



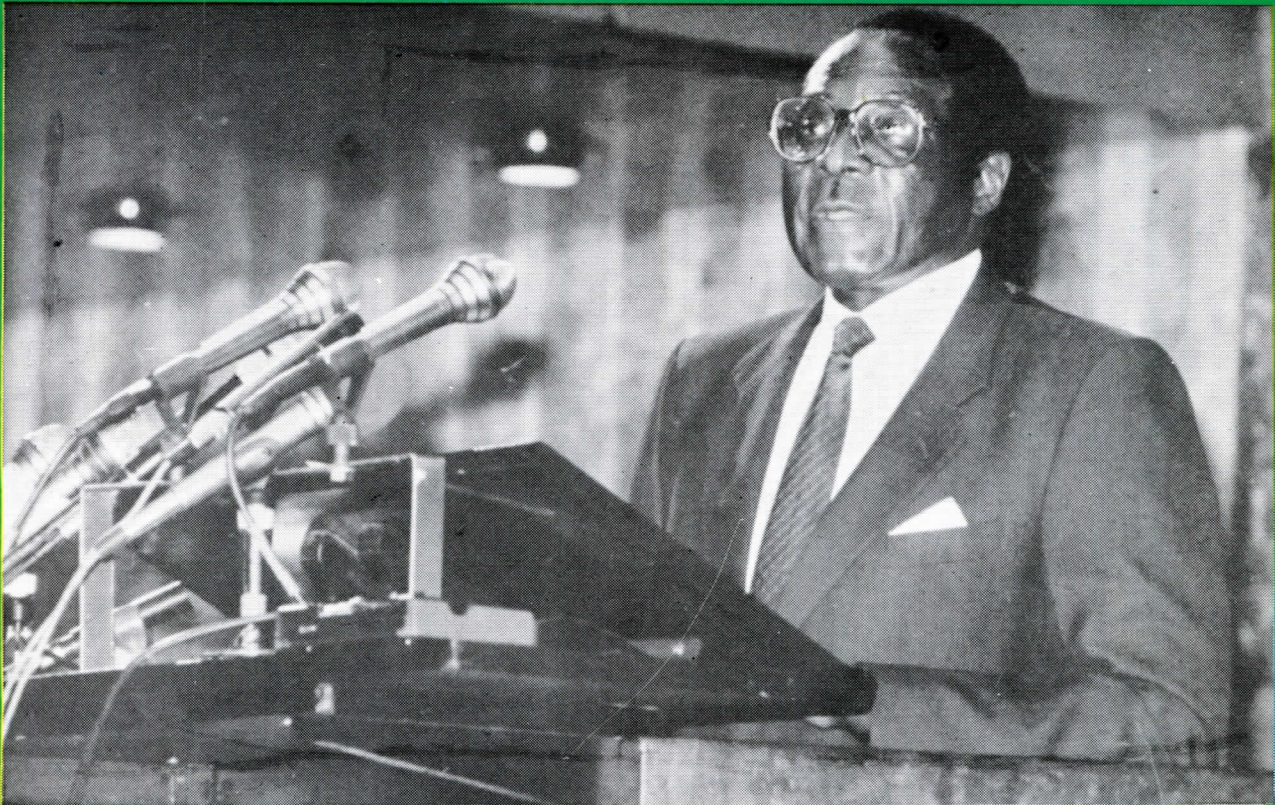
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Zimbabwe News

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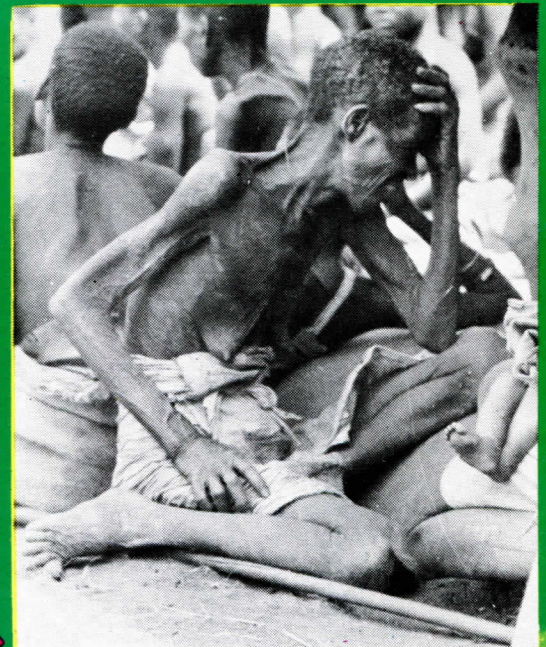
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"No to hunger in age of grain mountains and technological revolution" President Mugabe in New York.



**Agricultural producers —
Worriors against hunger**

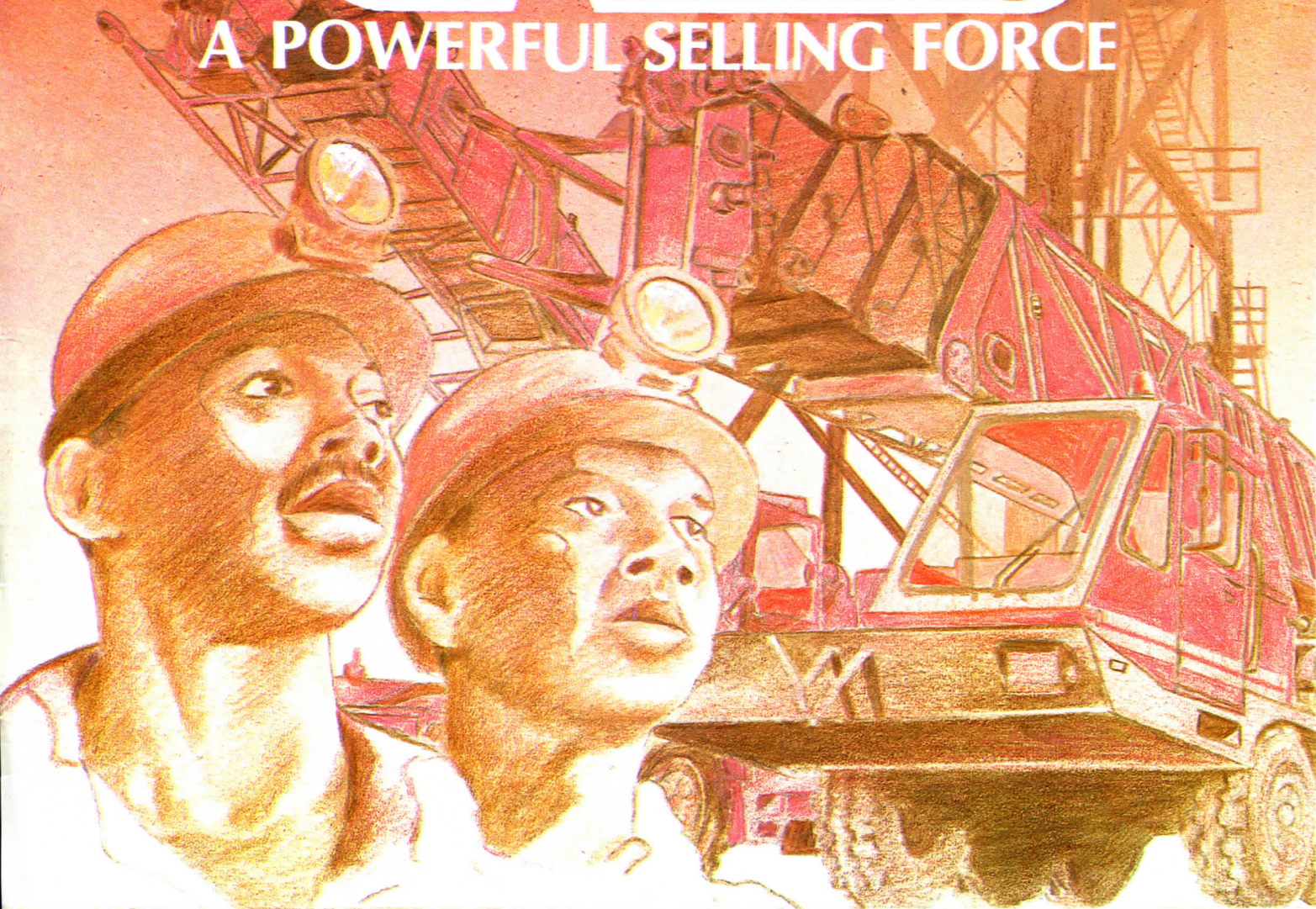


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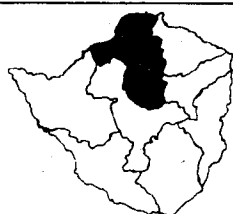
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*Jock Kay on Agriculture
... page 12*



**FOCUS ON
PROVINCES**

Muzenda Urges Journalists to Develop Effective Communication Networks

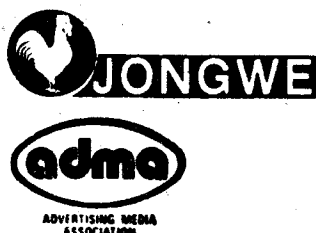
The Vice President of the Republic of Zimbabwe Comrade Simon Muzenda, has challenged the developmental journalist to refrain from using the same journalistic tools which have been used by an exploitative and oppressive machinery. *page 9*

National Farmers Association of Zimbabwe's Report on Communal Agricultural Output

The results of last season's harvest in Zimbabwe were very encouraging especially the contribution from the communal farmers. *page 17*

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EDITORIAL

Congratulations President Mugabe

On 21 July, 1988, His Excellency Comrade Robert Mugabe, President of our young Republic was named as the winner of the Second Annual Africa prize for Leadership for the Sustainable End of Hunger. The announcement was made by Mr. Bradford Morse, Chairman of Africa Prize jury, at a global teleconference originating from Lusaka, Zambia, and from UN headquarters in New York.

More than 3 000 Hunger Project participants and other supporters of the future of Africa assembled at 128 sites in 18 countries to participate in the announcement. The two originating sites were linked by two-way television, which was then distributed across North America, by satellite transmission and learning channel, cable televisions and premier educational network. The programme was seen live across Zambia on the Zambia National Broadcasting Corporation. At other sites, from Auckland to Geneva, from New Delhi to Munich, from Nairobi and Harare to Sydney and London, groups participated in the largest telephone conference call in Hunger Project history.

President Mugabe was cited in Mr. Morse's announcement for bringing peace and prosperity in Zimbabwe, and for establishing policies which have made Zimbabwean agriculture "one of the most impressive success stories on the continent."

This international recognition of President Mugabe's leadership talents is well deserved. Under his guidance, our country has made tremendous strides since political liberation in 1980. This is particularly true for our peasant and commercial farmers. Communal and small farms have since 1980 increased their crop revenues ten-fold and extended their share of agricultural production from 10 percent to 64 percent. They now receive 18 times more farm loans than in 1979.

Public health and education have also vastly improved in Zimbabwe. Infant mortality rate has dropped in this country from 121 in 1979 to 76 today. Primary school enrolment has tripled and secondary school enrolment increased five-fold.

President Mugabe is internationally respected as one of the intellectual giants of the African continent. He has achieved a

high degree of social harmony which few could have predicted would follow Zimbabwe's violent struggle for independence.

For winning the Africa Prize, President Mugabe received great praise from many statesmen around the world. President Kaunda of Zambia, summed up the main sentiments expressed when he described Comrade Mugabe as a "gallant freedom fighter. He fought exploitation of man by man, on the basis of deep-rooted principle."

In Africa, given the magnitude of the problems which we face, exhibiting leadership takes a truly extraordinary degree of courage, vision, commitment, dedication and a powerful sense of purpose. We in Zimbabwe are fortunate to have a leader who has all these qualities.

We congratulate you, Comrade Mugabe. Well done!

Another Bumper Harvest

The Zimbabwe farmers have done it again! It is common knowledge that the rains were late in coming last year. The cropping season started with considerable apprehension for fear of another drought. When the rains did eventually come, our farmers rose to the occasion. We now have a bumper crop in both maize and cotton.

The late start of the season also meant a late harvest. There was therefore great concern by the farmers that the crops would not be brought in before the rains. What a blow this would have been to the farmers; what an embarrassment this would have been to our President having just received the coveted prize for leadership for the Sustainable end of Hunger.

Government must be congratulated for rising up to the occasion by mobilising transport (DDF, CMED, RMS, ZNA, ZRP) to participate in the crop haulage programme we are now assured that all crops will be in before the rains.

Well Done Farmers! Well Done Government!

LETTERS

Dumping Toxic Waste in Africa

The Editor,

I was shocked and angered to hear that some Italian companies are trying to dump dangerous toxic waste in our country Zimbabwe. Italian companies have dumped dangerous waste in Nigeria. Even more dangerous waste has also been dumped in Benin, Guinea-Bissau, and other African countries with or without their knowledge. This dangerous practice must be stopped forthwith by all African countries. Even those that

have huge debts must never be attracted to receive a little bit of money so that they can have this dangerous toxic waste dumped in their territories, for they will kill future generations of African children.

The European Economic Community should also stop their member-states from dumping this dangerous toxic waste in Africa. They must pass in their European Parliament a humane law that forbids all their members from taking waste to Africa. The European nations are despising Africa far too much. For nearly 400 years they looted this continent of its manpower, taking men,

women and children to America as slaves. After the slave trade they colonised us, looting all our mineral wealth as well as our natural resources for another 300 years. Now we fought against slavery and we fought against colonialism and defeated the Europeans. Now they want to kill us by depositing their dangerous toxic waste in our rivers and in our soil so that future generations of African children can be killed. The European Economic Community produces 30 million tonnes of industrial waste every year. Public opinion in Europe does not allow them to dump it there without it being properly treated. But this treatment is very

costly. So, the European businessmen have found a new trade of selling this waste to African countries at ridiculously low rates. In Guinea-Bissau, European and American toxic waste has been deposited there while paying that government \$40 per tonne. This price is a fraction of what it would cost them to process the waste in Europe and deposit it there. I think we must take firm measures to stop this new form of human slavery.

The Organization of African Unity has passed a resolution urging African governments to refuse to receive this dangerous waste. But that is not enough. Those governments that receive this waste should be brought before an international court of African countries set up in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. We must try and bring to justice those European salesmen and those Africans who receive this dangerous toxic waste. I appeal to the Non-Aligned Movement to act on this matter.

Yours faithfully

S.K Murahwa
Murehwa District

Why have you not sent us Zimbabwe News Issue on Reburial Exercise?

The Editor,

We direct this letter to the Department of

Information and Publicity of the Party, particularly the person responsible for the distribution of the magazine "Zimbabwe News".

We put much effort in compiling reports on the Reburial Exercise of the fallen ex-combatants. We sent you the reports which were published in the August Issue which focussed on the Heroes Reburial Exercise. This August Issue has not been sent to Masvingo Province. Why? Is it that we are forgotten?

Please, we need 200 copies of the above mentioned Magazine. We also want to read our own history on the reburial of our fallen heroes.

Yours,
Comrade-in-arms
Masvingo

Does the Local Community Court not want to Hear my Case?

The Editor,

I write to seek your help either by publicizing my letter or by advising me on what course of action I should take. But before doing that, you probably would want to know what my problem is all about. Let me tell you.

I am a blind man who works at Jairos Jiri Centre in the Mzilikazi High Density Area in Bulawayo. I started work in May 1986 and I managed to save a little money.

As a matter of fact, I proposed love to Miss Ntombi Yeskolo whose father is Johnson Ndebele. Once the woman accepted my proposal, I arranged a go-between (munyai) to discuss on my behalf the issue of lobola. In 1986 the first payment of roora was \$30 and the second in the same year amounted to \$80.00. I paid \$60.00 in 1987.

Now my problem is that the father of the girl is rough. He does not want his daughter to marry me. The munyai is also threatened. I have decided to take the matter to the local community court at Makhandeni in Bulawayo because the village court was not willing to help. The Community Court is also delaying. My question is, does the local community court also not want to hear my case? It seems people do not want to help those who are blind. Does our legal system only cater for those who see?

Please hear the blind too! I want my wife. If the wife is not available, her father should give back my money which I paid as part of lobola.

