



PRESS RELEASE

**THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION LEARNT WITH
SORROW THE DEATH OF THE FORMER PRESIDENT JEAN-BAPTISTE BAGAZA
AND EXPRESSED HER DEEP CONDOLENCE TO HIS FAMILY,
THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF BURUNDI**

Addis Ababa, 5 May 2016: The Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union (AU), Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, has learnt with sorrow of the death of former President of Burundi, Jean-Baptist Bagaza, on 4 May 2016. She expresses her condolences to his family, the Government and people of Burundi.

The Chairperson of the Commission takes this opportunity to urge the people of Burundi to see his death as also an opportunity for reflection. She urges all Burundian stakeholders to put aside their differences and return to the negotiating table in order to urgently resolve the ongoing crisis in the country. In this respect, she encourages the regional leaders and the international community to pursue and intensify their efforts for the immediate re-launch of the Inter-Burundi Dialogue aimed at finding a lasting solution to the crisis.