



CWGH mourns workers' representative icon – Ex-Premier Morgan Richard Tsvangirai



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The Community Working Group on Health (CWGH) is deeply saddened by the news of the passing on of Former Zimbabwe Prime Minister, Dr Morgan Richard Tsvangirai, who succumbed to the cancer of the colon in South Africa this week. We extend our deepest condolences to his family, friends, colleagues and the nation at large.

Dr Tsvangirai was a great supporter and strong advocate of socio-economic and political rights including the right to Health for All during his time as leader of the Associated Mine Workers' Union of Zimbabwe in the late 1980s and later on as the secretary-general of Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions (ZCTU).

The introduction of the Aids levy on PAYE and Corporate tax that started to be levied on all tax payers from January 2000 was also sharpened by the input and critical participation of Dr Tsvangirai while representing the ZCTU, working with other organizations such as Community Working Group on Health (CWGH), Confederation of Zimbabwe Industries (CZI), Employers' Confederation of Zimbabwe (EMCOZ) and the Zimbabwe National Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS (ZNNP+) to strengthen the mechanisms and accountability of its management and how it would reach agreed target groups, particularly low income households. This process started in 1999 with CWGH convening behind the scenes roundtable meetings to discuss the introduction of the levy, a home-grown fund, which has become the best practice on innovative domestic health financing in the southern African region.

In 2009 during the Government of National Unity, Dr Tsvangirai as the Prime Minister of Zimbabwe greatly supported the Ministry of Health's 100-day plan that contributed to the restoration of basic health services to a functional state. The plan kick started the process of reversing the decline in the performance of the country's health delivery system taking into account the views and inputs from various stakeholders.

Dr Tsvangirai, a passionate unionist and activist valued, respected and appreciated the key role health workers play in national development and he religiously advocated for improved domestic health financing; access to available accessible, affordable and quality health services for all Zimbabweans irrespective of their financial situation. It is however, ironic and equally sad, that a man who advocated passionately for better health outcomes for all Zimbabweans had to die in a foreign land seeking the same better health care services he advocated for at home as a result of a broken and non-functional health delivery system.

Go well SAVE.

You left an indelible mark on Zimbabwe's socio-economic and political architecture.

May Your Departed Soul Rest in Eternal Peace

The CWGH is a network of civic and community-based organizations that aim to collectively enhance community participation in health in Zimbabwe, including improving social determinants of health and alleviating poverty.

For further information, please contact:

The Executive Director

Itai Rusike (Mr)

Community Working Group on Health (CWGH)

4 O'Conner Crescent

Cranborne, Harare

Zimbabwe

Tel: +263-4-573 286/ 573 285

Cell: +263 772 363 991

Email: ltai@cwgh.co.zw / cwgh@mweb.co.zw

Website: www.cwgh.co.zw

Twitter: @itairusike

Facebook.com/CWGH/