

## **Statement by the British Foreign Secretary, David Miliband, on the recent developments in Zimbabwe**

11 February 2009

“The people of Zimbabwe have for too many years suffered hardship and political violence, denied the government they deserve by the misrule of Robert Mugabe. Today they have a new Prime Minister, Morgan Tsvangirai, a man who has courageously led opposition to the Mugabe regime.

Morgan Tsvangirai's appointment offers the possibility of a change for the better. Mr Tsvangirai and his team have a formidable challenge in bringing legitimacy and reform to Zimbabwe's government, in improving the economy and in delivering basic services to Zimbabwe's people. They will need to be given the room to lead change, not least from ZANU (PF) and its leadership. Britain and the international community will be looking for the whole government to demonstrate, through its actions, a clear commitment to the reforms that the Zimbabwean people so deserve.

We will continue to provide substantial humanitarian assistance to Zimbabwe. We also stand ready to provide broader long-term help . This will depend on the new government's actions. A commitment to macroeconomic stabilisation, restoration of the rule of law, respect for human rights, the immediate release of political detainees, the repeal of repressive legislation, and a commitment to timely elections - are the foundations of international support.”

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