PRESS STATEMENT ON THE ONGOING INDUSTRIAL ACTION: 05 JULY 2020

Zimbabwe Confederation of Midwives (ZICOM) is a professional association of midwives in government, local authorities and the private practice. ZICOM is affiliated to the International Confederation of Midwives (ICM) which aims at the development of the profession of midwifery and ensuring that no woman dies during childbirth by ensuring every woman and her new-born have access to a qualified and competent midwife at the memorable event of childbirth.

Zimbabwe Confederation of Midwives (ZICOM) notes with concern the impasse between government and the health workers which has seen growing numbers of midwives at public health institutions withdrawing their labour leaving women in childbirth exposed. Reports of women in labour having difficulties to access public health institutions for delivery have been reported in the media. ZICOM is mindful of the events of November 2019 wherein the media was awash with images and reports of desperation for childbearing women in the capital city of Harare. It was hoped from that time that never again were the women of this nation going to be subjected to such desperation, demeaning and unsafe conditions.

ZICOM is aware of the COVID-19 challenges bedevilling the health care delivery system. Note is made of the 2030 Global strategy on Human Resources for Health which highlights member nation's responsibility, among others, to 'uphold the personal, employment and professional rights of all health workers, including safe and decent working environments and freedom from all kinds of discrimination, coercion and violence'. ICM notes that well motivated, competent and qualified midwives are the most cost effective way to render maternal and neonatal health care for any nation. A demand by midwives for a living wage is a legitimate concern.

On this note, ZICOM appeals to the Government, local authorities, the Non-Governmental Organisations, corporate world and the nation at large, to help resolve the current impasse so as to ensure midwifery services are rendered to the women of this nation and their families.

ZICOM National Executive

On behalf of the Midwives in Zimbabwe