



# THE LUTHERAN WORLD FEDERATION

A COMMUNION OF CHURCHES – EINE KIRCHENGEMEINSCHAFT – UNA COMUNIÓN DE IGLESIAS – UNE COMMUNION D'ÉGLISES  
LUTHERISCHER WELTBUND – FEDERACIÓN LUTERANA MUNDIAL – FÉDÉRATION LUTHÉRIENNE MONDIALE

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*Office of the General Secretary*

## **Arms Shipment to Zimbabwe**

**Statement by Rev. Dr Ishmael Noko**  
General Secretary, The Lutheran World Federation

**23 April 2008**

I have already expressed my grave concern on behalf of the Lutheran World Federation concerning the unconscionably delayed release of the results of the parliamentary and presidential elections in Zimbabwe. As I pointed out in my previous statement, the ongoing delays promote suspicion and tensions, and undermine respect not only for the current government but also the institutions of governance in Zimbabwe.

The reports concerning the shipment of arms to Zimbabwe raise this concern to a new level. We are no longer talking only about the accountability of government and the transparency of democratic processes in Zimbabwe. We are concerned about an imminent threat to the lives of Zimbabwean citizens at the hands of their own government.

I therefore strongly support the actions of the LWF's Vice-President for the African region, Bishop Dr Zephaniah Kameeta of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in the Republic of Namibia, in promoting legal action to prevent the docking and delivery of the arms shipment on Namibian soil. In the lamentable absence of appropriate action by the governments of the SADC region to forestall the emergency that is playing out in front of our eyes in Zimbabwe, it falls to the churches and civil society to take such measures. I am grateful for the leadership of Bishop Kameeta in this matter, and I call for the solidarity of all the churches of the region in defence of the people of Zimbabwe.

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