

ZIMBABWE - GENERAL

1993

RICA

Zimpapers suspends three executives

HARARE — The board of the Zimbabwe Newspapers Group has suspended three executives without pay or benefits as investigations deepen into their alleged involvement in multimillion-rand fraud.

The Herald, Zimpapers' flagship and Zimbabwe's main daily newspaper, reported yesterday that their suspension was among a series of recommendations to the board made in a report on an investigation conducted by former chairman and CE George Capon. (362)

Capon was brought out of retirement last month to head the company follow-

ing reports of the scandal.

CE Davis Midzi and two other executives have already appeared in court on allegations of defrauding the company, owned by the government appointed Mass Media Trust, of about R1m.

Once regarded as a blue chip investment, Zimpapers shares have fallen from about R8 three years ago, when Midzi was put in charge, to 15c now.

The suspended executives face action by Zimpapers for the repayment of the millions lost through their alleged "improper conduct". — Sapa.

Forked tongue for votes

FM 2/7/93

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In London and Lisbon last week, while President Robert Mugabe was appealing to European businessmen to invest in Zimbabwe, newspaper and magazine headlines in Harare warned of chaos and mayhem in his government's land acquisition policy. Some businessmen insist that Zimbabwe will attract very little new foreign capital so long as it allows the land issue to run in the news media at home and abroad.

The issue was neatly summed up in the opposition's weekly *Financial Gazette*. While some Ministers were seeking to implement the country's five-year economic reform programme, the President had already started fighting the 1995 election campaign, promising supporters more houses, more jobs, increased wages, rural electrification and — above all — more land.

And that is why the land issue will continue to deter foreign investment. Soon after independence 13 years ago, Mugabe promised to resettle 162 500 families by 1985. That target was not met; resettlement to date is estimated at about 60 000 families, and there are many instances of outright failure, with resettled families subsequently deserting land. A recent report by the auditor-general found that more than 235 000 ha taken over by the State were lying idle, while a further 52 000 ha bought by government were being leased to individuals rather than used for resettlement.

Despite this, government decided — just ahead of the 1990 elections — to amend the constitution to enable it to acquire land compulsorily, replacing the previously agreed willing buyer to willing seller strategy. Under that programme, farmers — mainly white — wishing to sell their land were required to offer it first to the State. Now the State can acquire land through the process of "designation," against which there is no right of appeal through the courts. Farmers may — and do — appeal to the Minister of Lands against designation and may go to the courts to appeal against the compensation paid.

When the new controversial measures became law last year, government insisted that it would acquire only under-used and unproductive farms. The second phase of land acquisition began in August when 13 farmers were designated, including one which supplied Mutare with 20% of its milk. Recently appointed Lands & Agriculture Minister Kumbirai Kangai disowned the policy and revoked eight of the 13 orders.

White farmers were delighted. "We have a Minister we can do business with," said one jubilantly. Then, in April, just 72 hours after Finance Minister Bernard Chidzero had published his damp squib package of new investment export incentives, Kangai designated 70 farms covering 190 000 ha, among them some highly productive farms.

The Minister subsequently backed away from previous statements that only unproductive land would be acquired. That was not the case, he said. The country would take an estimated 5m ha from largely white owners over a prolonged period, reducing the "white area" by more than half.

Suddenly Kangai was no longer a man farmers could do business with. Weeks later two highly controversial land designation statements followed. Henry Ellsworth, once an MP for Ian Smith's Rhodesian Front, was alleged to have forced a group of blacks, including women and children, who were illegally taking firewood from his farm, to strip and walk back to their homes in the

cold.

He was accused of *crimen injuria* but, before the case reached the courts, Mugabe had said the farm belonging to this "UDI man" should be designated. In fact, part of Ellsworth's farm had been designated before the incident. The remaining 7 000 ha were designated soon after the incident was publicised.

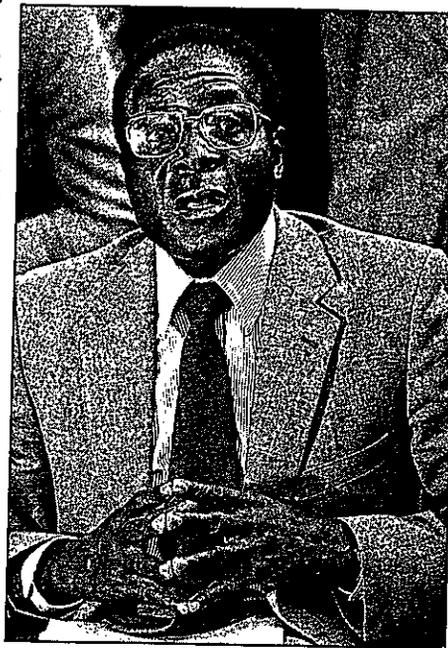
Also politically controversial was the designation of a farm near Harare, owned by rival political leader Rev Ndabaningi Sithole. But in this instance government claimed that the takeover was to avert a health hazard, since hundreds of families were squatting on the farm.

The probability now is that government,

threatened with court challenges, will stick to its two-track strategy. Mugabe and Vice-President Joshua Nkomo will continue to promise more land and a greater stake in business for the black majority, while other Ministers, such as Finance Minister Chidzero and Kangai himself, will seek to square the circle with private reassurances to potential investors and farmers, urging them to disregard the "political rhetoric."

At the end of the day, the policy of trying to satisfy two incompatible constituencies in this way is bound to end in tears, but the immediate

task is to win the election in early 1995. If the economy and reform programme suffer, that's a price the ruling Zanu-PF is prepared — in many instances even keen — to pay.



Mugabe ... farms for votes

RBW 5/1/93

Call for more specialisation

MZIWAKHE HLANGANI

SA's productivity and competitive growth should be achieved by concentrating on specific industries rather than general manufacturing, says the National Productivity Institute in its latest Productivity Focus report.

Average productivity levels could be raised if the country specialised in relatively productive industries, and imported those products and services which local firms could not supply.

The poor productivity performance of the SA manufacturing sector was reflected by manufacturing employment increasing only 1.5% a year between 1970 and 1991, compared with the real fixed capital resources increase of 5% over the same period.

This demonstrated how capital-intensive this sector had become in two decades.

Productivity strategist Karlin Liebenberg said subsidies and protecting unproductive industries slowed down the upgrading of the economy and limited long-term standards of living.

Hourly wages in manufacturing showed high average increases in the same period, but the report showed these increases were not "harmful" to manufacturers in themselves, as long as they were matched by higher productivity.

Liebenberg said the aim should be to support high wages through higher productivity and exporting products at competitive prices.

Zimbabwe govt growth forecast too high — bank

HARARE — Zimbabwe's agriculture-powered economy, which shrank more than 10% in 1992 under a severe drought, was set to grow at the most 2% this year and not 7% as forecast by the government, a leading commercial bank said on Friday.

In its latest economic bulletin, Barclays Bank of Zimbabwe said although agriculture had recovered significantly, its boost to the rest of the economy would be limited by high retention of food crops by farmers, depressed domestic demand and a tight monetary policy. (362)

The economy was also hit by low prices for the country's huge tobacco crop and world recession, it said.

"While crop forecasts indicate a good agricultural season... the boost to the rest of the economy will be relatively muted," the bank said.

"Growth in GDP will at least be positive for 1993, but despite official assertions of 7%, growth in GDP is

not expected to be more than 2%.

"Expectations of lacklustre performance are based on assessment of the seriousness of the macro-economic situation, as reflected in persistently high inflation and tight conditions in the monetary market."

The bank called on the government to cut its bloated 180 000-member public service drastically, cut subsidies to loss-making state companies and reduce public expenditure, which is devouring more than 50% of GDP. Last month trading on the money market nearly ground to a halt as interest rates soared to about 45% because of continued heavy government borrowing from the market, where it has been accused of crowding out private industry.

"The government's unwillingness to reduce the deficit (expected to rise to more than 15% in 1993 from 9% last year) remains the most pressing threat to macroeconomic stability," the bank said. — Sapa-Reuter.

New supports improve mining safety

ADRIAN HADLAND

PRETORIA — Mine safety standards would be improved significantly by the use of newly designed supports,

the CSIR announced at the weekend. Developed by the CSIR's mining technology division, the yielding tendon support, or Cone Bolt, would assist greatly in reducing damage as a result of rockbursts and large quasi-static rock deformations, the CSIR publication Technobrief said.

The bolt was designed specifically for gold mines prone to seismic events or high stress changes. The tendon incorporated a number of novel features enabling it to withstand pressures more than 25kN. Conventional tendons could achieve only between 2 and 6kN before failure, the report said. Installation of the cone bolt was as easy as that of conventional tendons, allowing simple integration with other support system elements.

Union Carbide in mining project

HARARE — Union Carbide was talking with potential partners to help finance a US\$280m platinum and base metals mine in Zimbabwe, a company spokesman said on Friday.

The deal to start operations at the Mimoso Mine in southwest Zimbabwe would hopefully be in place by year-end, he said. (362)

Union Carbide Zimbabwe's US-based parent company began discussions with potential partners a month ago following the completion of a three-year feasibility study.

The study estimated annual platinum output at 132 000oz, and palladium production at 102 000oz. Small quantities of rutile, and other platinum group metals, as well as 4 700 tons of nickel and 3 600 tons of copper could be produced.

A plant processing 3-million tons of ore a year from reserves of about 75-million tons was suggested in the feasibility report, and annual earnings of US\$130m were projected. The platinum grades would not warrant mining but the combination of other metals would make the project viable.

Union Carbide was hoping to finance 60% of the project through a joint venture and the rest by loan, taking advantage of the relaxation of dividend remittances by foreign companies announced by the Zimbabwe government in April.

The company hoped to start mining early next year. This would be followed by the establishment of a concentrator plant and refining by toll treatment until a smelter was in place. Full production was expected in three years, when the plant would employ about 1 400 people. — Sapa-

Mugabe Star 7/1/93 warning on farms

By Robin Drew (362)
Star Africa Service

HARARE — A showdown threatens between the courts and the government of Zimbabwe over the land issue.

President Mugabe, speaking at a luncheon for MPs yesterday, said he would "brook no interference" from the courts over acquiring land from white farmers for resettlement.

If necessary, he declared with emotion, "we will have our own UDI". But he hoped to avoid this and use the law, which is the Land Acquisition Act, to get land.

The government says it intends taking about half the commercial farmland for resettlement, amounting to some five million hectares.

Recently some 70 farms were designated for acquisition, some of them highly productive properties according to the Commercial Farmers Union which accused the government of going back on assurances.

One farm was designated as a "punishment" for the farmer's alleged harsh treatment of women found stealing firewood. The case is still before the courts.

Legal opinion has been given that acquisition in this fashion would be unlawful.

Cash rolls in as Americans fete Mandela

ARG 7/7/93

□ 'Batteries charged' by visit

CHICAGO. — African National Congress president Mr Nelson Mandela was the star attraction at a series of fundraising events yesterday aimed at pulling in millions of dollars for the organisation's election campaign.

"I will go back to my country full of strength like a battery that has been charged and I will always think of this occasion with very fond memories," said Mr Mandela during a whirlwind tour which at times recalled the style of the old-time politician on a hunt for campaign dollars.

Supporters at one \$100-a-plate lunch lined up to hand Mr Mandela cheques and cash, and some reports said the ANC leader may have received as much as \$100 000 (R334 000) at a single function.

Chicago Mayor Richard Daley urged residents at one event to "reach down in your pocket" and handed Mandela a symbolic key to the city.

Mr Daley said: "This is a great day for our city. A statesman, a freedom fighter and in-

ternational hero has honoured us with this visit."

Mr Mandela is in the United States on a two-week visit to raise funds for a voter registration drive and to educate the electorate ahead of next year's elections.

An election date of April 27, 1994, was agreed to last week by democracy negotiators. It was supported by the government and the ANC, but opposed by conservative groups.

Mr Mandela has said that of the 22 million voters eligible to take part in the elections to end 350 years of white domination, some 19 million would be voting for the first time.

He told one Chicago support group that "when you are in prison, especially a South African prison where all prisoners are black and all warders are white, then you have to live through that in order to understand how cruel human beings can be to others".

He added: "Friendship and support from friends is something which is a source of tremendous inspiration always and to everyone." — Sapa-Reuters.



DANCING IN THE STREETS: Demos protests against the annulment

Mugabe warns of farm showdown

ROBIN DREW
Argus Africa News Service

HARARE. — A showdown threatens between the courts and the government of Zimbabwe over the land issue.

President Mugabe, speaking to parliamentarians, said he would "brook no interference"

from the courts over the acquisition of land from white farmers for resettlement.

If necessary, he declared with emotion, "we will have our own UDI". But he hoped to avoid this and to rely on the Land Acquisition Act.

The government intends tak-

ing about half the commercial farmland, amounting to some five million hectares.

Legal opinion has been given that acquisition under the Act may be an abuse of the owner's rights as set out in the Declaration of Rights in the constitution.

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Mugabe vows to defy court on land

HARARE — Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe has vowed to reject any court decision which opposes his controversial land nationalisation programme. *B. Day*

Speaking at a party to mark the official opening of parliament, Mugabe condemned efforts by some local farmers to hire British lawyers to contest the legality of his compulsory land acquisition scheme. *21-7-93*

"We will not brook any decision by any court from acquiring any land," he said in remarks on Tuesday night.

"If we have to resort to a UDI (unilateral declaration of independence) on land we will do so, but of course we wouldn't want to do that," he said.

Last month, a local weekly reported that some "concerned Zimbabweans" had sought at a cost of Z\$1m the services of a British lawyer to contest the designation of several farms for nationalisation. *(362)*

Mugabe's government has earmarked 70 privately owned farms to resettle thousands of peasants in its boldest implementation of the disputed Land Acquisition Act.

Industry sources said at least half of the farmers affected had lodged objections with the ministry of agriculture as provided under the law.

But the ministry is empowered to ignore the objections under the Land Acquisition Act.

Zimbabwe's 4,500 mainly white, commercial farmers owning more than 60% of the country's most fertile land strongly opposed the law which was rushed through parliament last year. — Sapa-Reuters.

From pitch to politics

W/Mant 9/7-197193 (362)
By ANDREW MELDRUM: Harare

FOOTBALL rivalry between Egypt and Zimbabwe has reached diplomatic proportions, with Zimbabwe's foreign minister complaining about insulting articles in the Egyptian press.

After Zimbabwe's controversial defeat of Egypt in a qualifying round for the 1994 World Cup championship, the Egyptian press began hurling racial slurs and attacking the country's political leadership.

The war of words included a scathing attack on Zimbabwe's economic policies featured in the country's largest English language daily, *The Egyptian Gazette*, on the day last week when Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe arrived in Cairo for the meeting of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU).

The Egyptian paper took Zimbabwe to task for accepting International Monetary Fund "recipes and instructions with closed eyes, while the Egyptian government was prudent enough to apply the reforms gradually". The newspaper concluded that this marked the difference between "those who think and those who just obey and follow".

That slap prompted the Zimbabwean Foreign Minister Nathan Shamuyarira to lodge an official complaint with his Egyptian counterpart. *The Egyptian Gazette* then issued a clarification which said that the article was merely "a slip of the pen".

Sniffing at the "flimsy apology", Zimbabwe's government-owned *Herald* newspaper picked up the challenge on Monday by ridiculing Egypt's economy, stating that "with a long-term debt of

US\$34.23 billion, Egypt is one of the world's most indebted nations. In comparison, Zimbabwe's debt is only US\$2.4 billion".

The Egyptian papers were infuriated in April when Egypt's victory in Cairo over Zimbabwe was nullified because of intimidating violence by Egyptian fans. Stones were thrown at the Zimbabwe team, injuring two players and causing Zimbabwe's coach, Reinhard Fabisch, to have five stitches on his head during the match. An international linesman was also hit by a stone.

The Egyptian papers scoffed at Zimbabwe's complaints, alleging that fans had only tossed oranges onto the football pitch.

Fifa cancelled Egypt's victory and rescheduled the match in France, which Zimbabwe won. After that, the Egyptian magazine, *Al-Ahlawiya*, referred to the Zimbabweans as "black slaves".

This prompted a spate of angry letters to the *Herald* in which Zimbabweans traded racial slurs. "Since when have Egyptians been white? And what have they accomplished in the past 20 years to make them feel superior?" asked one letter.

The bitter newspaper attacks date back to 1991, when Zimbabwe competed in the in the All-Africa games in Cairo. Another leading daily, *Al-Akhar*, claimed that the Zimbabwean team threatened to pull out of the tournament because officials had confiscated a box of monkey meat. Zimbabwean officials dismissed the story as ridiculous. — The Guardian News Service

Riddle of SA man held in Zimbabwe

By MICHAEL HARTNACK
Harare

ZIMBABWEAN police have reportedly arrested a South African who links right-wing groups and members of the SA Defence Force to drug smugglers and a massive stolen-car racket.

The Herald newspaper, which is close to Zimbabwean government sources, reported that the man, whom it claims is to be deported soon, was picked up at gunpoint by plain-clothes officers last Thursday in a raid on a Harare restaurant.

Diplomats are treating the report with caution in view of the Zimbabwean government's past condonation of the Pan African-

ist Congress's smuggling of stolen South African cars "as part of its armed struggle", and the belated prosecution of PAC members for mandrax trafficking. There has been no formal confirmation from Zimbabwean police headquarters.

The Herald said the arrested man was a former SAP member wanted in connection with the theft of 300 luxury vehicles.

The paper also suggests he is linked to Frederick Alex. Harding, 50, who, it says, is helping the ANC to investigate "dirty tricks" carried out by the CCB.

Mr Harding is due to appear in court in Randburg on July 19 on five counts of attempted murder and a charge of bilking.

11/7/83

Ruling on death penalty

sets a
St Times 11/6/93
poser

A recent judgment in Zimbabwe has implications for South Africa, writes
CARMEL RICKARD

A MAJOR human rights judgment handed down by Zimbabwe's highest court could see a dramatic reduction in the number of prisoners hanged in that country.

The chief justice, sitting with four other judges, ruled last week that the death sentence on four condemned men be commuted to life imprisonment because they had suffered cruel and unusual punishment, sitting on death row for years, waiting to die.

A number of judges and human rights organisations in this country, aware of the case, have been waiting for the judgment with interest. If Pretoria should decide to abide by the decision in parliament, end its moratorium on hanging and announce an execution date for death row prisoners, some of the facts in a possible court application challenging the proposed executions in South Africa, could well overlap with the facts in the Harare case.

The four condemned men, convicted of extremely serious crimes, have exhausted all legal avenues to halt their execution. They have been sitting with about 100 others on death row, waiting to hear their fate.

Anguish *302*

In March, a Harare newspaper reported that the four would be hanged within a few days, the first executions since 1987. The Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace in Zimbabwe acted immediately and won a temporary stay of execution until the courts could hear and rule on argument for a permanent stay.

On the day of the planned execution, one prisoner would have been on death row for six years and 21 days and the three others for about four years and four months. Each man lived daily with the fear of being put to death, suffered mental anguish and constant dehumanising treatment on death row.

According to the commission's argument, the anguish they suffered through waiting so long for execution amounted to cruel and unusual punishment and was thus unconstitutional.

The court agreed. The judges reviewed cases from around the world in which it was found that lengthy stays on death row were unacceptable — particularly delays not caused by the prisoners themselves — and could lead to the death penalty being commuted.

During the time the four men were waiting to be executed, the Zimbabwe government considered abolishing the death penalty, although it ultimately decided to retain hanging. While the issue was discussed, no one was hanged.

Reprieve

South Africa is in a similar situation at the moment, which is another reason for local interest in the outcome of the case.

The Zimbabwe judges, at the same time as commuting the death penalty on the four men, made recommendations for shortening the time condemned prisoners spend on death row, while still allowing them to exhaust all legal avenues in pursuing a reprieve.

Commenting on the decision last week, Zimbabwe President Robert Mugabe, who is personally opposed to the death penalty, said it would remain on the books until there was strong public feeling against it.

However, the director of the commission, Michael Auret, and Zimbabwe's former chief justice, Enoch Dumbutshena, both say the judgment will have far-reaching implications for the continued use of the death penalty. They say the new judgment means many on death row cannot now be hanged.

Those most immediately affected by the decision will be prisoners who, like the four in the recent case, have been awaiting execution for a number of years.

Land seizure to go ahead

SI Times
18/7/93

ZIMBABWEAN President Robert Mugabe yesterday continued his dogged defence of the government's policy on land seizure, saying investors who do not like the programme to confiscate 5-million ha for resettlement "should not come". (362)

He also repeated his assurance that the government would ignore any court decision blocking its powers to seize land and bar owners from suing for unfair compensation.

In an interview published in the Herald, Zimbabwe's main daily newspaper, Mr Mugabe compared Zimbabwe's land policy with that of the redistribution of land in Ireland in the last century.

"There was the same squealing on the part of British landowners," he said.

This week, reports said at least 27 farmers who owned productive land already in use, had been told that their appeals against the "designation" of their farms for resettlement had been dismissed.

In May, the government formally set aside 70 farms covering 190 000ha. Twenty-one of the farmers did not lodge objections, and last week 22 were told the designation notices on their land had been revoked, leaving 27 who are to lose their land unwillingly.

Critics, including MPs of the ruling ZANU (PF) party, charge that productive land is being confiscated, while derelict land belonging to senior political figures is left untouched, and that the law is being used to settle political and racist grudges.

Confiscation

The Herald quoted Mr Mugabe as saying that if foreign investors "are persuaded that the interests of the 4 000 commercial farmers are greater than the interests of the 10-million communal peasants, they should not come into the country".

Businessmen who thought the government's "quest for land" and the measures it had adopted for confiscation were unfair, "should not come at all because they do not know what justice is," Mugabe said.

His remarks are expected to alarm the business community, as in the last six months the government has introduced a series of economic reforms to stimulate the economy and attract desperately-needed foreign investment.

Mr Mugabe assured a group of businessmen in London last month that "no one need be scared that our government will one day embark on a policy of expropriation and nationalisation."

He also repeated his promise that he would not tolerate legal challenges by anyone.

"We are saying that we will acquire it in a proper way, set out under the Land Acquisition Act. But that measure should not be contested by anybody." — Sapa

Fake passport racket in Zimbabwe uncovered

Own Correspondent

HARARE — South African immigration officers at Beit Bridge have uncovered a racket in lost and stolen Zimbabwean passports. 20/11/93

The Herald reported yesterday that South African officials have sent back women whose personal details clearly conflicted with those shown on the passports. A number have appeared in Beit Bridge Magistrate's Court.

Several offenders said they had bought the passports from a dealer in Harare's Chitungwiza suburb. Police here are now seeking him.

Zimbabwe plea for textile concession

HARARE — Zimbabwe has lodged a special appeal with the SA government to reduce punitive import tariffs which have cut textile exports to SA by more than Z\$20m and are threatening the viability of the industry. (760)

SA Textile Federation CE Brian Brink said in Johannesburg yesterday that senior Zimbabwean Industry and Commerce Ministry officials had visited SA to make a special appeal for concessions. (362)

SA placed high tariffs on Zimbabwean textile and clothing exports last year to protect its own industry, which was struggling with low domestic demand and

dumped cheap clothing from the Far East.

The high duties, and a drought-induced recession in Zimbabwe, which reduced local textile demand by 35% to 40%, forced the industry to retrench about 7 000 workers and virtually wiped out exports to SA.

Brink said the appeal was heard by a special panel established to solve the problems of SA's textile and clothing sector.

He said: "It was a good appeal by Zimbabwe and I think it was well received."

"The panel is understood to have recommended sending a team to Zimbabwe for a closer look. However, it will be some time before anything concrete is done." — Sapa.

Mugabe set for clash with judges

By MICHAEL HARTNACK, Harare
THE stage is set for a constitutional crisis of catastrophic proportions in Zimbabwe, Attorney General Patrick Chibemasa has predicted. President Robert Mugabe is set to clash with his judges over his plan to nationalise five million hectares of land belonging to commercial farmers, his intention to hang murderers kept on a death row for years, and his routine suspension of a Battle lines were drawn last month when Mr Mugabe warned white farmers not to retain South African advocate Sydney Kentridge to contest the controversial Land Acquisition Act, which attempts to limit their right of appeal against expropriation.

Mr Chibemasa, a political appointee who sits in Mr Mugabe's Cabinet, warned students in a speech to law position alongside the pent-up anger of 10 million black Zimbabweans over the issue of land. "One of the farms to be confiscated is a 9,500 ha ranch belonging to conservative nationalist Henry Elsworth. Mr Mugabe ordered the expropriation as 'punishment' for the alleged stripping of 21 illegal firewood gatherers at gunpoint."

Inhumane

Mr Chibemasa and Mr Mugabe have also attacked the Supreme Court judges headed by Chief Justice Anthony Gubbay for commuting death sentences on four murderers due to be hanged in March.

The judges found the four had lingered inhumanely on death row for more than five years. Pledging a speedy constitutional amendment to revalidate all Mr Mugabe's powers to sign death warrants, Mr Chibemasa accused the Supreme Court of "a determined, unashamed and blatant move to usurp the powers vested in the executive."

Said Mr Mugabe: "To say a person sentenced to death has been ill-treated because he has not died earlier than scheduled, is to say he did not deserve that extra life. If the constitution says a mitigated inhumane treatment then it should be modified."

In the third incident, Zimbabwe's Law Society issued a strong protest against Mr Mugabe's invocation of his Presidential Powers Act to revoke without explanation an eviction order against a Harare suburb tenant, Dominic Kanyanda. Mr Kanyanda, who has no known political connections, did not defend a High Court action but has been granted special immunity by Mr Mugabe.

Zimbabwe gold production soars

HARARE — Gold production in Zimbabwe reached 9261kg for the first six months of the year, 320kg up on the same period last year and the highest in decades.

The value of production for the half year was R368 million, up R69 million on January to June figures for 1992. Last year a total of 18,4 tons of gold worth R507 million was produced, and industry commentators expect a sharper rise in the second half of the year, prompted by the increased price of gold.

Gradually increasing investment by existing and new companies in gold exploitation in the last decade has laid a foundation for steadily increasing output. — Sapa.

Own Correspondent

HARARE — Zimbabwe's fledgling wine industry is cock-a-hoop after winning five silver and seven bronze medals at the international wine and spirit competition in London.

Freer trade with South Africa — either through the admission of Zimbabwe to the South African Customs Union or the admission of South Africa to the ten nation Southern African Development Community (SADC) — will not return vineyards to bush and make cellars desolate, says Tim Johnson, chairman of Cairns Wineries, one of Zimbabwe's three major producers.

Diplomatic observers here have predicted it will be "last orders for politically correct but palate-harsh" Zimbabwean wines if post-apartheid South Africa is able to export freely north of the Limpopo.

Not so, protest local winemakers, noting their rising quality and output, and highly competitive price-range.

