

**High Level Publicity Launch Of The Kadoma Declaration –
“Towards A Shared National Social And Economic Vision”**

RAINBOW TOWERS HOTEL, HARARE

FRIDAY 26 FEBRUARY, 2010

The President of the Republic of Zimbabwe, Mr. R.G. Mugabe, has officially launched the beginning of a publicity campaign for the Kadoma Declaration – “Towards a Shared National Social and Economic Vision” (the Declaration) on Friday 26 February, 2010. The official launch was attended by the Deputy Prime Minister, Professor Arthur Mutambara, Minister of Labour and Social Services and Chairperson of the Tripartite Negotiating Forum (TNF) Ms. Paurina Mpariwa and other Cabinet Ministers, Members of Parliament, President and the leadership of the Employers' Confederation of Zimbabwe (EMCOZ), President and leadership of the Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions (ZCTU), representatives of the Zimbabwe Federation of Trade Unions (ZFTU), representatives of diplomatic missions accredited to Zimbabwe, the United Nations Humanitarian and Resident Coordinator and United Nations Heads of Agency and Senior Government Officials. The launch was supported financially by the ILO/UNDP Project on Strengthening of Social Dialogue and Tripartite Cooperation.

The Declaration was signed by the tripartite partners on 4 September, 2009 and was first discussed by the tripartite partners in the TNF in 2001 in an attempt to address macro-economic problems facing the country, including the “country risk factors” and their causes. The identified causes, among others, include failure by institutions of governance to function effectively; mismatch between policy and action; delay in policy implementation; the overall spread of wealth in the country and continued racial imbalance in the ownership of the means of production; lack of political tolerance and lack of respect for human rights. As a way forward, the Declaration has come up with respective actions for each of the tripartite partners on various issues. These include de-politicisation of workplaces, commitment to implement policies, democratization of the economic landscape and implementation of policies of social equity, prioritisation of macro-economic stabilisation, desisting from acts of violence and timely resolution of disputes, respect for trade union rights, and ensuring good governance.

During the launching ceremony, speeches were delivered by the Minister of Labour and Social Services, Ms. P. Mpariwa, President of ZCTU, Mr. L. Matombo, President of EMCOZ, Mr. D. Govere, Deputy Prime Minister, Prof. A. Muthambara and President R. Mugabe. Solidarity messages were also delivered by the ILO/Harare Deputy Director

and Officer-in-Charge, Mr. A. Tabi-Abodo and the United Nations Humanitarian and Resident Coordinator, Ms. E. Lwanga.

During speeches by the various speakers, the following common points were observed:

- Commitment by the tripartite partners to work together;
- Emphasis on the need to engage in more dialogue in the country;
- The need to strengthen the TNF and support its reform process;
- The need for more involvement of the TNF in the development of socio-economic policies;
- The need to use the Kadoma Declaration to augment other national economic development frameworks and the national political dialogue processes under the Global Political Agreement;
- The urgency of setting up an implementation and monitoring mechanisms for the Declaration; and
- The need for more ILO technical support on strengthening of social dialogue , for example, support to the TNF reform process, establishment of the TNF secretariat and labour law reform process.

It should be pointed out that the Declaration was initially supposed to have been launched in November, 2009 but had to be postponed due to the arrest on the ZCTU President and four other union leaders at the Victoria Falls during the week of 9 November, 2009. This incident did not only affect the launch of the Declaration but affected all activities involving tripartite partners due the resurgence of mistrust among the parties.

The following follow-up actions are envisaged:

- a) To have a meeting of the Project Advisory Committee to finalise plans for the provincial launch of the Declaration in Bulawayo and Mutare;
- b) To consult the tripartite partners on the establishment of the implementation mechanism for the Declaration and to come up with a detailed plan for the implementation of actions contained in the Declaration; and
- c) To consult the technical advisory committee on labour law reform that has recently been established by the Minister of Labour and assess their capacity needs and possible ILO assistance in the labour law reform process.