy?**

**PT:** We have worked extensively in the community and conducted mobile legal trainings in Chinyamukwakwa and Chisumbanje.

We have also defended human rights defenders who were in distress by defending them in courts of law.

We have also instituted legal proceedings on behalf of six villagers who were arrested during a dragnet arrest in the village.

We have worked also with other stakeholders like Counselling Services Unit who facilitated medical treatment of the villagers as well as providing counselling.

**LM: How do people around you, including your family, feel about your work?**

**Do they talk to you about it? What do they say?**

**PT:** It was not easy at first because people always call even at odd times.

We are lawyers on call 24/7 but they come to appreciate the work I do and my daughter aspires to be a human rights lawyer.

I have tried though to advise her that there are other areas of the law that are equally interesting but it seems mommy for now is her role model.

**LM: Have you at any moment felt scared to do your job and if so, why?**

**PT:** There was a time in 2011 when I was nursing our three months-old daughter that I faced a personal threat on my person and some members of staff in our company. That really shocked me and my family. What transpired in 2011 is that there were about 50 women who needed legal advice and possibly just closure. They said during the year 2008 bases were set up by state actors and other non-state actors.

As we were about to start the meeting, a group of young men about 30 of them who appeared very drunk invaded the meeting and threatened the lawyers present with rape and death.

They promised to give us first hand experience of what had transpired and that we were going to be all over the news. We sent an SOS to member lawyers and the head office.

A lawyer based in Chipinge, Mr Langton Mhundu saved the day as he made a police report and transported anti-riot police in his truck to where we were.

That is how we survived as the tyres of our vehicle were already being deflated.

**LM: When it comes to fighting for human rights, who inspires you and why?**

**PT:** Irene Petras and Professor Hansungule and Arnold Tsunga. They have always inspired me, especially when I was a student and I always wondered how could some people just devote their lives to foster a sustainable culture of the respect for human rights.

**LM: What do you consider as the biggest reward for the work you do?**

**PT:** Making a difference and giving hope.

# The right to protest, a fantasy

HARARE- May 2013 welcomed a new Constitution which among other things gives citizens the right to demonstrate, but judging from the arrest of Zimbabweans peacefully protesting, that right remains a dream.

Just last week on Wednesday, police used teargas to disperse some people who were demonstrating against the introduction of bond notes two days earlier without being consulted.

Six of them - including a teenager - were not so lucky. Police arrested them and accused them of taking part in the demonstration. Those arrested included Pfungwa Gunda, Costa Zvokusekwa and a 15-year-old minor and charged them with inciting public violence.

Jeremiah Bamu of Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights (ZLHR) is now representing the six whom police accuse of going on a rampage throwing stones at people standing in bank queues and telling them not to withdraw bond notes.

Meanwhile, Harare Magistrate Vongai Guwuriro on Thursday last week granted bail to three pro-democracy campaigners Promise Mkwanzani, Mehluli Dube and Kudakwashe Manjonjo, who were arrested last Monday as they addressed media practitioners on the planned bond notes protest.

The trio were arrested on Monday last week for allegedly participating in a gathering with intent to promote public violence, breaches of the peace or bigotry as defined in Section 37 of the Criminal Law (Codification and Reform) Act Chapter 9:23 or alternatively criminal nuisance as defined in Section 46 as read with Section 2 (f) to the Third Schedule of the Criminal Law (Codification and Reform) Act Chapter 9:23.

In the application, Mkwanzani, Dube and Manjonjo, who are represented by Obey Shava and Webster Jiti of ZLHR, raised two preliminary issues regarding the violation of their constitutional rights which pertains to breaches to their right to be informed of the charge at the time of arrest and the right to legal representation.

The trio argued that the charges preferred against them were not put to them upon arrest and that they were deprived of the right to legal representation after their lawyers were denied access to their clients by Mirian Phiri, the Officer in Charge at Harare Central Police Station, where they were detained after being arrested.