"We are where New Zealand was 15 years ago," says consultant winemaker Clive Hartnell, from North Island, now attached to African Distillers' Stapleford subsidiary, which carried off silver medals in London for its tawny port and 1992 cabernet sauvignon, acknowledged the best red so far produced here and likely to hit the market in September with a price tag around R10, compared to around R23 for South African cabernet.

Cairns, whose major vineyards are

Zimbabwean wines scoop UK medals

(362) CT 28/7/93

at Wedza, 100 km south east of Harare, also won silver medals for its 1992 Mukuyu Flirt, ranked the finest rosé yet bottled here, and its VAT 10 colombar. The wines sell here for R8 and R6 a bottle, but Johnson foresees powerful export potential in South Africa.

"We need another three years to really get on our feet," (with protective tariffs) says Johnson.

But he believes the future should see collaboration between the two industries, with Zimbabweans free to import South African blending wine in bulk, as French vintners do.

Cairns is now producing 7.2 million litres of wine a year.

Phillips Central Cellars won a silver medal for an off-sweet white wine and, between them, the three vintners won seven bronze medals in London.

Zimbabwean wine is acknowledged to have made giant strides since the last British governor of Rhodesia, noted connoisseur Lord Soames, took a wary sip and repeated the famous words of nurse Edith Cavell before she was shot in 1915: "Patriotism is not enough. There must be no bitterness whatsoever."

Zim pensioners 'can get paid out in full'

ZIMBABWE is allowing ex-Zimbabwean pensioners to commute pensions in full if they receive less than Z\$116 (R56) a month. ^{263 (362)} CT29/7/93

The Zimbabwe government has indicated it will now allow expatriate pensioners to receive their money in full in their countries of domicile, which could benefit about 2 000 former Zimbabweans in South Africa. An official said a person receiving a monthly pension of Z\$115,00 who had just reached the age of 60 could expect a lump sum of Z\$14 076 — about R6 756. — Staff Reporter

Star 29/1/93
**Zim pensions
to be paid out**

Zimbabwe government pensioners are being offered an opportunity to claim their full pensions. The money will be paid to them in the country in which they now live. The Rhodesia Association of SA estimates about 6 500 Zimbabwean pensioners are living in South Africa. — Staff Reporter

(362)

Zanu (PF)'s Zidco a model for Thebe

(3/2)

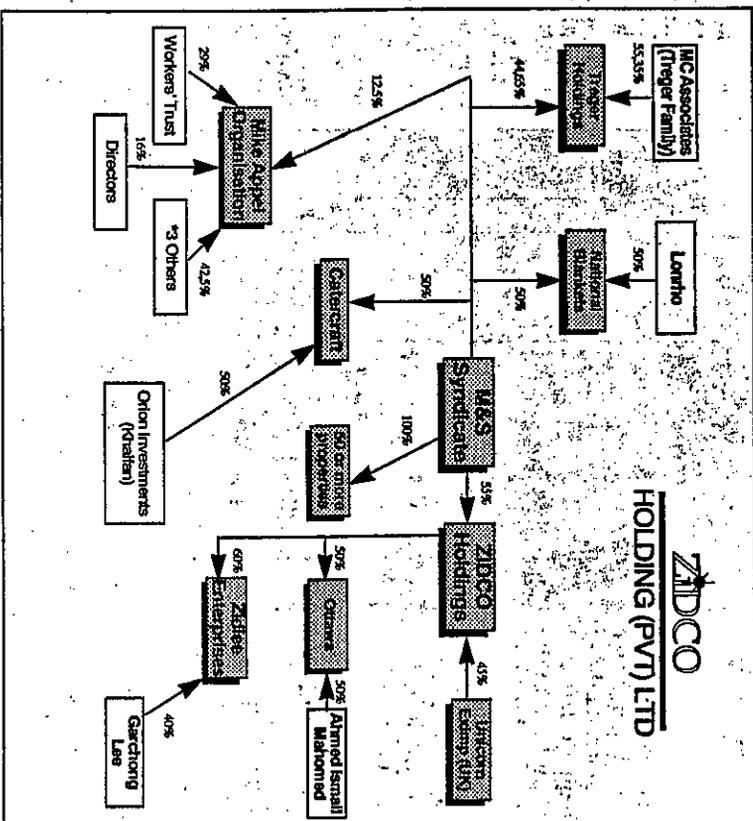
Iden Wetherell looks at the shadowy investment company controlled by Zimbabwe's ruling party

THEBE Investment Corporation, the African National Congress-linked business which was recently the subject of controversy following less than transparent business deals, appears to be modelled on an investment company belonging to Zimbabwe's ruling party, Zanu (PF).

Zidco Holdings (Pvt) Ltd, a multifaceted business empire set up shortly after independence in 1980, boasts an annual turnover of Z\$350-million (R175-million) and employs 10 000 people. According to the independent publication *Horizon*, its interests range from textbook supplies, vehicle imports, tobacco sales and farm management, to government contracts and property investment.

More than 50 houses, buildings and farms fall within its property portfolio, *Horizon* reports, but its most profitable investment appears to be National Blankets, purchased in 1987 with the assistance of Lonrho from a subsidiary of the Frame Group. Pre-tax profits in 1989 amounted to Z\$13-million (R6.5-million) on sales estimated at Z\$46-million (R23-million).

A 44 percent share in Tregler Holdings, a Bulawayo-based supplier of steel products, hardware, and appliances thought to be worth at least Z\$13-million. Catercraft, in which



Zanu(PF)'s business empire

Zidco acquired a 50 percent share in 1989, services national and international flights at Harare airport bringing in lucrative foreign exchange. Zidco moved into automotive engineering when it bought a share in 1991 in Mike Appel auto engineers which owns 30 subsidiaries. An asbestos factory and service station in Kwekwe have also recently been acquired. In none of these acquisitions have the purchase price, terms

or conditions been disclosed. Nor are audited reports available.

Zidco is itself an outgrowth of a shadowy company called M&S Syndicate (Pvt) Ltd, established on the eve of independence as an investment vehicle for leading individuals in Zanu (PF) with ownership vested in nominees. The precise ownership structure of M&S Syndicate and Zidco remains shrouded in mystery.

Despite its extensive range of investments, Zanu (PF) is known to be strapped for cash. It is believed to have borrowed Z\$17-million (R8.5-million) from a prominent insurance company in the late 1980s to build its massive new headquarters and there is some doubt as to how that debt will be repaid. The City of Harare was obliged to donate the site on which the headquarters stands. Senior party officials borrow freely from Zidco and many of those debts are apparently unaccounted for.

The absence of accountability and the involvement of Zidco in government tenders has raised questions about both the provenance and distribution of its funds.

"Surely there is a conflict of interest in a ruling party involving itself directly in government business, a golden opportunity for a severe breach of public trust," suggests Professor Jonathan Moyo of the University of Zimbabwe's politics department. "What checks and balances exist to prevent insider trading on lucrative contracts, collusion over multi-million dollar army tenders or the awarding of import licences?" he asks.

Government ministers have recently charged that opposition parties are being funded by local whites and "foreign interests". The absence of transparency in the ruling party's own funding, including Z\$20-million recently appropriated from the national fiscus, is bound to fuel controversy as the country gears for elections which observers believe may be held next year.

SOURCE: HORIZON

Lessons from Zimbabwe

South 3117 - 4/8/93

IN 1979, after the Lancaster House agreement was signed by all political players in former Rhodesia, a Commonwealth Monitoring Force (CMF) was called in to supervise the implementation of a ceasefire.

This step was necessary because of the mistrust that existed on all sides. The lack of trust was not just between the Rhodesian Security Forces and the liberation army — the Patriotic Front — but also between the two rivals within the guerilla forces.

Zipra (Zimbabwean People's Revolutionary Army) led by Joshua Nkomo and Zanla (Zimbabwean National Liberation Army) headed by Robert Mugabe were armed forces competing for the fruits of liberation.

Disarmament and the implementation of a binding ceasefire were successful. This was because of the creation of a joint command and control system in which all factions were represented equally, and a monitoring group which was

respected as an impartial referee.

The first free and fair elections, in 1980, demarcated the next phase for military integration. Mugabe and his Zimbabwean National Unity (Zanu) won an overall majority of parliamentary seats.

The international monitors left and the new government appointed the British Military Advisory and Training Team to integrate the the armed forces into a new army.

Although there existed major threats, like the renewed outbreak of civil war, political schism and a massive exodus of whites, the British advisors were able to gain credibility.

After only two years, the integration was complete. The new army had a force of 65 000, training courses were underway and officers had been trained and appointed.

There are some similarities and differences between the Zimbabwean experience and South Africa.

The first similarity is that the SADF, like the Rhodesian Security Forces is an effective conventional

army. This will be a structure the new integrated army can rely on.

In South Africa, though, there is a comparable degree of mistrust between the two players, uMkhonto weSizwe (MK) and the SADF. The SADF and SAP are viewed with suspicion because of their evident and massive involvement in the apartheid system.

The sooner real integration can be achieved, the better. A first step would be the involvement of MK officers in the new Peacekeeping Force.

Although the integration process will be implemented through the negotiation process, and despite the reluctance of the SADF to be supervised by international experts, there will have to be some involvement of independent observers.

The SADF cannot be a player and a referee. The post-election South African army needs, as in Zimbabwe, new structures, staff training methods and a defence doctrine. These can best be set up with the help of neutral advisors.

SIT 11-20
Arms rush
118193

ZIMBABWE has been hit by a wave of violent crime and people are rushing to arm themselves, Ziana news agency reports. (362)

Gun control authorities said they would not issue more guns to civilians than were "necessary".

South Africa
San starve in Zimbabwe

218 1983
HARARE — The nomadic San people, recently resettled on communal land in southern Zimbabwe, are starving as promised government food aid has not been distributed to them, *Ziana* news agency reports.

The wife of the traditional San leader, Kwenga Moyo, said adults were starving and the tribe was eating boiled caterpillar pupae which they dug up from the ground (362)

COMPANIES

Cafca share earnings plummet

ZIMBABWEAN-based Central African Cables' (Cafca) earnings dropped by more than a fifth to 22c a share in the six months to end-June 1993 from 28,1c a share last year, today's published results showed.

However, earnings for the JSE-listed subsidiary of UK-based BICC rose substantially compared with 12,9c a share in the second half of last year. The dividend for the interim period was 5,4c, 69% higher than the 3,2c at the end of 1992 but 23% lower than the 7c in last year's interim period.

Zimbabwe's inflation rate is about 40%.

Cafca makes copper electric cables and aluminium conductors. Cables account for more than 90% of sales. Volumes depend mainly on large capital projects in mining, agriculture and telephone reticulation.

EDWARD WEST

Turnover was virtually static at Z\$56,1m (Z\$56,3m), but lower than the Z\$61m at the end of 1992. Nearly a third of turnover comprised exports. Operating profit fell to Z\$10,2m (Z\$13,5m), but was substantially higher than the Z\$6,5m achieved in the second half of last year.

Directors said there was no discernible sustainable growth in demand. Increased profit resulted from reduced manpower, cost savings and unlikely to be repeated foreign currency gains.

Exports in the region were becoming more competitive. With an order book of Z\$17m at the end of June 1993, the group was on target to meet its forecast earnings of Z\$13m for the year, the directors said.

Zimbabwe farmers hire top lawyer

HARARE — Some Zimbabwean farmers, angered by the government's policy to forcibly buy their land, have hired top South African lawyer Sydney Kentridge, now practising in Britain, to challenge the case in court, a businessman involved in the case said yesterday. (362)

"Individual farmers are mounting the legal challenge because it's the only way they can protest against the violation of basic human rights," said businessman Clive Puzey, a member of the opposition Forum Party of Zimbabwe.

The Zimbabwean government, using the Land Acquisition Act of 1992, has earmarked more than 70 farms owned mainly by whites to be bought by the State. — Sapa-Reuters.

Robin Drew in Harare reports that the easier life has arrived and people aren't shopping in Pietersburg so often

Zimbabwe's economic shackles falling away

362

Steer 5/8/93

THE professional man who left Zimbabwe to live in Britain some years ago said the main reason he was accepting a transfer was because he was no longer prepared to be an economic prisoner. He wanted to be free to move his money and himself where he chose.

Rigid exchange control since the days of UDI has been a fact of life here. The Reserve Bank was master. Regulations abounded. Foreign exchange didn't.

So one found first Rhodesians and later Zimbabweans cadging their way around on miserable holiday allowances. Emigration meant leaving almost all your assets behind.

Devaluation made the few hundred dollars available a laughable allowance. A train trip in from the airport on an overseas tour and a

night in a hotel took care of most of it.

But now things are changing and the dreaded ESAP, the Economic Structural Adjustment Programme, which began to be implemented three years ago is responsible.

One of the most far-reaching changes has been the abolition of the restrictions on individual residents from holding foreign exchange.

Now foreign currency denominated accounts may be opened with local banks and no questions will be asked about the source of the funds brought into the country.

Furthermore interest earned on these accounts will be tax-free for three years and the money will be freely transferable.

While the banks were initially cautious about how these accounts

would operate it is now being said that in essence exchange control doesn't apply any more. Someone with spare cash can buy foreign currency (at a premium, of course) from his bank, open a foreign currency account and move the money around.

In the event of another devaluation of the Zimbabwe dollar, individuals will have some protection in future.

The investment policy changes announced earlier this year are also having an effect at last. New money from foreign investors, some in South Africa, has come in and the stock exchange index has turned from its depressing downward slide.

One commentator said: "From the previous general air of depression that pervaded all trans-

actions, there is now a more upbeat mood."

Inflation has come down to the mid-twenties level from a peak of nearly 50 percent and interest rates have followed it down.

An analyst with a merchant bank, speaking after the Budget, said: "We are on the right track though it is taking longer than it should. The government is taking more of a back seat and the right players are being left to play."

That, of course, is what economic reform is about and the government has re-pledged itself to continue with the reform programme despite the pain and suffering it has brought ordinary folk through price rises.

The trade liberalisation side of reform has seen a dramatic change in the range of goods now available in Zimbabwe.

Shopping trips to Pietersburg to get not only a few luxuries but sometimes necessities have become a thing of the past for many. So much South African wine flowed into the country that Finance Minister Dr Chidzero found it necessary to announce increased duties to protect the Zimbabwean wine industry.

A stroll through a new shopping mall in the prosperous Borrowdale suburb may not reveal the range of goodies available in Sandton City or Claremont's Cavendish Square, but the transformation from the scene a few years ago is staggering.

Of course, the warning lights are still flashing. Fuel and energy prices are going to rise again with the attendant spiral, and economists still say another devaluation is inevitable.

Tobacco prices have improved but the key industry has suffered a severe blow. However, the impact is likely to be beneficial, too, in that farmers will diversify and that can only be to the good.

The one real hiccup on the rate graph is the headline approach to land acquisition, including President Mugabe's vehement denunciation in advance of any move to contest the matter in the courts.

Whether this will lead to a confrontation with the judiciary and all that is involved in a development of that nature remains to be seen.

For the moment, spirits have lifted and that in itself is most welcome. — Star Africa Service. □

Former foes swop rifles

By Cheryl Uys
Star Africa Service

NYANGA (Zimbabwe) — Former enemies who fought each other ruthlessly in the Mozambican bush exchanged their rifles at an army base in Zimbabwe on Tuesday in a gesture of reconciliation that represents a major step forward in the peace process.

The ceremony by members of the Renamo rebels and the Frelimo government army mark-

ed the start of training of candidate officers from the two sides for a new national army.

The training will be carried out at the army base at Nyanga in eastern Zimbabwe by a 30-man British army unit led by Lieutenant Colonel Robert Martin.

The arrival of the Renamo contingent in United Nations helicopters ended months of delay by the former rebels in sending their candidates to the officer school.

They joined 50 trainee

officers from the Frelimo government army, who had arrived by road on Monday.

A further 220 trainee officers will be sent to Nyanga from each side, to make a total of 540 under instruction in a 24-week course.

The Renamo candidates were met at Nyanga by Martin.

The Renamo men said they were very pleased to be joining their Mozambican "brothers" in forming the joint army.

Can Chidzero deliver the goods?

Zimbabwean Finance Minister Bernard Chidzero will earn brownie points from his World Bank and IMF creditors if he can make last week's budget stick. A few weeks earlier the World Bank had approved a second structural adjustment loan to Zimbabwe on the understanding that the budget deficit in 1993-1994 would be reduced to below 6% of GDP, from 11,2% in the year to June 1993.

Last week, Chidzero dutifully delivered the goods, promising to cut public spending from 44,6% of GDP to 38% in just one year, while maintaining revenue at just under a third of GDP. This will be done primarily by the steep fall in once-off expenditures — subsidies are being cut by Z\$660m (R330m) or nearly 2% of GDP, while drought-related spending is down a further 1% of GDP, making savings of about 3%.

The other source of spending reduction — relative to GDP — is restraint over recurrent spending. Chidzero plans to restrict the increase in recurrent expenditure to less than 2%, while total spending will rise 9,5%. With GDP forecast to increase 28%, this spending restraint will automatically result in a decline in the expenditure:GDP ratio.

Chidzero announced a range of mainly minor tax changes but the main source of revenue growth will, once again, be inflation.

He is forecasting that revenue will increase more than 25% to Z\$12,6bn while spending rises 9,5% to Z\$14,7bn, leaving a deficit of Z\$2,1bn or 5,4% of forecast GDP. The budget deficit will be financed mainly from aid inflows of Z\$700m and foreign borrowing of a further Z\$895m. The balance will be met from net domestic borrowings of Z\$490m.

The most controversial tax change is the widening of the sales tax to cover services, excluding education, health and banking. From next January, 10% will be levied.

New income

Other sources of new income include a 28% rise in the duty on petrol, from 52,5c/l to 67,5c/l. Sales tax payable on hotel and tourism services has been raised from 10% to 15%. And in a move that will not go down well in SA, Chidzero placed sharply higher duties on imported wines and spirits while abolishing the excise duty on Zimbabwean wine. This was done, he said, to protect the domestic wine industry.

There is also some criticism of the retroactive change in investment allowances. Until now, firms have been able to claim 50% of the cost of a new investment in the first year with the balance claimed against tax in two 25% tranches. But, from April 1 this year, Chidzero has changed the basis of these

allowances, reducing the amount that can be claimed to 25% a year for four years.

The top personal income tax rate will fall from 50% to 45% and the company tax rate from 42,5% to 40% next April. The stock exchange has welcomed a reduction in capital gains tax on stock market profits from 30% to 10% and the withholding tax payable on dividends from stock-exchange listed firms has been reduced from 20% to 15%.

The Finance Minister also announced interest payable on foreign currency deposit accounts that residents and foreigners can hold will not be taxable until April 1996 when the tax rate will be 10%.

The budget has received a muted but generally favourable reception. Business has found little to criticise in the tax changes but there has been a sharp reaction to some of the expenditure plans, especially the 14% rise in defence spending. Defence will absorb 10,5% of the budget, making it the third largest item after education (19%) and interest charges (16,7%).

Chidzero has also come under fire for a lack of transparency. His short budget gives few clues of future policy or growth prospects. His forecast of 4% GDP growth in 1993 is widely seen as too optimistic, with most private-sector forecasters predicting maximum growth of 2%.



Zimbabwe's methods 'not always fair'

Land-grab fears surface

Star 9/18/93 OLS

FARMERS feel betrayed but will still co-operate with government on black farm resettlement.

■ STAR AFRICA SERVICE

Harare — Zimbabwe's white farmers will continue to co-operate with the government in identifying farms they feel meet the criteria for acquisition by the state for resettlement by blacks.

They will do this even though they feel they have been betrayed by the actions of President Robert Mugabe's government in designating productive farms which were not on the lists of recommended properties prepared by Land Identification Committees in the various provinces.

At the annual congress of the Commercial Farmers' Union, president Anthony Swire-Thompson said that before agreeing to continue serving on the committees, farmers insisted that prescribed procedures and criteria be honoured.

But Swire-Thompson said he was forced to admit that compensation paid for designated farms



Mugabe ... bent on seizing land

(362)
taken had been fair.

Kumbirai Kangai, the Minister in charge, said nothing had changed from the policy spelt out last year.

This listed the categories of land which the government intends taking to meet the target of 5 million hectares as: land under-utilised or not highly utilised, land under absentee ownership, foreign-owned land, derelict land, land owned for speculative purposes, and land belonging to people with more farms than deemed necessary.

Farmers told the Minister of their confusion, sense of betrayal, and anxiety when the first

parcel of 70 farms designated under the Land Acquisition Act contained 45 properties not on the mutually agreed lists, and in many cases highly productive and individually-owned farms.

Delegates wanted to know why the government was taking farms when it already had, still unsettled, hundreds of thousands of hectares obtained years ago under the willing buyer-willing seller arrangement.

Kangai appealed to the farmers to recognise that the government was faced with a crucial problem. It was under pressure to acquire more land for people in overcrowded communal areas, and studies for more efficient resettlement schemes were being undertaken.

He said the 1979 Lancaster House talks, which led to the end of the war, had nearly broken down over the land question. Only promises, later broken by the British and US governments, had averted a breakdown.

The farmers were reminded by Home Affairs Minister Dumiso Dabengwa, the intelligence chief in Joshua Nkomo's Zipra guerilla army and now head of police, that land was a pivotal issue in the struggle for independence.

5/20/83 10:13

Beitbridge gets Z\$11m upgrade

BEITBRIDGE — Zimbabwe is building a Z\$11m border post at Beitbridge in anticipation of an influx of tourists once the political situation in SA has stabilised.

The new border post was expected to open before the end of the year, the Ziana news agency reported yesterday. (362)

About 40% of visitors to Zimbabwe came from SA, earning the country Z\$600m a year, said Tourism Minister Herbert Murerwa inspecting the post yesterday.

Finance Minister Tichaendepe Masaya said the new post should eliminate frustrating delays.

Home Affairs Minister Dumiso Dabengwa said only 12 of the recommended 31 immigration officers were stationed at Beitbridge but six more would be transferred there soon. — Sapa.

Phone system pulls plug on Harare bank plan

Biday 10/8/93

MICHAEL HARTNACK

HARARE — Work has been halted on the Zimbabwean Reserve Bank's new 26-storey headquarters after engineers realised its walls were about to obstruct a microwave tower and sever the country's international telecommunications system.

The Herald newspaper reported that the costs of the multimillion-rand building were expected to soar. Harare's historic 1893 Jameson House was demolished to make way for the 120m-high headquarters, now nearly 70m above ground.

Zimbabwe's international calls were routed through the Posts and Telecom-

munications Corporation (PTC) switching centre at Gweru, but above 70m the building would block a line-of-sight relay to the microwave tower at Norton, 50km away.

The Herald reported that the PTC had had problems finding R11m to build a diversion. Government refused an ad hoc allocation because the amount of foreign exchange was too burdensome and customary foreign aid donors refused to grant "soft" loans.

The Finance Ministry had approved an

arrangement in terms of which Britain's Midlands Bank would cover 85% of the cost of a contract with Siemens of Italy, but further unexpected delays meant the Reserve Bank had had to stop building, making it liable for an undisclosed sum in penalty payments to contractors.

The Herald said it was unlikely that the PTC would be able to commission the diversion before April 1994.

The PTC had the power to stop building work that interfered with its traffic. The cost of diversions had to be met by those responsible for the obstruction.

(362)

Ambassadors 'racial bigots', says Mugabe

Argus Africa News Service

(362) APR 11/8/93

HARARE. — President Mugabe has slammed as "racial bigots" the ambassadors of western countries who were critical of Zimbabwe's policy of acquiring land from whites for black resettlement.

He said they came from countries where the "Red Indians, the Eskimos and blacks" had been discriminated against and they were siding with Zimbabwe's white farmers.

"Let them send this message back to their capitals. We will never surrender on a matter of principle," Mugabe told crowds gathered at the Heroes' Acre shrine to honour those who fought for an end to colonial rule.

The president said if investment were to come with strings attached, he would not want it.

Zimbabwe was a sovereign country and was determined to redress the land imbalance. Blacks were in overcrowded communes while the 4 000 "white settlers" had plenty of land. They would be compensated for any land that was taken.

Mr Mugabe switched to English from Shona in his address to drive home his point to the ambassadors.

Mugabe denounces 'bigots'

8 Day 12/8/93
HARARE — President Robert Mugabe denounced some ambassadors to Zimbabwe as "racial bigots" yesterday in an angry defence of his government's plans to nationalise white-owned farms for the resettlement of blacks.

In an outburst directed mainly at Canada, he accused them of discriminating against "Red Indians, Eskimos and blacks", and said Zimbabwe would reject "filthy money" if investment was tied to dropping its land plans.

Speaking at Heroes' Acre in a ceremony to honour blacks who died in Zimbabwe's war for independence, Mugabe said: "We will not surrender our right to do justice to our people." Mugabe's attack follows the announcement on Tuesday that the Canadian government had cancelled an investment promotion trip to Canada next month by Zimbabwe's Industry Minister Chris Ushewokunze because of the country's land programme.

The Canadian High Commissioner, Charles Bassett, said last week that Canadian businessmen were uncertain about investing in the country. — Sapa-AFP (362)

Zimbabwe fears SA violence

362

ARG 13/8/93
The Argus Foreign Service

HARARE. — Zimbabwe is concerned that the violence in South Africa could spill over into this country.

Defence Minister Moven Mahachi said: "Violence breeds violence and this might eventually spill over into neighbouring countries, and Zimbabwe will be no exception. Botswana and Zimbabwe might end up with refugees from the killings."

Mr Mahachi said: "A disorganised neighbour is a liability and we are concerned the killings might increase."

President Mugabe had been urging black leaders in South Africa to work together to end white rule, and to put an end to factional violence.

Zimbabwe yesterday observed Defence Forces Day with parades and displays. Mr Mugabe said reducing the size of the defence force to a more manageable figure was being worked out.

Mugabe threatens to seize land

(362) ARC 14/8/93

HARARE — Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe yesterday threatened to seize white farms without compensation if Western powers tried to prevent the nationalisation of white-owned land.

"We can just take the farms without paying anything because the white settlers never compensated our forefathers when they took that land from them," he told cheering supporters at a rally outside Harare.

The president reaffirmed his intention to nationalise half of the country's white-owned farms and resettle blacks, in accordance with the controversial Land Acquisition Act passed by parliament last year.

About 4 000 white families own a

third of Zimbabwe's farmland and many of the country's 10 million blacks have no land. About 100 farms have already been designated for seizure.

Whites say their farms are essential to the economy as they collectively employ the largest work force, grow most of the country's food and account for the bulk of export income.

President Mugabe promised land to blacks when he led white-ruled Rhodesia to independence in 1980. Critics say the Land Acquisition Act was aimed at reviving his support, which reached a low point last year amid economic problems and drought-induced food shortages.

In his speech, the president accused Western governments of racism and said they were siding with white farmers.

He said if the powers interfered in the land issue by withholding aid or investment, tribal chiefs could file suits against the descendants of British settlers to regain land taken from them.

Alternatively, he said, millions of landless blacks could simply settle as squatters on white farms.

