



## **PRESS RELEASE**

**EMBARGO: 16 FEBRUARY 2015**

The Government of Zimbabwe and the European Union today jointly signed the National Indicative Programme (NIP). Under this joint cooperation strategy, funded by the 11<sup>th</sup> European Development Fund [11<sup>th</sup> EDF] (2014-2020), the European Union will provide development assistance amounting to EUR 234 million (approx. US\$ 270 million) to Zimbabwe.

In his remarks, the Secretary for Finance & Economic Development and National Authorising Officer, Mr. W. L. Manungo, had this to say:

**"The signature of the NIP has come at an opportune time for Zimbabwe, following the lapse of Article 96 of the Cotonou Agreement on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2014, which paved way for direct engagement with the EU under the 11<sup>th</sup> EDF. The EU support will go a long way in complementing Government's efforts in providing an enabling environment for sustainable economic empowerment and social transformation to the people of Zimbabwe, as we implement ZIM-ASSET. Government remains committed to full re-engagement with the EU and, in particular, to the successful implementation of the 11<sup>th</sup> EDF."**

The Head of the EU Delegation to Zimbabwe, Ambassador Philippe Van Damme, described today's signing as another step in the relationship between the European Union and Zimbabwe:

**"Today, with the signature of the NIP, we have made an important step in our cooperation with Zimbabwe. We look forward to work in all the strategic and important areas covered by this National Indicative Programme, with the aim to foster the political and economic reforms Zimbabwe is undertaking. A fruitful political and policy dialogue should underpin our cooperation."**

The European Union will concentrate its cooperation in the framework of the NIP on three key sectors, namely:

- Health (EUR 88 million): The objective is to improve health outcomes for the population of Zimbabwe by supporting the national health system and increasing equitable access to quality health services.

- Agriculture-based economic development (EUR 88 million): The European Union will contribute to create a diversified, competitive, efficient and sustainable agricultural sector that contributes to inclusive economic growth and income generation.
- Governance and Institution Building (EUR 45 million): The overall objective is to strengthen the rule of law through institutional capacity building. This support is designed to foster good governance including public finance management, accountability and transparency in order to contribute to Zimbabwe's economic recovery, and to the consolidation of the constitutional and democratic processes, as well as to peace and stability.

The National Indicative Programme is a joint framework between the Government of Zimbabwe (GoZ) and the European Union (EU) that will guide the formulation and implementation of projects funded by the 11<sup>th</sup> European Development Fund (11<sup>th</sup> EDF) country allocation to Zimbabwe. The GoZ and the EU plan to complete in 2015 the formulation of projects for more than EUR 160 million.

The European Development Fund is the main instrument for EU aid for development cooperation with the African, Caribbean, and Pacific Group (ACP) and is funded with contributions from the EU Member States.

The NIP is complemented by additional thematic and regional programmes in the fields of, among others, trade & regional integration, peace & security, natural resource management, support to civil society and human rights.

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