Prosecutor Sebastian Mutizirwa of the National Prosecuting Authority alleged that Mkwanzani, Dube and Manjonjo, whom he labelled as being members of #Tajamuka pressure group and others whom the State claimed are still to be apprehended, gathered in central Harare last week on Monday and took turns to address about 25 people inciting them to shun the introduction of bond notes by the government and corruption committed by senior government officials.

Mutizirwa claimed that the trio, which wore some T-shirts inscribed Tajamuka, Enough is enough, Citizens class action and petition, no to bond notes and #hatichada #hatichatya, encouraged members of the public to participate in a planned violent demonstration planned for Wednesday last week in which they vowed to attack ZRP officers if they attempted to block the anti-government protest.



Defiant...Despite arrests and assaults Zimbabweans have continued exercising their right to protest

## Students take on Chihuri, Chombo ...ZINASU leaders sue for unlawful arrest

MUTARE-After being set free because their arrest was declared unlawful, members of the Zimbabwe National Students Union (ZINASU) General are now planning to sue Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP) Commissioner-General Augustine Chihuri and Home Affairs Minister Ignatius Chombo if the two do not pay \$140 000 as compensation for damages.

17 ZINASU leaders and members were arrested in September and latter released after Magistrate Poterai Gwezhira declared their detention unlawful. In a notice of intention to sue in terms of the State Liabilities Act, the ZINASU leaders and members said their arbitrary arrest on 24 September by ZRP officers at Penhalonga Police Station under the command of Chief Superintendent Chigozha, the Officer Commanding Mutare Rural Police Station, was deplorable and did not comply with section 50 (1) of the Constitution of Zimbabwe.

"The female accused persons were denied the right to have and to keep sanitary ware with the result that one of them spoiled herself. The female accused persons were threatened while in police custody at Penhalonga by a police officer in plain clothes who promised to return and torture them until they excrete thereby causing mental anguish on them," wrote Peggy Tavagadza of Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights (ZLHR) to Hon. Chombo and Chihuri on behalf of Zinasu leadership. "The female accused persons whilst in custody of the police were forced to share four dirty thin blankets between the 8 of them and female police officers on duty refused to accompany them to the toilet. The toilets were dirty and not fit for human use and they felt degraded to have to use the same." For this the students leaders are claiming \$70 000 from the two.

"As a result of the unlawful arrest and detention their liberty was unnecessarily deprived, they were subjected to pain and suffering including psychological harm due to the conditions under which they were detained. In the premise we hold strict instructions to demand from you, vicariously as we hereby do: Payment in the sum of US\$5 000.00 for each of our client being the quantum for general damages for unlawful arrest and detention and pain and suffering bringing the total claim to US\$70 000.00," added Tavagadza.

Police descended at Forest Industries Training Centre in Penhalonga where Nigel Francis Johnson, Precious Manyoka, Tanyaradzwa Njovoringo, Prince Tendayi, Samuel Gwenzi,

Kudzai Nhamo, Fanuel Chinowaita, Eric Kahari, Kudzai Muswe, Linda Matsapa, Melissa Museka, Pride Mukono, Alistar Pfunye and Takunda Hungwe were gathered for the purpose of holding a Zimbabwe National Student General Council meeting to discuss the welfare of students in tertiary institutions in the country. Without informing them of their reasons for their arrest, police took them to Penhalonga Police Station. They were only released at Mutare Magistrates Court after ZLHR intervened. State security agencies have continued to hold citizens under inhumane conditions despite courts having ruled against it. The ruling was first made when ZLHR challenged the detention of Women of Zimbabwe Arise (WOZA) in filthy cells at Matapi in Mbare, Harare. Tavagadza said she hoped Hon. Chombo and Chihuri would comply adding that: "Failure to take action in this regard will leave us with no option but to issue summons against you."

The letters were copied to Civil Division of the Attorney General's office and Chief Superintendent Chigozha. Both Hon. Chombo and Chihuri have not responded to the letters.