Critics of President Mugabe's land policy, including white farmers, human rights activists and church leaders, fear it will discourage aid and investment. — Sapa-AP.

We will seize land, warns Mugabe

14/8/93
Star
JOHN EDLIN

HARARE — President Robert Mugabe yesterday threatened to seize white farms without compensation if Western powers tried to prevent the nationalisation of white-owned land.

"We can just take the farms without paying anything because the white settlers never compensated our forefathers when they took that land from them," Mugabe told cheering supporters at a rally outside Harare.

Economy

The president reaffirmed his intention to nationalise half the country's white-owned farms to resettle blacks in accordance with the controversial Land Acquisition Act passed by parliament last year.

About 4,000 white families own a third of Zimbabwe's farmland and many of the country's 10 million blacks have no land. About 100 farms have been designated for seizure.

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● TO PAGE 2.

Mugabe

Star 14/8/93
● FROM PAGE 1.

Act was aimed at reviving Mugabe's support, which reached a low point last year amid economic problems and drought-induced food shortages.

In his speech, Mugabe accused Western governments, including the United States, Canada and Britain, of racism and said they were siding with white farmers.

He said that if the Western powers interfered in the land issue by withholding aid or investment, tribal chiefs could file suit against the descendants of British settlers to regain land taken from them.

Alternatively, he said, millions of landless blacks could simply settle as squatters on white farms.

Mugabe said that if his government were forced into a choice, it would give up aid and investment in favour of resettling peasants on white land.

Critics of Mugabe's land policy, including white farmers, human rights activists and church leaders, fear it will discourage aid and investment.

They also maintain that Mugabe's own people, the dominant Shona tribe, came to Zimbabwe centuries ago as settlers from the north and seized land from the indigenous Bushmen. — Sapa-AP.

Mugabe prepared to give up aid for land

ST. TIMES 15/12/73

ZIMBABWEAN President Robert Mugabe said if his government had to choose, it would give up aid and investment in favour of resettling peasants on white land.

(362)
In a week of angry words, Mr. Mugabe denounced some ambassadors to Zimbabwe as "racial bigots" in defence of his government's plans to nationalise white-owned farms.

Then on Friday he threatened to seize white farms without compensation if Western powers tried to prevent the nationalisation.

"We can just take the farms without paying anything because the white settlers never compensated our forefathers when they took that land from them," Mr. Mugabe said at a rally

By JOHN EDLIN
Harare

outside Harare.

About 4 000 white families own a third of Zimbabwe's farmland, and many of the country's 10-million blacks have no land. About 100 farms have been designated for seizure.

Whites say their farms are essential to the economy as they employ the biggest work force, grow most of the country's food and account for the bulk of export income.

Critics say the controversial Land Acquisition Act is aimed at reviving Mugabe's support, which reached a low point last year amid economic problems and drought-induced food shortages. — Sapa-AP

City opts to abolish ⁽³⁶²⁾ property-based votes ^{APR 17/8/93}

CLIVE SAWYER
Municipal Reporter

THE Democratic Party council caucus — representing the majority of councillors — was expected to give the nod at a special council meeting today to proposals for restructuring Cape Town local government.

Meanwhile, it is understood feedback on constitutional proposals from ratepayers' associations and business has included considerable opposition to the abolition of the property-based vote.

Caucus leader John Sonnenberg said the preliminary position paper was in line with party views on the franchise.

The paper was produced by a committee chaired by deputy mayor Clive Keegan.

When proposals were tabled at a May council meeting, vigorous debate on abolishing the property-based vote in favour of universal franchise prompted councillors to "note" rather than "adopt" the report.

The report was circulated to a wide range of civic, business and political groups for comment.

The revised version to be tabled at today's meeting sticks to abolishing the property-based vote.

Voters will have to be permanent residents older than 18. Each person will be allowed only one vote.

"The principle of a property-based franchise is no longer defensible in post-apartheid South Africa, as it will be perceived to be a perpetuation of privilege," said the report.

Dr Sonnenberg said there was a vociferous body of people who felt the property-based vote should be kept.

Opposition to scrapping the proper-

ty qualification is expected from Eulalie Stott and Arthur Wienburg, who, although they are DP members, are not part of the caucus.

Other proposals in the document include:

- The city council adopt a two-tier model of local government for the Cape metropolitan area, consisting of a metropolitan authority and primary local authorities;

- Special-purpose bodies be set up for functions like transport and housing. These will have to be democratic and accountable;

- The dissolution of the Western Cape Regional Services Council and the transfer of its income and regional functions to the metropolitan authority;

- Representation be half by direct election and half by proportional representation;

- Mechanisms like recall elections, referendums, a code of ethics, open government laws and an ombudsman;

- Further investigations into building organisational skills among communities and their leaders;

- Improving management of False Bay and Table Mountain by rationalising and co-ordinating fragmented management;

- Valuation procedures should be amended and simplified and property tax retained as a direct local-authority tax;

- Site-and-service charges should be continued in present black local authority areas pending a national decision on property taxation;

- The metropolitan authority should set an annual uniform property tax; and

- A decision on separate user charges for sewerage and refuse be held over for later discussion.

We're not racial bigots, say diplomats

8/Day 18/8/93
HARARE — Western diplomats yesterday rejected charges by President Robert Mugabe that they were racial bigots who supported Zimbabwe's white farmers above state plans to nationalise land.

Representatives from Canada, Britain and Germany denied Mugabe's allegations that they had threatened to cut aid and investment if the government pushed ahead with its land reform plans in order to resettle blacks. (362)

Canadian High Commissioner Charles Bassett, at the centre of the row after postponing an investment trip by a Zimbabwe minister to Canada, said he was saddened at being labelled a racist.

He said he believed land reform was essential to right past injustices and that the trip was postponed merely because Canadian investors were worried that government might target other property as well as farm land. — Sapa-AFP.

Zimbabwe gold yield rises

HARARE — Zimbabwean gold production during the first seven months of this year had totalled over 10 830kg compared with 10 543kg produced during the same period in 1992, it was reported yesterday.

The value of the gold produced this year was Z\$766,1m, compared to nearly Z\$587m previously, Ziana news agency said.

Chamber of Mines of Zimbabwe figures showed production had increased every year since 1988.

During the 12-month period ending December last year, a total of 18 308,5kg of gold worth Z\$1,023bn was produced.

An industry spokesman said that judging by the current production rate, over 19 000kg of gold worth between Z\$1,5bn and Z\$1,7bn would be produced this year.

The recent increase in the price of gold in US dollar terms, together with the de-

preciation of the Zimbabwe dollar, had improved the viability of gold producers, reviving interest in the mineral, the latest economic review of Zimbabwe Financial Holdings said.

According to the chamber, 1 682,84kg of gold worth Z\$100,6m was produced in January this year, 1 399,99kg (Z\$92,38m) in February, 1 632,2kg (Z\$111,64m) in March, 1 537,44kg (Z\$106,4m) in April, 1 287,24kg (Z\$94,75m) in May, 1 721,33kg (Z\$131,43m) in June and 1 569,1kg (Z\$128,87m) in July.

The chamber, meanwhile, said 92 482 tons of asbestos valued at Z\$271,4m had been produced during the first seven months of this year, compared with 80 317 tons worth Z\$178,6m.

The chamber said nickel production between January and June this year had totalled 4 382 tons valued at Z\$164,9m, compared with 3 315 tons worth Z\$188,6m the previous year. — Sapa.

Zimbabweans brace for inflationary surge

HARARE — Zimbabweans yesterday geared themselves for another surge of inflation after the government announced further increases of up to 35% in the prices of diesel and petrol, the second fuel price rises in three weeks.

Diesel increased to 94 cents a litre and petrol to R1,53c at midnight. Immediate increases of up to 8% were announced by Finance Minister Bernard Chidzero in his July 29 budget.

In his budget speech, Chidzero said he had managed to reduce Zim-

babwe's inflation rate from more than 50% to less than 20% in the previous 12 months. (362)

Transport Minister Denis Norman said the latest increases would enable the parastatal National Oil Company of Zimbabwe to sustain its price equalisation fund and construct strategic storage facilities and capital development projects — including the extension of the Beira-Feruka

pipeline to Harare.

Sapa-Reuter reports Norman also said in a statement that the oil company's import costs had risen due to a 31% devaluation of the national currency against the US dollar since June 1992 and a rise in world fuel prices over the same period.

The collapse of Zimbabwean sugar production in the 1993 drought reduced availability of locally distilled ethanol which, under normal circumstances, is blended up to 23% with petrol.

B/DAY 19/8/93
MICHAEL HARTNACK

Mugabe says he'll kick out whites

(362) ARC 21/8/93

HARARE — President Robert Mugabe yesterday threatened to deport whites who did not abandon racist attitudes.

In his strongest attack on the 100 000-strong white community in Zimbabwe, Mr Mugabe said: "If the whites do not change, they will be kicked out of this country." He was speaking at a political rally at Gwanda.

Mr Mugabe's remarks came after several weeks of acrimony over plans to seize at least half the white-owned farms for resettlement.

This has been widely criticised by Western nations at a time when Zimbabwe is seeking foreign investors to bolster its flagging economy.

Whites have accused the government of using the land issue to restore its failing popularity after a decade of ruinous socialist policies and economic mismanagement.

Mr Mugabe's deputy, Mr Joshua Nkomo, also attacked whites, saying they lacked respect for Mr Mugabe.

Since 1980, the government has bought numerous disused farms but few families have been resettled on them.

Farmers argue that under the current programme they will not receive realistic payments for land and have no means of appeal through the courts.

Earlier this month, Mr Mugabe criticised Britain, Canada and the United States for allegedly siding with white farmers. Western envoys have said aid to Zimbabwe could be affected if the land seizures go ahead without regard for the rights of the land owners.

The farmers say they are essential to the agriculture-based economy and employ the biggest work force. — Sapa-AP

Abandon racist ways, Mugabe tells whites

GWANDA — President Robert Mugabe and one of his two deputies, Vice-President Joshua Nkomo, said yesterday if Zimbabwe's whites did not abandon racist attitudes they risked deportation.

"If the whites do not change, they will be kicked out of this country," Mr Mugabe told a rally of more than 2,000 people here.

Also at the rally, Mr Nkomo said whites attached more importance to the Commercial Farmers Union and the Confederation of Zimbabwe Industry than Mr Mugabe. — Sapa

(262) CT 2/18/92

Star 24/8/93
Boost for Zimbabwe

HARARE — Zimbabwe's mining industry should receive Z\$500 million in investments, says Australia's Delta Gold company.

The natural resources group says the economic structural adjustment programme has attracted foreign investors — Sapa.

(362)

NEWS FEATURE Zimbabwe putting aid from West at risk • Buthelezi hints at future

Mugabe cheered on land policy

Sowetan 24/8/93

By Cris Chinaka

■ DAMAGING HARMONY Sowing fear and uncertainty among whites:

(362)

HARARE — Many black Zimbabweans are cheering President Robert Mugabe on as he lashes out at whites opposed to his policy of making them sell their farms.

But Mugabe's tough words are sowing fear and uncertainty among whites, damaging delicate race relations and putting at risk economic aid from the West, political analysts say.

Mugabe capped two weeks of tough talking last Friday by threatening to deport those whites who continue to resist his plans to resettle landless blacks on their land.

"There is still white racism in this country. That's the greatest enemy we have. We want to be united against racism and whites should change or they will be kicked out of this country," he told a rally in south western Zimbabwe.

"The whites think they are more of God's children than others and they still look at their white skin as more precious and more divine than ours," he said.

The government plans to make the white farmers sell five million hectares and resettle hundreds of thousands of

blacks on the land in the next two years. Under the Land Acquisition Act passed in 1992, the farmers cannot challenge in court either the selection of farms or the price fixed by the government.

Mugabe has said that if they do try to go to court the government might seize the farms without compensation.

"If it comes to the worst we can just take the farms without paying anything because ... the white settlers never compensated our forefathers when they took that land from them," he said.

Mugabe has also said Western countries, specifically Britain, Canada and the United States, oppose the land reform for racist reasons but all three have denied it, saying they think it morally just to correct the imbalances of the past.

The white-bashing has gone down well in rural Zimbabwe where the majority of his supporters live in poverty and continue to resent economic domination by the white minority.

"They are cheering him out there but his conduct is damaging the racial fabric and long-term policies," one analyst said.

Mugabe won power in 1980 after leading a guerrilla war against white settler rule in which he promised the black majority a greater share in the country's most fertile land, 80 percent of which is still held by 4 500 white farmers.

During the seven-year war, both sides saw Mugabe as a radical Marxist who would exact revenge on the white settlers.

About half the whites fled Zimbabwe at independence, leaving a white minority of 100 000 in a country of 10 million people. But on taking power Mugabe promoted racial reconciliation, a policy which won him much praise abroad and which has helped to hold racial tensions in check over the years.

White Zimbabweans generally try to play down the economic disparity be-



Robert Mugabe ... cheered on.

tween them and their black compatriots, portraying themselves as equal members of a multiracial society.

"The words black and white must be removed from our vocabulary. We should all consider ourselves Zimbabweans. It is not ideal at this stage that each race should blame the other," said white radio personality Noreen Welch.

Opposition parties have also criticised Mugabe's attacks on whites, saying they are an attempt to win votes in

the general elections which must take place by 1995.

"Zanu-PF (the ruling party), for partisan reasons, is whipping up racial emotions and fears. Such an approach is irresponsible and short-sighted," said opposition leader Enock Dumbutshena.

"I think Zimbabwe stands to lose friends and all that comes with friendship if this continues," said a Western diplomat. — Sapa-Reuter.

5/1504
25/8/93

Mugabe defends policy on land reform

ZIMBABWEAN President Robert Mugabe said on SABC's Agenda television programme last night he had never promised white farmers that government would only acquire underutilised land (362)

Speaking directly for the first time in 18 years to the SA media, Mugabe was filmed in Harare saying farmers were told only that they would be compensated fairly, Sapa reports. Tea, coffee and sugar plantations were among those he listed which would not be touched, but maize, soya and tobacco farmland could be acquired.

On SA, Mugabe did not rule out a meet-

ing with President F W de Klerk as the reform process was now irreversible and a date for the election had been set.

Meanwhile, British politician Lord Carrington said in Harare yesterday cool heads were needed to resolve the land dispute. Carrington, who helped broker the end of British colonial rule in 1980, said the policy of racial reconciliation which had been nurtured could quell the dispute.

Carrington also held talks with Mugabe yesterday, MICHAEL HARTNACK reports. He said afterwards it was not his job to tell Mugabe his views on the land issue.

Zimbabwe frees

SADF 'agent' ⁽³⁶²⁾

From MICHAEL HARTNACK ^{CT 27/8/93}

HARARE. — The eight-month ordeal of an SADF sergeant stationed at Phalaborwa ended late on Wednesday when he was freed by security police.

Earlier, a regional magistrate rejected charges that Sergeant Lindelani Headson Miya, 32, was a South African agent sent to destabilise Zimbabwe.

She found that a "confession" Mr Miya made to Zimbabwe's Central Intelligence organisation had been extorted under torture.

State witnesses in the case, which has threatened the thaw in relations between South Africa and Zimbabwe, testified that they might have confused Sgt Miya with a SADF member of the same name who, they said, brought explosives into Zimbabwe from South Africa in April 1992.

Time to defuse the land time bomb

The anger and confrontation surrounding the Zimbabwe government's method of appropriating land has important implications for South Africa, writes **Iden Wetherell** (362) JM 27/8 - 2/1/93

PRESIDENT Robert Mugabe's recent declaration that he will brook no opposition from the courts on the question of land redistribution in Zimbabwe has precipitated a constitutional confrontation that should prove instructive for South Africans wrestling with the vexed issue of land policy.

Protests at Kemplon Park this week by those opposed to property clauses in the proposed Bill of Rights underline the need to formulate policies that reflect social justice as well as security of tenure.

In Zimbabwe, some 4 000 white farmers are ensconced on the fertile highveld as a direct product of past measures that enforced land segregation. Mugabe has said he will expropriate five million hectares for resettlement.

The liberation war of the Seventies had as its focus the restitution of land. Although Zimbabwe's British-mediated independence constitution at first tied the new government's hands on the land question, with the expiry of the sunset clauses Parliament last year passed a controversial Land Acquisition Act that empowered the state to acquire land and determine compensation.

Individuals whose land has been designated are specifically denied the right to question in the courts whether the proposed compensation is fair. Protest has arisen because, contrary to its earlier assurances, the government has seized productive farms and targeted individuals who are outspoken opponents of the ruling party. In addition to a former Rhodesian Front MP, the most notable victims have been Ndabangai Sithole and James Chikerema, who pioneered the liberation struggle in the Fifties and Sixties.

The government's predicament is of its own making. Economic mismanagement and extravagant spending on the military have not been matched by agricultural development in the peasant sector. More than 235 900ha of land already acquired by the state lies idle, while earlier land resettlement schemes have by all accounts been unmitigated failures.

It is precisely because the fruits of independence have been inadequately distributed that the government, facing an election challenge soon, has decided to seize land from the profitable commercial farmers. "When we took up arms, it was to fight for our country and get back our land which the whites forcibly grabbed," said Mugabe recently. "We will fulfil our promise."

Nobody disputes the need for land redistribution in Zimbabwe — existing patterns are clearly anomalous. The Commercial Farmers' Union has offered to identify derelict or unproductive farms for acquisition. But its advice, together with that of international agencies and technical experts, has been ignored. Critics charge that after years of riding roughshod over individual rights and accustomed to getting its own way, the government has placed electoral needs before those of justice. Agricultural productivity is also expected to suffer.

The farmers have enlisted the services of Sydney Kentridge, the eminent South African barrister known for his defence of human rights. Their position is unambiguous: if government is intent upon seizing property from perceived opponents in order to reward supporters, and individuals are not afforded recourse to the courts, nobody is safe. Mugabe is presenting the contest as a strug-



Robert Mugabe ... Land as an election ploy

gle between the landless masses and a privileged elite. But his opponents argue that land redistribution is not at issue. It is the method that is flawed.

"We are opposed to the Land Acquisition Act only to the extent to which it denies the aggrieved parties access to the courts. That is the fundamental right of all people," asserted opposition Forum Party leader and former chief justice Enoch Dumutshena. He warned that haphazard land resettlement might lead to recurrent "man-made" droughts. Last year Zimbabwe became a food importer for the first time.

The editor of the independent *Financial Gazette*, Trevor Ncube, cites the absence of a clear plan and "glaring shortcomings" in the implementation of resettlement schemes as evidence that government is using the land

issue as a crude political tool. Ncube questions whether traditional claims to land can be fully accommodated within a modern economy. "The solution to the land problem," he points out, "should be part of an industrial and economic policy that takes cognisance of the fact that not everybody needs to own a piece of land."

In South Africa, the National Land Committee (NLC), representing the interests of dispossessed communities, and African National Congress policy-makers are known to be closely watching events in Zimbabwe. Because Mugabe's government does not have a land policy, its land acquisition process is widely perceived as random and arbitrary.

The ANC is proposing the establishment by parliament of a land claims court or tribunal to be presided over by a judge. Its deliberations would reflect a clear judicial process, suggested ANC land and agricultural policy co-ordinator Derek Hanekom. According to the latest ANC proposals, submissions for land claims would have to be submitted within a specific time-frame — perhaps five years —, so the process is seen to be finite.

"There is a need to avoid uncertainty so people know where they stand," Hanekom said. He conceded developments in Zimbabwe had been instructive and had underlined the need for urgency and clarity of policy.

The NLC's Sue Wixley argued the government-appointed land commission was moving at a snail's pace — only four communities had so far been reinstated — and that more was required than an advisory body. Everything pointed, she said, to the need to start now on land reform.

If nothing else, Mugabe's fulminations have illustrated the dangers of procrastination, and have spurred moves south of the Limpopo towards defusing a time bomb ticking in the rural heart of South Africa.

White farmers' union (362) 'accepts' Zim land reform

HARARE. — The head of Zimbabwe's all-white Commercial Farmers' Union (CFU) said it accepted the need for land reform but objected to the government's controversial plans to seize productive land.

ARG 28/8/93
"While we have certainly argued about the methodology, over which we have genuine concerns that does not mean we are arguing with the principle of land reform," Anthony Swire-Thompson said in a conciliatory statement yesterday.

In the past few months, the government announced that it would forcibly buy nearly 80 farms, most of them owned by Zimbabwe's 4,500 white farmers who produce key exports of cotton and tobacco, to resettle landless blacks.

Whites pacify Mugabe

HARARE — President Mugabe has welcomed offers by white farmers in Zimbabwe to try to make a success of resettlement by blacks on former white-owned land.

The gesture came from a group of farmers in Mashonaland who presented the president with three heifers at a ceremony attended by hundreds of peasant farmers and their families, who also gave gifts.

Mugabe denied hav-

ROBIN DREW
Africa News Service

ing threatened to kick whites out of the country if they resisted the resettlement operation.

He said he had invited them to kick themselves out if they could not accept what the government was doing.

In a statement yesterday Commercial Farmers' Union president Anthony Swire-Thompson repeated

that the union was not against land redistribution and would continue to co-operate with government officials in identifying land for acquisition by the State.

Its objections had been to the way land designation was carried out.

He also denied the union had made any approaches to Western countries to bring pressure to bear on the Zimbabwe government.

Little headway on parastatal reform

HARARE — The Zimbabwe National Chamber of Commerce expressed concern yesterday at the failure of the government and the private sector to find ways of reforming Zimbabwe's loss-making parastatals, Ziana news agency reported.

Chamber president Ted Makoni said it seemed the two sides could not agree on how the parastatals should be reformed in line with the market economy being introduced by the government. **BIS/ey**

Despite statements from both sides on subcontracting and parastatal reforms, no results had been achieved since 1991.

"I sense a degree of polarisation between the government and the private sector, stemming from the issues of parastatals and subcontracting," Makoni said in the latest issue of the chamber's news bulletin. **3118193**

"Both the government and the private sector have made sufficient statements on the issues, but each one, regrettably, shouts at a distance in the same country. **(312)**

The private sector and the government had to co-operate to commercialise, close down or sponsor worker buyouts of parastatals whose losses were draining the economy of scarce financial resources, Makoni said.

A task force, consisting of representatives from the private sector and the government, should be set up to formulate a programme of action "for immediate implementation to achieve our indigenisation objective, after examining all options available" — Sapa.

Star 2/9/98

80 Zimbabwean farms earmarked

Masvingo — Zimbabwe's government will push ahead with its controversial land reforms, buying 10 farms each from the country's eight provinces to resettle landless blacks, President Robert Mugabe said yesterday.

The government has earmarked 10 farms per province for designation in order to meet the pressing land requirements of the majority of our people," he told black farmers at a two-day congress in the north-eastern city of Masvingo. (362)

But Mugabe, who has clashed bitterly in the past month with whites who own most of the "designated" farms, appeared to take a conciliatory stance.

Journalists at the conference said the Zimbabwean leader seemed to deliberately play down the dispute, focusing instead on the need for small-scale black farmers to ensure the land they got from the State was used productively. — Sapa-Reuter

Mugabe snubs Canadian envoy

HARARE — Canada's high commissioner Charles Basset leaves for home today amid the worst crisis in his country's history of relations with independent Africa.

During Basset's three-year term, President Robert Mugabe's friendship with Ottawa has all but evaporated because of Mugabe's plans to nationalise 5-million hectares of white-owned commercial farmland.

However, diplomatic sources in Harare described as "an exaggeration" reports in Toronto newspapers that Canada was on the brink of severing diplomatic relations with Zimbabwe.

Basset has been denied the high media profile farewell call on Mugabe at State House, which is customary for outgoing ambassadors and high commissioners.

The outgoing high commissioner has, however, denied claims made by Industry and Commerce Minister Christopher Ushewokunze that he was "waging a malicious campaign because his tour of duty is coming to an end." Ushewokunze alleged

MICHAEL HARTNACK

Basset cancelled a Zimbabwean investment promotion campaign because of the Land Acquisition Act.

Mugabe touched a raw Canadian nerve when he attacked Canada's treatment of its Eskimos and Indians. SA emissary Glenn Babb provoked a Pretoria-Ottawa crisis when he raised the same issue during his Canadian posting.

□ Meanwhile, it was announced that Augustine Chihuri had been appointed acting commissioner of the Zimbabwean police — the first ex-guerrilla to hold the post.

Mugabe confirmed the appointment after a delay of nearly two years caused by Chihuri's trial on corruption charges. He was sent on indefinite leave when a magistrate found he used his influence to release two stolen SA cars to men who unlawfully claimed ownership, but Zimbabwe's Supreme Court last month quashed his conviction and R300 fine.

Steel plant in trouble

6/12/93 3/9/93

MICHAEL HARTNACK

CHARARE — Zimbabwe's Iron and Steel Company (Zisco) has had supplies of coal cut off by Wankie Colliery and may be forced to shut down its furnaces within 10 days unless President Robert Mugabe's government grants emergency financial aid. (362)

A spokesman for Zisco, which has its main plant at Redcliff, outside the midlands town of Kwekwe, said coal stocks would run out at the end of next week because Wankie Colliery had terminated its contract due to non-payment.

The Kwekwe steelworks is sub-Saharan Africa's largest outside SA.

The state-owned National Railways of Zimbabwe is also threatening to cancel its transport contract with Zisco unless it receives at least 25% of the millions of rands it claims it is owed.

Zimbabwe's Ziscosteel faces imminent closure

Star 3/9/93

BY ROBIN DREW
Star Africa Service

Harare, Zimbabwe
Ziscosteel, the sole supplier of in-

dustrial steel products in Zimbabwe, will be forced to close in 10 days unless it settles a R39 million bill owing to

Wankie Colliery. It is also under pressure to pay at least some of the R50 million it owes to the railways.

Wankie Colliery stopped supplying coal yesterday and a spokesman said the steel plant had about 10 days sup-

Ziscosteel employs 7 000 workers and is the lifeblood of Redcliff and Kwekwe. Sapa.

(362)

Zimbabwe steel plant in crisis

HARARE — Zimbabwe said yesterday it was urgently looking for Z\$178 million (R38 million) to rescue its iron and steel plant, which is threatened with closure because of non-payment of debts.

Industry Minister Cris Ushewokunze told the national news agency Ziana that the government would have to find the money to prevent the shutdown of the Zimbabwe Iron and Steel Company (Zisco).

Zisco, wholly owned by the state, is one of Africa's largest steel plants employing 7,000 workers and earning Zimbabwe nearly U.S.\$30 million annually in foreign exchange.

It said on Thursday it would have to fold after another state-run company, Wankie Colliery, cut off coal supplies demanding urgent payment of the Z\$178 million debt. — Sapa-Reuter.

(36) ARCT 4/9/92

Kwekwe gold belt discovery

(362)
HARARE — A significant gold belt, covering some 2,7 square kilometres has been discovered near Kwekwe in Zimbabwe, sources said.

