

# Will Zimbabwe's new leader bring in change?

Last week we reported that there were political tensions growing in the African country of Zimbabwe. After a military intervention and days of mass protests, Mr Robert Mugabe finally resigned.



## So what's next for Zimbabwe?

Former Vice President Emmerson Mnangagwa has been sworn in as the new interim President. He has a lot of work ahead of him. In his swearing in speech, he laid out his vision for Zimbabwe paying tribute to Robert Mugabe as a “mentor” but vowing to abandon the former president’s policies.

People are desperate for change, but one will have to watch what President Mnangagwa can actually achieve. Mugabe’s 37-year rule left Zimbabwe in a state of chaos. How so?

- It has no currency of its own: The nation suspended its own currency between 2008 and 2009 as it lost most of its value. The currency now used is the US dollar.
- It has a staggeringly high unemployment rate. According to statista.com, it has the highest unemployment rate in the world, at 95%. This means that 95 people out of 100 do not have jobs!
- It has massive foreign debts, which means that it has borrowed lots of money from foreign groups. It has not paid these back.
- It has poor living conditions: Roads are rutted, many rural communities have no electricity and healthcare is almost non-existent. A life expectancy of 60 is one of the lowest in the world. This means that on average people expect to live till the age of 60 there, versus the country of Monaco, which has the world’s highest life expectancy, of almost 90 years!

New President Emmerson Mnangagwa is expected to form a cabinet this week. He has promised “free and fair” democratic elections in Zimbabwe and that the “people’s voice would be heard”.

Word of caution he was part of old government and has carried out most of Mugabes tyrannical policies. Everyone is waiting to see if he will be able to deliver on his promises.

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To read more about Robert Mugabe [click here](#)