



ZIMBABWE VICTIMS' SUPPORT FUND

(Registered Charity Number: 1145569)

Hazel Farm
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Dear Friend

You will have read, heard or seen the news about the resignation of Robert Mugabe and the appointment of Emmerson Mnangagwa as President of Zimbabwe. And you may well have wondered what this means for the country and perhaps also for the work of ZVSF.

Like just about everyone in Zimbabwe, the United Kingdom and the worldwide media, we rejoice at Mugabe's abrupt resignation. At last his despotic presidency has come to an end and we are hugely relieved that no one, so far as we know, was killed in what most would call a bloodless coup. These events are surely an answer to years of prayer and a testimony to the good nature and patient forbearance of Zimbabweans.

Yesterday Emmerson Mnangagwa was sworn in as president. He has promised to hold elections next year and we know that one of his greatest priorities will be to resuscitate the Zimbabwean economy, creating, we trust, a huge number of jobs. But we also know that he was involved in the Gukurahundi massacres in 1983 – 1985. Thereafter he has been, in turn, Minister of Security, Defence and Justice, and has enjoyed very close relations with the army and the security services. He was Mugabe's 'fixer' in the rigged elections of 2008. We must hope and pray that external and internal pressure will now keep him from partisanship.

So far as ZVSF is concerned, our colleagues in Bulawayo have confirmed that the relief feeding scheme must continue for the foreseeable future because the need is so great. The country's economy remains in turmoil because the banks have no currency to hand to their depositors and, until this is put right by government action, individuals in rural areas will suffer disproportionately. Finally, it is also relevant to point out that Zanu-PF are unlikely to prioritise the needs of people in Matabeleland because their strength is concentrated in Mashonaland.

Please do join us in praying for people of Zimbabwe as a whole and particularly for those in Matabeleland as they watch and wait for the actions of President Mnangagwa.

Yours most sincerely

Chris Sworn
Secretary

Trustees : Graham Shaw, Chris Sworn (Secretary), Christine Jones (Treasurer).