Ziana news agency reports the discovery was made by Reunion Mining (Zimbabwe) Limited.

A Canadian company, Caledonian Mining Corporation, holds 48% of the share in the company. CT 6/9/93

Reunion is also involved in a joint project with Blanket Mine (1983), a subsidiary of another Canadian company, Falconbridge Gold Corporation.

Efforts to contact Reunion mine officials to establish when actual production would start and how much they were expected to produce were unsuccessful.

However, they are anticipated to take advantage of the new investment incentives announced by senior minister of finance, Bernard Chidzero.

In the incentives, gold producers undertaking new expansion projects were now allowed to access cheap offshore financing in the form of gold loans. Sapa-AP

Mugabe's new land plans

Star 6/9/93

362

■ BY ROBIN DREW
STAR AFRICA SERVICE

Harare — President Robert Mugabe has added a new dimension to his demand that white farmers give up land for resettlement by blacks: he now wants land for urban blacks as well as peasant farmers.

Speaking to several hundred demonstrators who marched to his residence in Harare, Mugabe said the government had plans to acquire farms surrounding the towns so they could be used as "greenbelts". These would be used for intensive farming by co-operatives formed by

city dwellers. Last week the president continued his tour of black farming areas where he has been promising the people that resettlement on white-owned land will be carried out regardless of whether or not objections are heard by the courts.

Zimbabwe seeks funds to save steel plant

HARARE — The Zimbabwean government announced on Friday that it was urgently looking for Z\$178m to rescue the country's troubled iron and steel plant threatened with closure because of non-payment of debts.

81 Day
Industry Minister Chris Ushewokunze told the national news agency Ziana in Mbabane, where he is attending regional talks, that government would have to find the money to prevent the shutdown of the

Zimbabwe Iron and Steel Company (Zisco). Zisco, wholly owned by the state, is one of Africa's largest steel plants, employing about 7 000 workers and earning Zimbabwe nearly \$30m a year in foreign exchange.

619193
Zisco warned on Thursday that it would have to fold after another state-run company, Wankie Colliery, cut off coal supplies demanding urgent payment of Zisco's Z\$178m debt. — Sapa. (262)

More land wanted.

warns ⁽³⁶²⁾ Mugabe

ARG 6/9/93

Argus Africa News Service

HARARE. — President Robert Mugabe now wants land for urban blacks as well as peasant farmers.

He told demonstrators who marched to his residence in Harare the government had plans to acquire farms surrounding the towns so they could be used as "green belts".

These would be used for intensive farming by co-operatives formed by people living in the cities.

In a reference to the system of allotments found in Europe, where city dwellers have small plots allocated to them, Mr Mugabe said: "If it has been done successfully in Europe, we see no reason why we cannot do it here."

The demonstration was organised by the Zanu (PF) party, and students from the University of Zimbabwe joined the march from the city centre to the old polo ground next to Mr Mugabe's official residence.

Mr Mugabe has repeatedly said that if white farmers resist government plans to acquire about half the existing 12 million hectares still occupied by commercial farmers, he might simply take the land without compensation.



Robert Mugabe

"The country is not going to be held to ransom by 4 000 white farmers," he said.

Demonstrators and party leaders said a war had been fought for the land and the government had been lenient towards white farmers by offering them compensation.

Mr Mugabe again warned the West that offers of aid or investment with strings attached would be turned down.

"Zimbabwean soil," he said, "is not going to be sold. It is ours. It also has minerals such as gold, nickel, platinum, asbestos and diamonds. We are not going to sell our land."

Mr Mugabe has emphasised that the government does not want to throw white farmers off the land completely. It was a percentage of the land owned by them that the government intended taking.

Liquidation of defunct rail firm drags to a close

MICHAEL HARTNACK

HARARE — Liquidation of the long-defunct Rhodesia Railways Co was almost complete despite the entanglement of its R2bn assets in the collapse of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International, the Herald reported yesterday. *Biday 10/19/93*

Liquidator Bernard Gadsden said in Lusaka most of the assets of the British-registered company had already been shared out between the two stockholders, the governments of Zimbabwe and Zambia. *(362)*

All assets had now been evaluated and arrangements were being made for a meeting of representatives of Zimbabwe and Zambia to agree final distribution.

Liquidation of the unitary Rhodesia railway system has been dragging on since the break up of the Rhodesian Federation in December 1963, when Zambia's ex-president Kenneth Kaunda insisted on withdrawing. Ian Smith's November 1965 unilateral declaration of independence caused a 14-year freeze because Britain blocked all further Rhodesian transactions.

Assets include the world famous Victoria Falls Hotel and the Victoria Falls bridge, as well as houses, rolling stock, equipment and large amounts of cash mysteriously transferred from Britain's highly respected Westminster Bank to six accounts with the collapsed BCCI after Zimbabwean independence.

Gadsden said the liquidators of BCCI had not yet advised what proportion of the cash might be salvaged.

More farms earmarked

Star 13/9/98

Harare — The Zim-
babwe government has
designated another 11
farms for resettlement by
blacks, according to the
latest Government Ga-
zette.

The farms are listed as
belonging to companies
and individuals, including
black registered owners,
and cover 27 000 ha.
Owners have a month in
which to lodge objections.

The government says it
aims to take away about
5 million ha of mainly
white-owned farmland for
resettlement. — Star
Africa Service (362)

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More Zimbabwe farms for black resettlement

ROBIN DREW, Argus Africa News Service

362

ARCT 13/9/93

HARARE. — The Zimbabwe government has designated another 11 farms for resettlement by blacks, according to the latest Government Gazette.

The farms are in the Masvingo, Chegutu, Hurungwe, Guruve, Bikita, Hwange, Darwin and Mberengwa districts.

The farms are listed as belonging to companies and individuals, including black registered owners, and cover 27 000 ha.

Owners have a month in which to lodge objections.

In April some 70 farms were designated, but 25 of these have had the designation notices revoked.

The government has said it aims to take some five million hectares of mainly white-owned farmland away from the commercial sector for resettlement, compensation for which will be decided by a government-appointed committee. There will be no recourse to the courts.

Connoisseurs toast Zimbabwean bubbly

8 Day 14/9/93
MICHAEL HARTNACK

HARARE— The first 40 000 bottles of Zimbabwean "Methode Champenoise" sparkling white wine hit the local market yesterday to critical acclaim from connoisseurs.

Retailing at approximately R12 a bottle, against R25 for the cheapest SA import, Mukuyu brut de brut and medium were said to compare well in quality with lower-priced French champagne, which retails at up to R150 a bottle.

The head of the SA trade mission in Harare, Andre Brink, and other members of the diplomatic community were seen enjoying a glass of the new Zimbabwean Methode Champenoise at the launch of the oak-

matured wines south of Marondera on Sunday.

Cairns Wineries MD Tim Johnson, who is campaigning for Zimbabwean vintners to be allowed to import SA blending wines in bulk, believes the latest market breakthrough is good news for the wine industry throughout the region. He notes a health-conscious shift from beer and spirits to wine drinking, meaning that Zimbabwean products may whet the continent's palates for those of the Boland.

Johnson said the launch of the wine followed a decade of painstaking ex-

perimentation during which, at one stage, forex-starved winemakers had to meet the weekly British Airways flight to collect empty champagne bottles. (362)

Mukuyu winery manager Berthold Seitz, from Germany, said: "We have up to now now produced trial runs of up to 500 bottles but it was all drunk by our staff."

Johnson said that Zimbabwe was now the only African state north of the Limpopo to produce Methode Champenoise wines.

Despite nearly 200 years of French influence, Algeria is not in the league, say wine industry sources, neither are Morocco, Tunisia and Egypt.

ESS

Zimbabwe to import sugar

HARARE — Zimbabwe Sugar Refineries, the country's sole sugar distributor, is advertising tenders for the supply of 55 000 tons of sugar to meet local demand after drought last year devastated the national industry. *BIDAY*

Notices in the Press at the weekend asked for tenders for a maximum of 55 000 tons of cane raw sugar from a current crop, with documents to be submitted in Harare by September 17.

A spokesman for the refineries said the tender would not be enough to satisfy domestic consumption until the sugar estates in the southeastern Lowveld resumed supplies to the local market. He declined to say when further tenders would be issued.

He said the government was seeking World Bank finance for the import. *14/9/93*

The Lowveld estates have an annual production of about 500 000 tons, about 300 000 tons for local consumption and the rest for export. Last year's drought, however, wiped out thousands of hectares of canefield, and only 10 000 tons of raw sugar was milled.

The tender is the third since the drought. *(362)*

In September last year, the refineries imported 132 000 tons, and in April this year a tender for another 150 000 tons was awarded to suppliers in Swaziland, Zambia and Brazil.

The refineries originally expected the consignment to be exhausted this month, but demand had dropped sharply because of a 35% increase in July and a general decline in consumer spending.

The estates' production of 19 000 tons this year is scheduled to meet export commitments. Normal production and a resumption of supplies to the domestic market is expected shortly before the middle of next year. — Sapa.

Zimbabwe forced to disband militia

HARARE — Budget cuts appear to have forced the Zimbabwe government to disband the People's Militia, a paramilitary unit used to guard vital installations, and 12,000 have been sacked since July.

Zimbabwe Information Services yesterday quoted Vitalis Zvinvashe, commander of the Zimbabwe National Army, as saying its numbers had been reduced from 13,000 to 1,000 in the past two months. He said the unit was no longer needed because of "improved security and political stability".

(362)
The militia was founded as a non-offen-

sive branch of the army in 1982 at the start of insurrection by guerrillas of the 1970/1980 civil war who were loyal to Joshua Nkomo.

BIDAN 15/9/93
The militia was also assigned to guard isolated villages from attack and was repeatedly accused of human rights abuses.

But economic austerity imposed by the economic reforms adopted three years ago has forced the army to reduce its strength over the next five years.

The militia has Z\$28m allocated to it for 1993/94, Z\$5m up on the previous year. — Sapa.

Star 15/9/93

Harare hints at lifting sanctions

Harare — Zimbabwe has said it could follow the Commonwealth lead on the lifting of trade, financial and military embargoes against Pretoria once legislation to set up a multiparty council to give blacks political power was in place, the Ziana news agency reported yesterday (2/6/93).

Foreign Minister Nathan Shamuyarira said: "We will follow the lead of the Commonwealth in this (lifting of sanctions)."

Zimbabwe has been a strong supporter of sanctions. — Sapa.

Mugabe's rivals hit by his land grab

362

CT 16/9/93

From FRED BRIDGLAND in Gutu

DAVE HENSON, leader of the commercial farmers in this rich cattle area of Zimbabwe, has just abandoned plans to plant R55 000 worth of pecan nut tree seedlings on his farm.

Following President Robert Mugabe's move last month to begin expropriating white farms under his Land Acquisition Act, farmers find they can no longer use their properties as collateral for bank loans.

Compensation

"Under the Land Acquisition Act my farm could be designated for confiscation tomorrow," Mr Henson said.

"With a law like this hanging over us, no farmer is going to sink money into long-term land development.

"Under the Act, they



ROBERT MUGABE: Accused of "undiluted racism"



JOSHUA NKOMO: Allowed to keep his R24-million farm tax-free

can take my farm and pay me a derisory sum. Under its provisions I have no right of appeal to the courts.

"But I'm Zimbabwean born and bred: in a democracy citizens have to stand up for their rights."

Many of the farmers Mr Henson represents as leader of The Commercial Farmers' Union in Gutu, a tiny town 200 km south of Harare, do not speak out as he does.

Some are among the first 68 white farmers to be told their land is being taken from them.

They are so terrified about the future that they refuse to speak openly about their feelings for fear of retribution by Mr Mugabe.

But privately they compare the first swoop on white land with Adolf Hitler's opening shot against the prosperous Jews of Germany on "Kristallnacht" in November 1938.

Economics

"What Mugabe is doing is largely unrelated to land reform or economics," Mr Henson said.

"He is a very bitter man who doesn't in his heart believe the white man has a place in Africa.

"I've never heard him refer to his white citizens as Zimbabweans. He always talks about 'white settlers'.

"He has got a number of problems and needs scapegoats, so he's trying to work up the rest of the population against the minority just as Hitler worked up the Germans against the Jews. It's despicable."

Mr Henson is especially incensed because he served on a committee with government representatives to help Kumbirai Kangai, the agriculture minister, identify suitable farms for expropriation for the resettlement of 150 000

landless peasant families.

In one set of guidelines, Mr Kangai said only "under-used" and "derelict" farms would be grabbed under the Land Acquisition Act.

The committee identified commercial farms belonging to a senior government minister and parliament's speaker as ripe for confiscation under the agriculture minister's rules.

Expropriation

Neither farm was on last month's official list of targeted farms, but the Gutu farm of one of the top prize-winning cattle breeders was listed for expropriation.

Fears that Mr Mugabe has a hidden agenda were reinforced when, with the 68 white-owned farms, farms owned by two of his old political opponents — James Chikerema and the Rev Ndabaningi Sithole — were listed for confiscation.

Among the giant farms that escaped were the 16 owned by Rex Nhongo, the former army chief, and the country's biggest farm, 324 000 ha bought by Vice-President Joshua Nkomo for R24 million and which has been given tax-free status.

Foreign aid

The Canadian government, the most generous foreign-aid donor to Zimbabwe, cancelled a visit to Ottawa by Industry Minister Christopher Ushewokunze in protest at the Land Acquisition Act.

In a tirade against the West, Mr Mugabe said he did not want its money.

Meanwhile, the farmers are fighting back. Unable to appeal against the provisions of the Act, they are about to challenge its legality.

To present their case in the Supreme Court they have hired one of the world's top human rights lawyers, London-based barrister Sidney Kentridge. — The Sunday Telegraph Limited.

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White Zimbabweans challenge land policy

B/Daw 17/9/93

HARARE — Six white landowners have mounted the first legal challenge to Zimbabwe President Robert Mugabe's controversial policy to seize white-owned farmland, lawyers confirmed yesterday.

They said the landowners, owning a total of 14 500ha of what they claimed to be productive land throughout the country, had papers served on the agriculture ministry last week. (362)

They claimed in the papers that the official designation of their land for confiscation by the government in May for resettlement of peasant farmers was illegal.

The move set the stage for an angry confrontation with Mugabe who had warned that any court decision obstructing the government's determination to seize land might be ignored.

Observers expected the move to intensify the government's recent wave of anti-white rhetoric on the land issue.

Government sources said Agriculture Minister Kumbirai Kangai called officials of the Commercial Farmers' Union to his office this week after he had received the

papers and told them the government would change the constitution to overrule the courts.

The threat of a showdown between the government and farmers, with strong overtones of a racial clash, had been growing since March last year when parliament passed the Land Acquisition Act.

The controversial Act empowered the government to seize land and pay whatever compensation it deemed fit, with the landowner expressly forbidden to sue for unfair compensation.

In recent months Mugabe has been leading an increasingly strident campaign against white farmers who own nearly 30% of the land in Zimbabwe, threatening to take farms without any payment whatsoever and to deport "racist" farmers who blocked his plans to nationalise 5-million hectares of white-owned farms.

Last month the Canadian ambassador called off a Zimbabwean cabinet minister's visit to Canada because of what he said was concern over the government's trampling of property rights. — Sapa.

London hogging goes unmarket

Farmers defy

Mugabe

Star 17/9/93

■ BY ROBIN DREW
STAR AFRICA SERVICE

Harare — Ignoring warnings by President Mugabe that it would be absolutely useless to challenge the compulsory acquisition of farms by the government, six farmers in Zimbabwe have started proceedings to ask the courts to declare the designation of their land unlawful and unconstitutional.

The Attorney-General confirmed to The Herald that papers suing the Minister of Lands, Agriculture and Water Development had been served. His office, acting for the minister, was drawing up a reply.

An affidavit from Alistair Davies of Charlton Farm, who is leading the action, attacks the lawfulness of the designations and also maintains the Land Acquisition Act itself contravenes the Constitution.

Catastrophic

Roger Birdwood, a director of Kilmarnock Estate, said he believed officials mistakenly designated the company's Benwell Farm when they meant the nearby Banwell Farm. He said the company property was highly productive and well developed and suggested an error was made.

Last month the Attorney-General, Patrick Chinamasa, commenting on the proposed challenge in the courts, said the stage had been set for a constitutional crisis of catastrophic proportions.

In last week's Government Gazette another 11 farms were designated for acquisition. The owners have a month in which to object.

Owners of another 45 farms have been given preliminary notices that the government intends to go ahead with compulsory acquisition which is the second stage in the process of taking them over. Again objections may be lodged with the Minister within a month.

ZIMBABWE

Fm 17/9/93

Down in the mouth

These are dog days for Zimbabwe business. While recovery in agriculture is under way, though constrained by dismal tobacco prices, the rest of the economy remains mired in recession. (362)

In the first four months of the year, mining volumes were down 6% while in the first seven months, manufacturing output fell 19% below its depressed 1992 level. Inflation, averaging over 30% in the year to July is slowing and is forecast to fall to 28% for 1993 as a whole.

Some recovery in industrial output is likely, but industrial production will be at its lowest levels for at least five years. It will take until 1995 to return to peak 1991 production levels.

The mining industry is forecasting strong growth next year, after a decline of at least 6% in 1993. Production this year is unlikely to be much above 1980 levels in volume, though total value will increase at least 15% to Z\$2,8bn (US\$385m). This is hardly impressive, since in 1986 — a year of very depressed metal prices — Zimbabwean mining output was worth Z\$700m or, in hard currency, US\$410m.

The mining industry's optimism about 1994 is hard to fathom given the renewed weakness in the gold market — gold output was worth over Z\$1bn last year, 40% of total production — and the sluggish world economic recovery. The same applies to agriculture where, even if there is a second good rainy season, production growth will slow markedly from an estimated 25% this year to around 10% in 1994.

The tobacco situation threatens to deteriorate further next year following the 1993 setback. Though a high-quality crop was grown this year, with 70% of the crop sold, the leaf price is averaging US\$1,20/kg, down 25% on last year's seasonal average and almost 63% lower than the record price of US\$3,25/kg attained in 1991. Analysts expect the price to fall sharply as the "tail" comes to the market with the seasonal average falling to US\$110c or below.

Growers have been told to cut production by a third to around 150m kg from 225m this year, but the signs are that only a minority of farmers are taking this advice, with the result that overproduction and a further fall in prices are on the cards next year.

Fm 17/9/93

Despite this generally difficult situation, the signs are that, after marginal growth of around 1% in 1993, the economy will grow significantly faster next year — perhaps as much as 4% to 4,5%. So why are businessmen down in the mouth?

Two related factors are at work. President Robert Mugabe is already fighting the 1995 election. Taking a leaf from the National Party electoral rulebook in the Seventies and Eighties, he has neatly turned around the *swart gevaar* message with little-disguised anti-white rhetoric. (362)

His prime target is the white farmers, whom he accuses of sabotaging the economy through their opposition to the government's land designation programme. He has threatened to disregard the courts, should any farmer be brave enough to challenge land designation by bringing a case against the expropriation. He has bitterly attacked the donor community for their criticism of land designation, despite repeated statements by Western diplomats that they do not question the need for land redistribution, but rather the manner of its implementation.

The business viewpoint, echoed privately by foreign diplomats, is that while resettlement is essential and inevitable, the compulsory purchase of (mainly) white-owned farmland is a turnoff to foreign investment.

An anonymous article in the government-owned *Herald* newspaper this week rejects this. The government is buying not nationalising land, it says, adding, almost as an afterthought, that the only "revolutionary" aspect of the plan is that the buyer (the government) will fix the price which may not then be challenged in the courts. It is precisely this point of justiciability that is worrying business, diplomats, donors and potential investors.

There is no threat to foreign investment, says the government, since only farmland will be designated. The target is 5m hectares. A further 37 farms were designated last week, while the designation orders over 34 previously listed farms were revoked.

The second issue is the growing emphasis on "indigenisation." Thirteen years after independence, too much economic power remains in white hands, according to the government and so, supported by some donors, the government is pushing for the unbundling of large groups and the sale of white and Asian-owned businesses to black entrepreneurs. Current events in Zimbabwe are a reminder to South Africans that political transition is only the first stage of an ongoing process. ■

Zim farmers take on govt

(362)

Own Correspondent

HARARE. — Six white landowners have defied President Robert Mugabe's warning not to challenge the constitutional validity of his resettlement campaign and initiated High Court action against government take-over of their farms.

Last month Mr Mugabe warned the 4 400 commercial farmers that attempts to fight his plans for nationalisation of five million hectares might result in their expulsion from the country.

He also told farmers that retaining South African Mr Sydney Kentridge, QC, was "absolutely useless".

If they retained international lawyers the government would allow squatters to seize the land. The six appellants own seven

High Court fight looms over land

of the 70 farms designated for take-over in April. The farms total 16 000ha scattered between Centenary in the north-east and the south-eastern lowveld.

The Commercial Farmers' Union (CFU) has accused the government of reneging on promises not to interfere with productive properties but follow an agreed list of derelict or under-utilised farms.

Agriculture Minister Mr Kumbirai Kangai rejected the CFU

proposals because they included many farms owned by "emergent" black landholders.

Many of the other 63 landowners are currently engaged in intensive secret lobbying, attempting to get designation orders repealed by private diplomacy. *CTM/19/93*

The 1992 Land Acquisition Act aims to limit farmers' right of appeal but Chief Justice Mr Anthony Gubbay has given veiled warning of a possible constitutional crisis between the government and judiciary over the validity of this attempt.

Legal sources here say the case is unlikely to come before judges for several months. Meanwhile, the owners are prohibited from making any changes, and are unable to obtain bank finance due to lack of collateral security in the form of freehold title deeds.

Mugabe: Govt will not yield

HARARE. — The Zimbabwe government would not surrender the people's right to land to a greedy bunch of racist usurpers, President Robert Mugabe said yesterday, lashing out again at white commercial farmers opposing his land acquisition policy.

Mr Mugabe said farmers who sought to challenge through the courts the government's decision to acquire land were engaging in a futile exercise.

He was speaking at the ruling Zanu (PF) party's central committee meeting.

"I want to assure you that my government shall remain unyielding on the issue of land," he said.

Mr Mugabe said that just as white settlers had taken land without paying for it, the government could take it from them without paying for it or entertaining any ideas of legality. — Sapa.

Educationists plan for coming century

Staff Reporter

CT 18/9/93

THE first strategic planning meeting of the National Education and Training Forum (Netf) is being held this weekend to determine the type of education and training system needed to take South Africa into the next century.

Those present will include ANC education department head Mr John Samuel, UWC's Professor Jakes Gerwel and Mr Franklin Sonn, rector of Peninsula Technikon.

The government will be represented by Dr Bernhard Louw, director-general of National Education, deputy director Mr Clive Roos and Dr Huw Davies. Business will be represented by Dr André Dippenaar, Mr Brian Phillips and Mr Alan Tonkin.

Suspended Cosas activist pardoned

JOHANNESBURG. — The Congress of South African Students (Cosas) announced yesterday it had pardoned regional student activist Mr Mahlomola Kekane who was suspended because he urged violent protests at white schools.

Cosas also said here it would suggest that year-end examinations be postponed for 30 days to allow pupils to catch up on time lost in unrest in township schools.

This follows the South African Democratic Teachers' Union threat of another strike after rejecting the latest government pay offer. — Sapa



Georgians ho

TBILISI, Georgia. — Georgian rebels shattered

Mugabe: Govt will not yield

HARARE. — The Zimbabwe government would not surrender "the people's right to land to a greedy bunch of racist usurpers", President Robert Mugabe said yesterday, lashing out again at white commercial farmers opposing his land acquisition policy.

Mr Mugabe said farmers who sought to challenge through the courts the government's decision to acquire land were engaging in a futile exercise.

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"I want to assure you that my government shall remain unyielding on the issue of land," he said.

Mr Mugabe said that just as white settlers had taken land without paying for it, the government could take it from them without paying for it or entertaining any ideas of legality. — Sapa

Zim's Union Carbide strikes big new deal

HARARE. — Zimbabwe's sole producer of high carbon ferrochrome, Union Carbide Zimbabwe, said it had struck a new management partnership deal, with an international group to take over running the company.

A statement issued yesterday quoted Gilbert Playford, vice-president of Hartford (part of the Connecticut-based Union Carbide Corporation) as saying that the management of the Zimbabwe operation had been transferred "to a new group" to "improve the fiscal health of a subsidiary that has been affected by the collapse of world ferrochrome prices."

The statement did not name the management company, but mining industry sources said it was a subsidiary of Johannesburg-based metals and minerals brokers Industrial Base Metals.

It was not clear whether the partnership involved the sale of shares and company officials would not comment.

Mr Playford added that the management group would explore new possibilities in Union Carbide Zimbabwe's plans to set up a \$280 million (R924 million) platinum mine in Zimbabwe.

The company announced in July that it was seeking partners to help finance the venture. He expected the new management to "continue to improve the company's competitive cost position, to enhance productivity and to reduce distribution costs".

Union Carbide's Zimasco chrome smelting plant has a capacity for 232 000 tons of high carbon ferrochrome, but has been hard hit by the dumping of ferrochrome on the international market by the Confederation of Independent States. The situation has been worsened by an increase of nearly 150 percent in power charges in the the past 18 months and high interest rates. Production last year was 158 431 tons. — Sapa

Star 20/9/93

White farmers greedy - Mugabe

Harare — White Zimbabweans confidence in the country has been dealt a blow by the latest tirade from President Robert Mugabe against what he called a greedy bunch of racist usurpers.

(362)
In his first reaction to the disclosure that six farmers had started court proceedings to halt government plans to acquire

their land, Mugabe made a bitter attack on white farmers generally when he addressed his party's central committee.

Denouncing the move to take the land issue to the courts, Mugabe said this was "an exercise in futility". The government would remain firm and unyielding. — Star Africa Service.

► Land problem — Page 9

Mugabe upsets whites

Sowetan 20/9/93

By Robin Drew

Sowetan Africa News Service

HARARE - Whites' confidence in Zimbabwe has been dealt a blow by the latest tirade from President Mugabe against what he called a "greedy bunch of racist usurpers".

In his first reaction to the disclosure that six farmers had started court proceedings to halt government plans to acquire their land, Mugabe made a bitter attack on white farmers generally when he addressed his party's central committee.

He said there were some exceptions

whom he admired for their courage and adjustment but they were often ostracised.

Denouncing the move to take the land issue to the courts, Mugabe said this was "an exercise in futility".

He accused "settler racists" of running exclusive clubs, playing exclusive games and striving to maintain their own exclusive schools and other amenities.

He said white farmers had deliberately increased fees to keep blacks out of these institutions.

"They will refer to 'your government' as they denounce and disparage us," said Mugabe, reading

from a prepared text. "The racists do not belong to Zimbabwe and the sooner they go to their Rhodesia, wherever it is, the better it will be for us Zimbabweans who want a society of equality and non-racial harmony," he said.

