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## Zimbabwe Welcomes EU Easing Travel Bans, Asset Freezes



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HARARE, Feb. 19—Zimbabwe has welcomed the European Union's decision to ease travel restrictions and lift certain asset freezes on its citizens, calling it a positive step toward normalizing diplomatic and economic relations.

Foreign Affairs Minister Frederick Shava said the move signals recognition of Zimbabwe's

ongoing reforms and efforts to strengthen governance, human rights, and the rule of law. “We view the EU’s decision as a constructive step that will facilitate engagement, trade, and mobility for our people,” he added.

The easing of sanctions will allow Zimbabwean officials and business representatives greater freedom to travel to EU countries and access previously restricted financial resources, boosting economic cooperation and investor confidence.

Shava emphasized that Zimbabwe remains committed to reforms promoting transparency, accountability, and regional cooperation, while continuing dialogue with international partners. The EU’s decision follows years of negotiations and assessment of Zimbabwe’s reform initiatives and is expected to improve bilateral ties, support economic recovery, and enhance trade and investment opportunities with EU member states.

Zimbabwean business leaders and civil society welcomed the development, describing it as a positive signal for economic growth and international integration.