



EUROPEAN UNION

DELEGATION OF THE EUROPEAN UNION
TO THE REPUBLIC OF ZIMBABWE

Local EU Statement on Local Governance

The European Union Delegation issues the following statement in agreement with the EU Heads of Mission in Zimbabwe:

The EU takes note of the High Court ruling that the Mayor of Harare cannot be suspended until the Supreme Court case challenging the powers of the Minister of Local Government, Public works and National Housing to suspend the mayor, is heard. The EU notes the arrest of the Mayor following the Court hearing and will continue to follow the legal process.

The EU commends the Parliament of Zimbabwe for the good progress in facilitating public involvement in its legislative processes and, in particular, for the regular consultation of interested parties on Bills in line with the Constitution.

The EU would like to express its dismay at the violent disruption of public hearings on the Local Government Laws Amendment Bill on 16th June in Harare and on the following day at Highfields.

The European Union is concerned by the lack of progress on the devolution of governmental powers and responsibilities to provincial and metropolitan councils and local authorities in line with the Constitution and troubled by the way the adoption of a partial Local Government Laws Amendment Bill is being fast-tracked, before the completion of the public hearings and without allowing for due process by the full Parliamentary Legal Committee.

In Harare, on 30 June 2016