



منظمة الموفقيين والوسطاء والرقابيين الأفارقة

African Ombudsman and Mediators Association
Association des Ombudsman et Médiateurs Africains
Associação dos Ombudsman e Mediadores Africanos

STATEMENT OF THE PRESIDENT OF AOMA ON THE SITUATION IN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO, SUDAN AND ZIMBABWE

The African Ombudsman and Mediators Association (AOMA) wishes to express concern regarding the recent developments in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Sudan and Zimbabwe. In particular, we have noted the reports over the last couple of days of civil unrest in these countries which have sometimes turned violent stemming from the disputed presidential elections, high cost of living and fuel price hikes. This has caused unnecessary loss of lives and injuries, and destruction of property.

AOMA notes that such incidences undermine democratic governance and peaceful co-existence which are essential prerequisites for sustainable development. In this regard, we urge all players to act within the confines of the law and find swift, but sustainable solutions to these challenges. It is, therefore, imperative that in seeking these solutions, the concerned players should exercise restraint, avoid the use of extrajudicial means, respect human rights and consider peaceful means of conflict management, including mediation, to avert escalation of the situation.

In addition, we call upon the national ombudsman institutions or their equivalents in DRC, Sudan and Zimbabwe to play a critical role and innovatively use their mandates to address some of the present challenges in furtherance of AOMA's goal of a peaceful and secure Africa. As the umbrella body for ombudsman and mediators in Africa, AOMA offers its unequivocal and unwavering support to the national ombudsman institutions and all other players in their endeavour for sustainable solutions.

Signed on behalf of AOMA on the 21st Day of January 2019 in Pretoria,
South Africa

ADV. BUSISIWE MKHWEBANE
PRESIDENT OF AOMA