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**Government of Zimbabwe AFRICAN UNION**

**PRESS RELEASE**

**AU ASSESSMENT MISSION IN THE REPUBLIC OF ZIMBABWE**

The delegation of the African Union Permanent Representative Committee (PRC) Sub-Committee on Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons, a Sub-Committee of the African Union responsible on all matters pertaining to refugees, returnees and internally displaced persons in Africa arrived in the Republic of Zimbabwe on 22 February,2011 and will be in the country for three working days.

The mission is led by Ambassador Idule-Amoko from the Embassy of Uganda to Ethiopia. Other members of the delegation are H.E. Mr. Andrew Mtwetwa, Ambassador of Zimbabwe to Ethiopia and Miss Macrine Mayanja, Senior Political Officer from the Division of Humanitarian Affairs, Refugees and Displaced Persons in the Department of Political Affairs.

The main objectives of the mission will be to meet with Government Officials and relevant agencies responsible for humanitarian matters and exchange views on the humanitarian issues, in particular concerning the refugees, returnees, internally displaced persons (IDPs) and asylum seekers. It will also visit Tongogara Refugee Camp and Mugondi resettlement area.

At the end of the visit, the delegation will hold a press conference in order to sensitise the general public on the humanitarian situation prevailing in the country.

When the delegation returns to the African Union Headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, it will present a set of recommendations to the PRC Sub-Committee on Refugees and the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, which among others will include ways of cooperating with the Government in order to find ways for durable solutions to the problem of refugees, returnees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the country.