

## New Beginning

### Joint Statement

Devolved Government was restored to Northern Ireland on May 8th with First Minister, Dr. Ian Paisley and deputy First Minister, Martin McGuinness issuing the following written statement; "Tuesday 8th May 2007 represents a seminal moment in our history - the day that marks a new



R to L. Rt. Hon. Dr. I R K Paisley, MP, MLA. Peter Hain, former SoS for NI. Tony Blair, former PM. Bertie Ahern, Taoiseach. Martin McGuinness, MP, MLA.

beginning for everyone. After many difficult and dark days we believe this is an unprecedented opportunity to deliver a better future for everyone.

**"I believe that Northern Ireland has come to a time of peace, a time when hate will no longer rule."**

Ian Paisley

moment and make the differences that you want and deserve. Together we can build a new society at ease with itself, where everyone shares and enjoys the benefits of this new opportunity and where no one is left behind.

There are many challenges facing the new Executive but there is a real opportunity to provide the excellent public

services which we all expect, deserve and value. We must grow a strong local economy, rebuild our infrastructure, tackle poverty, intolerance and racism and deliver improvements in key services such as health and education.

Those are priorities your new administration will be urgently tackling but there are many more and we will be working to deal with them all in an open, transparent and accountable way.

**"We know that this will not be easy and the road we are embarking on will have many twists and turns."**

Martin McGuinness

It is now time to get on with the business of Government in an administration that is truly representative of and accountable to you.

We thank you for giving us this opportunity to build a better future."

**The Rt. Hon. Dr. I R K Paisley MP, MLA.  
Martin McGuinness MP, MLA.**

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