



25 August 2010

Condolence Message

HON. GIBSON SIBANDA - A SYMBOL OF HUMILITY

The Board, Members and Staff of Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights (ZLHR) are deeply saddened by the untimely death of **Gibson Jama Sibanda**, a veteran of Zimbabwe's liberation struggle, committed trade unionist, and the founding Vice President of the Movement for Democratic Change (MDC).

We mourn his loss and convey our deepest condolences to his children, family, friends and colleagues.

Gibson Sibanda was a long-time ally of Zimbabwe's national democratic movement. It is to his lasting credit that he worked consistently for liberation and national independence, democracy, social justice and, lately, national healing and reconciliation, despite the toll on his personal freedom and security.

Those who knew Hon. Sibanda could not fail to have been impressed by his deep and abiding commitment to a free and democratic society and the rights of working people in particular. He pursued this cause with a singular determination and dedication which inspired those around him and which will secure his unique place in the history of the trade union and human rights movement in Zimbabwe.

As a tireless campaigner for human and workers' rights in Zimbabwe, it was inevitable that he would play a leading role in the formation and efforts of the MDC.

His proficiency in different languages and his openness to the thoughts and ideas of others were attributes that he used to great effect. In particular, his achievements regarding the improvement of workers' welfare and freedoms, and the development of the country will long be remembered. Hon. Sibanda will also be remembered for his warmth and friendship. Indeed he was a symbol of humility.

His legacy of patriotism and service to the people of Zimbabwe will continue to inspire us and others who are committed to building an independent, democratic, peaceful and prosperous Zimbabwe.

To the Sibanda family, the workers of Zimbabwe and his long-standing colleagues in the MDC parties, ZLHR is with you during this difficult time.

May His Dear Soul Rest in Eternal Peace

ENDS