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White Farmers

Mugabe said the land occupied by white farmers was held by virtue of conquest and not by way of purchase from the ancestors of Zimbabweans.

If it was argued that conquest gave blacks could have taken the land when they defeated the whites in 1980.



MOTHER'S LOVE: A boy shot in the face near Menongue sits in the hall of an overcrowded Luanda hospital with his mother yesterday.

Hospital horrors for Angola injured

KLANDA. — Airlifted to Luanda's crumbling, overcrowded hospitals, the wounded defenders of besieged Menongue lie on filthy mats or rags on the floor and beg for handouts to buy medicine and food.

"It wasn't even this bad back in Menongue," said Corporal Mateus Kodinho, one of about 100 gravely wounded soldiers who were airlifted last week out of the rebel-besieged city 800km south-east of the capital.

As he spoke, he cradled the stump of his newly amputated right leg in the crook of his arm to relieve the throbbing pain. Pus oozed through his soiled bandages. The stump had been cleaned once in five days.

But while the 48-year-old career soldier and others like him suffer, doctors at the Josina Marcel Military Hospital have few resources with which to treat them. Most of the wounded soldiers are amputees.

"I do what I can, but without money that is often little more than listening to moans," said a North Korean physician identified only as Dr Kim who came to Angola in 1987 under a co-operative programme between his country and Angola's then-Marxist government. He said he would not leave because "there is no one else to do the work".

Hospital officials said lack of funds and rampant looting meant patients must buy their own food and medicine. — Sapa-AP.

Unita shelling kills 50

LONDON. — More than 50 civilians died during Unita shelling of the besieged central Angolan city of Cuito, Angola radio said.

"The fighting is practically hand-to-hand and it is taking place throughout the city," it reported yesterday in a broadcast monitored by the BBC.

"Powerful shelling continually rocks the city, to the extent that Unita's shells are cracking the ground open and pushing dead and buried people into the open again," the state radio said. — Sapa-Reuter.

Mugabe slates white farmers

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□ Court threat sparks outburst

ROBIN DREW
Argus Africa News Service

HARARE. — Whites' confidence in Zimbabwe has been dealt a blow by the latest tirade from President Mugabe against what he called a "greedy bunch of racist usurpers".

In his first reaction to the disclosure that six farmers had begun court proceedings to halt government plans to acquire their land, Mr Mugabe made a bitter attack on white farmers generally when he addressed his party's central committee.

Denouncing the move to take the land issue to the courts, Mr Mugabe said this was "an exercise in futility". The government would remain firm and unyielding and the interests of the majority would always remain paramount.

He accused "settler racists" of running exclusive clubs, playing exclusive games and striving to maintain their own exclusive schools and other amenities.

"The racists do not belong to Zimbabwe and the sooner they go to their Rhodesia, wherever it is, the better it will be for us Zimbabweans who want

a society of equality and non-racial harmony."

He said some whites still dreamed of a restoration of power in a "resurrected Rhodesia" under a black stooge government, which was why they were sponsoring the opposition Forum party.

Mr Mugabe said the land occupied by white farmers was held by virtue of conquest and not by way of purchase from the ancestors of Zimbabweans.

If it was argued that conquest gave title, it could be argued that blacks could have taken the land when they defeated the whites in 1980.

"Perhaps our weakness has been the fact that we have tried to act morally and legally when they acted immorally and illegally. We have tried to be gentlemen guided by principles, while they defied these principles and acted as inhuman plunderers, guided by nothing more than the law of the jungle," said Mr Mugabe.

He said the people who were resisting the Land Acquisition Act on legal or constitutional grounds were the direct descendants or inheritors or successors of the land and power grabbers of 1890 and subsequent periods.

OUT OF AFRICA

ZIMBABWE: The Congress of Trade Unions called on the government to cancel recent fuel and electricity price rises of up to 40 percent, threatening "nationwide campaigns".

● South Africa deported more than 11 000 illegal Zimbabwean migrants in the past eight months, police said in Harare.

SOMALIA: US helicopter gunships shot dead two armed Somalis after a sniper shot and wounded a Pakistani peacekeeper inspecting a suspected mine in Mogadishu today.

EGYPT: About 200 people were rounded up for questioning in the past week, with Muslim militants again taking aim at tourists after a lull of several months, security sources said.

KENYA: Officials advised workers in Mombasa to ignore calls by the banned radical Muslim organisation the Islamic Party of Kenya for a strike today.

ALGERIA: Muslim fundamentalists killed two policemen and three civilians, bringing to 15 the number killed in violence in the past week.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC: The turnout was only around 50 percent in the second round of presidential and parliamentary elections.

Reports: Sapa-AFP-Reuter.



Star 21/9/93

Zimbabwe demos over bread price

■ BY ROBIN DREW
STAR AFRICA SERVICE

Harare — Thousands of people in townships around Harare have been taking part in demonstrations against an increase in the price of bread.

Riot police were called out when hundreds of youths in Tafara, a suburb of Harare, turned violent and attacked people who defied a bread boycott. (362)

Later police vehicles escorted delivery vans taking bread to the townships.

In Bulawayo some bakeries have reverted to the old bread price because of consumer resistance.

Yesterday, riot police were called to Chitungwiza township and a number of youths were arrested. The price of bread went up by 30 cents to Zim\$ 2.60 a loaf (about R1.40).

Wankie's earnings treble

WANKIE Colliery, Zimbabwe's largest coal mine, posted a near threefold leap in earnings for the half year to August as price rises, cost-cutting and shelved expenditure allowed it to defy market conditions.

Revenue from coal and coke jumped more than half to R222m, pushing pretax profit to Z\$80,7m (Z\$33m). The improvement swept through to the bottom line, pushing Wankie's earnings to 154c (55c), while the interim dividend rose to 10c — double the full payout last year.

But Wankie again relied heavily on factors other than the market for its performance. A cost plus margin formula — translating to 25-80% price rises — safeguarded a 20% margin on Wankie's output, which offset falling sales.

The company also continued cutting operations, which included reducing monthly underground output from 90 000 tons to 15 000 for much of the period.

Wankie's deteriorating cash flow forced it to put essential maintenance work on hold, which again flattered earnings.

Chairman Ngoni Kudenda said much of this work would have to be

ANDY DUFFY

undertaken in the second half. Maintaining the first-half performance would depend on signs of firming demand translating to a solid market improvement. B1205

The bottom line disguised a weakening balance sheet. The company does not give interim figures for short-term debt, but said it was paying interest of 42% on some loans.

Long- and medium-term debt moved from Z\$24,4m to Z\$74,3m as Wankie took delivery of stripping equipment designed to maintain production levels. Kudenda added that Wankie was finalising plans to refinance itself, primarily by expanding its issued share capital. 271913

The strategy is likely to be helped by a revaluation of plant and equipment, which together with last year's revaluation of land and buildings boosted reserves and retained profits by Z\$757m to Z\$1,02bn. (362)

Kudenda said Wankie had seen the worst of its "crisis period". With the refinancing in place, the company could focus on building dividends.

He added that domestic demand, particularly from sugar producers, was picking up thanks to good rains.

SA restrictions 'eased'

HARARE. — Zimbabwean Home Affairs Minister Dumiso Dabengwa has promised to further ease visa requirements for tourists from South Africa.

South Africans dominate the Zimbabwean tourism market, accounting for 50 percent of the country's visitors last year.

Mr Dabengwa was speaking at a function to commemorate World Tourism Day at a Harare hotel.

"You will recall that in recognition of the significance of the South African tourism market's contribution to our tourism and indeed the economy, in 1992 my ministry eased visa requirements for South African tourists," he said.

But, "further moves in this direction are dictated not only by this factor. There are equally important political considerations government takes cognisance of". — Sapa.

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focus on land

Sowetan 29/9/93

The successes of small-scale black farmers in Zimbabwe are a pointer to what could happen in South Africa.

Robin Drew reports for the *Sowetan Africa News Service*.

HARARE — Just as in Zimbabwe, small-scale black farmers will inevitably become major contributors to South Africa's agricultural economy under a reformed system of land use

These achievements have been overshadowed by the row over the Zimbabwe government's expropriation of white farmland.

But they are only the start of bigger achievements by the peasant farmers, in the view of Richard Amyot, chief executive of Zimbabwe's Commercial Grain Producers' Association.

The 30-year-old Amyot, a third-generation Zimbabwean, has a vision of a giant Southern African agricultural trading bloc in which black and white farmers will prosper.

While this year black maize growers in the communal lands, small-scale commercial farms and resettlement schemes will produce more than half the country's requirements, Amyot says the potential for expansion is enormous if only the right technology is transferred to them.

Proved

"We have proved this through programmes we have implemented in the communal lands," he said. "Ability relates to what is offered in terms of technology."

Under proper management and with guidance the smallholder farmer has enormous potential, according to Amyot.

"We have black commercial farmers who are doing very well for themselves. But in general terms they are not ready on the scale the government proposes to absorb the technology required.

"There simply is not the money and the resources to give them the infrastructure that must go with the land.

"If white farmers had not been as spoon-fed as they were with research and technology incorporated into the farming system at a cost of billions over the years, they would not be half as good as they are today.

"Applying research to programmes in the communal sector, we have seen a phenomenal increase in yields.

Increase in costs

"If we could do it across the whole sector there wouldn't be a land question," says the Bulawayo-born Amyot, who trained at the Royal Agricultural College at Cirencester in England.

Peasant farmers are able to farm more cheaply. Conservation tillage technology is not complicated. There would be an increase in costs through the use of chemicals and fertilisers but the cost structures of the big commercial farmer

would not be there.

The smallholder could still be largely a hand operator. With a herd of oxen, he was geared up to farm 10 to 20ha producing cash crops.

"He will be very competitive in this world. He will make the American and European Community farmers look ridiculous and produce a better quality product."

Amyot is keen to open up discussions with South Africa though he feels certain sectors of the agricultural industry may not be politically ready yet.

"We would like to see people who are going to be responsible for the development of agricultural policy in South Africa learning from our experience," he says.

"Agriculture is one business, one canvas, we must all talk," he says.

Trading bloc

The existence of a Southern African trading bloc is crucial to his vision.

"We must be able to market the commodity. The world must make space. By enhancing the production potential of the thousands of small-scale farmers in the region backed by a viable, active, large-scale sector as a strategic producer, Southern Africa would have a competitive edge through volumetric trade.

“If white farmers had not been as spoon-fed as they were with research and technology incorporated into the farming system at a cost of billions over the years, they would not be half as good as they are today”

"The success of Africa is going to depend on economic gain."

Amyot agrees that the big picture is a bit of a dream, but not an impossibility. Multiply the approach through the beef, pork and poultry industries and one gets cheap food producers through economies of scale and enhanced production practices, he argues.

Zimbabwe has made a remarkable recovery from last year's drought when it had to import maize on a massive scale. This year enough maize will be produced to feed the nation and to make a start on re-building the reserve stocks of 900 000 tons.

Resettlement farmers

The 2 500 large-scale producers and the 940 000 communal, small-scale and resettlement farmers responded rapidly to the increased price for their crop and the freeing of many restrictions on marketing.

The small-scale producers were assisted last year with free seed and fertiliser packs and many will benefit again this coming season though perhaps not as many as the government has made out.

So far the bulk of deliveries to the state grain depots has come from the large-scale sector which has accounted for 73 percent.

The removal of the maize subsidy led to a 50 percent increase in the price of industrial roller meal and has encouraged smaller growers to retain more of the crop for their own use.

Amyot says in any land reform programme an essential element is economic accountability. The old ways based on culture, traditions and the tribal ethic have to go.

Title to land, ownership, means not only security but a means of tracing those who don't repay loans.

Insecurity

The president of the Zimbabwe Farmers Union, Mr Gary Magadzire, who represents nearly a million smallholders, said recently: "The insecurity of tenure in both resettlement and communal areas appears to us to be the biggest threat to environment-friendly and sustainable agriculture."

He hoped the proposed land tenure commission would move speedily towards resolving this issue.

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The successes of small-scale black farmers in Zimbabwe are a pointer to what could result from land reform in South Africa.

Robin Drew reports from Harare for Star Africa Service

Star 29/9/93

Peasant farmers set to hoe

(362)

Just as they have in Zimbabwe, small-scale black farmers will inevitably become major contributors to South Africa's agricultural economy under a reformed system of land use.

The remarkable achievements of Zimbabwe's peasant farmers since independence in 1980 are indicated by the fact that this year they will produce more than half of Zimbabwe's maize needs.

These achievements have been overshadowed by the row over the Zimbabwe government's expropriation of white farmland. But they are only the start of bigger advances by the peasant farmers, in the view of Richard Amyot, chief executive of Zimbabwe's Commercial Grain Producers' Association.

The 30-year-old Amyot, a third-generation Zimbabwean, has a vision of a giant southern African agricultural trading bloc in which black and white farmers can prosper.

While this year black maize growers in the communal lands, small-scale commercial farms and resettlement schemes will produce more than half the country's requirements, Amyot says the potential for expansion is enormous if only the right technology is transferred to them.

"We have black commercial farmers who are doing very well for themselves. But in general terms they are not ready on the scale the government proposes to absorb the technology required. There simply is not the money and the resources to give them the infrastructure that must go with the land.

"If white farmers had not been as spoonfed as they were with research and technology incorporated into the farming system at a cost of billions over the years they would not be half as good as they are today.

"Applying research to programmes in the communal sector, we have seen a phenomenal increase in yields. If we could do it across the whole sector there wouldn't be a land question," says the Bulawayo-born Amyot, who trained at the Royal Agricultural College at Cirencester in England.

Peasant farmers are able to farm more cheaply. Conservation tillage technology is not complicated. There would be an increase in costs through the use of chemicals and fertilisers but the cost structures of the big commercial farmer would not be there.

The smallholder could still be largely a hand operator. With a herd of oxen he was geared up to farm 10 to 20 ha producing cash crops.

"He will be very competitive in this world. He will make the American and European Community farmers look ridiculous and produce a better quality product."

Trading bloc

Amyot is keen to open up discussions with South Africa though he feels certain sectors of the agricultural industry may not be politically ready yet.

"We would like to see people who are going to be responsible for the development of agricultural policy in South Africa learning from our experience," he says.

"Agriculture is one business, one canvas, we must all talk."

The existence of a southern African trading bloc is crucial to his vision.

Amyot agrees that the big picture is a bit of a dream, but not an impossibility. Multiply the approach through the beef, pork and poultry industries and one gets cheap food producers through economies of scale and enhanced production practices, he argues.

Zimbabwe has made a remarkable recovery from last year's drought when it had to import maize on a massive scale. This year enough maize will be produced to feed the nation and to make a start on re-building the reserve stocks of 900 000 tons.

The 2 500 large-scale producers and the 940 000 communal, small-scale and resettlement farmers responded rapidly to the increased price for their crop and the freeing of many restrictions on marketing.

The small-scale producers were assisted last year with free seed and fertiliser packs and many will benefit again this coming season though perhaps not as many as the government has made out.

So far the bulk of deliveries to the state grain depots has come from the large-scale sector which has accounted for 73 percent. The removal of the maize subsidy led to a 50 percent increase in the price of industrial roller meal and has encouraged smaller growers to retain more of the crop for their own use.

Amyot says that in any land reform programme an essential element is economic accountability. The old ways based on culture, traditions and the tribal ethic have to go. Title to land, ownership, means not only security but a means of tracing those who don't repay loans.

The president of the Zimbabwe Farmers Union, Gary Magadzire, who represents nearly a million smallholders said recently: "The insecurity of tenure in both settlement and communal areas appears to us to be the biggest threat to environment-friendly and sustainable agriculture."

He hoped the proposed land tenure commission would move speedily towards resolving this issue.



Don't underrate him . . . farmers like this man could leave his EC counterparts trailing far behind in the productivity and quality stakes, whatever the crop.

SUNDAY TIMES, AUGUST 1, 1993

Deals put off strikes

STimes 118193

By DAWN BARKHUIZEN and RAY HARTLEY

LAST-minute deals between private- and public-sector employees and unions have defused looming labour action around the country.

The National Union of Metalworkers of SA which had planned to start countrywide mass action tomorrow, will instead sign a deal with vehicle manufacturers.

The National Union of Mineworkers called off a scheduled strike ballot on Friday after eleventh-hour talks with the Chamber of Mines.

And in Johannesburg, a threatened strike by municipal workers who belong to the SA Municipal Workers Union has been called off after city and union officials agreed to try to settle the wage dispute before an arbitrator.

Municipal workers will now join a planned march in Oxford Road instead of embarking on the planned strike though workers in other cities will go ahead with the illegal strike.

The Numsa deal, which comes after 30 sessions of tough bargaining between trade unionists and South Africa's nine vehicle manufacturers, sets new standards in industrial relations and marks a swing away from confrontational wage negotiations, unionists say.

The agreement paves the way for "multi-skilling" the 26 000-strong workforce - a policy that has already boosted the flagging Australian car industry and improved production in Japan.

The agreement was "light years ahead of anything else", said Numsa negotiator Gavin Hartford, and aimed at raising production to world-class levels.

Manufacturers hope the agreement will inject new life into the beleaguered car industry - now experiencing one of its bleakest patches after losing millions of rands through work stoppages after Chris Han's death, earning warnings from overseas parent companies that factories would be relocated to countries such as Korea unless quotas improved.

The agreement lays down principles for plotting career paths for all employees, cross-training and upgrading blue-collar skills, introducing industry-wide provident and medical-aid schemes, and creating the country's first-ever work-security fund for retrenched workers.

As part of the deal, hourly paid workers at BMW, Delta, Mercedes-Benz, Nissan, Samcor, Toyota, Volkswagen, Associated Automotive Distributors and Man Truck and Bus Company can expect a 10-percent wage increase.

The Chamber of Mines agreed to take the NUM wage dispute to mediation in exchange for an undertaking from the NUM to suspend its strike ballot. Mediation is expected to begin this week.



FACE TO FACE . . . William Mnisi and Johan Lemmer in a heated confrontation over whether the NP MP tried to bribe the DP . . .

Time short for Zimbabwe

HARARE — Zimbabwe had less than five years to take advantage of SA's political turmoil and attract foreign companies still uncertain about SA investments, business leaders in Harare said yesterday. *Biday*

They said in interviews with the Ziana news agency that the lifting of UN sanctions on SA was not expected to result in a rush to invest, mainly because political violence was expected to intensify before and after the April 27 elections.

Many international firms would wait at least a year before making substantial investments in SA.

National export promotion organisation Zimtrade CE Morrison Sifelani said Zimbabwe and SA should urgently resume stalled talks on a renewed trade agreement, and lay the foundation for sustained private sector co-operation.

"Zimbabwe and SA are key countries of this region and, therefore, it is in their interest to negotiate a harmonious bilateral trade agreement, regardless of SA's insistence to wait for the outcome of GATT talks before concluding a trade pact with us,"

Sifelani said.

But Zimbabwe should take appropriate measures to ensure it was not unfairly disadvantaged by the emergence of an economically powerful SA. *3019193*

"I am sure the government will not allow the country to lose potential investors through lack of appropriate incentives." *(362)*

Anglo American Zimbabwe chairman and CE Roy Lander said Zimbabwean companies which failed to adapt to the new economic environment would find it tough when competition from SA intensified.

Zimbabwe National Chamber of Commerce president Ted Makoni said once SA was economically and politically "acceptable" to investors, Zimbabwe would find it difficult to attract businessmen unless the domestic investment climate was further liberalised.

Confederation of Zimbabwe Industries president Bill Moore said that with peace in SA, "we will have to get our act together very quickly, otherwise we are going to be second choice". — Sapa. *3019193*

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AFRICA NEWS**65 000 survive
on govt aid**

ABOUT 65 000 people in Zimbabwe's parched Beit Bridge district are surviving on government food aid, the Ziana news agency reported.

District administrator Mr. Mbonisi Ncube said yesterday a food relief programme had been started at the beginning of September when it became clear many families had nearly run out of food.

(362)
The district has been one of the hardest hit by drought in Zimbabwe over the past two years. —Sapa.

Time short for Zimbabwe

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Zimbabwe to spend Z\$1.3bn on phones

HARARE — The Zimbabwe Posts and Telecommunications Corporation (PTC) has embarked on a Z\$1.3bn investment programme to meet the country's telecommunications needs by the turn of the century.

A spokesman said the corporation, with a national telephone waiting list of over 97 000 — half of them in Harare — had started to implement projects that would result in over 200 000 additional telephone lines being available to both domestic and private sector clients on the waiting list.

The PTC would obtain 212 000 telephone sets to ease the current demand and plans were under way to expand the national telex network.

The PTC's investment plan, to be implemented between this year and 1998, comes in the wake of reports that some companies are considering postponing expansion projects because of a lack of telephones and telex lines, particularly in Harare where there are an estimated 11 181 companies on the waiting list.

"The commissioning of digital telephone exchanges during the programme will be one of the PTC's major thrusts," the spokesman said.

The programme included digitalisation of the Mashonaland and Manicaland telephone exchanges, during which existing electromechanical ex-

changes would be replaced with digital exchanges.

"The digitalisation programme will, at completion, eventually provide a total of 111 600 lines in the two regions," he said.

The PTC would modernise the Matabeleland network resulting in a total of 75 000 lines and 1 180 trunk lines in the Bulawayo multiexchange area, Gwanda, Hwange and Victoria Falls exchanges.

The spokesman said with the success of some of the completed projects, the PTC was confident it would satisfy the country's telecommunications needs before the turn of the century. — Sapa.

Zimbabwe devaluation due

HARARE — Zimbabwe was likely to devalue its currency by up to 25% by January to coincide with a liberalisation of exchange controls, bankers and economists said yesterday.

"I think the Reserve Bank will be devaluing the dollar to coincide with its new policy on corporate foreign currency deposit accounts," said Zimbabwe University economics lecturer Tony Hawkins.

Finance Minister Bernard Chidzero announced plans in April to allow companies to operate foreign currency deposit accounts and government sources said these would start in January 8/10/93

Under the scheme, exporters would retain 60% of their export earnings in foreign currency in the deposit accounts (362)

This would be accompanied, bankers said, by the virtual abolition of the ex-

isting direct allocation of foreign exchange to importers. B12ay

The result, Hawkins says, is likely to be a two-tier market with 40% of export earnings being retained by the state to meet oil and public sector imports, debt servicing and other official payments, while 60% would be retained and traded within the private sector.

"This will mean an effective devaluation of the Zimbabwe dollar by anything from 20% to 25%," he said. The current exchange rate is Z\$6,5 to the US dollar.

Hawkins said it was not clear whether this would be accompanied by a matching devaluation of the official exchange rate or whether the authorities would allow a two-tier rate system to operate for a transitional period.

Zimbabwean government and central bank officials do not, as a matter of policy, comment on private

sector statements, especially speculation on currency devaluation.

Bankers said that while they expected the government to increase the export retention rate from the current 50% to 60% in January, this would not be enough to absorb increased import demand and to finance the outflow of profits and dividends without some devaluation. — Sapa-
Reuter.

Zimbabwe's 'sensitive' accounts exposed

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ARG 7/10/93

ROBIN DREW

Argus Africa News Service

HARARE — A number of Zimbabwean cabinet ministers have "sensitive accounts" with a government-owned bank — the Commercial Bank of Zimbabwe — which has lent them huge sums of money, the independent Financial Gazette reported.

The paper said yesterday that an expatriate Mahamed Zavahr, had been appointed managing director and Colonel Godfrey Matemashane of the National Army had been made assistant general manager.

It said: "Questions were being asked this week about the appointment of an expatriate to the position of managing director of the 100 per cent government-owned bank amid reports that the bank had been influenced to do so by the need to protect sensitive accounts."

"It is understood that under the sensitive accounts a number of government ministers have been drawing huge loans from the bank and some had failed to repay them."

The list of names of cabinet ministers could not be published.

The Commercial Bank of Zimbabwe was formerly known as the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (Zimbabwe) but changed its name when it was taken over by the government after the scandal broke over crooked dealings by BCCI overseas.

Zimbabwe's growth prospects 'poor'

HARARE — Zimbabweans would regain their peak living standards, last enjoyed two years ago, only near the turn of the century, a leading commercial bank in Harare forecast yesterday. *B/DAY*

Standard Chartered Bank said immediate growth prospects for Zimbabwe's economy were poor, mainly as a result of depressed output levels in the manufacturing and mining levels, while income levels had hardly improved since 1992 when the country had suffered a devastating drought.

It would take the economy, heavily dependent on the agricultural sector for

growth, until 1995 for real gross domestic product to reach 1990 output levels, and another year to regain the 1991 peak.

"On a per capita income basis," the bank said, "it will be close to the turn of the century before living standards return to 1991 levels." *13/10/93*

Despite the gloomy short-term outlook, there were indications the economy would grow significantly faster next year with a normal rainy season. *(362)*

However, reduced tobacco output might frustrate growth in 1994, while agricultural output was expected to be 13% below its 1995 peak. — Sapa.

Zimbabwe's bumper maize crop

HARARE — Zimbabwean farmers, whose industry collapsed last year because of drought, had produced enough staple maize to last the country until the next harvest in 1994, an official said yesterday.

"The Grain Marketing Board (GMB) has taken delivery of 1.3-million tons of maize enough to take us to our next harvest," GMB chairman Cephas Msipa said. *8/10/93*

State-run GMB buys all the country's maize and in turn sells it to millers.

Last year half of Zimbabwe's 10-million people were left dependent on food imports which cost the government Z\$2bn after the worst drought in southern Africa this century crippled agriculture, the mainstay industry. *2/11/93*

"I am sure the actual maize production

during the 1992/93 farming season was much higher than what has been delivered to us, but that most people in rural areas who suffered during the drought have kept stocks for their consumption," Msipa said.

The government this year plans to keep 936 000 tons of maize as food reserves after Zimbabweans accused it of not preparing adequately for the drought. *(362)*

Msipa said the GMB, which would store the maize, understood that the government would pay for storage. "We don't know the cost of storing the rather large supplies yet, but we believe that the government will pay for this," he said.

The loss-making GMB, which in the past has received annual subsidies of more than Z\$600m, has been told by the government to generate profit by 1995. — Reuter.

ZIMBABWE *Fm* 22/10/93

Foreign interest

Ten years ago Zimbabwe Finance Minister Bernard Chidzero denounced the stock exchange as the prostitute of the economy. Industrial share prices, which reached a record high less than a year after independence, plummeted to a 17-year low in 1984 as investors took fright at President Robert Mugabe's strategy of "socialist transformation" and Chidzero's expropriation, for balance of payments reasons, of domestically held foreign equities and bonds owned by Zimbabwean investors.

Today the wheel has turned full circle. In April, Chidzero liberalised the regulations governing foreign investment, allowing overseas investors to buy up to 25% of companies listed on the stock exchange and allowing residents to open foreign currency deposit accounts with Zimbabwean banks.

This was followed by reductions in capital gains tax on share market investment, from 30% to 10%, and in the withholding tax on dividends declared by quoted companies from 20% to 15%.