## Know Your Rights

### Section 50 (1) of the Constitution of Zimbabwe Rights of arrested and detained persons

- (1) Any person who is arrested -
  - (a) must be informed at the time of arrest of the reason for the arrest;
  - (b) must be permitted, without delay -
    - (i) at the expense of the State, to contact their spouse or partner, or a relative or legal practitioner, or anyone else of their choice; and
    - (ii) at their own expense, to consult in private with a legal practitioner and a medical practitioner of their choice; and must be informed of this right promptly;
  - (c) must be treated humanely and with respect for their inherent dignity;
  - (d) must be released unconditionally or on reasonable conditions, pending a charge or trial, unless there are compelling reasons justifying their continued detention; and
  - (e) must be permitted to challenge the lawfulness of the arrest in person before a court and must be released promptly if the arrest is unlawful.
- (2) Any person who is arrested or detained -
  - (a) for the purpose of bringing him or her before a court; or
  - (b) for an alleged offence;

## Statement by PLHIV

### PLHIV Call for equity and justice in accessing Diagnostic Services

During the Celebrations of this year's world AIDS day, PLHIV acknowledge the efforts that the Government of Zimbabwe has made towards addressing HIV ever since it was declared a national disaster. The government's commitment to end AIDS by 2030 is demonstrated by its adoption of the 90-90-90 fast track targets of 2020. Impressive and innovative work has been done to ensure that people access HIV Testing Services country wide, and the country is on track to ensure 90% of PLHIV know their HIV status. To date, close to 930 000 PLHIV are receiving ART for free courtesy of the Government ART programme with support from the donor community.

However, PLHIV are still very much concerned regarding the lack of access to diagnostic services, specifically CD 4 counting and viral load machines. Access to viral load counting is critical to the realization of the 3<sup>rd</sup> 90 of the 90-90-90 targets, which is to ensure 90% of 'PLHIV have viral suppression'. Conservative figures indicate that the national coverage for viral load access stands at 5%.

To date, the country has got limited numbers of viral load machines such that some blood samples have to be taken to neighbouring countries like South Africa where the turnaround time is long. Locally, PLHIV have to travel in excess of 200 kilometres to access viral load services, forking out an average of US\$15 – 20 per return trip in hard to reach areas. To aggravate the problem, the results are not collected on the same day, implying PLHIV have to make at least two trips. Where the services are available, these machines are centralised at provincial and central hospitals, with some of them having constant break downs. In addition, each machine has got a capacity to serve a minimum number of people per day translating to only a few people accessing the service per given time.

While the Zimbabwe National AIDS Strategic Plan (ZNASP 3) places rights as a guiding principle for the response to HIV, the reality is that the rights of people living with HIV are severely compromised and Zimbabwe stands way behind its neighbours in the region in terms of treatment, care and support available to PLHIV. Rights that are currently not enjoyed by PLHIV to their fullest include, but are not limited to the right to quality health care, the right to non-discrimination and equality to service provision. Health equity falls into two major categories: horizontal equity, meaning the equal treatment of individuals or groups in the same circumstances; and vertical equity, meaning the principle that individuals who are unequal should be treated differently according to their level of need. The importance of equitable access to healthcare has been cited as crucial to achieving many of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Health equity through local advocacy efforts of PLHIV in all the provinces in Zimbabwe broadly aim at the greater realization of the rights of PLHIV, by PLHIV. This highlights the need of fairness and justice through balancing resources towards attainment of the 90-90-90 targets especially the last 90 by promoting sustainable health care funding, health equity; access to and decentralization of viral load services and sustainability creation to services.

In view of the above and in line with this year's National AIDS campaign theme, closing the tap on new HIV infections, we, the undersigned, therefore challenge the Ministry of Health and Child Care:

- To increase the number of Viral load machines through decentralization to all the districts.
- To reduce time frame to access viral load results.
- To aggressively do resource mobilisation for the realization of the 90-90-90 targets, especially to the last 90.

Furthermore, we urge the Minister of Health and Child Welfare together with the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development to prioritize domestic health care financing through the fiscus in line with the Abuja Declaration for the attainment of the 90-90-90 targets by 2020.