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To all Media Houses

COPE CALLS ON SADC TO MOVE ITS SUMMIT FROM ZIMBABWE

For Immediate release

The Congress of the People (COPE) is appalled and strongly condemns the recent wave of repression, arbitrary arrests and torture of opposition members and leaders in Zimbabwe.

This represents a gross violation of human rights and a denial of democratic rights by the unpopular Zimbabwean regime.

The repressive environment in Zimbabwe has led to economic collapse, poor governance, mass displacement, social fragmentation and widespread suffering.

COPE urges the Southern African Development Community (SADC) to publicly and immediately condemn human rights violations and the suppression of democratic freedoms in Zimbabwe.

The party demands that SADC relocate its summit from Zimbabwe to stand in solidarity with the suffering people of Zimbabwe. Failure to do so will mean that the SADC condones repression, torture, violation of human rights, and denial of democratic rights.

END:

Issued by: Pakes Dikgetsi:

Acting National Chairperson: 083 302 2935

For more information contact:

COPE MEDIA; 061 397 3252

25 Medgate Centre, 05 Kingfisher Street, Helderkruijn, Roodeport, 1724

Johannesburg 2092 Tel: 083 450 1358



media@copesa.org.za

 www.copesa.org