From January, companies will also be allowed to open foreign currency accounts. This will have the effect of floating the Zimbabwean dollar.

Foreign buying has had a dramatic impact on the equity market. The industrial index, which reached a peak of 2 700 (Jan 1967=100) in September 1991, before losing two-thirds of its value, dipping below 900 at the end of last year, has staged a strong comeback.

It began moving off the bottom in the first half of the year, picking up almost 10%; but it was only when foreign buying started in late June that the market took off, rising more than 65% in the past three months to 1 650.

Market capitalisation, which had fallen from a peak of Z\$7bn (US\$1,7bn) in September 1991, to Z\$3,4bn at the end of last year, has recouped all its losses but, because of devaluation, it remains well below its 1991 hard-currency high of \$2,7bn. **362**

Initial interest came from individuals but, following the tax reductions in the July budget, emerging market funds, mainly UK-based but also some from the Far East, the US and Australia, starting buying.

Fund investors are driven primarily by price:earnings considerations. At mid-year the Harare industrial p/e ratio of 3,9 was about half the 8 acceptable to fund managers. Now it is hovering around 7,6 and seems set to move higher.

Turnover has jumped from Z\$750 000 (\$115 000) a week in the first half of the year to more than Z\$10m (US\$1,5m), of which over 40% is foreign buying. In fewer than four months since liberalisation, foreigners have put about Z\$60m (\$9m) in the market, which is more than the net inflow of foreign direct investment since independence 13 years ago.

Ironically, foreign buyers are pushing prices up at a time when many, if not most, of the Zimbabwean stock exchange's 62 listed companies are reporting falling earnings. And analysts expect another six to nine months of poor corporate profits.

But, with inflation and interest rates on

Fm 22/10/93

the way down and the economy expected to register marginal growth in 1993, the market is expecting better days ahead.

□ The International Finance Corp plans to include Zimbabwe in its investable indices from January. **(362)** ■

Star 25/10/93
(362)

Land grab showdown looms

■ BY ROBIN DREW
STAR AFRICA SERVICE

Harare — A showdown is likely at Churu Farm, where veteran opposition politician the Rev Ndabaningi Sithole has vowed to defy the Zimbabwean government's takeover of the property.

Four thousand families who were allowed by Sithole to settle on the 260 ha farm outside Harare have been ordered to leave by the end of the week and a heavy police presence has

been established at the property.

Leaflets were dropped telling the people that the government now owned the farm and they had to go. The government says the settlement is illegal and presents a health hazard.

Sithole, who admits that the farm is a stronghold of his Zanu (Ndonga) party — which has only one member in parliament — says that if the shacks are destroyed there will be war.

Sithole (72) returned to Zimbabwe early last year after eight

years of self-exile in the United States. Several months ago the government said it intended taking over the farm.

At that stage about 2 000 families had been allocated plots and were reportedly each paying Sithole R15 a month. He said then that he would fight any eviction order in the courts.

At the weekend Sithole said he had not been served with any lawful order to quit and that the leaflets dropped by air had not been signed by anyone.

Mugabe again faces Ndebele unrest

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27/10/73

ROBIN DREW
Argus Africa
News Service

HARARE — Accusations that the Shona-dominated government of Zimbabwe has neglected the development of Matabeleland — home to most of the Ndebele — have been given a new slant through a mention paid to the remarks of a Bulawayo-based economist and commentator.

Eric Bloch told a business meeting here that nothing would be done about Matabeleland's chronic water problems until either President Mugabe or three million Shonas moved there.

In a vitriolic attack on Mr. Bloch, a Harare newspaper accused him and other "camouflaged white racists" of masquerading as so-called liberals of attempting to divide the people along ethnic and tribal lines.

But the same edition of the newspaper carried a national news agency report from Bulawayo saying regional and tribal sentiments were hotting up in Matabeleland and calling for an urgent solution.

The article referred to Mr. Bloch's remarks but also quoted extensively from remarks by influential black civic and political leaders.

They had long argued that Matabeleland was a neglected region because it was inhabited predominantly by Ndebele, who make up about 15 percent of the population of Zimbabwe and with associated groups about 20 percent.

Mayor of Bulawayo Joshua Malinga said Matabeleland had suffered because of tribalism. Now was the time for public debate.

A senior Bulawayo-based journalist said the people of Matabeleland felt very insecure and threatened. They no longer saw the benefit of political unity.

'No hurry' for Zim-SA ties

HARARE. — Zimbabwe is in no hurry to establish diplomatic ties with South Africa. (62) OF 2710/93

"I don't see us establishing a full mission now — perhaps after the elections," President Robert Mugabe said on Monday before leaving Cyprus for home from the Commonwealth summit.

Mr Mugabe, for years a fierce critic of apartheid, said that although Zimbabwe was pleased with Pretoria's efforts towards democracy it would not

upgrade its trade office in Johannesburg for a while.

"We have to move cautiously towards upgrading our mission. Every step we take should be a step taken at the right time," he said.

Mr Mugabe, in a rare admission of fault, also said his government's discouragement of private investment in the 1980s was partly to blame for Zimbabwe's economic troubles. "We have to accept part of the blame," he said. — Sapa

Star 27/10/93

No full ties with SA yet

Harare — Zimbabwe will not establish full diplomatic relations with South Africa until after next year's general election, President Robert Mugabe has said (362). He told Zimbabwean journalists that in the meantime his government would open up much more to President de Klerk's regime.

The question of upgrading the status of the trade missions was being discussed by his ministry of foreign affairs.

■ Mexico said on Tuesday it had agreed to establish full diplomatic relations with South Africa.

Star Africa Service.
Sapa-Reuter.

Mugabe accepts blame for a damaged economy

HARARE — President Robert Mugabe, in a rare admission of fault, said in an interview broadcast yesterday that his government's discouragement of private investment in the 1980s was partly to blame for Zimbabwe's economic troubles. (362)

"We have to accept part of the blame," Mugabe said in Cyprus, where he attended the Commonwealth summit. Private investment could have helped boost economic growth and reduce unemployment and the government had been wrong to discourage it.

Political and business critics say Mugabe drove the economy into the ground in his first 10 years in office with a half-hearted experiment with socialism.

Mugabe still says he is a Marxist, but he abandoned the socialist experiment in 1991 and launched a five-year programme to reform the economy through private investment. (610)

He said some of Zimbabwe's problems had been inherited by his government at independence in 1980, but the government should have promoted private investment earlier to help reduce unemployment which is officially estimated at more than 2-million people in a population of 10-million. 27/10/93

Mugabe said his government had invested heavily in black education and in expanding health facilities neglected by the former white minority government. — Sapa-Reuter

WORLD

Diamond licence rush in Zimbabwe

HARARE — Investors are rushing to snap up licences to prospect for diamonds in Zimbabwe, where an Australian firm last year pioneered commercial production. 27/10/93

"Everybody is in it — local and foreign investors, old and new companies, big and small," said Zimbabwe Chamber of Mines CE Derek Bain. (362)

"They are all searching but it will be some time before we know the results," he cautioned.

Bain said the state Mining Affairs Board had issued at least 62 exclusive prospecting orders so far this year, with diamonds attracting more than half of them.

In the whole of 1992 the board issued 47.

"There are at least another 120 applications under consideration, with quite a significant number going for diamonds," he added.

Bain attributed the interest in diamonds to the completion of an aeromagnetic survey of the country last year and the discovery of gems in southern Zimbabwe by the

Australian mining company Auridium.

Auridium's Zimbabwe subsidiary produced more than 28 000 carats from a pilot project last year — the first time diamonds were produced in the country.

The company opened Zimbabwe's first diamond mine a few weeks ago and plans to process 500 000 tons of ore a year to produce gems worth Z\$25m.

It plans to increase processing capacity to a million tons of ore and about 560 000 carats a year within three years.

Most of the diamond exploration is in southwestern Zimbabwe, in a sandy belt near the border with diamond-rich Botswana.

A slight rise in the average diamond price at the beginning of this year had also encouraged investors, Bain said.

Prices had been depressed in recent years by world recession and a diamond glut on the international market.

The market had been flooded by diamonds from Angola and republics of the former Soviet Union. — Reuter.

Mugabe gives Sithole notice to quit farm

362

ARG 28/10/93

□ 20 000 tenants told to move out by Tuesday

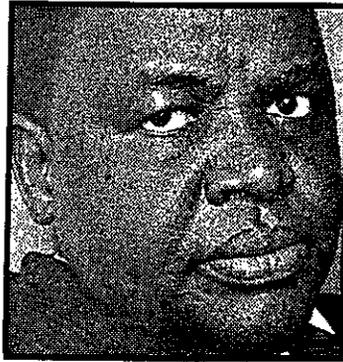
HARARE. — Zimbabwean authorities have given veteran black nationalist politician the Reverend Ndabaningi Sithole and about 20 000 people living on his farm near Harare until next Tuesday to leave — or be evicted.

Mr Sithole, 73, regarded as the founder of "the armed struggle" against white rule and now the leader of the minority Zanu (Ndonga) Party, showed reporters copies of notices served on him this week.

The 260 ha Churu farm on the capital's southern outskirts has become a serious challenge to President Robert Mugabe's government since Mr Sithole began allocating plots to people 18 months ago.

It has become a refuge for thousands of people seeking an alternative to cramped and expensive accommodation in the city's townships.

For a monthly rental of Zim\$30 (R60), Mr Sithole has allowed nearly 4 000 families to build homes, most of them of brick, on his farm.



Rev Sithole

With scant running water and no provision for sanitation other than pit latrines, the area was declared a "cholera time-bomb" by the government.

Churu farm became the first property to be "designated" under the government's controversial laws to confiscate commercial farms to resettle the landless.

The farm was declared government property on October 18. Last Friday about 100 police camped on the farm in preparation for what promises to be the largest eviction in Zimbabwe's history.

Mr Sithole said yesterday he had received no word from the government over compensation for the property, but warned that "this has the makings of a civil war".

The government "feels threatened now it is losing support throughout the country".

Mr Sithole vowed he would not leave and said he was not interested in selling the land.

"We feel this is an infringement of human rights. I cannot see how anybody in authority can upset a measure intended to help people.

Mr Sithole was the founder of the Zimbabwe African National Union (Zanu), which led the campaign for majority black rule for 12 years until 1974, when Mr Mugabe, then his secretary-general, overthrew him.

● Zimbabwe's Land, Agriculture and Water Development Minister Kumbirai Kangai said yesterday 98 farms had been designated for expropriation by government, but 39 designations had subsequently been revoked after representations by their owners. — Sapa.



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De Beer welcomed back to Zimbabwe

HARARE. — De Beers has been allowed to resume mining operations in Zimbabwe two years after the company was kicked out for refusing to sell through a state agency, a government minister said.

Mines minister Eddison Zvobgo told the weekly Financial Gazette published yesterday that De Beers had already made an application for exclusive prospecting orders which were being considered by the government Mining Affairs Board.

(362) CT29/10/93
"De Beers are coming at government invitation to engage in nationwide diamond exploration," he said.

The story did not clarify the marketing dispute and neither Zvobgo nor De Beers officials were available for comment. — Reuter

Zimbabwe lets De Beers back in

HARARE — The Zimbabwean government has patched up its row with De Beers Consolidated Mines after six months of talks and allowed it to resume its diamond search in the country.

The weekly Financial Gazette quoted Mines Minister Eddison Zvobgo as saying De Beers was coming back at the government's invitation. *BISOW*

De Beers' first venture in Zimbabwe was a prospecting claim held by subsidiary Kimberlitic Searches at River Ranch near Beitbridge, but it was cancelled by the government after differences over De Beers' plans to market the diamonds through its London-based Central Selling Organisation. *29/10/93*

The Zimbabwe government insisted its parastatal Minerals Marketing Corporation of Zimbabwe, which markets all the country's mineral output except gold, handle the River Ranch diamonds. In 1991, De Beers' claim on River Ranch was cancelled.

The claim was taken over by Perth-based Auridiam, which became Zimbabwe's first diamond producer. — Sapa. *(362)*

MAMRE: A CASE STUDY³⁴

**Wilfred Wentzel
July 1993**

³⁴ Wentzel, W. & van Staden B, Op Cit. p

1. INTRODUCTION

The village of Mamre is tucked away on the road linking Darling to Cape Town. It is located about 55km north of Cape Town and 5km north of Atlantis. It is thus in relatively close proximity to two "urban" centres: Cape Town is a metropolitan centre and Atlantis an Apartheid constructed economic deconcentration development zone. Both centres influence developmental opportunities available to Mamre since they impact on:

- i) The local labour market and employment opportunities.
- ii) The proximity of and access to commodity markets.
- iii) Local skillpools.
- iv) The flow of information between urban and rural areas.
- v) The cost regime of commodity flows between rural and urban areas.

It is worth noting that Mamre's rich and chequered history can be traced back to 1682 at least, but socio-historical references will be omitted from this brief profile.

2. AGRO-ECOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS³⁵

The soil is of a relatively poor quality. Dryland farming conditions prevail on sandy soil. Formerly, intensive vegetable gardening was commonly practised (30-40 years ago), especially on the banks of the Mooimeisies River but neglect has eroded the infrastructure.

The soil types present mainly to the north of Mamre are Glenrosa, Avalon and Longlands. The depth and water retention capacity of the soil make it suitable for intensive arable and livestock farming. Careful nurturing and treatment is required if commercial farming is to be considered an option.

Three rivers - Louwskloof, Mooimaak and Kruywagenspruit - flow into the Modder River which in turn feeds into the Klawervlei which disappears two km outside the village. Investigations revealed adequate reserves of sub-terrainian water which are not tapped into presently. Mamre obtains its main water supply from Atlantis at present.

Mamre is located in a winter-rainfall zone with warm, dry summers and cold, wet winters. Temperatures range from high January (29.4°C)/February (29.7°C) to low July (17.8°C)/August (18.6°C) averages. Rainfall averages 382mm per annum with considerable variation - 204 mm to 669 mm per annum -

³⁵ This section draws heavily on a report compile by Lanok on Mamre. Lanok, Ontwikkelingsvoorstelle vir Mamre. February, 1993.

Officials serve motorists in their cars

Mob stampedes Beit Bridge post

Star 11/1/93

Harare — Zimbabwean police and armed army troops had to be sent to the Beit Bridge border post adjoining South Africa on Friday after an unruly mob of about 3 000 stampeded the post and burst open the gate.

The Herald, Zimbabwe's main daily newspaper, reported that the border post opened 90 minutes late because customs officials could not get past the mob — consisting of mostly Zimbabwean women vendors — blocking the entry to the building.

Police and soldiers eventually forced the travellers to stand in a queue, and pickpockets had a field day in the confusion, the newspaper said.

Extra customs and immigra-

**EXTRA customs staff
are called in and
tables set up to cope
with burgeoning
queues at chaotic
border post**

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tion staff were called in and tables were set up outside the building to cope with the queues, while motorists were ordered to stay in their vehicles as officials served them there.

"These crowds will be a permanent feature until we are well past Christmas," an unidentified customs official was quoted as

saying.

■ The Star's Northern Transvaal Bureau reports that sources on the South Africa side of the border post said yesterday that Friday morning's congestion had been brought under control by midday the same day.

The incident was the climax to increasing confusion at the border post, which is the main surface access point into South Africa and is used largely by women traders.

Travel and tourist organisations have been accusing authorities for years of losing control at the post, where long delays, traffic jams and racketeering have become the order of the day. — Sapa.

Zim clash looms over squatters

From MICHAEL HARTNACK

HARARE. — Afraid of being killed by heavily armed riot squads, hundreds of residents on the Rev Ndabaningi Sithole's Churu farm yesterday fled the dusty squatter camp he had established on Harare's outskirts.

The initial Saturday mid-

night deadline for the 3 787 families passed without incident but many of the 15 000 population fear the next deadline tomorrow will see police move in with dogs, teargas and bulldozers.

Many of the Churu residents have spent their life's savings on brick homes.

The 73-year-old founder of

Zanu, Mr Sithole says he plans to go to Zimbabwe's High Court today to challenge the government's takeover of his 400 hectare property.

Independent newspapers have warned that President Robert Mugabe's government risks alienating the urban poor if it heeds senior local government minister Mr Jo-

seph Msika's blunt advice: "Let the Churu farm squatters join their homeless colleagues' ranks on the streets."

Mr Sithole urged the Churu farm people to stay and fight eviction.

"Unless we are left alone the whole thing might lead to another armed struggle," he warned.

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CT111193

Squatters flee riot police

BIDAY 2/11/93

MICHAEL HARTNACK

HARARE — Wheeling their meagre possessions on handcarts, hundreds of former inhabitants of Ndabaningi Sithole's Churu farm fled the dusty squatter camp he established on Harare's outskirts at the weekend.

"We are afraid of being killed," fleeing families said, indicating the nearby camp established by the para-military riot squad.

The initial midnight Saturday deadline for the 3 787 families passed without incident, but many of the 15 000 population fear the next — tomorrow — will see police move in with dogs, teargas and bulldozers.

Sithole, the 73-year-old founder of Zanu, said he planned to go to Zimbabwe's High Court to challenge the government's takeover of his 400ha property, which adjoins municipal waterworks and was deemed a health hazard. He claimed to be the leader of the squatter community, who had been paying him collectively up to R60 000 a month.

Zimbabwe has an estimated 340 000 home-

less. Backyard shacks in established suburbs cost about R150 a month to rent.

The Churu residents have been described as "the lowest of the poor". Independent newspapers warned that President Robert Mugabe's government risked alienating the urban poor if it heeded Local Government Minister Joseph Msika's blunt advice: "Let the Churu squatters join their homeless colleagues on the streets."

Sithole has urged the Churu farm people to stay and fight eviction. "Unless we are left alone the whole thing might lead to another armed struggle," said Sithole, who claimed to have initiated the guerrilla war against white rule in 1963, but was ousted by Mugabe as leader of the main Zanu faction. Since his 1978 participation in the interim Rhodesian government and his defeat in the 1980 elections, Sithole has undergone a dramatic conversion to market economics. (362)

Harare evictions spark legal furore

Star 3/11/92

BY ROBIN DREW
STAR AFRICA SERVICE

Harare — Contempt of court actions could be taken against Zimbabwe government ministers after police defiance of a judge's order halting government evictions of people from Churu Farm. (362)

Thousands of people spent the night along the road outside the farm after police had ordered them to leave.

The independent and semi-official newspapers in Harare and state radio today all headlined the police action in defying the court order.

One resident said his family was given 30 minutes to leave.

Home Affairs Minister Dumiso Dabengwa told the Daily Gazette last night he was not aware of the evictions.

Police commissioner August

tine Chihuri said the police were "allowing people to leave the farm" but not to go in, on the basis that it was Government property.

There were reports that people had been beaten by riot police. Reporters were barred from the settlement and a photographer was manhandled when he took photographs of the police.

One man was slapped in the face by the police in the presence of journalists.

Farm owner and opposition leader Reverend Ndabaningi Sithole said last night the police action was disgraceful.

A government spokesman said the farm had been sealed off because "strange" people, mostly youths, had invaded the farm "from nowhere".

Reporters who were at the farm before the police moved in saw no signs of unrest.

Zimbabwe denies defying High Court

Star 4/11/93

■ BY ROBIN DREW
STAR AFRICA SERVICE

Harare — The Zimbabwe Government yesterday insisted that it had not defied the High Court order restraining it from evicting residents from Churu Farm.

The farm was sealed off on Tuesday by armed riot police.

Panicked

Home Affairs Minister Dumiso Dabengwa, commenting on reports that hundreds of families had been ordered out of the settlement on the outskirts of Harare, said no one had been forcibly evicted.

He claimed the people had panicked and left voluntarily. However, he said his orders that they would not be allowed back to their homes stood as of now.

Dabengwa said the po-

lice had been ordered to seal off the township to prevent "unruly elements" from entering it. This was because about 30 men, believed to be from Manicaland (home province of the Rev Ndebaningi Sithole, former owner of the farm) had infiltrated the settlement and were suspected of planning a showdown with the government as the deadline neared for the residents to leave.

"The government has no intention of defying any court order," he added, referring to the injunction from a judge on Monday halting any evictions until a court order was obtained.

Pressed to explain that residents said they had been ordered to leave at gunpoint, Dabengwa said this was hearsay.

But he insisted journalists remain barred from the settlement when they

complained they were not being allowed to see what was happening for themselves.

"If you want to think there is a government cover-up, that's up to you," he said. (362)

When Dabengwa stated categorically that no one had been evicted, a reporter from a local paper told him at the news conference: "You are out of touch".

Application

Asked if he would not allow families living in the open to go back if they had not been evicted, he said: "No, no one gets into Churu Farm any more."

Dabengwa said the government had filed an application with the courts to obtain eviction orders. However, a local reporter said a High Court official had denied receiving any application.

Human rights bodies slate Zimbabwe evictions

(362) ARCF 4/11/93
ROBIN DREW
Argus Africa News Service

HARARE. — Human rights bodies in Zimbabwe have denounced the eviction of residents from Churu Farm as an abuse of the basic rights of the people.

In a statement they said that in spite of assurances given by Home Affairs Minister Dumiso Dabengwa that people were not being evicted, this was happening.

The Catholic Justice and Peace Commission, the Protestant Council of Churches and the Zimbabwe Human Rights Association said the evictions were illegal and in defiance of a court order issued yesterday.

"We call on the government to comply immediately with the terms of the court order to which they consented, allow the people back into their homes and find a just, long-term solution to this human

crisis," said the statement — signed by Mike Auret of the Catholic commission, Alan Spence from the Council of Churches and Ozias Tungwarara of Human Rights Association.

Police are maintaining their cordon around the farm on the outskirts of Harare after moving in in force yesterday.

The farm, which has been acquired by the government, formerly belonged to opposi-

tion party leader Ndabaningi Sithole and was home to up to 20 000 people.

Mr Dabengwa today told reporters he had instructed the police to seal off the farm to prevent "unruly elements" entering. His orders were that people who wanted to stay could do so and those who wanted to leave should be allowed to.

Meanwhile the government was seeking an order of eviction from the courts.

'Let settlers go home'

HARARE. — Zimbabwean human rights organisations yesterday called on the government to comply with a High Court order to allow about 20 000 Churu farm settlers to move back into their homes, Ziana news agency reports.

In a joint statement the Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace, the Zimbabwe Council of Churches and the Zimbabwe Human Rights Association urged the government to find a just, long-term solution to the crisis. Home Affairs Minister Mr Dumiso

Dabengwa told journalists yesterday that the government was not forcibly evicting the residents, most of whom had moved back onto the farm on Tuesday. He said police had cordoned off the farm to prevent it being "infiltrated by unruly elements".

Despite Mr Dabengwa's denials, more than 300 riot police were yesterday in control of Churu farm, barring hundreds of settlers entry.

More than 1 000 settlers camped on the roadside. — Sapa

Appeal of CT5/11/93 death row three fails (362)

HARARE — The Zimbabwe Supreme Court has dismissed the appeals of three South African agents condemned to death for their role in an attack on an ANC residence in Zimbabwe in 1988.

Their lawyers yesterday confirmed the dismissal of the appeals of Kevin Woods, Michael Smith and Phillip Conjwayo, all former Rhodesian security forces specialists hired by South African covert military personnel.

The three men's last avenue of appeal lies in the claim that their five-year wait for sentencing constitutes "cruel and inhuman suffering," an argument that has seen 20 death sentences reduced to life imprisonment this year.

A new amendment which would close this avenue may be gazetted today.

Zimbabwe wary of trade treaty

HARARE — Zimbabwe, the only country that publicly refused to sign the treaty transforming the old eastern and southern African Preferential Trade Area (PTA) countries into a common market, plans to submit the final treaty to its cabinet for approval today. (262)

Analysts say two economic groupings in the region could threaten the success of the ambitious Community for Eastern and Southern Africa (Comesa) set up last Friday in Kampala.

On his return from Uganda at the weekend, President Robert Mugabe said Zimbabwe wanted time to study the new treaty. Zimbabwe also wanted to see the completion of studies on the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) and PTA merger.

Zimbabwe and several other countries belong to both groups.

Other countries that have not yet signed the treaty are Angola, the Comores, Somalia and Burundi.

Those that did sign are Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Rwanda, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Eritrea, the Seychelles and Madagascar — Sapa-AFP.

RISK MANAGEMENT COMPETITION

With bullion trading above US\$370/oz last week and gilt rates falling 30 points, gold and gilt bulls were doing well in the trading section of the Actsa Risk Management competition. Conservative teams such as the mysterious "Smarties" were displaced by the aggressive position traders. RMB Trading is in top spot for the third successive week, showing an annualised return of 58%.

Two weeks ago, contestants in the hedging section needed a defensive strategy to protect against a marginally lower JSE Overall index. With the index now up 2% since the start of the competition four weeks ago, contestants are chasing a target of R2,13m.

Those with long exposures to gilts and the Gold index are actually making too much money.

Hedgers must use risk management techniques to match the Overall index and earn a 12,5% return on nonequities.

Yet, in spite of the dramatic advances in gold shares and the E168, many are failing to achieve this. Richemont, one of the two shares in the original portfolio, is losing ground because of the strong rand

and many hedgers lost money initially on foreign currency holdings.

The competition, which offers R85 000 in prizes, is sponsored by Rand Merchant Bank, Investec, Standard Merchant Bank, Reuters and the FM. It runs until November 30.

THE LEADER BOARD

Hedging Trophy

	% of target
1. RMB Hedgehogs	99,58
2. JCI	99,43
3. Riske-Traps	100,75
4. SARB Internal Audit	98,83
5. The Prophits	97,74

Trading Trophy

	Portfolio return %
1. RMB Trading	8,9
2. Kaps	8,0
3. The Bushpigs	7,8
4. Bernie's Bulls	7,3
5. RMB Money Market	7,2

country fund sector. The concept will be put to clients of US investment management houses Alliance Capital Management Corp and Merrill Lynch. If they endorse it, the fund is likely to be launched in 1994.

The SA Fund is the brainchild of Investec Asset Management and US fund manager Alliance Capital which already manages \$110bn. Investec Asset Management and Sanlam, which joined the party later, have been appointed advisers to the fund managers. Merrill Lynch will market the fund, possibly with a second distribution house.

Investec asset management MD Hendrik du Toit and Sanlam portfolio management GM Prieur du Plessis are in New York to address clients on investment in SA and on the fund specifically. With them are ANC economic planning department head Trevor Manuel, ANC tax consultant Denis Davis, political analyst Wimpie de Klerk and businessman Enos Mabuza.

Says Investec Asset Management GM Brett Comley: "To succeed, the fund needs the endorsement and support of the ANC.

"The purpose of the meeting will be to persuade investors that state, county and city sanctions against SA should be lifted and to tell them about the proposed structure of the fund."

A number of state pension funds are expected to attend.

An initial prospectus for the SA Fund has been lodged with the US Securities and Exchange Commission. According to the prospectus, the fund will be 80% invested in

listed equities and gilts and 20% in unlisted companies which will "benefit from the changes occurring in SA," says Comley.

