



CHURCH OF NORWAY

Presiding Bishop Rt. Rev C. K. Faindi
The Evangelical Lutheran Church of
Zimbabwe

General Secretary Rev. Dr Kennet Mtata,
Zimbabwe Council of Churches

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Your ref:

Letter from the Church of Norway concerning the new situation in Zimbabwe

Dear Bishop C. K. Faindi and General Secretary Kenneth Mtata,

Please receive our greetings from the Church of Norway. We have been following the dramatic developments in Zimbabwe the last weeks, leading to the resignation of President Robert Mugabe after 37 years in power. Through informative information from you, during visits from Church of Norway earlier this year (from Bishop Atle Sommerfeldt in May and from Deputy General Secretary Einar Tjelle in January) as well as from meetings with key-actors during the LWF General Assembly in Windhoek, we have been informed about the critical situation and the plans in the churches as well.

Even if we don't see the full picture yet, the recent events seem likely to change fundamentally the longstanding political status quo in your country.

On behalf of the Church of Norway we want to assure you that we are remembering the churches and people of Zimbabwe in our prayers in this transitional transformative Kairos moment in your history. We want to congratulate with the joint statement of the Zimbabwe Council of Churches, Zimbabwe Catholic Bishops Conference and Evangelical Fellowship of Zimbabwe, issued on 15 November. We are indeed moved and encouraged by the faith and commitment expressed in this document, as it is reflecting the clear common mind and witness of the churches in your country.

Please bring our greetings of faith, hope and love to sisters and brothers in your churches. We are breathing and praying together with you in these days.

And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (Phil 4;7)

Yours sincerely,

Rt. Rev. Helga Haugland Byfuglien
Presiding Bishop

Berit Hagen Agøy
General Secretary
Church of Norway Council on Ecumenical
and International Relations