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**SADC-LA URGES ZIMBABWE'S AUTHORITIES TO DEMONSTRATE ADHERENCE
TO RULE OF LAW & CONSTITUTIONALISM.**

1. SADC-LA has observed with deep concern the recent downward spiral in observation of rule of law by the State in Zimbabwe. In the past few months the legal profession has been visited by abuse of criminal process by the State to address its (State) concerns against legal practitioners. This is notwithstanding the existence of clear, independent structures and processes to facilitate grievances against lawyers on account of acts committed or omitted in the course of their work.
2. The use of arbitrary arrest (Arresting to investigate) and deployment of excessive force against civilians , the media and opposition has also been observed . This has in some cases led to extra judicial and unlawful destruction of property, injury to persons and deprivation of individual liberty.
3. SADC-LA notes that this status quo and its continued deterioration is a grave violation of human rights, affront to the rule of law and separation of powers doctrine. It has created a palpable state of trepidation amongst law abiding citizens. This is not permissive of full and/or reasonable exercise of human rights under the constitution of Zimbabwe and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR).
4. SADC-LA hereby implores the Government of Zimbabwe to adhere to due process and demonstrably observe the rule of law. It is trite that justice must not only be done, but that justice must be seen to be done. What Zimbabwe needs at this time is Peace, Stability, Respect for Human Rights, and Rule of Law as the foundations for a functioning economy and hope for Zimbabweans to be freed from the clutches of poverty and economic ruin.

For and on behalf of SADC-LA Council and Executive Committee