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CANADA CONGRATULATES MALAWIANS ON MULTI-PARTY ELECTIONS

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet today congratulated the people of Malawi on the successful multi-party presidential and parliamentary elections on May 17, the first in three decades.

"Canadians welcomed the peaceful and democratic manner in which the Malawian people conducted their elections. This is an important milestone on the path to further political, social and economic development for the benefit of all Malawians," said Mr. Ouellet.

The elections were the culmination of a dramatic and fundamental political transition during the past two years, which included a referendum to re-establish a multi-party system and the passage of a new interim constitution.

Canadian support for the electoral process included financial assistance for legal advice and media and civic education projects. In addition, Canadian electoral observers participated in both the Commonwealth Observer Group and the Joint International Observer Group organized by the United Nations.

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