He could not say which unlisted companies would qualify as such decisions would be finalised shortly before the date for investments. Nor could he give any projections on returns expected from the fund which will invest in the southern African region.

"It is difficult to put a time period on it as everything depends on the response we get from American investors," he adds. "And it will take some time to be fully invested."

The fund will be similar to a unit trust in that units will be issued, but it will be closed ended. Once the initial subscription has been made, no further units will be issued until the fund decides it needs to raise further funds.

Initial investors may sell units through a secondary market where buy/sell prices will be quoted on the NYSE. All capital will come to southern Africa. ■

ZIMBABWE *FM 12/11/93*

Foreign debt trap

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Didymus Mutasa, Zimbabwe's Senior Minister of National Affairs, Co-operatives and Employment Creation, is on record as saying he opposes the country's economic structural adjustment programme. The Minister, who says journalists misquoted him (an explanation rejected by the press) warns that Zimbabwe is borrowing too much to finance

FM 12/11/93
reforms.

Figures published by the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe show he has a point. In less than three years since the programme's launch, external debt quadrupled from Z\$6,6bn (R3,3bn) in 1990 to an officially estimated Z\$27bn (R13,7bn).

The 40% currency fall in 1991 was a big factor in the 180% increase in foreign borrowings in 1990-1992. In SDRs, foreign debt rose from SDR1,9bn at end-1990 to about SDR3bn this year.

About 80% of the debt is central government borrowing, 12% semi-State and 8% private-sector, with private offshore borrowing growing from Z\$440m in 1990 to Z\$2bn this year. In 1990, Zimbabwe had borrowed just over Z\$1bn from the World Bank and the IMF. This will have increased ninefold to almost Z\$9,5bn by year-end. *(362)*

The figures are disturbing on three counts: as a ratio of GDP, foreign debt has almost doubled to 86% in 1993 from the end of the Eighties; the debt:service ratio, conservatively estimated at 30% this year, is close to its record 1987 high of 33%, leaving scant room for more borrowing until exports recover.

Debt-service payments this year will cost about US\$570m, absorbing most of the revenue from the two top exports — tobacco (a forecast US\$400m) and gold (\$200m).

Zimbabwe's export growth record is poor. Between 1980 and 1991, exports, in US dollars, increased only 2% a year, about half the growth rate of the country's main trading partners, according to the World Bank. This points to a further currency devaluation.

Bankers and businessmen believe this is likely towards the end of the year or early in 1994 since the authorities prefer to keep the exchange rate stable during the tobacco sales, which finish later this month and resume in April. There were signs last week that the authorities were letting the Zimbabwean dollar rate slide, though this could have been a minor adjustment.

One prospect is that government will launch a two-tier exchange rate market next year by liberalising remaining import controls and leaving the currency to find its own level. A bank economist says the most likely outcome is the abolition of the direct allocation of import quotas, making importers buy their foreign currency in the free market from exporters.

Exporters will be able to keep 60% of export earnings in corporate foreign currency accounts. They will be allowed to use these hard currency deposits to buy imported inputs or pay offshore expenses, royalties, management fees and dividends. Surplus funds will be tradeable in the market, with exporters selling them to importers at a premium over the official exchange rate.

If this happens, the Zimbabwean dollar will devalue by about 25% on the free market where all private-sector transactions will be conducted. Government might keep the official exchange rate — which will apply to debt-service payments, imports of fuel and for the public sector — at US\$/Z\$6,5,

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though only for a short transitional period.

In this case, the bulk of Zimbabwe's import and exchange controls will be liberalised though controls over corporate capital movements will remain. (3b2)

A 25% devaluation will push the free market rate above US\$/Z\$8 and the slide could take it much farther unless export growth accelerates. Unfortunately, exports seem set to remain sluggish given poor prices and weak demand for key products tobacco, ferrochrome and nickel. Hopes are highest for

gold, the second-largest export, suggesting the Zimbabwean dollar will remain weak for the first half of 1994. ■

LIFE ASSURANCE

Penny wise . . .

Surprisingly, the life offices have decided their agents may continue to quote 15% and 12% growth when describing the benefits of

life assurance.

When inflation was running at 15%-plus, the price of blue-chip equities was rising at more than 20% a year on average; so assurance intermediaries quoted past performance in portfolio management to show how the gap between inflation and portfolio achievement worked for the policyholder.

Now that inflation has fallen, three of the big four — Old Mutual, Sanlam and Southern — would like to see the industry agreement, on illustration of benefits, reduced to

TITO MBOWENI

FACE TO FACE

Looking for a little (anti)trust



Tito Mboweni is deputy head of the ANC's economic planning department

FM: What are the ANC's views on unbundling?

Mboweni: Unbundling is not the central issue. We are looking at antitrust legislation, which can lead to unbundling but goes beyond it. Our concerns are about the concentration of economic power in the big conglomerates and monopoly domination of specific markets. Part of that concentration might be due to the fact that many companies are interlocked through directorships. Where this is an issue, antitrust legislation will be used to induce unbundling.

Meaning something like Gencor's unbundling?

That only begins to resolve one problem — concentration of economic power. Within some big corporate structures there are, for instance, subsidiaries which dominate specific markets. A subsidiary could be unbundled from the bigger group and still continue to operate as a monopoly.

How do you see antitrust legislation working?

We have to define what percentage share of the market constitutes domination. In some areas there will be national interest, or public interest, considerations. It may be decided that Sasol should have a particular market share because it's seen as being in the public interest. Or it may be decided SA Breweries has market domination, but it's in the public interest because it's going to have to compete against international brewers like Budweiser. Public interest will have to be defined within the legislation.

What happens when a company dominates a market simply because it is more efficient — should it be prejudiced because it is a well-run business?

Those factors will have to be considered but some monopolies have not grown to what

they are because of efficiency — they have used anticompetitive strategies, operated within high tariff walls, and were supported by government policy, or a government which deliberately turned a blind eye to infringements of competition policy. In many instances rivals have been exterminated through highly questionable and anticompetitive methods, some would even say illegal means, and they got away with it because of government patronage.

How will this policy be put into effect?

We have a proposal that four bodies should be responsible for antitrust implementation: a monopolies & mergers commission, based on overseas models; an antitrust investigation authority; the Department of Trade & Industry, as the State linkage through which the first two operate; and a judicial review mechanism.

The idea is to have a separation of powers so that, for example, the antitrust authority can't influence the monopolies & mergers commission.

From where would these bodies be drawn?

The first two would be independent of government. The investigating authority would be largely an intelligence-gathering structure — if there are grounds for an investigation, they would report them to the relevant government department.

The Minister would then give a mandate to the monopolies & mergers commission to do a full investigation. The commission would do its investigation and hand its report to the Minister and, within 10 days, that report would become public. If indeed the law had been broken, the government would respond.

But if the company feels the Minister's ruling is against the law, it has recourse through the judicial review system.

You can see, therefore, that under an antitrust system, there would be major corporate restructuring. In the process there would be unbundling — an attempt by companies to focus on their primary markets, to become more efficient, and a lot of the fat we find in conglomerates would be cut out as they streamline. Given that this will be done in an open economy, and in the face of international competition, it will make SA

companies far more efficient and competitive.

Most corporations would probably say the biggest problem in that regard is exchange control regulations.

We are on record as saying exchange controls are not desirable. They have been introduced as a response to political crises, largely to prevent the flight of capital after political upheavals.

Once the political situation stabilises through democracy, and once there are indications of economic stability, it should be possible to consider doing away with exchange controls.

Is there not concern that there would be massive capital flight, especially once a new government is in place?

There will be some capital flight but it won't be from companies leaving SA. Wealthy individuals might take their money out but I do not think the big corporations, even the smaller ones, will engage in massive capital flight, especially with international companies coming into SA.

How can most of our companies try to relocate somewhere else?

Your concern with cross-shareholdings is not borne by experience in Japan for example.

Yes, but we are talking about different types of organisations and methods of working, of a very different society. In our situation antitrust legislation becomes relevant because of the need to create opportunities for other entrepreneurs, like black-owned companies, to give them a chance to enter the market.

One doesn't want to dictate to corporations how they should unbundle, as long as it takes place within the framework of the antitrust legislation. Companies like Anglo American are now calling for a commission to look into the applicability of antitrust legislation, and we think this is fair. There should be a commission on antitrust legislation to give everybody the chance to contribute to it.

Being big does not mean you have to be anticompetitive, though many companies have become big in that way. There is not a problem with conglomerates *per se*, but the problems are those I identified earlier.

Zimbabwe revival draws interest

HARARE — Renewed foreign investor interest and soaring stocks have brightened the economic horizon of Zimbabwe, which had been troubled by intermittent droughts, failed socialist policies and a slow recovery from global recession.

Australia's largest industrial company announced on Wednesday it was joining other firms to launch Zimbabwe's single biggest investment since 1965.

Broken Hill's BHP Minerals said it planned an accord with the Zimbabwe government next year, allowing the company to mine platinum southwest of Harare.

Another Australian company, Delta Gold NL, based in Sydney, would join in the Z\$206m venture, as would several local mining giants.

BHP executive GM Jerry Ellis said the project would create 2 500 jobs and earn Zimbabwe Z\$108m a year.

"We hope to conclude the agreement with the government next year. Everything is proceeding well and according to plan."

The two Australian groups are the latest in the past few months to rush to secure mining rights in Zimbabwe, whose economy was on the verge of collapse last year in the face of southern Africa's worst drought.

Other foreign firms are prospecting for diamonds and British-based group Cluff Re-

sources is expanding gold mining operations in the country.

"Only a few months ago things looked very bleak for this country, but now all is brightening up again," one foreign industrialist said.

He backed local economists' predictions that the economy was likely to grow by up to 4% next year, against last year's unprecedented 8% decline.

"The potential had always existed, but for the government's policies which hindered foreign investment," he added.

Zimbabwe boasts a market of 10-million people, a good climate, a strong and a comparatively developed industrial base, possibly second only to SA in Africa.

But the government of President Robert Mugabe, in power since 1980, kept nervous investors out by espousing socialism until 1991, when harsh economic realities forced him to make a U-turn and embrace Western-backed reforms.

Since the start of this year Mugabe, who faces an election in 1995, has also threatened to nationalise white-owned farms to resettle hundreds of thousands of blacks thrown out of their original homes.

"The land question had revived investors' fears of coming to Zimbabwe after a promising start to economic reforms," a local political commentator said.

Last month Mugabe held closed door talks with leaders of Zimbabwe's 4 500 white commercial farmers.

Official sources say the dispute over whether farmers can challenge the state's takeover of farms and the amount of compensation paid was partly resolved, with farmers offering land for resettlement.

As well as renewed foreign confidence in Zimbabwe, the economy picked up this year after the Harare stock market staged an upswing on the back of a government decision allowing foreigners to invest in local shares for the first time.

The government also cut high corporate and personal taxes, introduced incentives to new investors and relaxed regulations governing the remittance of profits.

The stock market, which crashed a record 70% last year, mainly because of the drought and recession, has recouped almost all those losses in the past five months, lifted by competition for shares between foreigners and locals.

On Wednesday, the key industrial index ended at 1 896,87 points, its highest level this year. "I still feel the index will rise above the psychologically important 2 000 mark before the end of this month," market analyst Savvas Kyriakides said. — Sapa-Reuter.

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(362)

Passport racket grows

Own Correspondent

HARARE. — Authorities here fear a flourishing racket in "stolen" Zimbabwean passports is growing in South Africa, with at least 50 visitors a week telling the Johannesburg trade mission they have lost their passports.

The head of the Zimbabwean Trade Mission in Johannesburg, Mr Stuart Comberbach, reportedly told a newspaper here that buyers were offering up to R5 000 for a Zimbabwean passport. Others were being pawned by Zim-

babwean "shoppers" in exchange for goods. They then applied for emergency travel documents to return home without settling their debts.

He said Zimbabwean passports were greatly sought after as they could be used to enter many Commonwealth countries without a visa.

Zimbabwe's registrar-general, Mr Tobaiwa Mudede, said those who lost passports were being made to wait two years for replacements in a bid to clamp down on abuses.

(362) CTS/11/93

Tobacco prices slump

MICHAEL HARTNACK

HARARE — Auction sales have ended after Zimbabwe's "worst ever tobacco season" with the bottom falling out of the market for the country's principal foreign exchange earner.

Zimbabwe Tobacco Association vice-president Robert Webb said 1 100 of the 1 700 growers made a loss. Most of the imported inputs for the 219 000-ton crop were sourced from SA.

When sales closed on Friday, the average price for the season was US\$1.23/kg. When they began six months ago, growers hoped for an average of US\$2/kg and 51% of tickets were torn by farmers who rejected the low prices. The normal torn-ticket average is below 15%.

13/11/93
Agriculture Minister Kumbira Kangai suggested Zimbabwe should end its 60-year tradition of auctions to prevent international buyers "playing one crop off against another". The crisis was blamed on world oversupply and the collapse of expected demand from the former communist states. (362)

Racial tension rears its head up north

HARARE — Racial tensions have surfaced again in Zimbabwe, a country often used as a crystal ball in attempts to predict the future of a post-apartheid South Africa.

Zimbabwe's small but economically powerful white minority has come in for a string of verbal attacks recently from top politicians and newspaper pundits.

● President Robert Mugabe has threatened to kick white racists out of the country because they still look as if they are more white than our more precious and more divine than ours.

● Vice President Joshua Nkomo says whites practise economic racism.

● The Independent Financial Gazette has noted that as the country moves from a command economy to a free market system the white community has realised that it does not have to be nice to the government or all black people to do business in Zimbabwe.

● The government supporting Herald newspaper says the attitudes of the white male establishment are founded on a pretty strong belief that white men are the natural lords of creation.

In addition, popular anger has been directed at a white doctor accused of experimenting on black patients and at a white farmer accused of forcing black women to strip naked when they were caught stealing firewood.

Neither of the men has yet been convicted in court, but the farmer's land has been designated for nationalisation and the allegations against the doctor sparked racial outrage in parliament and street demonstrations by university students.

In spite of all this in just two weeks nearly 800 applications for residence permits have been received from former white Rhodesians who moved down south but now are getting nervous again about their new home Sapa-APP

Zim unemployment 'threatens stability'

HARARE. — Rising unemployment posed the biggest threat to its political stability, Zimbabwe said yesterday.

(362) CT 25/11/93
Parliament Speaker Mr Nolan Makombe said almost one million people were desperate for jobs and the number was growing fast.

He said the government should support self-reliance projects and small-scale businesses to solve the problem.

Around 8 000 jobs are created in Zimbabwe's formal economy annually against a flood of about 300 000 school-leavers who join the ranks of the unemployed in the same period. — Sapa-Reuter

focus on Zimbabwe

Sowetan 25/11/93

THE Zimbabwe Constitution adopted at independence in 1980 was, like the South African constitutional package, a compromise affair.

It was drawn up at Lancaster House in London after several months of wrangling and cliff-hanging.

It contained provisions which the government of Robert Mugabe who swept to power in the first general election did not like in the least.

There were special seats reserved for whites and there were safeguards to protect the Declaration of Rights such as the requirement that a unanimous vote in Parliament was needed to change provisions in the Declaration.

However these rigid aspects were to remain in force for limited periods of up to a maximum of 10 years.

The new government regarded the Constitution as defective, as one imposed by Britain, but to its credit it followed the rules.

Since the ending of the safeguard period, however, the Constitution has taken on a very different look. Specially reserved white seats were abolished at the first opportunity and before long the two-chamber Parliament was replaced by a single assembly and an executive President replaced the previous system of a largely figurehead Head of State with the Prime Minister leading the government.

Zimbabweans proclaimed proudly that they were now introducing their own homegrown Constitution and constitutional amendment bills passed by parliament now run to 13.

However, all has not been plain sailing. On a number of occasions the executive and the judiciary have clashed over what has been described as government moves to whittle away fundamental human rights contained in the Constitution.

Since 1990 it has been possible for the government to change provisions in the Declaration of Rights provided it can obtain a two-thirds majority of the 150 seats in the House of Assembly.

It was when Constitution Amendment Bill No 11 was introduced that warning lights flashed. This Bill did away with right to go to the courts over the fairness of compensation when land was acquired compulsorily under certain circumstances by the State.

It also nullified a Supreme Court decision outlawing corporal punishment for juveniles.

Former Chief Justice Enoch Dumbutshena and his successor Mr Justice Gubbay made public denunciations of the amendment. Mr Justice Gubbay warned that a Constitution stood on certain fundamental principles which were its structural pillars. If these were demolished or damaged, the edifice would fall.

The judiciary, he said, would pronounce invalid any law which had such an effect.

The Chief Justice said the judges were the custodians of the Constitution with the function to declare invalid any excess or Act of Parliament which contravened any of the prohibitions contained in the Constitution.

As South Africa adopts a new interim constitution, Zimbabwe is facing a crisis over the constitution negotiated at Lancaster House, with only the Supreme Court preventing the virtual one-party government from doing what it likes with it. **Robin Drew** reports for the *Sowetan* Africa News Service from Harare:

(362)

“In every democratic society the constitution makes provision for the separation of powers of the executive, the legislature and judiciary.”



President Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe

Since then the Supreme Court has continued to uphold the Declaration of Rights in a number of judgments such as the watershed one which declared that long delays in carrying out the death sentence amounted to inhuman treatment which was forbidden under the Declaration of Rights. Death sentences were accordingly commuted to life imprisonment.

The government reacted with a Bill passed last month by Parliament amending the Declaration of Rights. The Constitution now states that delays in the execution of the death sentence will not entitle prisoners to a stay or remission.

This may well be challenged in the courts as will aspects of the Land Acquisition Act.

President Mugabe has thrown down the

gauntlet by saying he will not accept court judgments on the land issue.

If it comes to that, a confrontation between the executive and the judiciary will result.

Democracy as practised in Zimbabwe will be on trial. In Judge Gubbay's words: "In every democratic society the constitution makes provision for the separation of powers of the executive, the legislature and the judiciary.

"The essence of this doctrine is to provide good government through power sharing and a system of checks and balances. A proper remedy for any abuse of power in a democratic society is to have recourse to law which regulates the conduct of society."

Zimbabwe busy rewriting large chunks of its constitution

Shear 25/1/92

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Zim call for more white farmers' land

HARARE. — White commercial farmers should give up about seven million hectares of their land which is said to be lying idle, Zimbabwe Farmers' Union director Charles Makora said yesterday.

Speaking at a seminar on the role of the church in the promotion of human rights on the land issue, Mr Makora said a recent World Bank report indicated that some of the white farmers were only utilising about 12 hectares of every 1 000 hectares that each one owned.

Mr Makora said agricultural land should only be given to those who qualify.

“We cannot have pieces of agricultural land being given to everybody to mess-up,” he said.

Commercial Farmers' Union president Mr Anthony Swire-Thompson told the meeting the land issue should be left to farmers and agriculturalists to solve.

“There are too many politicians and academics involved in this issue,” he said.

Mr Swire-Thompson said people could not continue to own pieces of land both in urban and communal areas, adding that they had to choose.

— Sapa

Mugabe defiant on socialism

Sowetan 31/12/93

HARARE — President Robert Mugabe, opening up Zimbabwe's economy to market forces because of pressure from the West, has vowed to keep state control on key sectors, saying this was the only way to mitigate capitalism's "venomous head".

Mugabe told state television late on Wednesday night that although his government had embarked on sweeping economic reforms since 1991 this did not mean that the socialism he espoused during the 1980s had died.

Private enterprise tended to have "an ugly head, quite a venomous head at times" because of its quest for profiteering and speculation, he said in an interview.

"It is an area where morality is dictated by how much money you can make, no matter how. This we must guard against."

Zimbabwe's government felt there was a need to continue to have socialism

■ MARKET FORCES State rein

only way to stay quest for profiteering:

in key sectors of the economy to protect the country's vulnerable groups, the president said. (362)

He cited the example of the state-funded but loss-making Grain Marketing Board, which buys the staple maize from farmers at market prices but has to sell it at subsidised rates.

He said the government, while commercialising operations of such firms so they can make profit, had a responsibility to ensure that most people were able to afford basic essentials.

Mugabe introduced the five-year reforms backed by the World Bank and mostly Western countries grudgingly after Zimbabwe's economy nearly crumbled because of a severe drought, global recession and, critics say, state

mismanagement. The president hinted that some state controls which barred all employers from firing workers without government approval, which were abolished under the reforms, might have to be reintroduced.

Blaming some companies of deliberately dismissing workers to try to maximise profits, he said: "We have relaxed too much here. Question why there has been so much unemployment, question why enterprises had to get rid of so many people."

Private industry sources say at least 60 000 people lost their jobs between 1991 and this year. Zimbabwe's nearly 38 percent unemployment rate in the formal sector is one of the highest in the world. —Sapa-Reuter.

Zimbabwe on verge of sealing platinum deal

B11.94 2/12/93

CAPE TOWN — Harare was on the verge of concluding the multimillion dollar Hartley platinum project, Zimbabwe Minister of Mines Edison Zvobgo said yesterday.

Australia's Delta Gold and Broken Hill Proprietary was planning to develop the \$250m platinum mine near Chegutu, 80km southwest of Harare. The mine was expected to produce 105 000 ounces of platinum at full production. (262)

Zvobgo said the Zimbabwe government would amend its Mines and Minerals Act to provide a package deal which allowed for certain tax benefits and concessions for projects involving investments of more than \$150m.

He said Zimbabwe would benefit from links with the SA mining industry, particularly in deep-level mining technology.

Zvobgo also said Zimbabwe planned to double its gold production to 40 tons a year by 1996, overtaking tobacco as the country's largest foreign exchange earner.

Zimbabwe is Africa's third largest producer after SA and Ghana.

Output has been steadily increasing over the last few years and is set to reach 19 tons this year, against 18 tons last year.

Figures released yesterday show the

country's gold production rose more than 440kg to 15 574kg in the first 10 months of this year.

Industry officials said they expect total gold output to be valued at \$231-\$246m this year, against \$147m last year.

"With government's financial and technical support for new mines . . . and if we can attract more investment, we should be able to double production," he said.

There were greenstone gold deposits "all over Zimbabwe", and the Zimbabwe government would provide support for small-scale mines.

Zvobgo said Zimbabwe's economic structural adjustment project had made the country a sound place to invest.

Zimbabwe had so far granted 119 exclusive prospecting orders — 75 of which were for the exploration of diamonds.

De Beers had applied for five exclusive prospecting orders since it had returned to the country following a disagreement two years ago over the marketing of diamonds.

Russia had recently made available high resolution satellite photographs to the Zimbabwe government which showed the country was littered with kimberlite pipes — the geological formation where diamonds are usually found. — Sapa.

Support for bank's autonomy

Bison 15/12/93
HARARE — Zimbabwean economists yesterday came out in widespread support for an autonomous central bank to curb the government's profligate borrowing.

Zimbabwe's Reserve Bank governor has suggested the creation of an independent central bank to curb the inflationary pressure of heavy and ongoing government borrowing.

Economists said there had to be a basic minimum of institutional autonomy for the central bank and a similar kind of self-restraint on the part of the government in resorting to borrowings from the central bank to finance its deficit.

"There is supposed to be a counter-balance between the government's fiscal policy and the Reserve Bank's monetary policy.

"Where the government is irresponsible by borrowing too much money from the domestic market, the central bank should be able to say no to any credit creation," said Indigenous Business Development Centre president Chemist Siziba.

An economist said: "The Reserve Bank should be given responsible autonomy."

Meanwhile, Zimbabwe will receive almost Z\$1bn from the International Mone-

tary Fund next year to support the country's tough economic reform programme.

At a special donors' conference in Paris, an IMF official said the Z\$876m would be released in two instalments from the global lending agency's Enhanced Structural Adjustment Facility and Enhanced Financing Facility. (312)

The first instalment is expected in late January and the second in July next year.

The IMF-initiated programme aims to slash the Zimbabwean government's budget deficit from 11.2% of gross domestic product in the 1992/93 financial year to 5.8% in the 1993/94 financial year.

At the Paris conference, the US expressed concern about Zimbabwe's land resettlement programme and the funding of the Zanu (PF) ruling party from State coffers.

US delegation head Keith Brown said Zimbabwe should modify the Land Acquisition Act to ensure it could be applied "without politics or favouritism".

Brown said the US was also concerned by the funding of Zanu (PF) with taxpayers' money, saying it had "serious shortcomings". — Sapa.

Zimbabwe buys sugar

HARARE — Zimbabwe is to import another 20 000 tons of raw sugar bringing its total raw sugar imports to 443 000 tons so far this year, following the collapse of production as a result of the drought. **BIDON**

A Swiss-based commodity firm was on Monday awarded the tender to import the latest requirement, which is expected to be sourced in Brazil and delivered in February, company officials said yesterday in Harare. **15/12/93**

Zimbabwe usually produces 500 000 tons of raw sugar a season but the lingering impact of the 1991-92 drought has caused the massive importation.

Industry analysts expect Zimbabwe will have to import a further 20 000 tons of raw sugar to make up for this season's slump. **(362)**

The entire production of the 1992-93 season was exported to meet EC quotas.

— Sapa.

Zanu brushes off criticism by the US

HARARE — Zimbabwe's ruling Zanu PF party has remained unrepentant about voting itself R15m of taxpayers' money, despite facing criticism at last week's donor conference in Paris. (362)

Vice-president Joshua Nkomo said the US and other Western countries "did not understand the situation in Zimbabwe".

After Mugabe dropped

BINA 20112193
MICHAEL HARTNACK

his plans for a one-party state in 1992, Zanu secured funding through the Political Parties Funding Act.

Since opposition parties had won only three seats in the last general election in 1990, only Zanu had the minimum 15 seats required to qualify for an initial R10m government handout.

In this year's budget the amount was quietly in-

creased to R15m.

Keith Brown, head of the US delegation to the Paris talks — where Zimbabwe sought R2,7bn extra support for its economic structural adjustment programme — said the country's political funding system had "serious shortcomings". It was likely to solidify Zanu's domination "to the detriment of development of democracy".

Zimbabwean farmers offer to co-operate

8/Day 10/12/93

HARARE — Zimbabwe's white commercial farmers have offered to work with the government to implement its controversial land acquisition programme to resettle thousands of landless blacks.

Ziana news agency reports that the announcement was made by Lands, Agriculture and Water Development Minister Kumbirai Kangai yesterday at a news conference. He was flanked by Commercial Farmers' Union president Anthony Swire-Thompson at the conference.

Signalling an apparent softening of

attitudes on the emotive land acquisition programme, Kangai said that it was high time the two parties co-operated and "put away old differences and prejudices".

The government's land reform programme has raised the ire of commercial farmers, some of whom are challenging the designation of their farms in court.

Kangai said the Commercial Farmers' Union had offered "unlimited" expertise towards the resettlement of black peasants, thus helping to ensure that it was done without disrupting commercial production.

