



INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION

Sub-Regional Office for Southern Africa (SRO-Harare)

Press release : 20 May 2009

ILO COMMISSION OF INQUIRY VISITS ZIMBABWE ON GOODWILL MISSION

The ILO Commission of Inquiry into the situation of trade union rights in Zimbabwe arrived in Harare on 19 May 2009 on a goodwill mission. The mandate of the Commission is to follow up on specific submissions concerning the Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organize Convention, No. 87, and the Right to Organize and Collective Bargaining Convention, No. 98. The Commission will eventually submit a report to the Governing Body of the ILO containing its findings, and such recommendations as it thinks appropriate in accordance with Article 26 of the Constitution of the ILO.

At its first session in Geneva from 18-20 February 2009 the Commission decided that while working in the judicial spirit that characterizes ILO Commissions of Inquiry, it is desirous of contributing to the process of reconciliation and healing in Zimbabwe on the basis of international labour standards, which are equally supported by the African [Banjul] Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, 1981. The Commission has written to the President, Prime Minister of Zimbabwe and the Minister of Labour & Social Services along these lines. It has also communicated this philosophy to the Social Partners in Zimbabwe, the leadership of SADC and the African Union.

During its current goodwill mission to Zimbabwe, the dates of which were set in consultation with the Government of Zimbabwe, the Commission will pursue contacts with the senior leadership of the Government of Zimbabwe and with representatives of trade unions and employers' organisations.

In its work, the Commission will seek to develop an understanding of the overall situation of trade union and related rights in Zimbabwe in recent years, at the present time, and the

perspectives for the future. It is particularly interested in analyzing with its interlocutors the trade union situation as such, identifying lessons that may be learned from the relevant facts, and discussing with its interlocutors recommendations that could help strengthen the implementation of trade union and related rights in the future. It would welcome written submissions on legal and practical measures to reinforce the implementation of trade union and related rights in Zimbabwe.

The members of the Commission, as appointed by the Governing Body of the ILO, are Judge Raymond Ranjeva (Chairperson), former Vice-President at the International Court of Justice; Professor Evance Rabban Kalula, Professor of Employment Law and Social Security at the University of Cape Town, and Professor Bertrand Ramcharan, former Acting UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.