Yours,
The Blind Complainant
Peter Chemhere
Mberengwa

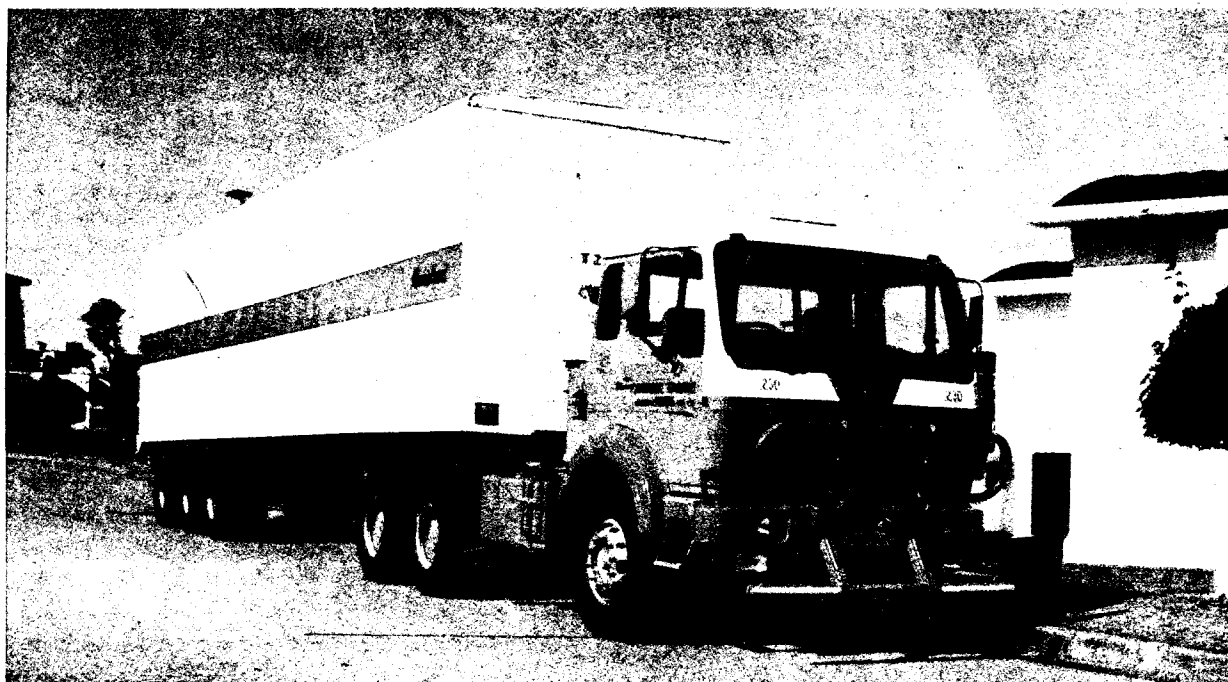


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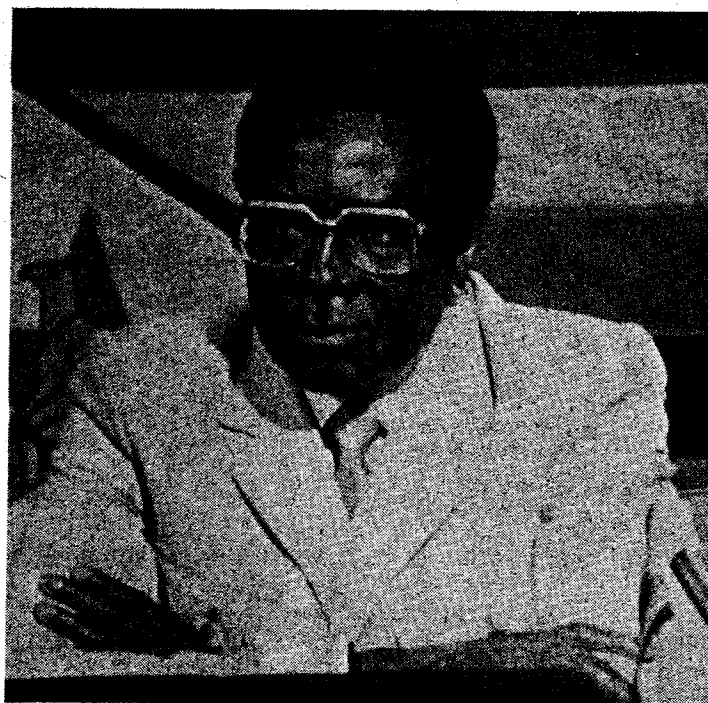
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Send their best wishes
and congratulations
to His Excellency the President
Comrade R.G. Mugabe
on winning the 1988 Africa Prize for Leadership
for the Sustainable End of Hunger

President Receives the 1988 Africa Prize for Leadership for the Sustainable End of Hunger

The Zimbabwe News publishes below in full the speech by His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Zimbabwe, Comrade R.G. Mugabe on the occasion of the Presentation to him of the Africa Prize for Leadership for the Sustainable End of Hunger in New York on September, 15, 1988.



I personally feel most singularly honoured and privileged to be here today to receive the Hunger Project's Second Annual Africa prize for Leadership for the Sustainable End of Hunger. It is, indeed, with a sense of gratitude and deep humility that I accept this honour. I do so with the full knowledge that this prestigious prize is not for me alone, but is, even more importantly, for the people of Zimbabwe, and especially those hard-working and resourceful Zimbabweans, our farmers, both large and small-scale, commercial and communal.

Mr. Chairman, let me begin by also placing on record my most sincere gratitude on record to those members and non-members of the Hunger Project who, collectively or severally, put my name in nomination for this prize and the generous award that goes with it. On my own behalf and on behalf of my country, I also wish to pay tribute to all these persons, honourable men and women, who have dedicated and invested their

ideas, thoughts and financial resources into the establishment of the Hunger Project. The annual Africa Prize for Leadership for the Sustainable End of Hunger's greatest value does not so much lie in generous financial award, important though this is, as in the fact that it draws international attention and that of Africa in particular, to the scourge of hunger which ravages many countries especially in Sub-Saharan Africa and to the imperative need for us all to work systematically towards its elimination.

The Prize is thus designed to focus international attention, as well as that of the people of Africa, on Africa's struggle against hunger, starvation, malnutrition and related evils. In addition, it places the spotlight on the nature and quality of leadership as it relates to agricultural development in general and national agricultural policies in particular. Yet, in all this, we should never lose sight of the people, particularly the

agricultural producers themselves, for they are a key factor in the war against hunger. In the case of Zimbabwe, the place and role of the previously neglected small peasant or communal farmer deserves special mention.

Agriculture Sector

I believe that those who have been tempted to characterise the modest achievements of our agricultural sector in the past eight years as a miracle have been inspired by the encouraging contribution of the small producers in our Communal Lands. These Lands, formerly known as Tribal Trust Lands (TTL), were a creation of the colonial regime in our country. They were a glaring manifestation of that regime's racially-based and discriminatory land policies. Although these lands were the home of most of the country's population, their agricultural production never — and by design too — rose above the subsistence level. These Lands were the reservoirs of cheap and

semi-slave African labour, which was the backbone of the White Settler economy. In fact, at Independence, food production in these crowded and impoverished areas had dropped to below the subsistence level. On the other hand, the large-scale commercial farming sector had always received maximum attention and preferential treatment from the Government. Not only did the commercial farmers own large farms in the best parts of the country, they also had access to credit, fertilisers, extension services and marketing facilities.

Distinguished Guests, such discriminatory policies against the African farmers in the communal areas were obviously repugnant and unacceptable to us as an independent nation. As a Government committed to the principles of non-racialism, equality and democracy, we had inevitably to address ourselves to this situation at Independence as a matter of high priority. In tackling this daunting task, my Government was confident that, with imaginative policies, deliberate encouragement and appropriate incentives, the peasant farmers could not only produce enough to meet the immediate needs of their families, but could also in fact turn out increasing amounts of marketable surpluses. Thus, at the very outset, in 1980, my Government introduced a rural resettlement programme for our landless peasants. This programme was, however, implemented under the proviso that the land so provided was to be put to productive use. Government also distributed better quality seed and fertilizers to the peasant farmers, including erstwhile war refugees and displaced persons. We also promised improved marketing facilities and better prices for whatever surpluses the farmers were able to produce.

Government Policy

The farmers' acceptance of Government policy and their hard work were quickly and generously rewarded. As is now well known, the combination of government policies, hard work on the part of all our farmers, and the heavens' cooperation in bringing good soaking rains all over the country, enabled our newly-independent nation to realise a bumper harvest in the 1980/81 season. Most striking was the contribution of the communal farmers to this harvest and, I might add, to subsequent harvests. They realised large surpluses which they were eager to sell in order to meet other needs. True to its promises, the Government assisted the farmers with the transportation of their produce to the market. The farmers also fetched good prices for their crops.

Distinguished and Esteemed Friends, the happy results of the 1980/81 season encouraged Government in its conviction that agriculture, the backbone of Zimbabwe's economic development, should be given even greater attention in future. Our Transitional National Development Plan, which was promulgated in 1982 placed an appropriate accent on the agricultural sector, with even greater emphasis upon the peasant producer in the Communal Lands. Having themselves tasted the sweet fruits of success



Ploughing for self-sufficiency

in 1980/81, our farmers were even more determined to produce higher yields.

The period after 1981, including especially the 1983/84 season, was seriously affected by drought. Indeed 1983/84 witnessed one of the severest droughts on record. Despite the setbacks of the drought, however, Government remained totally convinced of the correctness of promoting the efforts of peasant farmers and small-scale producers as one of the most appropriate and effective strategies of rural development. Fortunately, the 1984/85 season was good. Subsequent seasons, though interrupted by the serious drought in 1986/87, were, on the whole, satisfactory. This year is, however, a particularly good year across the country. As a result of the above efforts, the place of the peasant producer in ensuring adequate national food security has been firmly established. Indeed, the peasant farmers and small-scale producers' agricultural production now accounts for 64 per cent of the national production.

War Against Hunger

Comrades and Friends, the story of Zimbabwe's modest success in waging its war against hunger, starvation, malnutrition and related diseases can be told in words and illustrated statistically. This has already been done by various analysts and I shall shortly return to this aspect. One point needs to be emphasised about the Zimbabwe experience, however, and that is that the struggle against hunger and malnutrition is also a function of democracy and equity. Under colonialism, deprivation and hunger existed side by side with affluence and opulence. This situation continues in *apartheid* South Africa, where the oppressed black child's preoccupation is where and when to have his next meal while his white brothers' main concern is how to find an excuse to skip one of his too many meals.

Zimbabwe's modest victories in the war to end and banish hunger are clearly a sequel to our other victory over colonialism and racial oppression. Independence brought with it opportunities for the majority of our people to be involved in productive activities, including agriculture. National In-

dependence and the new democratic order have enabled the introduction of appropriate land reform programmes, which are a prerequisite to a successful agricultural revolution. The phenomenon of dualism, which had hitherto characterised the colonial agricultural policy, is now being replaced by a system deliberately designed to bring the peasant and small land-holder into the cash economy on terms and conditions favourably comparable to those of the large-scale commercial farmer. The idea is to uplift the productive capacity of the peasant sector which accounts for 70 per cent of the population, while rationalising and consolidating the large-scale commercial sub-sector.

Measures of Stability

The statutory control of the agricultural producer prices and the flexible market intervention have enabled the Government to implement some measure of income stability in the agricultural sector and to unleash a significant level of economic activity in the hitherto dormant traditional sector.

The producer and selling prices of essential agricultural products are set by Government each year after taking account of domestic and international demand structures.

This feature of agricultural incentives has not only been the awarding of regular price increases to the farmers to compensate for the changes in the cost of production and with a view to increasing output, the policy has also been accompanied by bold decisions on the part of Government to adjust consumer selling prices and gradually move away from a cheap food policy based on price subsidies. This strategy has in turn enabled Government to sustain its positive and remunerative price policy structure while ensuring a stable food supply at reasonable cost to the consumer, particularly the low income groups.

As earlier observed, the positive result of these policies has been rapid increase in the contribution of peasant farmers to the national production figures, household food security and to the overall agricultural economy. For example, the production of key

'crops like maize and cotton by the small farmers is now almost on a par with that of their large-scale commercial counterparts. In the year ending 30th September, 1986 small-scale and communal farmers delivered 819 000 tonnes or 45 percent of the maize grain total compared with 38 000 tonnes in the year ending 30th September, 1980. Similar achievements have been made with cotton. In the year ending February 1987 small-scale and communal farmers delivered 55 percent of the total compared to 10 percent of the total intake of 1980.

On a national scale, surpluses have also been recorded in beef and dairy products, small grains and horticultural products. Milk intake by our Dairy Marketing Board, for example, increased from 150 million litres in 1981/82 to 222 million in 1986/87 resulting in a positive impact on nutrition.

Secure Future

Distinguished Guests, as is clear from our *First Five-Year National Development Plan*, the agricultural sector has a secure future in Zimbabwe. Yet there is also much room for improvement, including the need to improve yields significantly, particularly in the communal sub-sector. To this end, we have set up Farming System Research Units in order to further understand the farmers' priorities and constraints. We are also continuing with the process of strengthening our existing extension services. Our researchers still observe a big gap between their experimental plot yields and the theoretical potential yields calculated from the amount of solar radiation falling on our fields.

As the grain yields per unit area are increased nationwide, we feel encouraged to diversify our agricultural sector to encompass more crops, thus broadening the nutritional base and creating new possibilities for rural development and employment. A sound agricultural base facilitates the realisation of forward and backward linkages with industry.

Comrades and Friends, while Zimbabwean farmers seem to have been reasonably successful, the Government continues to be concerned about the phenomenon of land degradation through soil erosion. The rapid deterioration in the quality of land is only matched by the high growth rate of our population. It is clear that a rapidly deteriorating resource base will soon be unable to sustain a fast growing population, unless both trends are arrested. For this reason, we are intensifying our family planning programmes. At the same time, we have applied various resource planning and management techniques, including, though currently only experimentally, a new model known as Holistic Resource Management which, we hope, should ensure economic benefits and long-term ecological soundness.

Food Security Efforts

Mr. Chairman, the people of Zimbabwe know that they are not alone in the struggle against hunger and starvation. Our efforts constitute Zimbabwe's modest contribution to the regional, or even continental, food security efforts. Zimbabwe, as is known, coordinates the Food Security Programme of the SADCC regional grouping. In this capacity, we commit considerable resources towards the development of regional strategies and plans to combat hunger, starvation and poverty beyond our national borders. In addition, Zimbabwe also subscribes to and participates in a number of other regional and continental organisations concerned with issues of food production and agricultural development.

This statement cannot be complete without reference to the role and contributions of friendly governments, non-governmental organisations, international organisations and specialised UN agencies. They have all committed substantial financial, material, and human resources towards the development of our food security. Their activities encompass a variety of activities in the rural areas

including water development and the co-ordination of the fight against locusts and other crop pests. The World Food Programme, the FAO and the UN Disaster Relief Organisation, to name only a few, are well known in Zimbabwe. I want to reiterate my country's determination to play its part in Africa's efforts to eliminate the continent's persistent food crisis as urged by the UN Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development (1986-90).

Africa Food Crisis

Ladies and Gentlemen, I cannot conclude this statement without making reference, albeit briefly, to the African food crisis. The facts of this crisis are well enough known and I need not go into them in any detail. We all know of the harrowing pictures of haggard women and men and, above all, children with bony imitations of normal limbs and sunken eyes, all silhouetted against a blazing sun and all teetering towards virtually certain death in some remote windswept plain on our continent. Ethiopia, Mozambique, Sudan, the entire Sahel region and other areas of our continent, have become household names around the world because the television camera has told the story of how death from the ravages of hunger can be so cruel and painful and yet so common. Can we escape responsibility, whoever we are? Can we stand aloof or switch off the



Zimbabwe's modest victories in the war against hunger are fully supported by children



Mozambican mothers queuing for food in refugee camps

offending pictures from our TV screens in favour of more acceptable fare?

We surely ought to say NO to hunger in an age of grain mountains and the technological revolution.

We surely ought to realise that while food handouts bring welcome relief — indeed life itself — to the starving, foreign assistance programmes ought to be directed towards improving the productive infrastructure and

capacities of the recipient countries. The spread of deserts is inevitable; it can be blocked. The destruction of tropical forests and the siltation of rivers are not God-ordained phenomena; they can, given a sense of commitment on the part of us all, be prevented or reversed. Low agricultural productivity arising from the use of primitive implements and the absence of technical know-how should, as we enter the last decade of the 20th century, be regarded as an unmitigated evil in the perpetuation of which we all surely have some share of responsibility.

If we remain cognisant of the fact that Africa was once violently subjugated and exploited under slavery and colonialism, it certainly is not too much to ask that, in this day of the African political renaissance, the flow

of economic benefit should be in the reverse direction for a change.

Transfer Technology

We call on the developed countries to transfer the technology that would enable us to conquer hunger and mass starvation today rather than in some remote future. We call on them to realise that while today the continent of Africa may be viewed in some quarters as a disaster area, we Africans, are determined to secure our future and to establish ourselves as tomorrow's continent. We have already in many places on the continent begun the irreversible march towards a future of progress, prosperity and happiness for our people. Whilst we have no illusions about the weight of the responsibility that history has thrust on our shoulders, we are nevertheless determined to succeed.

Those who share the burden with us — the Hunger Project among them — make the realisation of success even more certain.