Swire-Thompson said assistance would be in the form of providing information concerning farm planning and book-keeping expertise "and whatever it takes to help".

Under these new co-operative initiatives, the provincial land identification committees have been given added responsibilities to plan, supervise and implement the programme.

The announcement of co-operation comes at a time when commercial farmers are reportedly eyeing farmland in neighbouring countries because they fear their farms will be designated. — Sapa.

Smith told to stay out of politics

HARARE — Former Rhodesian Prime Minister Ian Smith, 73, has received an angry warning not to re-enter Zimbabwean opposition politics. **BIDON**

In interviews over Christmas Smith said he would continue efforts to resolve leadership wrangles in opposition forces, which he urged to unite against President Robert Mugabe's "Marxist" policies. **30/12/93**

Zimbabwe's semi-official daily newspaper The Herald, which is controlled by the parastatal Mass Media Trust and usually reflects government thinking, yesterday described the former Rhodesian leader as "the godfather of opposition parties".

"Smith is not doing his charges a favour by publicly acknowledging his patronage," said the newspaper. **(362)**

"Zimbabweans may be reconciliatory and forgiving. Forgetfulness is one disease they do not suffer from. To them Zanu (PF) may have its many faults, but supping with Ian Smith is not one of them, and that is a major plus for the ruling party."

MICHAEL HARTNACK

Smith's "conservative alliance" helped fund Edgar Tekere's Zimbabwe Unity Movement at the 1990 elections when Tekere won 24% of votes but only gained two of the 150 seats under the "first past the post" electoral system.

The Herald accused former Chief Justice Enoch Dumbutshena, who leads the newly formed Forum Party, of linking hands with Smith.

Smith, who was prime minister from 1964 to 1979 and led Rhodesia into its ill-fated Unilateral Declaration of Independence in a bid to stave off black rule, maintains farming and other interests and is understood to be near to completing controversial memoirs.

Publication next year may raise a fresh political storm around the man President Mugabe said should have been "hanged and hanged publicly" for the deaths of 40 000 people in the 1972-80 bush war.

Quizzed on plot to kill Mugabe

Star 13/12/93

■ BY ROBIN DREW
STAR AFRICA SERVICE

Harare — Under the banner headline "Plot to assassinate Mugabe exposed", the independent Zimbabwe newspaper Sunday Gazette reported yesterday that police had questioned a Kwekwe man, Ian Wood (35), about documents found in a suitcase allegedly containing details of a plot to kill the Zimbabwean leader.

The suitcase was said to belong to Wood's sister, Janet Neave, who lives in Britain.

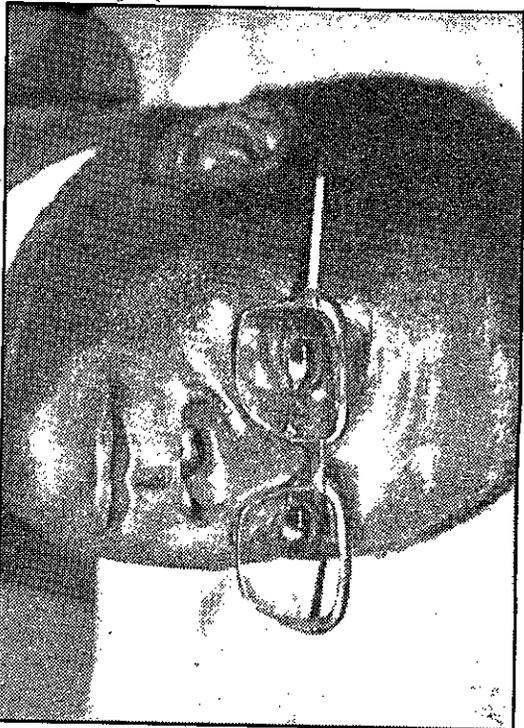
She is alleged to have made visits to Zambia, Zimbabwe and South Africa fairly recently.

Wood was reportedly questioned by police as long ago as September after he had found the document while checking out the contents of the case before sending it back to his sister.

He faced a charge of not disclosing the existence of the document to the authorities within 72 hours and was held in police custody for five days. (362)

He had made several appeals to his sister to come and clear his name.

Home Affairs Minister Dumiso Dabengwa confirmed to the Sunday Gazette that "somebody has been questioned" about a plot to assassinate the president.



Robert Mugabe . . . a visit north to Bulawayo and surrounding areas to soothe the ruffled feelings of the Ndebele apparently had little effect.

'Tribal discrimination' rattles Zimbabweans

BY ROBIN DREW
Star Africa Service

Harare — A storm has blown up in Zimbabwe over accusations of tribal discrimination.

Matabeland is suffering at the hands of the Shona-dominated government of President Mugabe, say prominent Ndebeles.

The province is under-developed and preference at educational institutions is being given to Shona-speakers from other parts of Zimbabwe, say the accusers led by Welshman Mabhena, the governor of Matabeland North, and Joshua Malunga, the mayor of Bulawayo. The story is not new but it

was given new emphasis last week when Mabhena shocked many people with his call for disgruntled residents of Matabeland to take to the streets to show their anger.

Last week, the main Zimbabwe newspaper, *The Herald*, partly owned by government and published in the capital Harare, blasted the governor and the mayor in a stinging editorial.

The paper said: "Suddenly the spectre of a civil war looms. Here it was never imaginable that one of the very few really stable nations in Africa could be threatened so easily."

Observers note that the talk of civil war shows how raw the

nerve is when accusations of tribalism surface.

There have been calls for the resignation of Mabhena and Malunga, and *The Herald* editorial emphasised that the governor owed his job to one man and one man alone, presumably referring to President Mugabe.

Dangers

(362)

"If no action is taken against the two men, and the only official reaction is quiet bewilderment, the chances are that some people will begin to think they were 'right' and so take them seriously."

It said they must be made to understand the dangers of their

motor mouths to the security of the nation and it concluded: "In their blind ambition to be protectors of Ndebeles against imaginary tribal enemies, they forget that when things go wrong everyone will suffer."

In Bulawayo both the governor and the mayor have said they have no intention of resigning.

Mabhena said he was not agitating for separate development but for equal consideration as in other regions.

Matabeland's development lagged behind in the first seven years of independence when the dissident rebellion put paid to any chances of major investments in the area.

The troubles ended only in 1987 with the unity pact between Joshua Nkomo's Zapu party and the ruling Zanu (PF) party.

Since then, the government has agreed to site the new University of Science and Technology in Bulawayo, but the accusation now is that Shona-speakers are given preference there and at other training institutions.

The government's reluctance to commit itself to a pipeline from the Zambezi to supply Matabeland with water is another sore point.

Earlier this month, President Mugabe visited Bulawayo and the surrounding area in an attempt to defuse the situation, but clearly this did not work.

Zimbabwe

loses \$60-m on tobacco

Star 3/12/93

Harare — Zimbabwe, the world's third largest producer of tobacco, this year lost about 60 million US dollars in earnings due to low prices paid at the sales. (362)

An estimated Z\$400 million was lost in anticipated earnings compared with the previous year, despite that year having been a drought year, the Zimbabwe Tobacco Association said in a report.

Because of the world glut, tobacco prices started off at an incredibly low average of 97 US cents a kilogramme, a little more than half of the 189 US cents a kilogramme for the same period last year.

The average seasonal price then rose to 123,77 US cents, about 38,28 US cents less than last year's seasonal average, representing a fall of 23,6 per cent.

Bankers estimate that the oversupply of the market, as well as the lack of profitability, has left Zimbabwe holding about 150 000 tons of the crop.

In view of this, producers have been urged to reduce production in 1994 by 35 percent.

— Sapa-AFP

Star 27/12/93

Zimbabwe in the red

(362)

Harare — Zimbabwe recorded a global trade deficit of US\$211.5 million last year, its first in more than a decade because of food imports aimed at averting a famine, a local bank said at the weekend. "Sharply higher drought-related (food) imports account for almost all of the change (deficit)," the First Merchant Bank said in its latest quarterly report on Zimbabwe's economy.

The 1992 drought left half of Zimbabwe's population of 10 million in need of imported food, which cost the government at least US\$117.6 million.

The Government's decision last week to increase customs tariffs on a wide range of goods, some by as much as 100 percent, is believed to be an attempt to stop the forex drain.

— Sapa-Star Africa Service.

Star 29/12/93

Zimbabwe told to cut back deficit

Harare — Zimbabwe has started tackling huge financial losses incurred by state-funded companies but needs to do much more, a World Bank official said yesterday.

"They have started implementing some of the measures on improving operational efficiency such as cutting unnecessary manpower and commercialising some operations," Stephen Brushett, deputy head of the World Bank's Zimbabwe office, told Reuters.

"It's a start in the right direction. We would want to see how the government meets its targets for this year and how they cut down on the overall budget deficit next year," he said. (362)

Zimbabwe state-funded firms, ranging from those producing power to railways and the national carrier Air Zimbabwe, are projected to make a deficit of more than Z\$800 million (\$119 million) this financial year ending next June.

The deficit represents a sizeable chunk of Zimbabwe's annual budget and when taken together with state expenditure on the civil service amounts to half Zimbabwe's annual gross domestic product. — Sapa-Reuters.

Zimbabwe to train MK, Apla forces

Star 29/12/93

■ BY ROBIN DREW
STAR AFRICA SERVICE

Harare — South African guerilla fighters from the ANC's armed wing MK and the PAC's Apla force are to be trained in Zimbabwe to be officers and NCOs in the new South African army.

The first batch of 500 combatants has arrived and is due to begin training next week. Courses will last four to six months.

The Zimbabwe National Army itself was formed by integrating the old Rhodesian army with Zanla and Zipra guerillas.

A key role was played by training teams from the British army who have also worked closely with the Zimbabweans in training Mozambican army soldiers.

Officer cadets, platoon and company commanders for the integrated SADF will be trained at the military academy in Gweru and at the staff college at army headquarters in Harare.

Non-commissioned officers will be trained at the school of infantry base at Mbalabala, south of Bulawayo.

State Security Minister Sydney Sekeramayi said the main objective was to prepare the soldiers for the challenges of creating their own integrated army.

Talks boost ties with Zimbabwe

Messina — The first meeting in 13 years between top officials from South Africa and Zimbabwe ended at Messina yesterday with both sides expressing satisfaction. (362)

South African Foreign Affairs Minister Pik Botha and ANC national chairman Thabo Mbeki met Zimbabwe's Foreign Minister Nathan Shamuyarira, paving the way for closer links between South Africa and its neighbour.

The only concrete decision to come out of the talks was an agreement to immediately lengthen the hours at the Beit Bridge border post from 5.30 am to 10.30 pm daily.

Several recommendations and suggestions were put forward in a joint statement:

- The possible formation of a working group to initiate and co-ordinate the improvement of facilities at Beit Bridge.

- The establishment of a joint economic commission to investigate aspects of economic co-operation.

- The possibility of Beit Bridge operating 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and the lowering of the R75 visa fee to enter Zimbabwe will be considered.

- Consideration to be given to South Africa's membership of the Southern African Development Community, the Preferential Trade Area and the Lome Convention. — Sapa.

Star 4/12/93

Nkomo warning for whites

PLUMTREE — Zimbabwean Vice-President Joshua Nkomo has once again warned of racial uprisings in Zimbabwe unless there is equitable ownership of the economy, Ziana news agency reported yesterday. (362)

Opening a commercial centre in Plumtree, Nkomo said: "I am not a racist and I will never be one. But I strongly warn you

whites that your clinging to economic power will cause problems for this country."

He said if whites had the prosperity of Zimbabwe at heart they would start introducing blacks to positions of real economic power through joint ventures, and by giving advice and financial support to black projects. — Sapa.

Call to crush rebellion

Sowetan 2/11/93

HARARE — Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe yesterday urged the South African Government to be prepared to put down a rebellion by rightwing whites who want to create a separate white state there as the country marches to democracy.

Mugabe, opening a summit of southern Africa's Frontline States in Harare, said South Africa was likely to be engulfed by more violence as it moved to its first democratic elections next April, chiefly from white rightwingers.

"In particular, white rightwingers seem to be determined to perpetuate white supremacy and undemocratic government. (362)

The present government must be prepared to put down any rebellion from this quarter," Mugabe said.

He added: "Maybe the time has come for the international community to identify, isolate and denounce all those diverse elements working to undermine the peace process."

African National Congress president

Mr Nelson Mandela sat impassively in the conference centre as Mugabe devoted his 10-minute speech to political changes in South Africa.

Also attending the one-day meeting was Mr Johnson Mlambo, vice-president of the Pan Africanist Congress.

Angolan President Eduardo dos Santos, Botswana President Ketumile Masire and Tanzanian President Ali Hassan Mwinyi attended the meeting. Mozambique, Zambia and Namibia sent their foreign ministers. — Sapa-Reuter

World

Bitter battle for land rages in Zimbabwe

IN THE past century Zimbabwe's blacks have twice taken up arms to fight for what they believed white settlers had plundered — their land.

Now, the whites themselves are battling to cling to their farms in the face of government moves to seize many of their properties and resettle a million landless black peasants — a tenth of the entire population.

But, while the earlier wars were waged in the bush — first in the 1890s and again during the independence struggle of the 1970s — this time the battleground is the High Court.

Six of the 39 white farmers whose 170 000ha are targeted have lodged appeals before the fiercely independent judiciary to challenge the so-called land grab. (362)

They argue it violates the British-drafted constitution that guarantees the right to property ownership.

But, even before those appeals are heard, the man who led the black majority to independence in 1980 has vowed he won't budge on the issue.

"We went to war for land," President Robert Mugabe declared. "That was what independence was all about."

Mr Mugabe, who denies Western donors' claims he is not offering compensation for the seizures, has said he will wield his far-reaching presidential powers to veto any court ruling in favour of the farmers.

Black opposition leaders, and most whites oppose the move, fearing it will deter potential investors and tarnish Zimbabwe's international image.

But most blacks support the year-old Land Acquisition Act, saying the white losers of the independence war have prospered while they, the victors, remain impoverished.

"This is not a question of morality," says former Chief Justice Enock Dum-butshena, head of the main opposition Forum Party.

By JOHN EDLIN
in Harare

"Everyone, including the whites, accepts land redistribution is necessary. What is worrying us is the way in which it is being handled. There are doubts about the constitutionality of it all."

What's really at stake is white privilege and black aspirations.

But there are more sinister aspects of the Act that disturb foreign investors and opposition leaders.

For one, the government has unabashedly targeted the farms of two opposition figures, the Rev Ndabaningi Sithole and Mr Edgar Tekere, despite promises politics would not be brought into the seizures.

Also, the state pointedly grabbed the ranch of white cattleman and former Rhodesian lawmaker Henry Elsworth after he allegedly stripped a group of black peasant women naked when they helped themselves to firewood on his ranch.

Mr Elsworth vigorously denies any wrongdoing and claims he has been set up by local ruling party politicians who want his farm.

"There is politics behind land acquisition," he said.

The government insists only underused or derelict land will be snatched. But Mr Elsworth's ranch, and some of the other farms that have been designated, are highly productive.

Closer

links

CT 6/12/93
with Zim

signalled

by talks

(362)

MESSINA, Far Northern Transvaal. — The first meeting in 13 years between top officials from South Africa and Zimbabwe ended here yesterday with both sides expressing satisfaction with the talks.

Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Pik Botha and African National Congress national chairman Mr Thabo Mbeki met Zimbabwe's Foreign Minister Mr Nathan Shamuyarira, paving the way for closer links between South Africa and its northern neighbour.

The only concrete decision to come out of the talks was an agreement to immediately lengthen the hours at the Beit Bridge border post. It will now be open from 5.30am to 10.30pm daily.

Mr Botha described the meeting as "historic".

'New era'

"This is an indication of the normalisation process between Zimbabwe and South Africa ... it is the beginning of a totally new era in our relations."

He said he was pleased the days of being political antagonists were over.

Mr Shamuyarira said Zimbabwe would like to share "good neighbourliness" with Pretoria.

The two countries issued a joint statement after the talks in which several recommendations and suggestions were put forward including proposals that economic co-operation between the countries be investigated.

The statement also said consideration should be given to SA's future membership of the Southern African Development Community, the Preferential Trade Area and the Lome Convention. — Sapa

Zim gold output up

(362)

27/12/93

HARARE — Zimbabwe's gold production rose by more than 440kg to 15 574kg during the first 10 months of this year, according to industry figures released yesterday.

The gold was worth more than Z\$1.13bn compared to Z\$840.9m for 15 132.2kg mined during the same period last year. — Sapa-Reuter

Diamonds: Zim issues licences

27 20/12/92
BULAWAYO. — As the rush for diamonds gains momentum in Zimbabwe, the government has issued a total of 27 exclusive prospecting licences, the national news agency Ziana reported yesterday.

Rdiamond Zimbabwe, the country's sole producer of diamonds, is already investing Z\$12m to establish an interim plant expected to be commissioned before the end of the year at River Ranch near Beit Bridge. — Sapa (362)

Farmers to help with Mugabe's land plan

CFU/12/93 (562)

HARARE. — Zimbabwe's white commercial farmers have offered to work with President Robert Mugabe in implementing his controversial land acquisition programme to resettle thousands of landless blacks.

This was announced at a press conference in Harare yesterday by Minister of Lands, Agriculture and Water Development Mr Kumbirai Kangai.

Signalling an apparent softening of attitudes on the emotive land acquisition programme, Mr Kangai said it was

high time the two parties "put away old differences and prejudices".

He added: "After several consultations, the government and the Commercial Farmers Union (CFU) believe it is time to take a new co-operative approach with the resettlement programme as a focus for development of commercial agriculture."

The CFU has offered "unlimited" expertise to ensure that resettlement does not disrupt commercial production. — Sapa

Zimbabwe's growing ⁽³⁶²⁾ problem of poverty

BULAWAYO — Zimbabwe's economic structural adjustment programme (Esap) is leaving in its wake grinding urban poverty in spite of predictions of its ultimate success, the Ziana national news agency reported on Thursday.

The programme's success so far is being viewed in terms of the number of foreign and local investors who have opened up shop, the variety and quality of goods on shop shelves and the decline in the rate of inflation.

There seems little consideration, however, for the poor.

"Poverty and destitution have increased to a point of being unacceptable in any society," said Bulawayo's mayor Joshua Malinga at the annual meeting of the city's 40-year-old welfare society.

Church feeding centres, government food hand-outs and other short-term measures had served only to divert attention from the real issue of how to deal effectively with extreme poverty, he said.

Welfare officers said poverty was made worse by unplanned large and single-parent families, unemployment and the lack of education.

Mugabe urges action against right wing

2112193
MICHAEL HARTNACK

HARARE — President F.W. de Klerk's government must be prepared to put down any rebellion from the right wing, Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe told a summit of the Frontline states yesterday.

"In particular, the Volksfront seems to be determined to perpetuate white supremacy and undemocratic government in SA. The present government must be prepared to put down any rebellion from this quarter," Mugabe told the meeting, attended by ANC president Nelson Mandela and PAC chairman Johnson Mlambo.

Presidents Ali Hassan Mwanyu of Tanzania, Eduardo dos Santos of Angola and Ketumile Masire of Botswana met, under Mugabe's chairmanship, the UN special representative on Angola, Alouine Blondin Beye, and representatives of Zambia, Mozambique and Namibia.

In a communiqué after talks the states voiced "grave concern at the decision by some key and important elements of the SA political spectrum not to endorse the democratic political process." "Opposition by right-wing elements poses the greatest threat to future peace and stability in SA," they noted. (362)

Mugabe told the summit "there are still leaders of some political parties in SA today who want to disrupt the current peace process and who would continue the politics of confrontation and even war". He called for deployment of a much larger force of UN and Commonwealth observers and for the formation of a "common action or patriotic front" uniting "all political parties representing the African majority".

This would bring "real power, quickly, to the people of SA", he said.

Breaking long official silence over the progress of Angolan peace talks in Lusaka, Zimbabwean Foreign Minister Nathan Shamuyarira told a news conference that agreement had now been reached on 10 of 12 outstanding points in the way of a ending the 16-year civil war, including all the military points.

Only the role of Unita in the future civilian political process remained outstanding. Agreement had been reached on the evacuation of areas recently captured by Unita, and their assembly under UN supervision.

'Bureaucratic Scrooge' at work in Harare

HARARE — The Zimbabwe government came under fire yesterday for imposing massive tariff increases on a wide range of imports.

"We wonder which bureaucratic blunderer came up with December 15 to gazette the increases? Somebody with an abiding hatred for Christmas? With Scrooge as a middle name?" the Herald newspaper asked in an editorial.

Toys and sports goods were among items on which duty was raised from 60% of value to 100%, and basic duty on cars and electrical goods went up from 45% of value to 100%.

Retailers predicted a pre-Christmas surge in consumer prices. The only welcoming note was sounded by Textile Manufacturers Association chairman Ray Woolley, who said new

MICHAEL HARTNACK

100% protective duties on second hand clothes would assist the severely depressed manufacturing sector.

Very little of the quality merchandise on supermarket shelves was of Zimbabwean origin, the Herald said.

Increased duty on sports goods would cripple clubs in the run up to next year's All Africa Games in Harare, while duties on vehicle spares might contribute to carnage on the roads, it said. (362)

Zimbabwe did not make radios and television sets, so the renewed setback to importers would make them more expensive at a time the country was trying to expand its mass media penetration of the poorer rural areas.

"And the traders' loss has to be the

smugglers' gain," the paper said.

"There has to be concern, too, at how the hikes affect Zimbabwe's standing within GATT at a time when that body is doing all it can to bring down tariffs and protectionism.

"As for our immediate trading partners, SA in particular, the move does us no good at all," said the Herald, referring to stalemated negotiations on updating the 1964 "most favoured nation" pact inherited from Ian Smith's government.

Diplomatic sources say that having squandered its 1992 opportunity to conclude a new pact, through President Robert Mugabe's ill-timed rhetoric, Zimbabwe is now unlikely to get one signed until after the April 27 elections.

● Comment: Page 6

Zimbabwe whites still live very well

HARARE — The phones might not work, there is talk of corruption and long queues at the banks and post offices, but life has changed little for Zimbabwe's whites since independence from Britain 13 years ago.

Some ex-Rhodesians who left might dispute this but ask most of Zimbabwe's estimated 100 000 whites how bad things really are.

They are the wealthiest class, along with the Asian population, and yearly holidays to SA or abroad, houseboating on Kariba, or weekends at a cottage in Nyanga in the Eastern Highlands are par for the course for many Zimbabwean whites.

They still live in spacious houses on large properties maintained by workers at a government-dictated wage of Z\$182 a month.

The shops are full and no shortages are reported as SA wines, Australian beer and Namibian fish pack their shelves. Electronic goods, once exorbitant, are now available and more reasonable.

Downtown Harare is still clean but child beggars are on the increase and target whites for cash. As a result, most whites prefer to shop at places such as the newly-opened Sam Levv's

Village in Borrowdale in the leafy northern suburbs. **BIDA**

Although money is considered "tight" as a result of high interest rates, cranes adorn the skyline as buildings go up on nearly every second block in Harare.

The premium on the black market, which once saw the rand fetch more than Z\$3, has all but evaporated.

Most of this is as a result of Zimbabwe's economic structural adjustment programme which has taken its toll on the poor as subsidies on basic foodstuffs were lifted.

Most goods are bought with foreign exchange acquired through the country's export retention scheme, the retained proportion of foreign exchange a company earns through its exports. The surplus is traded on the Harare money market at a premium of 20% to 30% to the Zimbabwe dollar.

Smaller shops sell goods brought into the country from SA by women shoppers finding a means to support their family. The popularity of this is illustrated by the congestion they cause at Beitbridge and Plumtree border posts.

The women sell their goods for between two to three times what they paid for them. **29/12/93**

High unemployment, due to the inability of the economy to create jobs, has seen an increasing number of Zimbabweans unable to find formal employment. **(362)**

Adding to the people's woes is a drought-induced recession and a slump in commodity prices which led to a large number of retrenchments.

Others jump the border and work in SA. The latest edition of the People's Voice, the official publication of the ruling Zanu (PF) party, quoted a SA Home Affairs spokesman as saying there were as many as 400 000 Zimbabweans living illegally in SA.

Meanwhile, after the Christmas Day service at the City Presbyterian Church in Harare, former Rhodesian premier Ian Smith, public enemy in much of the world for most of the '60s and '70s, chatted with worshippers.

Enjoying another beautiful day in the tropics and driving in his modest Madza 323, most ex-Rhodesians can only be envious that they did not stay behind with their one-time leader. — Sapa.

Mugabe stands by resettlement plan

MICHAEL HARTNACK

HARARE — Black Zimbabweans' right to the eight million hectares of land owned by white commercial farmers was not affected by how well the land was used, President Robert Mugabe said this week.

In a TV interview on Tuesday he said whites were able to be more productive than peasant farmers because of their use of loan finance. BIDON 3/11/2193

"But that does not fault the principle that in a country where you have two races and the whites have been colonisers, the blacks should have most of the land whether they are able to use it or not.

"They must have it because it's their land anyway, in the first place. It was taken away from them by colonial robbery and must come back (362)

"You can't say because a thief has robbed me of my car, the fact that I am not able to drive it and the thief has a licence entitles the thief to possession of the car.

"I don't want to listen to that kind of argument at all," Mugabe said.

Zimbabwe's land plan has aroused the fears of international investors. Britain has frozen its assistance for the resettlement programme for the seven million peasants following the passage of the Land Acquisition Act, which curtails white farmers' right of appeal to the courts. Canada and other Western governments have warned of possible repercussions on investor confidence in the rule of law, as well as

□ To Page 2

Mugabe

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Zimbabwe's food self-sufficiency.

Mugabe also defended his commitment to socialism and to his former Eastern bloc mentors, including North Korea. He described South Korea as an American colony which did not enjoy real independence.

Although his government had embarked on sweeping economic reforms since 1991 this did not mean that socialism had died. Sapa-Reuter reports that he vowed to keep state control on key sectors, saying this was the only way to mitigate capitalism's "venomous head". (362)

The president hinted that some state controls which barred all employers from firing workers without government approval, which were abolished under the reforms, might have to be reintroduced.

Accusing some companies of deliberately dismissing workers to try to maximise profits, he said: "We have relaxed too much here. Question why there has been so much unemployment, question why enterprises

had to get rid of so many people."

Zimbabwe's nearly 38% unemployment rate in the formal sector is one of the highest in the world.

Mugabe said the government was examining several measures, including setting up a trust fund to back local businesses, to try to put control of the economy in the hands of blacks. But he rejected calls for more state funds to be channelled to the Indigenous Business Development Centre, saying this would entail higher taxes.

He was looking into setting up a trust fund where proceeds from sales of shares of state-funded companies could be deposited. This would be used to help black-owned businesses.

It was unacceptable that Zimbabwe was still controlled economically by local whites or foreign interests.

"The real core of business remains in the hands of whites. They are a very protective clan, the white settlers here."