

AFRICAN UNION

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PRESS RELEASE

THE AFRICAN UNION CALLS FOR RESTRAINT AND DIALOGUE IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

The AU ready to assist the Congolese stakeholders overcome the current challenges

Addis Ababa, 22 January 2015: The Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union (AU), Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, is closely following the situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). She deplores the violence that is affecting the DRC, as well as the resultant loss of lives and destruction of property, following the recent adoption by the National Assembly of legislation on the electoral process. She presents the AU's heartfelt condolences to the families of those who have lost their lives and wishes speedy recovery to those wounded.

The Chairperson of the Commission strongly appeals to all stakeholders in the DRC to exercise utmost restraint and seek, through dialogue, a consensual solution to their differences, with a view to deepening democracy and preserving peace in their country, building on the tremendous progress made over the past few years. She underlines the obligation for all concerned to place the interest of the DRC and its people above any other consideration.

The Chairperson of the Commission expresses the AU's readiness to assist the Congolese stakeholders in addressing the current challenges. In this respect, she will initiate the necessary consultations with the DRC authorities.