Ladies and Gentlemen, once again as I acknowledge, with humility and gratitude, the great honour done to me by the Hunger Project, by way of this prestigious award, I must pay a richly deserved tribute to all the agricultural producers of Zimbabwe and the various relevant agencies of Government, for their commitment, dedication and hardwork. As I said at the beginning, this Prize is ours together. I call on them and on all our people to view this award as a stepping stone, indeed an encouragement, to yet greater struggles and achievements in the fight against underdevelopment and mass poverty and hunger.

Thank you.

President Speaks out on the Plight of Refugees and Displaced persons



His Excellency, the President, Comrade R.G. Mugabe has identified South Africa's evil policy of apartheid as the root cause of the Southern Africa problem of refugees, displaced persons and returnees. He was speaking at the International Conference on the plight of Refugees, Returnees and Displaced persons in Southern Africa in Norway's capital Oslo in August.

The President said that there are over 100 000 refugees in Zimbabwe of whom

70 000 are Mozambicans running away from the MNR bandits. He said many more are arriving every day and a fifth camp to house about 25 000 refugees is to be opened. Of concern to Comrade Mugabe was that the camps are badly crowded. This can cause serious health problems.

Comrade Mugabe also said Zimbabwe is ready to receive displaced persons. He was concerned with the cross-border raids, murders, rapes, robberies and destruction of property by the RENAMO bandits.

"The bloody massacres by the South African backed bandits and the attacks on our main access routes," Comrade Mugabe, who is also the Chairman of the Non-Aligned Movement said, "are part of South Africa's 'total strategy' aimed at making Southern African states economically dependent on it and thus politically subservient".

Speaking at the conference attended by Mr. Ide Onmarou (Chairman of the Conference and the Organisation of African Unity's Secretary General) Maussa Traore

(OAU Chairman) and Cde. Kenneth Kaunda, Cde. Mugabe said this problem of refugees will continue as long as apartheid exists.

He dismissed the view that sanctions will hurt South African blacks as an excuse to continue supporting the Pretoria regime. "We in Southern Africa are prepared to sacrifice today for a better tomorrow". The President also observed that the selective economic sanctions must be up-graded into full scale because it is the only peaceful resort remaining.

Comrade Robert Mugabe went on to say that the countries which continue to support Pretoria are responsible for the suffering of the victims of apartheid. While the Southern African Development Co-ordination Confer-

ence (SADCC) makes commendable efforts to improve and rehabilitate the region's development infrastructure; South Africa cripple those efforts through RENAMO and UNITA. It is thus important for some SADCC countries to deploy material and human resources to protect outlets to the sea.

Speaking on the Namibian problem, the President of the Republic of Zimbabwe said more than 80 000 refugees have left Namibia to settle in Angola, Zambia, Tanzania and Botswana. Adding, he cautioned the international community not to be complacent and believe that South Africa will honour its word. "The regime's track record has been consistent; we are yet to be proved wrong".

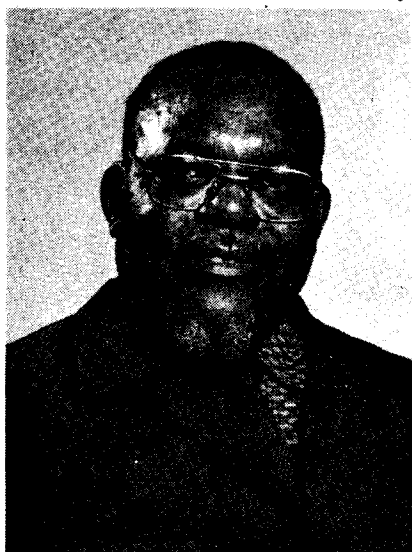
Turning to Zimbabwe's experience, Com-

rade Mugabe said of the more than 200 000, the few remaining ones are still moving to Zimbabwe. The success of the rehabilitation, he said, has been largely because of the political solution in Zimbabwe.

Of the refugees settled in Zimbabwe most are being provided with education and skills training, some as builders, carpenters, blacksmiths, tailors and agricultural producers — Comrade Mugabe also thanked the non-governmental organisations and the United Nation High Commissioner for Refugees for their valuable work.

The conference was also attended by the former Tanzania President, Mwalimu Julius Nyerere and Archbishop Desmond Tutu of Cape Town who is also the President of the All-Africa Conference of Churches. □

Muzenda Urges Journalists to Develop Effective Communication Networks



The Vice President of the Republic of Zimbabwe Comrade Simon Muzenda, has challenged the developmental journalist to refrain from using the same journalistic tools which have been used by an exploitative and oppressive machinery.

He was speaking at the opening of the third Conference of Journalist Organisations of Southern Africa on the 21st September, this year 1988.

"Language is a double — edged sword. It can build and it can destroy. Its power should therefore never be underrated. In

responsible hands language can be an instrument for achieving development and solidarity. And yet in the hands of irresponsible people language can be an instrument of destabilisation and cultural domination. Therefore, the challenge before our journalists is to forge a language and style that can adequately express our needs, feelings, aspirations and our world outlook," Comrade Muzenda said.

He told the conference that those tools have been used by an oppressive and exploitative machinery during the colonial era. Comrade Muzenda went on to say that the journalistic values and ethics of developmental communication should be in the traditions and experiences created by our success and struggles. He also questioned the continuous use of these tools in our developing societies to liberate South Africa and Namibia.

The Vice President said the colonial communication infrastructures were designed to institute cultural domination. He pointed language and style as the two tools used by the colonial and Western media.

Addressing the third conference of journalist organisations of Southern Africa, Comrade Muzenda called for a rejection of the hypocrisy of the advocates of the freedom of the press who collaborate with the Pretoria regime to oppress the people of South Africa and Namibia. He urged the reporters to expose such people who use the concept of freedom of press to provide South Africa with information and moral encouragement to perpetrate aggression and sponsor armed bandits against the Frontline States.

Effective Networks

Progressive journalists must therefore develop effective networks that can effectively challenge the collaborators and the allies of South Africa's disinformation campaign, he said.

Comrade Muzenda, who is also the Vice-President of the Republic of Zimbabwe called upon the national journalists to indicate what national communication policies are needed so that they become principal actors in the decision-making machinery of their communities.

He said the developmental journalists must also criticise the powerful journalists and foreign media that have sponsored the magnitude of the financial, material and human resources of the Frontline States which have been swallowed by the Pretoria regime's destabilisation monster.

Comrade Muzenda advised the developmental communicators to set up their own traditions to help them define human struggle and heroism. He said these journalists are a strong force which should fight in the struggle for survival. He also observed that since independence, the Zimbabwean journalist has been striding in the direction of a committed and free press by cutting off the South African connection.

"The objective of the federation is to coordinate the activities of national journalist organisations. It is a landmark in the development of progressive journalism in Southern Africa," said Comrade Muzenda. □



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The First Lady Opens Magunje Agricultural Show

Officially opening the Hurungwe Agricultural Show, the First Lady, Comrade Sally Mugabe urged the peasants to turn away from the traditional maize growing and venture into oilseed production which can generate much needed foreign currency in Zimbabwe. The Zimbabwe News reproduces the full text below:-

It is my pleasure to have been accorded this opportunity to preside over the official opening of the Hurungwe Agricultural Show.

This is the seventh successive occasion in the past seven years that the entire community of Hurungwe District, involving the aged and the young, the farmer and the school child, have been brought together to display our produce, skills and sportsmanship in an atmosphere of friendly competitiveness. Could this spirit continue to prevail over the years to come.

Hurungwe district stands tall in Mashonaland West as the bread basket of the province, and it is my sincere hope that you maintain, if not improve upon, this worthy and cherished record. It is indeed a known fact that Agricultural Production in Hurungwe has, since the attainment of Independence in 1980, literally progressed in leaps and bounds in the sense that, within that short period, production levels for major crops have almost doubled despite the adverse effects of the vagaries of the rainfall seasons. This season, for instance, an estimated 130 000 tonnes of maize and 9 600 tonnes of cotton are expected to be delivered to Grain Marketing Board and Cotton Marketing Board depots respectively.

Production figures for other crops like oilseed, tobacco, groundnuts and other crops are not yet released, although I am told records have again been broken. The figures quoted above do provide good reading, not only because farmers here are self-sufficient in their food consumption requirements, but also because such massive sales entail a huge cash inflow into the district, thus bettering the lot of the peasantry, and ultimately into the national fiscus by way of injection of the much needed foreign currency through the external export sales of these commodities.

The External World Market for most of our Agricultural products has grown highly competitive, faced as it is, by a glut of most of these products from other countries. To guarantee ourselves a place on this Market, it is therefore imperative that we aim not only at maximising our yield quantity, but at maximising the qualitative aspects of our products.

Farmers in Hurungwe Commended
Cognisant of this situation, the Government



Tobacco—chief foreign currency earner in Zimbabwe

has thus deemed it fit, year after year, to boost the producer price levels of those commodities much in demand on both the domestic and external markets. These price levels have been much more attractive especially for the premium top class grades, notably oilseeds.

Farmers in Hurungwe must indeed be complemented for favourably responding to the call by Government to shift emphasis from the traditional grain products to a situation where a balance between oilseed production and grain production is struck. I put it before you to take up this challenge.

It is also gratifying to note that the introduction of flue-Cured Tobacco production in Hurungwe has made significant headway indeed, bearing in mind the technical intricacies entailed in its production, and the infrastructural demands it requires. Despite the infancy of the scheme, and the erratic but generally good rains received this season, the Flue-Cured Tobacco farmers have, by and large, weathered the initial problems encountered, if the average yields obtained are anything to go by. Additional to that, the number of new farmers coming on this scheme continues to soar. From an initial six farmers on the scheme only four seasons ago, the number has to date risen to a total of 70; a commendable achievement indeed worth of emulation by other districts.

In order to keep abreast of any novel technical developments in the ever — changing

world of Flue Cured Tobacco production, and so that the scheme does not flop technically, Agritex has concurrently launched a vigorous and successful Staff and farmer training programme, whose fruits are visibly manifest in the yields and quality obtained.

Granting that rainfall has been generally satisfactory this season, the catched water is still insufficient to accommodate excess livestock, some of which must be dispensed with to acceptable and sustainable levels matching our resources.

It is indeed satisfying that Government has not only raised producer price of beef, but, in an effort to alleviate transport costs, two cattle-selling points have recently been established within this district, and farmers are urged to avail themselves of this facility. I find it pertinent to add here that, in order to derive maximum benefit from livestock sales, farmers must, prior to the sales, first pen-fatten their animals; of course after enlisting technical assistance of their local Agritex personnel.

Acute Shortage of Transport

While we are still on transport, it is relevant to point out that although Government is sadly aware, and share your concern over the acute shortage of transport you face difficulties on trying to ferry produce to sell-

ing points, we nevertheless cannot condone pirate transporters. Year after year since 1980 Government has quietly accommodated the activities of pirate transporters on the hope that they would take heed and obtain road service permits, but it has now become apparent that the message has been falling on deaf ears, and it has equally become time to put a clump. Meanwhile, more effort will be made to relieve farmers of this transport problem — the first having been the upgrading of all main roads leading to Grain Marketing Board Depots. Furthermore, I am reliably informed that Government will soon release money to District Development Fund for a crash programme to pave remote and inaccessible grain routes. Farmers must equally play a role by maintaining, using their own resources, some such roads wherever possible.

Need for Irrigation

Now that drought threatens to become an annual permanent feature, the harnessing of free-flowing water through the construction of weirs and dams should take our priority in order to alleviate the scarce water resources so necessary for stock watering and winter irrigation. I note that the community of this district has already taken an initiative in this direction by building, with their own hands, a total of four weirs between June and December last year under the Food-For-Work Programme. Some of these weirs have either been washed away or abandoned uncompleted, and I wish to urge you to repair or complete them in terms of self-reliance, unless of course if the programme is re-introduced for the sole purpose. On the other hand, Government,

through the District Development Fund, is presently busy studying the potentiality of existing weirs and dams to support irrigation schemes, which, if viable, will receive funding during this financial year. The community will only be doing itself a service by taking advantage of such schemes.

Conservation of Soil

Conservation of soil is an area in this district that sticks out like a sore thumb. In spite of the large hectares of land pegged by the local Agritex staff, a disappointingly low percentage of the area pegged gets the necessary contours constructed upon, leaving the top soil mercilessly exposed to the scourage of massive soil loss through erosion. While it may be accepted that contour construction through the traditional mode of the pick, hoe and shovel is an arduous chore, use of the easily made and cheap ox-drawn dam scoops has been demonstrated at some conservation field days held here and should be taken-up by farmers to expedite construction of effective mechanical conservation works.

Another area of concern requiring immediate attention is our forest and veld areas that are getting denuded of vegetation at an alarming rate. It is thus incumbent upon all farmers to ensure restoration of this precious natural resource through the introduction of judicious grazing and afforestation programmes. Although I note that some effort in this direction has been made as evidenced by the existence of village woodlots and gully reclamation schemes, you are still a long way from compensating what has been plundered. We the legitimate farmers should assist Government agencies in identifying and evicting squatters who have contributed largely to the plunder of our Natural

Resources. This district alone accommodates an estimated 1 500 squatters, which is by all standards an alarming proportion. Land reorganisation is another commendable method through which we can adequately conserve our natural resources. Government has played its role in preaching this gospel to you, and it now remains in your interest to take up the call by practical implementation, for apart from conserving, you will stand to benefit from this scheme by building decent houses as assisted by Government materially.

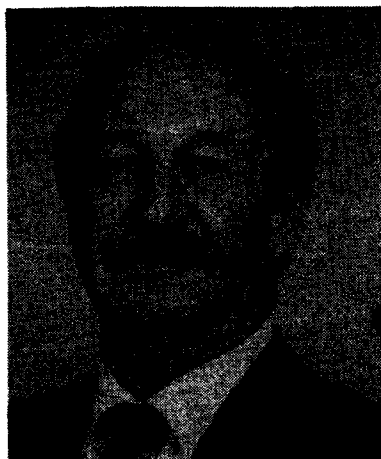
To speedily plan and implement the development programmes above outlined that is weirs, grazing schemes woodlots, gully reclamations, land reorganisation *et cetera* co-ordination between the various departments and the community leadership structures becomes paramount. It is, however, heartening to note that the agricultural success story of Hurungwe district can be attributed largely to this aspect of cooperation and coordination among local development agencies.

To just side — track, I would like to take this opportunity to inform you that Government, as evidenced in the recent launching of the Child Survival Campaign, is fully committed towards the welfare of the child. The Campaign has ever since made tremendous strides towards the establishment of the Child Survival Fund, and your support will help towards the achievement of our goals. Finally, and in my capacity as Chair Lady of the Child Survival Campaign, I want to make an appeal to all parents to extend their greatest care and love to our children, and prepare them to be responsible fathers and mothers of tomorrow. □

Jock Kay on Agriculture

Recently Zimbabwe News carried an interview with the Deputy Minister of Lands, Agriculture and Rural Resettlement, Mr. Jock Kay, on the results of the last season's harvest and on the problems the farmers are facing in their day to day work.

According to Mr. Jock Kay, the last season, i.e. the 1987/1988 growing season was a much better one than the previous season. An outstanding feature of the season was that the rains came very late and this presented some difficulties. However, overall the season did turn out well and all indications are that cotton and soya beans for instance are heading for a record crop; maize intake will be much improved and the quantity and value of tobacco on offer at the Auction floors is outstanding. The improved season also brought much needed relief of the livestock industry which is still in the process of recovering from the drought of recent years.



Mr. Jock Kay said maize remains the most popular crop among peasant farmers because it is the staple diet of the majority of the people. There has been phenomenal growth in maize production in this sector

since Independence. He however, pointed that it is the policy of the Ministry to encourage the growing of crops that are suited to the different agro-ecological regions. This applies to maize as well. Maize is most susceptible to drought and is not suited for the marginal areas where other crops such as mhunga, rapoko and even cotton and soya beans can do relatively well.

Cotton is also popular among peasant farmers because of its income generating characteristic and its relative drought tolerance. Also of importance in the peasant sector are sunflowers and the small grains, mhunga and rapoko. With the exception of maize which is a staple crop, the popularity of the other crops is dictated by the location of the peasant farming in the more marginal areas.

Dissatisfaction on Maize Price

It is true that producers have expressed dissatisfaction with the producer price of maize and this is of great concern because maize

is the staple diet. Because of the droughts that occur so frequently in this part of the world, it is necessary that in addition to producing sufficient maize to feed the nation, there must be sufficient reserves for drought years.

"Only last week the Minister of Lands, Agriculture and Rural Resettlement assured farmers that he would be seeking to make maize production more profitable in the next review of prices. I trust his assurance will encourage farmers to continue growing maize," he said.

Transport Ministry Responsibility

Cabinet tasked the Ministry of Transport with the responsibility of chairing a task force of all relevant parties to look into the problems that are currently being faced by farmers in moving their crop to marketing depots and collection depots. The Ministry of Lands, Agriculture and Rural Resettlement is part of that task force.

