

**Press Release N°350/2016****AU sympathises with victims of Hurricane Matthew**

**Addis Ababa, Ethiopia – 7 October 2016:** The Chairperson of the African Union Commission (AUC), Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma sends her deepest sympathies for the destruction and loss of life caused by Hurricane Matthew that hit the Caribbean on 7 October and the State of Florida in the United States this week.

Hurricane Matthew is reported to be the most powerful storm to hit the Caribbean in a decade, causing the death of over 300 people thus far.

The AU Commission Chairperson further extends her deepest sympathies to the people of Haiti, particularly those that lost their loved ones to the storm and calls for solidarity during and after this devastating time.

She sends her thoughts and prayers to the people in the path of Hurricane Matthew, and encourages affected population to heed to the authorities' advice in order to minimize the impact.

Dr. Dlamini Zuma reiterates the African Union's solidarity with the affected people.

**For further information contact**

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