

COSATU condemns Mugabe for detention of opponents

Wednesday, 18th February, 2009

The Congress of South African Trade Unions strongly condemns the continued detention in Zimbabwe of MDC Treasurer and Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Roy Bennett, Zimbabwe Peace Project Director, Jestina Mukoko, and other MDC activists, on trumped-up charges.

Their arrest and detention prove that Robert Mugabe is doing everything he can to destroy the Government of National Unity. It demonstrates the correctness of the joint COSATU/ZCTU statement of 29 January 2009 which pointed out then that "the police are still under the control of ZANU-PF, abducting, detaining and torturing political opponents of the ruling elite".

As the federations warned, the GNU will never work while one party - ZANU-PF - has sole control over the police and judiciary, and uses that control to frustrate the whole GNU project and retain power in the hands of the party who lost the elections on 29 March 2009.