The task force started off by identifying through the machinery of Agritex, provincial Administrators' offices and farmer organisations areas where the problem is most acute and it is to these areas that vehicles

are deployed. The task force has now been decentralised to ensure that problems are dealt with immediately as they arise. One cannot categorically say that this new system will solve transport problems. The work of the task force, given the general shortage of transport, is to ensure that available transport is used most efficiently. In the medium and long term, a substantial injection of more trucks into the system and an improvement in the road conditions will provide a more lasting solution. In addition, farmers should also play their part by pulling their resources together to secure transport. □

Problems and Successes of Small Scale Commercial Farmers (SSCF)

The Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation had an interview with the President of the Zimbabwe National Farmers Union, Comrade Gary Magadzire on the role, successes and failures of Small Scale Commercial Farmers on the 17th September 1988. The following is the interview carried out:

QUESTION: You have 10 000 members under the ZNFU and you have been President for, I believe, more than nine years. The CFU, one of the three farming organisations usually has a system where after two to three years they change the presidency, is this not possible in the ZNFU? A president for nine years advising or leading farmers, seems to me a bit too long?

ANSWER: Yes, I have been President for, to be exact, 10 years. Ah! The ZNFU has a constitution, and the constitution clearly states that a President shall be president for five years. But, can stand for re-election after his term of office of five years. And if he does stand the election for the second time he must get two thirds majority. And, this is how it has happened to me.

QUESTION: Do you find that constitution useful for your members? Don't you think a change of leadership is more acceptable, more useful for promoting small-scale commercial farming.

ANSWER: Well, I don't know whether you imply that the longer you stay the more you become a deterrent to development.

QUESTION: It has been known to happen in quite a lot of organisations, yes.

ANSWER: Yes but I think you have to look at other progressive organisations which clearly show some advantage in that sphere.

If I may just point out to you that ZNFU started in 1925, and since 1925 there have only been four Presidents. So historically, we have inherited that stability, I believe.

QUESTION: Comrade Magadzire, one of the problems facing farmers is the lack of adequate transport facilities and poor roads,

how do you think the Government should tackle this problem?

ANSWER: Yes the problem of transport is currently the hit of the newspapers, the radio and everybody else, but perhaps one has to put this thing into perspective and realise that the type of transport network that we have in this country was designed in the main for the commercial agriculture up until independence. So, therefore, once the African sector which is the African agriculture took shape and they answered the call of the President of the State to produce more, there has been greater production of crop than would have been responded by the available transport and this is why we have this problem.

The second aspect of it is that the Afri-

can agriculture in its totality has got no straight statistics that could be used to determine what is going to come in the next season. And I know that the statistical office is trying very hard to come up with some formula that could be used. And, this causes some problems of no forward planning as to what would be required in terms of transport requirements.

I think let me expand by putting it this way, that before independence we were hardly 10 per cent on the cotton production. Today we are talking of between 50 and 55 per cent and that is 55 per cent of 320 000 tonnes of cotton and there is a lot of cotton to move. We also are now on 48 per cent on the maize production. We were hardly 5 per cent before Independence.



"There is a lot of cotton to move to the CMB" — Comrade Gary Magadzire

QUESTION: In fact, Comrade Magadzire those are very very good statistics, they read like a tourist brochure, its OK to point out statistics, but they have not been matched by the quality of life within the rural areas. She has mentioned the problem of transport. If we have produced so much, who is benefiting? If in the end the African farmers are actually benefiting, then that success story should have been matched by improved quality of life in the form of roads, transport systems, even in their own life. I am a peasant farmer, well, not a peasant farmer, I am a simple person and what I am saying to you now as a product of that environment I know exactly what is happening there because I am a peasant by both inclination and up-bringing and this is the truth I am telling you.

ANSWER: Yes, the development of infrastructure in rural areas has not matched maize production and I don't think you would have expected from an agronomic point of view that the production pattern should match with the infrastructural development, because it is not possible. But I think, what we should be looking at is to take a forward planning and say, "This is the trend", and our people are so responsive to this sort of thing. We should try very hard to make sure that we have the infrastructures to carry the crops to where they are supposed to go. Now, at the moment, we have a problem in that there is one ministry that should be doing the infrastructural development and that is Local Government. And they are doing their best but they have some limitations. They also have financial limitations and I believe that in time, and it is going to be a long time, and it will be disappointing that to some sectors they would have their infrastructures right.

QUESTION: Comrade Magadzire, my colleague, Mrs Chigwedere, was talking about matching the production pattern and rural infrastructural development, you seemed to have implied that the time has been too short, the production patterns have been such that one would not have been able to foresee that we would produce so much and yet this is precisely what your organisation should have been working at — 25 years working in production. I think you should have had enough economists or you should, by now, be aware of production patterns to an extent where you would say, "We estimate so much" if I might even propound government before harvest actually gives estimates. What do they base those estimates on and if they should use those estimates, why don't they develop the infrastructure in rural areas?

ANSWER: Yes, we do give an estimate, and an estimate is just an estimate, and the estimate is based precisely on sound hectarages that have been planted with crops and an assumption of the yield per hectare that is going to come out of that hectare.

QUESTION: It is therefore not just an estimate, Comrade Magadzire

ANSWER: Well, it is an estimate.

QUESTION: It is useful for planning. Future planning.

ANSWER: It is extremely useful for Planning. But you can give an estimate in January to say, "the yields this year, are likely to strike 15 000 kg per hectare on cotton, and in February, March, you don't get the rain and that yield can tumble to 600 kg. So, that is why I say it is an estimate. But even then, when you know in January what is likely to come, it is too late for Government machinery, really, to say they put infrastructural development. I think, Government machinery must for all time be on the rolling, and come up with infrastructures, every time in anticipation. This is how I would like to see it.

QUESTION: Who is benefiting? I don't think your members are really benefiting. Tell us the truth. Who is benefiting from this production success story? We are talking of a number of years.

ANSWER: Well, the farmer does benefit in that you can count. I heard the interviewer saying he comes from a communal area, and you will be aware that in areas where there is greater production of cash crops, there is greater development at the moment and the question of Government's de-centralisation policy has caught up in those areas more than those areas where production is lower. So its the farmer who is benefiting but, lets not forget that benefit is a relative question. We should see the life styles of the people since 1980. And, I can stand authentically to say there is change, without any shadow of doubt.

QUESTION: Our estimates particularly those from the Ministry of Agriculture have been fairly stable over the past nine years. They have only been wrong where we have had drought. Otherwise, where we have had good harvest they have been fairly correct. I cannot understand then how we could not have planned, accordingly.

You gave an answer but I am not satisfied with that answer.

ANSWER: Yes, I respect your dissatisfaction but I would like you to appreciate the fact that the Ministry of Agriculture's Statistics have not been static and they have not been stable.

QUESTION: But, certainly they have not been far off the mark Comrade Magadzire.

ANSWER: Well, we are going to have 320 000 tonnes of cotton and if you check on the statistics it is far higher than what was estimated. We expect about a million tonnes of maize. If you look on the statistics we were looking at about 400 000 tonnes. So, in so far as that part is concerned we cannot say they have been stable and we cannot say they could be a useful tool to build infrastructures on. I think I would like to reiterate what I said earlier, that infrastructural development is part of the agricultural and people's development and should be an on-going thing not waiting for production as such. I think this is where the Ministry concerned has been caught by the fact

that the response in terms of agricultural production has been far greater than what was expected, but, its not as though nothing has been done about it. We have had a number of transit depots and receiving depots that have been built out in rural areas which is alleviating some of the problems we are having at the moment. But, I agree that that is not enough when the people want to market their crops and they want the money in their pockets today.

QUESTION: Comrade Magadzire, there have been reports that some resettled farmers are not fully using the land allocated to them, what are you doing about it?

ANSWER: My union represents the small scale commercial farmers. We do not represent the resettlement farms. But, perhaps I could just put you to rest and tell you that we have taken a deliberate effort to co-ordinate and communicate with both resettled, communal and ourselves to see how best we can help each other, because this whole game is a collective effort. It is not individually connected.

QUESTION: How strong is the union? On the sense that the CFU, they have these commodity associations like grain producers, piggery associations, maize, cotton etc whereas in your own union, the members are somewhat weak because they don't have the bargaining power that these commercial farmers really have through their commodity associations, hence, the very little change in the quality of their life style, inspite of the high production yield?

ANSWER: Yes, we have started developing commodity associations from 1983 and we are quite happy with the progress that is taking place at the moment. Agreed, the CFU is stronger, it has got more qualified technocrats. They could afford it. They have the resources to employ those highly qualified people. I would tell you quite frankly that a number of well qualified people will leave and join CFU and that then makes it even more stronger. But we in our own way, with our meagre resources are doing everything within our power to employ University graduates, economists, administrators so that we can change the methodology of agriculture in African agriculture and we can see the trend is improving. Before we did it was elected members who, of necessity did not have any qualifications in agriculture or anything. It was just an election. And it made our position far weaker then. But now that we have economists, advisors, administrators, accountants and so forth, our position is getting stronger and stronger.

QUESTION: And, your support services to your members? I believe we have had complaints from some farmers in Mashonaland East Province. They are not happy about the support services you have given them.

ANSWER: I don't know what you mean by support services.

QUESTION: I am talking about the economists you have, the other people you have, are supposed to be advising you and the farmers or you get people who advise those people, the farmers.

ANSWER: I think it should be appreciated that our economists only complement government services. We are not setting up a totally different style of giving advice. We complement government services and together we do our best to give the advice possible.

Mashonaland East, I believe, those are the people whom I might say have had the monopoly of the services of our economists, in that they are now looking at the method of marketing vegetables from that area, because it is one of those areas we have earmarked as a horticultural area.

QUESTION: Are you represented on the Cotton Marketing Board or the Grain Marketing Board?

ANSWER: Yes, we are represented in all statutory boards which have something to do with agriculture.

QUESTION: And your executive members, how many are farmers or know about farming?

ANSWER: There is not one leader in our union who is not a farmer and, in full. The leadership is elected through production. You have to demonstrate in your own province that you are productive before you can be elected to a position of leading that province and it is only when you get to that provincial level through production that you get into council.

QUESTION: Comrade Magadzire, are small scale farmers breaking even when you take into consideration the high costs of inputs?

ANSWER: Except for the drought years which have affected even the best farmers, so far the commodity prize we have at the moment, at the level of production that the farmers are coming through, they are breaking even, yes.

QUESTION: You are Chairman of the joint Presidency, that is the joint presidency of three farming organisations. What is preventing the final merger?

ANSWER: There are a number of problems that come before us and we worked through

those with a more positive view to finding a solution. One of the major problems is trust, and trust you have to build bridges, communicate, get understanding and that once we have succeeded in getting some trust, we then formed what is now called the joint presidents' committee.

The function of the joint presidents' committee is to look on the totalling of agriculture from a basis of one platform as opposed to three organisations doing their own thing. I can tell you that the prices and negotiations of those prices is now jointly carried out by the three organisations and we go to the ministry with a joint paper as opposed to three papers being submitted to the minister.

QUESTION: Its amazing Comrade Magadzire that everybody is talking about unity whether it is political level or trade union level, its amazing that you people at agriculture you have not done that. Wouldn't you say, you yourself as the leader of the small scale farmers fear being swarmed by the communal farmers and the CFU President fears to be swarmed by both the small scale farmers and the communal farmers. Isn't that the real problem rather than a question of trust?

ANSWER: No, if the problem was one of swamping it would then mean that we have no clear vision of what agriculture we want in his country. I think it must be taken into account the fact that agriculture is agriculture, regardless of the size of your operation. And the problems of agriculture, as we know them today, if we talk about commodity availability, if we talk about inputs, if we talk about space, whether you are small or big, that problem prevails to all of us. The question of fear and swamping as you have said, is born out of lack of trust. But we, from our union point of view are very clear. We realize the importance and resources that are within the commercial farmers but equally, the commercial farmers realise that our resilience, and we have been able to stand the way we did, from 1925 to 1980, we must be having an input. And we can help each other by interacting and cross pol-

inating the ideas, and this is exactly what we have been doing until we arrived at this stage where we now have the joint presidents' committee, where our economists sit together and they look at the perspective of agriculture regardless of the levels.

QUESTION: Comrade Magadzire, is there a possibility of forming a federation or one union and the others coming in as sub-committees especially in view of the fact that you say you are now sitting together so often?

ANSWER: Federation has been muted and some feel that is the way we should go, but I think we should learn from the head of this state. People come together. A federation means status-quo and it means we shall only have to meet when necessity dictates, and I don't discount that as a possibility, but I personally would like to see a one farming organisation. That is my personal thinking.

QUESTION: I accept that you have made strides but I still feel one could have done more and would want to agree with my colleague that I think its much more personal interests that are blocking the final merger because I believe farmers want to get together, share ideas. Trust farm for example, quite a few farmers want to get together and work together; work together with government experts. But it seems you are denying them that stability.

ANSWER: Well when you say you are denying, you are suggesting (The leaders) no I don't think that is correct may I just put you into perspective? (Please). The farming community is one. But the question of one union has to be worked through. So there is nobody denying anybody. The resolutions that take us to negotiate for one union, comes from Congresses of the three organisations.

QUESTION: This is interesting you say the farmers are one and yet the leaders are working as three, three leaderships per group.

ANSWER: Farmers are one in that they want to resolve their problems from the context of a farmer. And the formation of one union is what has to be resolved. □

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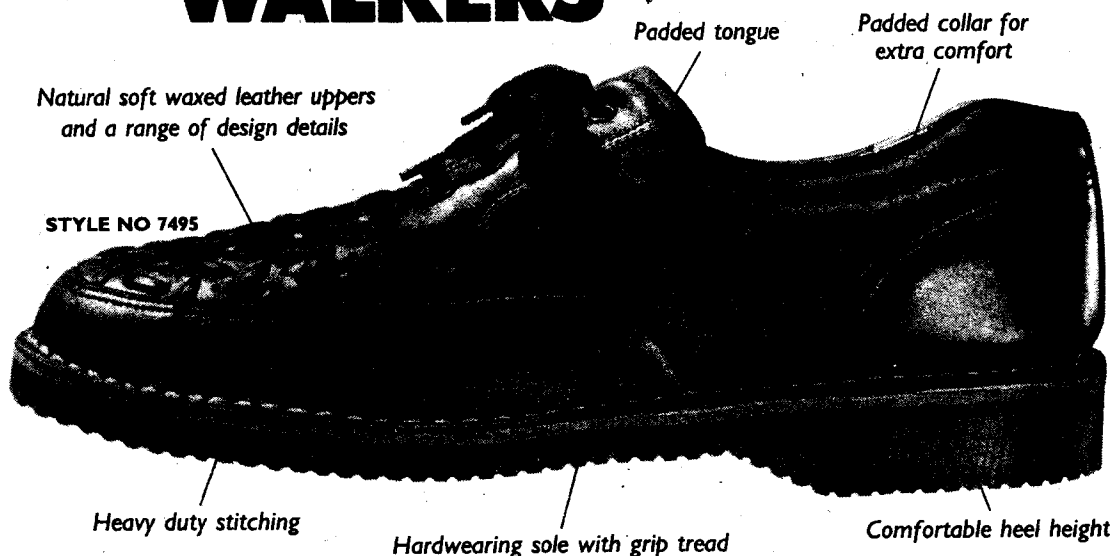
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National Farmers Association of Zimbabwe Reports on Communal Agricultural Output



Government encourages groundnuts production

The results of last season's harvest in Zimbabwe were very encouraging especially the contribution from the communal farmers. Apart from the fact that nearly 75 per cent of communal lands lie in natural regions IV and V which are ill-suited to dryland cropping and farmers have to rely solely on rain fed crops, the harvest however, has been exceptionally good especially during the last season as these figures indicate:

Crop		Tonnage (Thousand)
Maize	86/87	634
Estimated	87/88	733
Groundnuts	86/87	10
Estimated	87/88	11
Cotton	86/87	134
Estimated	87/88	160
Sunflower	86/87	17,5
Estimated	87/88	43
Rapoko	86/87	31
Estimated	87/88	28,4

In assessing the performance of the communal sector, data is taken for the above mentioned major crops of maize, cotton, oil-seeds and small grains. It is important here to note that production data is not readily available and marketed output has been used to reflect this performance. Though this does

not measure the overall production which includes retentions for some crops, its behaviour over a period of time reflect what is happening to overall total production.

The most popular crops produced by communal farmers in Zimbabwe as mentioned before is maize, which is the staple food and cash crops like cotton and sunflower. Although groundnuts are among the highest paying cash crops, it is evident by the total production figures that farmers tend to shy away from producing this crop because it is labour intensive. The other contributing factor to the low production of groundnuts is the scarcity of the seed.

