

May 19, 2020

Ref: SANHRI (0) ADM/045/20

Dear Family, Staff of CNHRF, Friends and Relatives,

**RE: MESSAGE OF CONDOLENCE ON THE UNTIMELY PASSING ON OF FORMER
NANHRI CHAIRPERSON AND CHAIRPERSON OF CAMEROON'S NATIONAL
COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS DR. CHEMUTA DIVINE BANDA**

The Network of African National Human Rights Institutions (NANHRI) has learnt with deep sorrow the untimely passing on of Dr. Chemuta Divine Banda, the Chairperson of the National Commission on Human Rights and Freedoms (NCHRF) of Cameroon on May 18, 2020 in Yaoundé, Cameroon.

Dr. Banda, who has been the Chairperson of the NCHRF since 2003 and a member of the Steering Committee of the Network of African NHRIs for six years, was an ardent human rights defender and a distinguished leader full of wisdom. Dr. Banda served the Network of African NHRIs from 2013 to 2015 as the Vice Chairperson and the Chairperson from 2015 to 2017. Thereafter, the Network of African NHRIs continued benefiting from his wise counsel at the Steering Committee, where he was the Advisor for another two years until November 2019.

At the national level, Dr. Banda steered the NCHRF to greater heights in defending human rights even in the most difficult moments in Cameroon. He has never shied away from condemning violations because of his strong conviction that enjoyment of human rights is not a favour, but a fundamental right that has to be guaranteed by the State as defined by national, regional and international frameworks. Because of this, the NCHRF has been recognised by the International Community to be effective and fully compliant with the Paris Principles, hence the 'A' Status.

For this and more other pivotal roles he played during his service at the helm of the NCHRF and selfless service to the Network of African NHRIs, he will be greatly missed.

On behalf of the Network of Africa National Human Rights Institutions, the Steering Committee, the Secretariat, our partners and friends of human rights in Africa and the globe, we express our profound condolences to the family, the NCHRF, friends, and relatives for this loss.

Yours Sincerely



Mohamed Fayek

Chairperson, NANHRI