Producer Prices and Transport

It is indeed true that farmers voiced dissatisfaction over the price of maize. As an association for communal farmers we feel it is important to mention that our total production figures for maize this season illustrate that our farmers are ever increasing their hectareage under maize. This they have continued to do despite the erosion of the producer prices by the expensive input costs. The NFAZ will continue negotiating, on behalf of its members, for a more competitive producer price for maize because we realise its importance to the well-being of Zimbabwe as a nation.

Regarding the transport issue, the NFAZ makes arrangements of marketing farmers produce very early during the year. To this effect, the Head Office distributes forms

which carry all the relevant contractual details which will bind the transporter and the farmer together. The resultant obligation will have to be fulfilled by all parties.

The current transport crisis was inevitable due to the bumper harvest but what has tended to aggravate the whole situation is the fact that quite a very large number of communal farmers are not registered with any union or association. This then causes problems because marketing of their produce is not properly coordinated. We do welcome the arrangement by Government to involve the Ministry of Transport in the process of trying to transport farmers' produce before the rains.

In order to further increase production by communal farmers there is need to make available more information on various research carried out at the research stations in Zimbabwe so that our farmers can grow the right crop suitable to the agro-ecological region they reside in.

They must put to optimum use the advice given to them by the Agritex officers at their disposal. In other words communal farmers should adopt the modern scientific methods of farming that will help them increase their yields per hectare. Farming inputs must be made available to the farmers well before the rains and finally transport charges have to be brought down to reasonable levels that will leave the farmer with a reasonable profit margin. □

Agriculture to remain backbone of Country's Economy

Adapted from the "Manica Post" 16/09/88



Peasant deliveries to the GMB increase

Agriculture, the backbone of Zimbabwe's economy, will remain the dominant sector in the country, according to the first Five-Year National Development Plan.

This is borne by the fact that more than 70 per cent of the population lives in rural areas and their main source of livelihood is farming, says the first volume of the 1986/90 plan.

In addition, the growth of the economy is largely conditioned by the performance of the agricultural sector, which, in addition to providing more than 90 per cent of the food requirements of the Zimbabwean society accounts for 11 per cent of total merchandise exports.

Due to the agricultural sector's dominance in the economy, good performance of the sector in the 1984/85 season has led to significant economic recovery which in return has made it possible for Zimbabwe weather the effects of the world economic recession and the three-year drought.

Between 1979/80 and 1984/85, the volume of agricultural production increased at an average annual rate of 4,5 per cent, a rate well above the population growth.

Of great significance, says the report, is the rapid transformation of rural areas that has been taking place since Independence as a result of deliberate orchestrated Government Policy.

Peasant farmers have been growing in importance in the production of key crops such as maize and cotton which had been the domain of large-scale commercial farmers prior to Independence.

Before Independence the peasant sub-sectors delivery of maize to the Grain Marketing Board never exceeded 80 000 tonnes per year.

In 1985, however, peasant delivery to the GMB accounted for about 45 per cent of total maize delivery to the GMB. Delivery from communal and resettlement areas for 1985/86 is estimated at 1,7 million tonnes or 57 per cent of total delivery.

In the 1984/85 period, small-scale commercial farmers, communal farmers and ARDA produced 150 000 tonnes of cotton, or 47 per cent of total output.

During the Plan period, agricultural output is expected to grow at five per cent annually. This is well above the average rate of projected population growth of 2,76 per cent. This level of output will enable the country to increase its export of agricultural products by 6 and 7 per cent annually and also to increase the processing of agricultural raw materials.

It is projected that over the Plan period, employment in the sector will increase at an average annual rate of 2,2 per cent. This will occur mainly in sub-sectors using labour in-

tensive production techniques such as horticulture.

Output in commercial, small-scale and communal sub-sectors will grow at different rates. In communal and resettlement areas, says the Report, output is projected to grow at an average rate of 7 to 8 per cent per year over the Plan period while output in small and large-scale commercial areas is expected to grow at 5 to 6 per cent and 3 to 4 per cent respectively on the basis of current trend.

Report

The report says that maize output is expected to increase and stabilise at 3,5 million tonnes by 1990 and wheat output is expected to reach 275 000 tonnes in the same year.

Of the total maize output of 3,5 million tonnes, about 2,4 million tonnes will be produced by communal and resettled farmers, with the remainder produced by commercial farmers.

While productivity in communal and resettlement areas will have risen by the end of the Plan period (1,75 tonnes per hectare), it will still be far below that of commercial farms (4,75 tonnes per hectare)

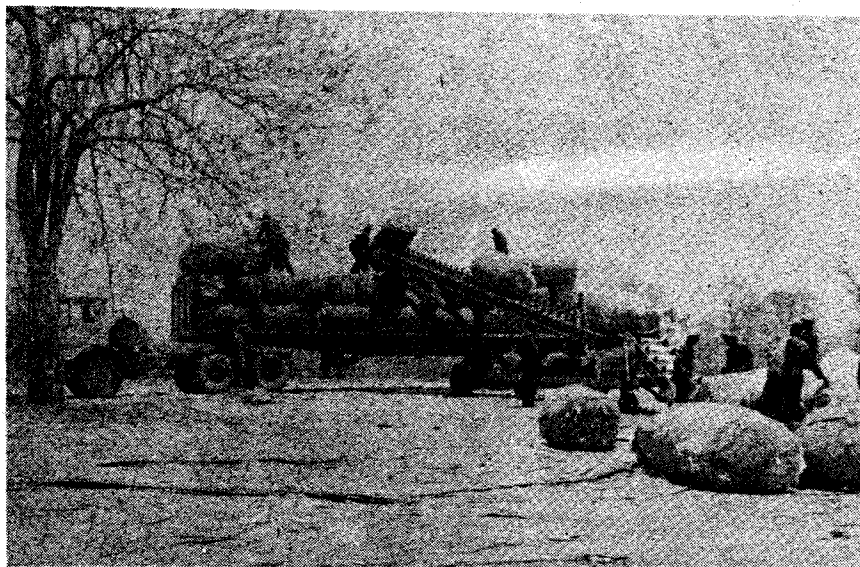
Due to the drought which caused water shortages for irrigation, wheat production declined to 99 000 tonnes in 1984. In 1985, because of good rainfall, producer price and the re-introduction of the irrigation fund, wheat production reached a level of 215 000 tonnes of which about 200 000 tonnes came from the large-scale commercial sector and the remaining 15 000 tonnes from the small-scale sector.

It is estimated that to attain self-sufficiency, the area under wheat cultivation should be increased from 42 000 hectares by 1990, while the average yield is assumed to remain at about 5 tonnes per hectare says the report.

The planned level of wheat production will enable the importation of wheat which in the two years amounted to over 100 000 tonnes.

During the Plan period, the Government will also take measures to promote irrigated cultivation in communal areas. These will change the regulations that now govern the national irrigation fund to make funds more readily available to peasant farmers.

Cotton production is expected to increase to about 460 000 tonnes by 1990 on an enlarged area of about 275 000 hectares. While the commercial sector is expected to maintain its present level of production and



Zimbabwe — breadbasket of Africa

area planted of 170 000 and 75 000 hectares respectively, it is projected that communal farmers, small-scale commercial farmers and ARDA will increase output to about 230 000 tonnes.

Indications are that an increased quantity of cotton lint will be used locally in the textile industry. Cotton lint will remain an important export item, accounting for seven percent of the total output of cotton.

Zimbabwe's main export markets are in Europe where new spinning techniques are developing finer, stronger and longer staples than was previously produced.

Consequently, the Cotton Marketing Board and the research institutes will have to be engaged in developments which should enable Zimbabwean farmers to produce the right type of cotton to meet the needs of customers in the overseas spinning mills.

Zimbabwe's "golden leaf", tobacco, the country's number one earner of foreign currency, has a good potential for further expansion. Export of tobacco accounts for one fifth of the country's merchandise exports and generates 50 percent of Zimbabwean agricultural exports.

Plans to Boost the Country's Economy

The good prospects for further expansion of Zimbabwe's tobacco production are based on promising forecasts of world market in which the country stands firmly as the third largest exporter with a 15,4 percent share following the United States, (22,3 percent) and Brazil (21,8 percent).

In addition, the Zimbabwean tobacco production is well-organised and is supported by advanced indigenous technology and research.

According to the Plan, the Government will encourage and support new small-scale tobacco growers in communal and resettlement areas. The acute shortage of extension services for tobacco growers will be remedied during the 1986-90 period.

Tea and coffee are increasingly becoming important crops in the agricultural sector. In 1984, combined export was \$55 million or 3,5 per cent of the total exports.

The report further says that there is potential for more development of these two crops using local technology and research which makes possible high productivity and competitiveness on the world market.

Both industries are labour-intensive, providing employment for nearly 20 000.

The sugar industry which accounts for 3,9 percent of the total exports will continue to face problems on the world market. The Government will continue studies for an expansion of the sugar-based ethanol production which can be used both as fuel and also as a basic chemical.

Two other crops for which there is room for further expansion, says the report are soya beans and sunflower. Soya beans are produced mainly by large-scale commercial farmers while sunflower is grown mainly in communal areas where it has a promising future.

The latter crop is resistant to drought and is important as a cash crop. To meet the rapidly growing demand for vegetable oil and the raw material requirements of the stockfeed industry, the Government will encourage and support production of these two crops.

Zimbabwe has potential for expansion on many others agricultural produce such as sorghum, mhunga and rapoko which are drought-resistant.

Horticultural crops account for about nine percent of agricultural output. According to the Plan, these include mostly fruits and vegetables. During the 1986-90 period, horticulture will be promoted. The strategy is intended both to widen employment opportunities throughout the year and to increase exports.

Horticultural production will need back

up services such as "green houses" colling rooms, quarantine and supply of plant materials. The development of horticulture will lead to expansion of packaging, canning and other small-scale industries which will promote industrial decentralisation and expand the material production industries of economy.

Agriculture — The Base of Economy

Crops such as Kiwis avocados, mangoes, paw paws, granadillas, mecadanium nuts, plums and almonds have great export potential. Mulberry cultivation provides good scope for expansion, says the report.

According to the 1982-83 census, the national cattle herd is about 5,6 million.

Small-holder farmers, mainly in communal areas own about 61 percent of the cattle herd while large scale commercial farmers own 39 percent. The size of the small holder herd has fluctuated rather dramatically in the past.

The report says that it grew from an estimated 1,8 million in 1965 to 3,6 million in 1977 but declined firstly during the war as a result of tick-borne diseases and again during the ensuing droughts of 1982 and 1983 which resulted in the death of many herds of livestock.

In view of the fact that most of the small animals are owned by peasant farmers, promotions and expansion of this sub-sector could form an important part of the strategy for rural development.

Zimbabwe produces about 215 000 tonnes of meat, mostly beef and 370 million litres of milk with a combined value of about \$420 million.

This is almost half of the total agricultural income, says the report. Part of the meat production is exported and if Zimbabwe succeeds in exporting the projected 8 100 tonnes of meat (100 million) to the EEC, this would help in establishing the long-term export market and contribute significantly to the country's balance of payments.

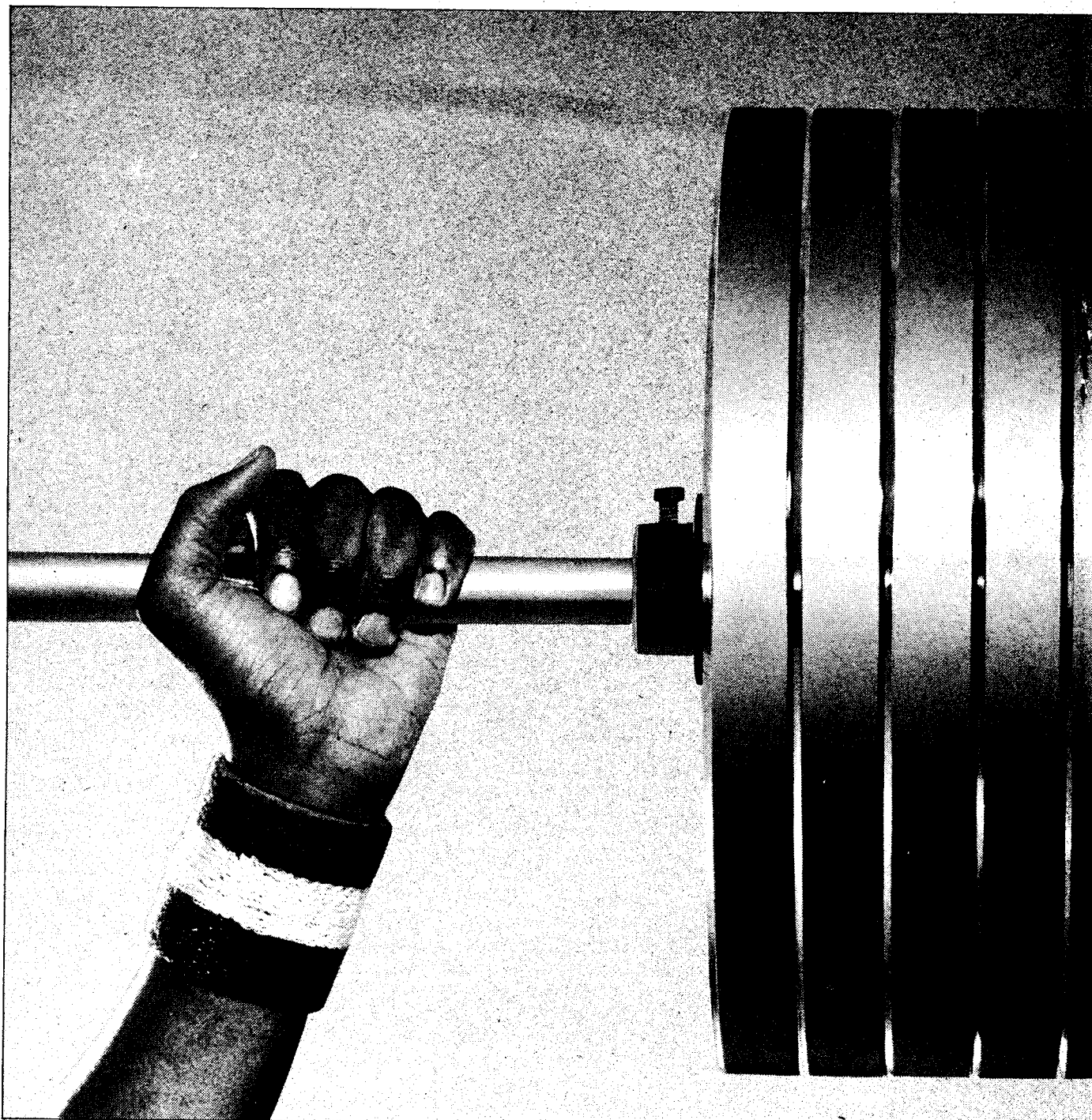
Dairy production, which is dominated by the commercial sub-sector, has made significant progress. Milk deliveries to the Dairy Marketing Board grew from 98 million to 198 million litres per year between 1968 and 1985.

Production trends, says the report, indicate that growth has been adequate to cater for the population.

Production of oven-ready broilers in the poultry sub-sector declined by 924 000 or 13 percent in 1984 compared with 1983. This was the first decline in more than 10 years and was a reflection of accumulated problems connected with rising costs and price control.

A comprehensive national programme that focuses on the problems of high population growth in communal areas will be implemented during the Plan period.

Such a programme will include stock control, better land management and destocking where necessary, says the report. □



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If the Hungry could eat Words . . .

By Dennis T. Rwafa

Adapted from *Masvingo Provincial Star* 16/09/88

Eight years ago, OAU Heads of States and Government adopted the Lagos Plan of Action. They stated categorically, that member states should, as a matter of urgency, take steps to adopt a coherent national food security programme.

It was emphasised that national policies must be translated into concrete action such as early construction of storage facilities, creation of grain reserves, improve grain stock arrangements, better forecasting and early warnings systems.

There were also very ambitious recommendations like setting up an African Food Relief Support with a view of supporting ailing member states.

That was in 1980 and as the eight years dragged on slowly, it is intriguing to note that hardly any of those intelligent recommendations and suggestions were implemented.

Why? Is it because there is too much tongue-wagging at the expense of real work, hard work and soiling hands? A BBC television commentary in 1985 ran like this: "If the hungry could eat words, Africa could recover".

Another expert, former Secretary General of the OAU Mr. Edem Kodjo, told a group of African leaders in 1978: "Africa is dying. If things continue as they are, only eight or nine of the present countries will survive the next few years. All other things being equal, absolute poverty, instead of decline is likely to gain ground. It is clear that the economy of our continent is lying in ruins. Our continent is lying on the brink of disaster".

Alarmist

On balance, the former OAU executive sounded like an alarmist given that we have survived to this day, but his warning was essentially correct given whole populations nearly decimated or marginalised by drought and famine in the Sahel region.

The General Secretariat of the OAU in their report to the third Africa Food and Nutrition Congress held in Harare (recently) aptly laments the deteriorating food situation in Africa. The number of malnourished people in Africa has remained disturbingly high, around 70 million, meaning that out of every seven people in Africa, one of them is close to starvation.

It is therefore instructive to note that Afri-

can drought and famines which have, time and again, hit news headlines the world over, are not simply caused by lack of rainfall, neither are they sudden natural disasters. They are the end results of a long deterioration in the ability of Africans to feed themselves, a decline caused by mistakes and mismanagement from within and outside the continent.

From outside, Africa has been invaded by a swarm of chancers and opportunistic pundits ready to fleece Africa, by providing bogus advisory services. A spokesman for the United Nations Office for emergency operations in Africa summed it up: "Africa's biggest problem is too many people going round the continent with solutions to problems they don't understand. Many of the solutions are halfbacked. Some Africans also don't understand African problems".

The World Bank Senior Vice President, Ernest Stern, echoed the same sentiments in the book "Africa in Crisis": "We have failed in Africa, along with everybody else. We have not fully understood the problems. We have not identified the priorities nor designed the projects to fit".

Overdrawn

Lack of effective supportive veld management strategies to combat famine further exacerbate the problems. According to veteran journalists and author Lloyd Timberlake in his book 'Africa in Crisis': "Africa has taken too much from its land. It has 'overdrawn' its environmental accounts and the rest for much of Africa is environmental bankruptcy".

"As the soil erodes, so does Africa's living standards. Just as the rural peasant exists daily on a hand-to-mouth basis, so does his Government plagued by low commodity prices, high interest rates and debts which are huge in proportion to foreign exchange earnings", wrote Timberlake.

During the third African Food and Nutrition Congress in Harare, distinguished resource persons unanimously showered praise to Zimbabwe for its agricultural policies.

The secret of Zimbabwe's success as net food producer in Africa and a nation enjoy-

ing surpluses is mainly because the Government actively supports the peasant farmer by making available credit facilities and a network of extension services and research facilities.

Former Agricultural Minister, Mr. Dennis Norman, maintained: "No country's agricultural industry anywhere in the world can operate unless one has back-up services and structures. You've got to have a fairly organised research system, extension services and financial arrangements. This is where we have the advantage over most third-world countries, particularly the rest of Africa because our system works".

President Mugabe, who officially opened the conference, felt that political commitment and support by governments at the highest level was required to facilitate the development of concrete plans and strategies to improve food and nutrition in Africa.

Dire Straights

"There is certainly no dearth of ideas on food and nutrition security. However, what may be lacking is the translation of many declarations into implementable plans appropriate to our countries' needs and circumstances", said President Mugabe.

While Zimbabwe enjoys food self-sufficiency, other countries are in dire straights, thus making it imperative for all African countries to implement, without delay, the African Priority Programme for Economic Recovery (1986-90) which was adopted at the 21st extra-ordinary session of Heads of States and Government of OAU the implementation of which the focus of the United Nations General Assembly was on the Critical Economic Situation in Africa, held in New York in 1986.

Unless and until governments adopt the political will advocated by President Mugabe, and until there is a "change of heart" by donor agencies and global financial institutions like the arrogant Paris Club, the malnutrition death-march proceeds unabated.

Hear the sad analysis of one relief worker in the Sahel region: "Starve the city dwellers and they riot; Starve the peasants and they die. If you were a politician which would you choose". □

Gwebi College's Role in Zimbabwean Agriculture

By Final year students M. Makombe, J. Mabhena and J. Hofisi

Gwebi College staff and students warmly congratulate His Excellency the President R.G. Mugabe for winning the Africa Prize for leadership for the Sustainable End of Hunger. The whole farming community, communal, small scale, co-operative and commercial deserve to be thanked, not forgetting the Agro-Industries and various Research Services who give the necessary technical backing without which the Agricultural industry would collapse.

It is needless to mention that the success achieved so far is not the end of the road. Rather, this calls for all concerned, from the policy maker to the general hand in the field, to forge ahead co-operatively increasing productivity to meet not only the food requirements of our growing population, but also to be able to maintain our food security position in the SADCC region. More employment opportunities will be created as well.

Still on employment, it is essential to realize that skilled and qualified personnel is a vital component for the survival of any industry, whether manufacturing, mining and indeed agriculture. Gwebi is one of the two colleges that offer the two-year National Diploma course in Agriculture. Formerly a government farm, Gwebi was established into a training centre in 1950. Having realised the importance of a formal training, the farmers and government pulled their resources together and established the college. Until 1980, the college catered for male whites only. Thanks to the new government, 1980 marked a new era on equality. Eight black students were enrolled.

With a two year full time study programme fifty percent practical and fifty percent theory, added to a ten month pre-college practice, a Gwebi graduate is able to virtually take over a large scale commercial enterprise and run it. The current training syllabus is divided into four major disciplines; Farm management, Animal Husbandry, Field Husbandry and Agricultural Engineering. Seminars, tours and visits by students to various farms and Agricultural institutes also help widen students' understanding. External lecturers frequent the college, some organisations donate and sponsor students by means of the awards presented on the ceremonial days, the Diploma Day. It is mainly through the farm management department that the college commu-

nicates with the outside world. Each student in the final year is required to prepare and present in front of seasoned agriculturalists, a Land Use Planning Project. Inevitably every student is made to make an in depth study of a farm situation. This involves asking for information from farmers, the Agritex personnel and various agricultural organisations. The information mainly pertains to how a student can go about gathering information to come up with suggestions and proposals for increased productivity and soil and water conservation recommendations. Some of the proposals made by the students to the farmers concerned are viable. Thus a team spirit between experienced farmers and would-be farm managers increase and so does production.

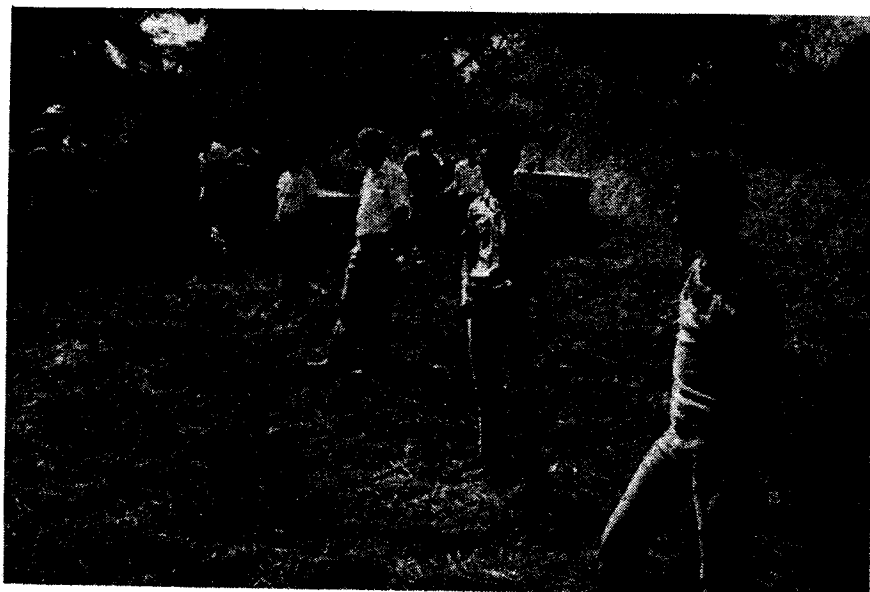
Practicals

While some students go back to farms on holidays, a number of them are attached to companies that are involved in agriculture. These include Zimbabwe Leaf Tobacco Company, Farmec, Tinto Industry, the Grain Marketing Board, the Agricultural Engineering Institute, the Agricultural and Rural Development Authority only to mention a few. It is through this vital co-operation between the college and these organisations that students are exposed to other

major focal points like the Tobacco Sales Floor, the largest in the world, and the agricultural show. At such places students are not only able to discuss points of interest with farmers who are already in the field but and even made to appreciate the role agriculture is playing in foreign currency generation and employment creation thus the need for hardwork on their part as farmers to uplift the economy of the country.

To the successful graduates of Gwebi doors are open for job opportunities as Farm Assistant managers, Research technicians, Sales representatives, Project co-ordinators, Agritex officers are also becoming teachers. As we write, our aim is to become farmers. However, we still need to further our studies through the University and the Tobacco Training Institute but financial hiccups are a stumbling block and we will be glad to talk to anybody or organisation willing to help us financially in order for us to achieve our goals.

It goes without saying that Gwebi has not only groomed new agriculturalists but has also made links between the would-be farmers and the practising farmers for closer co-operation and exchange of ideas. Hopefully the high standards set by those who made and still make what Gwebi is today will be maintained by the future generations. □



Gwebi staff and students planting trees to establish the Samora Machel plantation on the day the late President was buried

Gwebi Agricultural College

By B. Maphosa (Principal)

Gwebi is one of the only two agricultural colleges in Zimbabwe which offer the National Diploma in Agriculture. This is a general course which includes Crop Husbandry, Animal Husbandry, Agricultural Engineering and Farm Management.

Brief History

Although Gwebi Agricultural College was started as early as 1950, it is not known to many blacks because it was a college for whites only right up to National Independence in 1980. The first eight black students were enrolled in September 1980. Today, eight years after independence and as would be expected, the college's enrolment is predominately made up of black students but the other races are still very welcome and represented.

Enrolments

Up to now the college had places for a total of only 80 students which means that we enrolled 40 students per year for the two-year diploma course. These were all males. However readers will be pleased to know that as from September 1989, our enrolment will increase to 60 students per year which will give us a total of 120 students. This number will now include female students. This expansion as well as the introduction of women has been made possible by a USAID funded expansion of the hostel and teaching facilities which are currently underway.

Entrance Qualifications

We require a minimum of 5 'O' level credit passes which must include Science (both biological and physical), Mathematics and English. With the very large numbers of qualified candidates every year, the competition even from candidates with 'A' level has become very stiff. As a result we tend to enrol candidates with better subject grades such as A and B. In addition, and after selection, each candidate has to spend one year on an approved farm before he/she enters college.

The Course Content

There are four major subject areas namely:-

1. **Field Husbandry** which includes soil science, botany and the husbandry of various crops such as maize, soya beans, tobacco, cotton, groundnuts, sorghum, field beans, fruit and vegetables.
2. **Animal Husbandry** includes Zoology, Anatomy and Physiology, beef and dairy cattle, pigs, sheep, goats, rabbits and poultry.



Students dehorning a calf during an animal husbandry practical

3. **Agricultural Engineering** includes basic physics, tractor power, farm machinery, surveying, irrigation and building.
4. **Farm Management** covers Farm records, Accounts, Marketing, soil conservation and Land Use Planning.

The Course mixes both theory and practice in equal proportions. Our aim is to produce a man or woman who understands why and how things happen and who is able to do various farm practical skills with his/her own hands.

Opportunities for Employment

The national Diploma in Agriculture course is fairly broad and all encompassing in order to cater for a wide spectrum of job opportunities. It must be emphasised however, that given the present economic climate, jobs are not guaranteed. Examples of possible work areas are given below:-

1. **Extension Service**
Agritex is a major employer of diploma holders who work in the provinces and districts to advise farmers on correct farming practices.

2. Research

The Department of Research and Specialist Services employs our diplomats as research technicians.

3. Agri-business representatives

These work for companies which produce agricultural inputs such as fertilizers, crop chemicals, veterinary medicines and farm machinery.

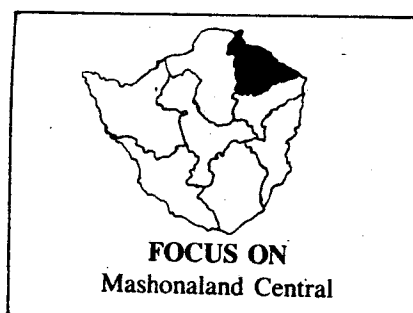
4. Commercial farming

Many diploma holders work on the farms as assistant managers, managers and later on as owners of farms.

5. Project Officer

These are employees of a number of organisations involved in rural development projects in the provinces and districts.

Although Gwebi Agricultural College catered for a small section of the white community for over 30 years up to 1980, today the college has diversified both its curriculum and clientele to include the majority of people and farming systems in Zimbabwe. We recognise the importance of both small-scale farming as well as large scale farming to produce a surplus to feed our expanding urban populations, and to earn the country valuable foreign currency. □



AFC In Bindura — Prospects and Problems

The Agricultural Finance Corporation (AFC) is making tremendous efforts to alleviate the problems of the communal and resettlement farmers in Mashonaland Central Province by giving loans which can be repaid after selling their produce to the Grain Marketing Board and Cotton Marketing Board.

Recently *Zimbabwe News* had an interview with Comrade Joseph Ngwenya, the Provincial Manager of the Agriculture Finance Corporation in Bindura on the successes and problems they are facing.

QUESTION: *What is the role of the Agricultural Finance Corporation in the Province?*

ANSWER: Our role as a parastatal under the Ministry of Lands, Agriculture and Rural Resettlement is to assist agricultural production by making loans available for a wide range of activities. We do so by advancing loans to all the farming sectors. The division which deals with loans for communal farmers is known as the Small Farm Credit Scheme (SFCS). The scheme has trained staff to provide small scale farmers with services suited to their special needs.

QUESTION: *What type of loans do you give to the communal and commercial farmers?*

ANSWER: The AFC will consider applications from farmers registered as producers with either the Grain Marketing Board, the Cotton Marketing Board or with a tobacco auction floor. Because there is no security needed for small farm operations, AFC requires applicants to have good farming experience, necessary implements and should occupy a piece of land capable of producing crops.

Many communal farmers can meet these requirements and are therefore, able to apply for either short-term or long-term loans.

Short-term loans are mostly for crop production expenses, and cover the cost of seed, fertilisers, crop chemicals, crop spraying equipment, crop packaging and so forth.

Such loans must be repaid by December 31 each year and bear interest which varies from time to time. Borrowers must provide the AFC with a first priority stop order against their crop proceeds. Other methods of repayment may be negotiated under special circumstances.

Medium-term loans are available for the



Tobacco — a specialised crop requiring good management

purchase of farm machinery and equipment, fencing materials and to improve water supplies. These loans are paid yearly by instalments over a two-to-five year period and bear interest applicable from time to time. Loan repayments are usually made by stop order.

We also have long-term loans for the purchase of land and for its development.

On behalf of the Government, we administer the National Farm Irrigation Fund (NFIF). This is for the development of irrigation infrastructure.

Our loans attract 13 percent interest but the National Farm Irrigation Fund charges interest of 8.75 percent.

QUESTION: *Do you have loans to give peasants who want to grow tobacco?*

ANSWER: Yes. Tobacco is a specialised crop which requires good management and we therefore urge the peasant farmers to liaise closely with Agritex officials.

QUESTION: *There is this talk that some communal farmers are no longer selling their crops direct to the Grain Marketing Board or Cotton Marketing Board for fear of repaying their loans. Is this sort of attitude rampant in the Province?*

ANSWER: It is a worrying problem that farmers are having to side-market in order to avoid repaying loans. We think this threatens the viability of the Corporation. Should this trend continue unabated, the special scheme under which we loan to the peasants is bound to collapse and the results would be that they will be back to the situation where their production will be insignificant. This has political, social and economic implications in that there will be no farm income to communal lands and resettlement areas. This will force people to flock into the towns and cities in search of work.

We can, as an institution, only persuade farmers to pay their dues as there is no tangible or collateral security. At this moment,

we are considering suing some defaulters. The long-term solution lies in a motivated and responsible peasantry who appreciate the consequences of honouring their due. This could be achieved, may be, by a combined effort of Government organs involved in rural development: councillors, members of parliament and community leaders — condemning the practice of side-marketing.

The corporation encourages small-scale farmers who need loans to form themselves into groups of between 20–30 members. Each group should select a committee and choose a name to identify itself. The committee will have a special responsibility of directing the activities of the loan group and if necessary, make decisions on its behalf. The group is expected to attend meetings where members will submit their loan applications. Communal farmers who do not join a group may find difficulties in having an application for loans accepted.

The committee is expected to ensure that all group members use their loans correctly and to report to the AFC staff on the level of crop production achieved by each group. Group members will market their produce individually and the committee should ensure that everyone within the group markets correctly in order to pay loan accounts.

It is planned that as the groups become better organised, the committee will eventually be able to submit one application to

the AFC for the whole group. The committees will then be responsible for distributing the loan to all group members, keeping a record of what each member owes and be responsible for ensuring that members combine their marketing activities to ensure that the group loan is paid in full.

QUESTION: *Besides the problem outlined above, what other problems do you face in executing your work?*

ANSWER: Farming is becoming more and more of a serious business where the investor must calculate the viability of his programmes prior to embarking on them. We have a number of farmers who are not making profits. Some of them do not consult Agritex officials for technical advice and go blindly into the business.

QUESTION: *Do you think the objectives of the parastatal (AFC) are being achieved in the Province?*

ANSWER: Certainly, we are succeeding. Before independence the communal land farmers and small-scale farmers used to produce very little. Their production was insignificant. After the introduction of the credit facilities, the peasantry is producing 50 per cent of the marketed grains and cotton. The commercial farming sector continues to diversify its agricultural production with our active assistance.

QUESTION: *Do you have officers who work directly with the people or are you all based in Bindura?*

ANSWER: Bindura is the Provincial Headquarters. We have two branches in Bindura which in turn control three other offices in Mvurwi, Guruve and Mt. Darwin. The AFC employs credit assistants who live and work in communal areas together with the farmers. Credit officers and their assistants have a special responsibility of advising farmers on how to get loans.

QUESTION: *It is also known that communal farmers are not interested in taking the National Farm Irrigation Fund. Can you comment on this?*

ANSWER: The irrigation scheme fund has not been very popular with the communal farmers not because they don't like it but because of the conditions attached to it. The AFC only provides pipes used to irrigate the land. Another Government Department or donor agency has to provide pipes from the Dam to the irrigated land. This sort of thing has caused a lot of confusion among the communal farmers resulting in the irrigation loan scheme being overlooked.

QUESTION: *You have recently moved into this new office block. How do you find working in such a modern building?*

ANSWER: This is really a beautiful building. We are very grateful for the new building. We came here on September 1, 1988 and started full operations on September 12, 1988. We are now within easy reach of our farmers particularly the peasants. We hope this will improve communication. □



FOCUS ON
Mashonaland Central

Agricultural Production in Bindura District

In an interview with *Zimbabwe News*, the District Administrator for Bindura, Comrade D.C. Munyoro, said that his district was agriculturally expanding well despite a few problems which, with the concerted efforts of the Povo, would be ironed out soon.

The call by Government to decrease maize production in favour of oil seeds was received with mixed feelings in the district. Since maize is the staple crop in this country, there is still greater emphasis on growing it. However, there are indications that the message to increase oil seed production is getting on to the people as shown by the increased production of groundnuts and sunflowers.

There is a bumper harvest in the district this season. In all the places that the crew of *Zimbabwe News* visited, the communal farmers were busy ferrying their crops to the Grain Marketing Board and the Cotton



Cash shortage inhibits the purchase of grain bags

Marketing Board. Crops have done well particularly maize, cotton and sunflowers.

Although Bindura District is not a tobacco growing region, a few communal farmers have started to grow both burley and virginia tobacco. It is encouraging to note that few peasants who ventured in this lucrative tobacco business have reported high yields. From the look of the things, it is hoped that many peasant farmers will start growing tobacco soon.

Problems of grain bags

Comrade Munyoro explained that many peasant farmers have been unable to get grain bags from the Grain Marketing Board because officials of that parastatal are demanding hard cash. This has been caused by certain farmers who have not paid for the grain bags given on credit.

To solve the problem, the National Farmers' Association of Zimbabwe (NFAZ) has resorted to giving grain bags to groups of farmers who in turn choose a chairman to represent them. The reason for using groups is mostly to ensure accountability. The Chairman is accountable to the Grain Marketing Board. He ensures that every member within the group sells products through the Grain Marketing Board or Cotton Marketing Board.

Another alternative is to order grain bags through the Co-op Union which then distribute them to members. The majority of the peasants are ignorant about the services offered by the co-op unions.

On the problem of transport, the district administrator said that they were trying their best to ease the shortage of transport in the District. "We have made available to the farmers all the Government vehicles that are within our reach. Even then, we are not coping up. At this stage it is difficult to tell whether by the end of the season every crop would have gone to the Grain Marketing Board or Cotton Marketing Board" he said.

He added that they had instructed the collection points and the Grain Marketing Board to operate over the weekend in an effort to beat the oncoming early October rains.

It was also disclosed that in discussion with officials from the Agricultural Finance Corporation (AFC) it surfaced that most of the peasants were not repaying their loans. The long-term solution to this problem is for the AFC officials to liaise closely with Agri-tex officials who know better the agricultural problems faced by the people in the district. Developmental structure such as the VIDCOs and WARDCOs should play a

major role in educating the people on the importance of repaying the loans.

While the \$195 per tonne of maize was well come by the povo, the general feeling among the farmers was that it should have been raised to match the increases in inputs.

Other problems

There are a number of problems being currently faced by the farmers in the district. One of the difficulties is the delay still being experienced in receiving cheques from the Grain Marketing Board and Cotton Marketing Board. Secondly, there is the problem of tillage where farmers would prefer to use tractors. Although the Ministry of Local Government, Rural and Urban Development provided tractors; there is a lot of breakdowns resulting in the majority of the tractors being grounded.

Both the communal and commercial farmers have not heeded the Government's call for closer co-operation between themselves. However, one or two commercial farmers have gone a long way to establish bilateral relationships with neighbouring communal farmers. In one incident, a commercial farmer donated a bull to a village for the purpose of cross-breeding. □



FOCUS ON
Mashonaland Central

Chipadze — A Model of a Successful Creche



Children being exposed to pre-school enriching experiences

after 100 young children but has at the moment only 80.

The children at the Centre, who range from three to six-year-olds, are being exposed to enriching and rewarding experiences which form quite an excellent foundation for formal school. Pre-school education forms the foundation of the physical and mental development of a child and such developmental activities have to be well-organised and co-ordinated.

Comrade Robert Kambewu, the suburb manager for Chipadze High-density suburb explained that the idea of having a creche was as the result of the Government's call to improve the lives of children — the leaders of tomorrow.

"In an effort to keep hundreds of young children off the streets and introduce them to what is almost a right to their counterparts in the low-density suburbs, we had to embark on this ambitious programme. The programme is now beginning to pay dividends", he said.

Staff

The play centre has a staff of six. Three of the staff are teachers, two cooks and one

At a glance it is the perfect pre-school play centre for the little angels. Built over a 1,6 hectares stretch of land, Chipadze

Play centre in Bindura is a spacious and airy building furnished to match any modern pre-school in Zimbabwe. It is big enough to look

groundsman. The majority of the staff has been trained in running pre-schools. Comrade A. Mambinge, who is the welfare officer of Chipadze High-density suburb said that Comrade Dorothy Chitumba, Supervisor of the creche, did an advanced course in the running of pre-schools at the Early Learning Centre in Chitungwiza near Harare. She can train others. The council allows the staff to go for refresher courses.

The fee for each child has been raised from \$60 to \$105 per term because of the rising cost of living.

Activities

The activities are varied: They are mainly academic and the unique pre-school course is designed for the development of the child.

"We aim to develop the child socially, emotionally and academically so that he/she will be a useful citizen tomorrow," said Comrade Robert Kambewu.

For intellectual development, teachers and children make books and other things that stimulate the children's minds. Play equipment such as jigsaw puzzles designed to help the children's sense of imagination are provided. For social development, the children do group work like growing crops in gardens or making drawings.

The children have a well balanced diet. The supervisor, Comrade Dorothy Chitumba explained that at the 10 o'clock break, from Monday to Friday, the children are given 200 millilitres of milk and a slice of buttered bread. Their lunch is as follows: on Monday they have sadza, meat and vegetables; Tuesday — sadza and beans; Wednesday — sadza, nyama and potatoes; Thursday — rice and chicken and Friday — sadza, potatoes and meat. At 3.00 p.m.



Children — useful citizens of tomorrow

break they are provided with one egg and mazoe or mahewu.

Achievements

As a result of the establishment of the creche, pre-school children are no longer seen loitering in the streets. Comrade Kambewu explained further that they had lessened the burden on mothers who used to employ child-minders to keep the children. In addition, the children are taught the highest standard of discipline. Follow-up research on the performance of the centre's products show that the children are ahead of others of the same age at formal school and usually are at the top of the class.

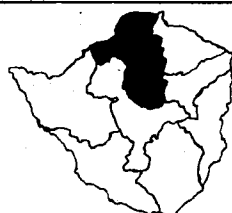
Problems

At present they are facing some financial

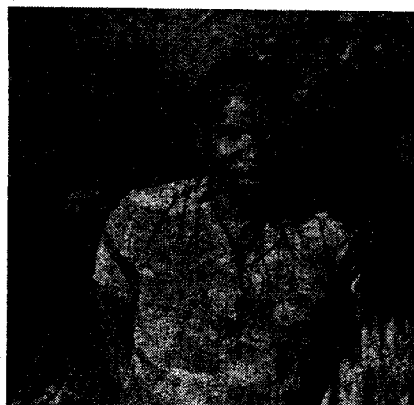
problems. Commenting on this financial problem Comrade Robert Kambewu said; "We would have wished to run this institution to the highest standard, but because of financial constraints we can not do the envisaged projects".

Another problem they face is of some members of the community who do not understand or appreciate the role of creches in a community. Some parents do not even attend meetings at the creche.

Some children don't come to the centre because the parents can't afford the fees. There is nothing that the Council can do for the parents who do not have money to send their children to the creche. □



FOCUS ON
Mashonaland West



Comrade L.C. Sekeramayi

Communal farmers in Makonde bracing for a rewarding venture

The call to increase oil seed production has been welcomed by the majority of the people in the Makonde

District. The District Administrator for Makonde, Comrade L.C. Sekeramayi, said that although the call has been well received, there were certain inhibiting factors. He cited for example dry areas which were not suitable for certain types of crops. Although cotton is a prominent crop in the area, it needs a lot of inputs which the communal farmers can not easily get.

The District as a whole had a bumper harvest except in the Makonde and Mupfure areas which experienced erratic rainfalls.

Comrade Sekeramayi said that although

transport problems were being experienced in the district, the communal farmers were also partly to blame.

"Even the few lorries that are available, they are not being used as they should because the farmers are not collectively organized. On one occasion, a communal farmer called a ten-tonne lorry when he had only 15 bags. We therefore urge farmers to be organised through their councillors", he said.

At present there is a severe shortage of tyres in the district resulting in a number of lorries out of the road. In addition spare parts for the lorries cannot be found. In early August there was the problem of queuing at the Grain Marketing Board. A lorry could



There is need to improve bus service in Makonde District

spend three hours in the queue. However, this problem has since been solved.

Like in all districts, there are a number of communal farmers who are defaulting in paying Agricultural Finance Corporation loans. The Provincial Governor for Mashonaland West, Province, Comrade Mudhomeni Chivende has been notified of this problem and drastic measures are to be taken against defaulters. In future such defaulters are not going to get some loans. AgriTex officers should also be extensively used in order to end this menace.

Other difficulties

Communal farmers in Makonde District have many problems which need urgent at-

tention. Topping the list is the problem of draught power. There are very few tractors for ploughing.

Farmers in Makonde and Mupfure areas walk long distances to the nearest bus stop. Roads are also in a poor state particularly in the rainy season. Although banking facilities are available at Murombedzi Growth Point, it is the wish of many farmers that such facilities should be found in other thriving business centres.

There is also pressure on land particularly in Zvimba and Chirau areas. Resettlement efforts should therefore be encouraged in the two areas. Makonde and Mupfure localities are found in region 4 and 5 which means

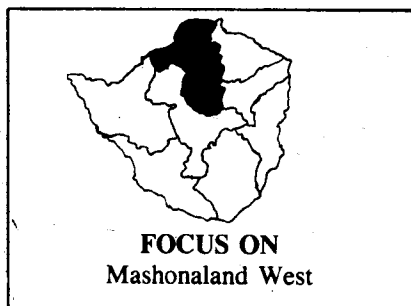
that there are low rainfall areas. Irrigation projects have to be introduced so that farmers do not suffer from severe droughts.

Although farmers have been urged to join the National Farmers' Association of Zimbabwe (NFAZ) and the Zimbabwe National Farmers' Union (ZNFU), a few have heeded the call. The reason for not doing so is mere ignorance. It is hoped that through agricultural seminars being held in the district, the farmers will be able to understand the importance of joining any agricultural organisation.

According to Comrade Sekeramayi the relationship between commercial farmers and communal farmers is not good especially in border areas where Communal farmers have been accused of cutting fences, hunting wild game, killing cattle and trespassing on the commercial farms. Cattle from the communal farmers have been detained by commercial farmers resulting in heated arguments. A number of meetings have been held to iron out the differences between the two communities but in vain.

The District Administrator however showered praises to one commercial farmer, Mr. Fraser Mackenzie, who is willing to impart his knowledge on paddocks to the communal farmers. Many communal farmers have welcomed his generous offer.

The District Administrator concluded by urging farmers in his district to participate fully in agricultural production as this was the only way they could uplift their standard of living. □



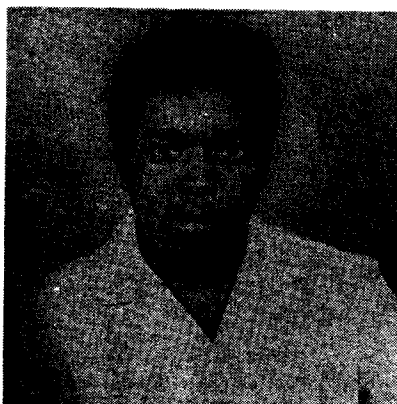
On Multi-Issues in Mashonaland West

In a wide ranging interview with the Zimbabwe News, Comrade Mayford Mawere who is the Provincial Political Commissar of ZANU (PF) in Mashonaland West Province disclosed that despite problems that the party structures are encountering in the province he will make sure that the people understand the party line.

His duties as a provincial political commissar, are to see that the ideology of the Party, Marxism-Leninism — is imparted to the people and also to ensure that Government and Party structures are correctly co-ordinated.

"As you are well aware, the Party is the policy-making institution and the Government is the implementor. This sort of thing has to be followed in the Province", he said.

The unity accord between ZANU (PF)



Comrade Mayford Mawere — the provincial political commissar for Mashonaland West Province

and PF-ZAPU had been well accepted in the Province. It has long since been the idea of ZANU (PF) to unite the people of Zimbabwe.

Unity will enable Zimbabwe to confront the challenges of the contemporary situation in Southern Africa. The imperatives of fighting South Africa's destabilisation can now be fully tackled. Already unity has yielded the fruits of peace in Matabeleland, which in turn will result in more development in agriculture, water development, health care and other requirements long cherished by the masses.

As a united nation, we can now more fully attend to the monster of unemployment now breathing heavy fire on the young nation. A properly structured and monolithic party will be able to receive ideas, suggestions and



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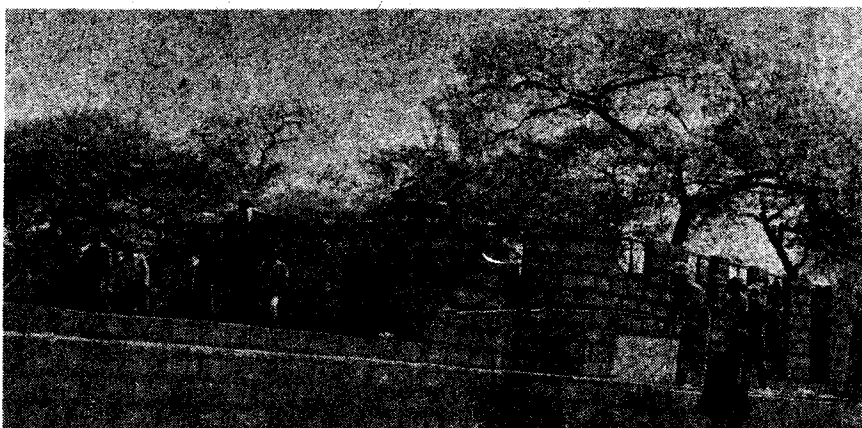
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requirements from the grassroots, digest them at higher levels and formulate systematic programmes that can arrest and ultimately deal effectively with unemployment.

Integration Process

At the time of interview, Comrade Mawere pointed out that the integration between ZANU (PF) and PF-ZAPU had reached advanced stages. According to him, all the five stages of integrating the two political parties had been completed. "Now, we are waiting for the 6th stage or phase which is the distribution of the united party cards — the actual process of the merger of the two parties".



A modern school under construction in Omay District



Road construction in Omay District

In the process of integrating the two parties in the Province, problems had been encountered but the Provincial political commissar said they had been solved amicably. The major problem was of transport. No one offered transport or money for the integration exercise. The integration committee had

to rely on Government transport and allowances. The other problem was on slogans. Both parties wanted to maintain their slogans. However, this problem was solved after the top leadership of the parties had intervened and it was decided that new slogans for the purpose of national unity should be used.

College

Cde. Mawere went on to say that many youth in the province were eagerly waiting for the establishment of the much-talked-about Chitepo Ideological College. Youths are desperately in need of an ideological college. A lot had been said about this College soon after independence but he could not be drawn to say what the impediments were in the building of the College.

On the question of transport problems being faced by Communal farmers in ferrying their produce to the collection points, GMB and CMB, he said the Party structures had totally failed on this problem.

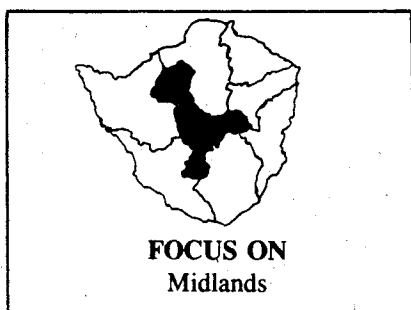
"It is the duty of the Transport Department to co-ordinate with Government structures on this aspect. But nothing had been done so far. The Party was supposed to sit down with Government organs in the

Province to map out strategies. From this meeting, we were then supposed to inform the Central Government for assistance," he said.

The Party and the Government have done a lot to improve Omay District in Mashonaland West Province which had been neglected by the past Colonial Governments. The District now boasts of modern schools, roads, clinics and water supply. In terms of agriculture, they are now growing a variety of crops, something they could not have done eight years ago. Recently a fishing co-operative was started on the shores of Lake Kariba at Chalala.

According to Comrade Mawere there are two Party districts in the Omay District. The chiefs do accept their role and are participating fully in party politics. The only problem they meet in the District is of language barrier. The Province is fortunate in that the Deputy Provincial Political Commissar, Cde Chandege, is able to communicate very well in Tonga.

Lastly, as a political commissar he would like to see people know both Government and Party policies as this was the cornerstone of national development. □



Shanduko Co-operative set for a New Era

Fifteen women in Mkoba 9 High Density Suburb of Gweru have set up a thriving cooperative in uniform and soap making. They are reaping the rewards of their efforts and have even won the support of the President's wife, Comrade Sally Mugabe who helped them with two electric sewing machines

Shanduko Cooperative was formed and registered in 1984. An elderly woman, *Mai Madamombe*, who is also the Treasurer of the Cooperative told *Zimbabwe News* that the reasons that led to the formation of the Cooperative were basically unemployment among the majority of the Zimbabwean women and also the decision that had been taken by the ZANU (PF) Women's League on the formation of Cooperatives.

"Right now Zimbabwe is

plagued with unemployment problems and this is particularly so as regards the position of women. Zimbabwe is still a male chauvinist society and the only way a woman can get employment is through the formation of cooperatives. We had to pull our resources together and form a cooperative. We had no alternative," *Mai Madamombe* said emotionally.

Humble Beginning

The cooperative had a humble beginning. The women contributed a small amount of money towards the buying of their first sewing machine. They then went to Mkoba Secondary School, Takunda and Kushinga Primary Schools to discuss the type of uniforms preferred by these schools. A well-wisher, a ZANU (PF) Women's League official accompanied them to Chegutu's David Whitehead Textile Industries where they bought their first cloth.

At the initial formative stage of the cooperative, the co-operators were using a friend's house for sewing activities. However, the neighbours started complaining of the unbearable noise from the premises. The women were forced to vacate the premises. Then they approached the Gweru City Council and were provided with a place to rent. Mai Madamombe had this to say about the rented premises,

"Half a loaf of bread is better than none. We have managed to keep our business going in this two-roomed house. The rent of \$62,00 per month is no problem to us."

In 1985 SEDCO (Small Enterprise Development Co-operation), provided them with a loan of \$7 000,00. They have up to now repaid half of the loan.

Specialisations of the Cooperative

The cooperative specialises in uniform and soap making and tie and dye. A group of five women is continually engaged in knitting jerseys. The women told *Zimbabwe News* that they have problems in getting the dye. The dye that is manufactured in Zim-

babwe is of poor quality. There is stiff competition in getting the dye that is imported from outside the country. They equally have problems in getting chemicals for soap-making.

On whether they have good markets for their products, the cooperators said that there are three schools to supply regularly with school uniforms. However, their major problem is stiff competition from the long-established enterprises which are charging very low prices. Soap and jerseys have a ready market in Mkoba high density suburb.

Assistance

The Government through the Ministry of Community and Cooperative Development and Women's Affairs arranged for some of the women to go for specialised courses. As a result of this initiative by the Government, 2 women did a course in tie and dye at Melfort for a year. One completed a four-months management course at Kushinga-Phikelela near Marondera. Up to now no one has approached them with sponsorship for similar courses. They are eagerly awaiting with open hands for such chances to materialise.

Successes and Problems

The achievements that have been registered by Shanduko speak for themselves. It has a healthy bank account. The cooperators are now able to send their children to school — a thing they could not have done before the formation of the co-operative. Comrade Stella Mugagara, who is the Secretary of the Cooperative had this to say;

"We can now help our husbands where financial matters are concerned. Again our

daughters who were unable to pass 'O' Level Examinations have now joined us. They can now supplement their 'O' Levels because the money is there."

Like any business venture, the cooperative has got its own problems. The members are yearning to have a sewing machine for zig-zag sewing commonly known as overlocking sewing machine. Of the two machines that were provided by Mai Mugabe, the wife of the President, only one is functioning. Repairing of sewing machines has now become a costly business in Zimbabwe. These cooperators are therefore appealing to the public for donations of some old or new sewing machines.

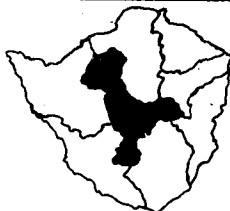
Another problem they face is of competition from long established businessmen who sometimes lure away potential customers.

Allowances

Members of the cooperative only get allowances at the end of every month. However, when the going gets tough, they do not distribute the allowances. Anyway, it is the policy of the cooperative that at the end of November of every year, they distribute profits equally among all the members.

New members are welcome provided they are capable of contributing \$75,00 as joining fee.

Lastly, Shanduko would like to appeal to all Zimbabwean women not gainfully employed to form cooperatives as this would help them to solve their problems. □



FOCUS ON
Midlands

Immunisation — A Success in Zvishavane District

Over 73 percent of the children under one year have been immunised against the six-killer diseases since 1982. This was revealed by the community Nursing Officer for Zvishavane, Sister Mektilda Chimedza, when she was presenting a paper at the Management of Health Services in Rural — District Council areas Workshop which was held at the Zvishavane District Hospital. She also disclosed that a survey to establish the effectiveness of the expanded programme of immunisation (EPI) was held last year and that Zvishavane was well ahead of other Dis-



Children benefit from immunisation programmes

News in Brief

tracts in the campaign. Sister Chimerdza also applauded members of the Apostolic Church for co-operating in the programme. She said that she did not face any opposition from members of this sect and that they were bringing their children for immunisation.

Traditional midwives within the District were also praised for co-operating with the District Hospital. Comrade Chimerdza said most of the traditional midwives in the District were referring their expectant patients to local clinics for regular check-ups and treatments. She also said the midwives were also referring mothers whose children were not immunised for immunisation at the clinics.

She further elaborated that EPI was very successful in the district and that their target for immunising all children below one year by 1989 would be accomplished ahead of schedule.

New Dam for Midlands

More than 20 000 people in Mberengwa District who have endured spells of drought for the past three years will benefit from a multi-purpose dam completed recently.

Commissioning Biri Dam 230 km south of Gweru on September 17, the Minister of Energy and Water Resources and Develop-

ment, Comrade Kumbirai Kangai said the Government would ensure that water resources were extensively developed.

Comrade Kangai said while people were hit by unreliable rainfall leading to low crop production and unacceptable per capita income, the State would ensure that under-utilised land was used productively. He said the Government's policy of establishing dams in all provinces was intended to improve the agricultural potential of all peasants.

Although tremendous progress had been made in some provinces, limited funds and shortage of manpower were inhibiting further development on the construction of dams.

The dam which has a holding capacity of 3,2 million cubic metres was constructed by the Government with a Grant from the Netherlands. It will be used for irrigation and fishing. People from Mataga and Chingoma will be the major beneficiaries of the project.

Efforts to Save River from Siltation

Seven districts most of them under Manicaland Province, few from Masvingo Province and the Midlands held a meeting at Birchenough Bridge. This was the third meeting held at this same venue in order to

save Save River from siltation.

These districts which include Chikomba Council were advised by members from Agritex and Natural Resources Board that people should stay some distances from the banks of the river and all developments along the Save River and its catchment area should stop. The meeting agreed that every Council and its Agritex officials should launch an awareness campaign to its people on the programme of Save the Save River from human destruction. The local Member of Parliament of Buhera, Comrade Kumbirai Kangai, strongly advised the District Councils to stand firm on the saving of the mighty Save River. □

Resettlement in Full Swing

Two District Councils in the Midlands Province had good news from the Central Government. Their people were to be resettled in Mangoni Estate which divides the two Councils — Takawira and Chikomba. Chikomba had previously sent 350 people and now it is going to send 165 families.

This has been very good news for the Province particularly the two districts. On the four farms acquired by the state, it is understood that families will be resettled on Model B scheme which is for co-operatives. The co-operatives will be for dairy and ranching. □



FOCUS ON
Matabeleland North

What's done at Nguboyenja Jairos Jiri Centre in Bulawayo?

The Jairos Jiri Centre began its work in the year 1959 with the closure of the Makokoba Workshops which had started in October, 1952, from a very small beginning with lots of difficulties.

This Centre at that time accepted all types of handicapped of all ages and the main activity was training and production of baskets and leather craft goods.

There was also a school for both blind and disabled, a typing class and a section for the deaf taught by Miss Grace Berryman.

Mr. Nkosenye Kumalo, one of the first instructors in leather work was head of the leather section while Mr. J. Jiri was the first General Manager and Principal Officer. He was a man with a vision for the disabled and blind.

Mr. Kwenda and Mr. Zharare were assistant and Secretary respectively.

Local support for the work of the Association was gradually improving. Mr. Jiri was to prove to all Countrymen that the disabled

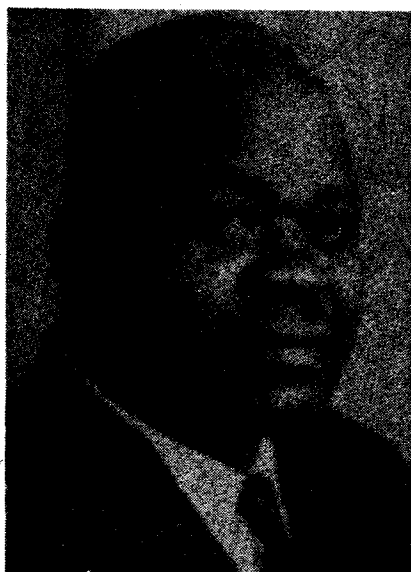
people can be productive and respectable in whatever way. This earned him the name 'The Bulawayo Super Samaritan', or the 'Poor man with a big heart for his fellowman.'

Dr. Hugh Ashton was Chairman of the Society, at that time known as the Jairos Jiri Society for the Disabled and Blind.

Many doctors and surgeons from the New Mpilo Hospital took particular interest in the new venture. Many black leaders encouraged the Society to carry on with the good work ahead although little practical or financial support was forthcoming. There was a lot of goodwill and encouragement for the work from most of the people.

A Craft Shop in the Grand Hotel Buildings was the main outlet through which the products were sold to raise funds for the running and re-equipment for the training workshops.

Many people visited the new establishment to see the meaning of the Society's appeals. The Late Founder President, Mr.



The late Comrade Jairos Jiri, MBE, MA (Hons), Founder Life President of the Jairos Jiri Association — 26th June 1921 — 12th November, 1982

Jairos Jiri, soon established an administration office in the Grand Hotel Building leaving Mr. Stephen Kwenda as Manager of the Centre. The new offices were opened for the purpose of fund raising in the country and abroad.

The new Jairos Jiri Centre of Nguboyenja, Bulawayo, has now been turned into a training institution for all those disabled people of trainable disposition who will have gone through first primary or elementary education or Secondary and Higher Education and who are between the ages of 16 and 25, males and females. In this new environment all the trainees are resident boarders at the Centre. Non residents are accepted.

Hundreds have gone through this centre into employment or self-employment after training. The Centre created a new hope and encouragement to the disabled to face the world with determination.

Those who have not been lucky to be employed in ordinary commerce or industry have found sheltered employment at the Centre. This is however not encouraged so it turns to be encouraging institutionalization of disabled people. Some of their handicap is such that there are a number of difficulties making them need assistance all their lives.

At present there are 172 young men and women in the training section and about 225 in the production or sheltered employment. Of this total 71 are residents while the remainder live outside the Centre.

Those trained are also encouraged to form co-operatives or assist in forming these.

The training takes the form of skills training and adaptive skills. All the new trainees are selected by an Admission panel.

The following are the most common courses done in two to three years:-

- Tailoring,
- Carpentry/Woodwork,
- Small Engines and Refrigeration Repair,
- Electronic Repairs,
- Bookkeeping/Secretarial Skills,
- Leather Work/Leather Craft,
- Cane Work, Weaving and Basketry,
- Art Drawing, Sign Writing and Design,
- Metal Work — Welding,
- Telephonist — Receptionist and
- Sisal and Mat making.

Disabled trainees learn to develop good work habits which include taking good care of tools and equipment and others.

Special Services

The centre offers other special services besides the basic skills training for the disabled. Most of the work listed below is done by trained disabled people and new ones are serviced and maintained or made at the Centre.

Provision of:

Wheelchairs,
Calipers,
Hearing Aids,
Walking Aids,

Eye classes and
Other prosthetic Aids
and Limps.

Sheltered Work

There are certain disabled people who are unable to get employment in ordinary industries and other commercial undertakings who have been given some kind of sheltered employment.

They are engaged in contract work given to the Centre by local factories and industries. Most of them work at the Centre while living outside. The work involves a variety of activities easily done by seated people. Such work is both therapeutic and remunerative leading to financial independence. Many of them are wheelchair-bound all their lives.

The Trainees and Clients

The disabled trainees and inmates of the Institution come from all over the country. They come each year with a common goal to be better citizens and neighbours in order to contribute in their own way in the development of the Nation and Country.

They learn that love, understanding, tolerance and team work are the norms of progress and social life.

In their varying disabilities; blind, deaf, crippled and so on, they all know that these disabilities are not inabilities to do better work for the progress of mankind. They inherited the late founder Mr. Jairos Jiri's motto that, "where there is a will there should be a way, with the leadership and guidance of the Almighty."

The deaf are not dumb or mute but understand all the instructions and work as well as can be expected.

Most of these will have been attending their primary rehabilitation at one of the Centres of the Jairos Jiri Association scattered round the country before coming to this special/finishing point. They pay a token boarding fee of \$225,00 per year which is subject to review by the National body. This can be paid in termly instalments of \$75,00 or in full for the whole year.

There is a Trainees Representative body whose aim is to advise in the whole task of making the institution a success story.

Many of the trainees spend months and even years in hospital having corrective surgery and then months doing physiotherapy (Learning to walk and use their remaining or usable limbs.) Someone with a heart has to care.

The staff members of the Jairos Jiri Centre — at the Nguboyenja Centre both present and past are drawn to their service by the magnetic desire to serve mankind. The Administrators, Secretaries, Training Officers, Boarding Masters, Production Officers, Instructors, Nurses, Physiotherapists, Supervisors, Finance Officers, Cooks, Adult Literacy Teachers, Security Officers, Groundsmen, Public Relations Officer.

These are only a sampling of the varie-

ties of the person who make up the Jairos Jiri Centre Staff. Their contribution to the progress, their competence and commitment make life more hopeful to all the clients in the institution.

Many of the staff members are disabled or were former trainees of the institution.

Sporting and Social Entertainment

A start has been made in bringing a variety of sporting and social activities at the Centre.

These include football, volley ball, skittles, tug of war, netball, mini soccer, draft, table tennis, swimming and many others. The Centre has two television sets and radio sets in the hostels.

There are several choirs and there is also a set of Marimba Band: The Choir and the Marimba Band have played at many public functions including the television programme — Mvengemvenge.

There is a very strong Girl Guide Movement at the centre and Scouts Movement has been formed as well.

There are two Sporting Clubs at the Centre where the aim is to improve on the inmates social life.

Friends

The Centre as a Charity Organisation relies on Public support for the success of its work and activities.

The General public is behind the work.

The Centre is in need of support in order to have the project and programme successful.

The Branch Committee of volunteers works hard to help with fund raising and administration.

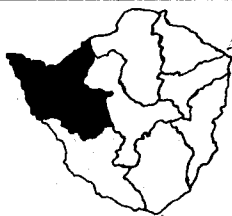
Local authorities and the Government give grants towards the running costs but more is needed to make it a real success.

Volunteers are welcome to work in specified areas to ensure a bright future for the disabled, blind and we need you and all.

The Branch is still fund raising and donations can be sent to:-

P O Box 7018
Mzilikazi
BULAWAYO

The Editor wishes to inform readers that they are free to open debate in the column Talking Point and on the Letters page.



FOCUS ON
Matabeleland North

New Party Structures in Matabeleland North

By M. McCosh

An invitation to the first meeting of the South East Branch of the Bulawayo District (both newly formed Task Force structures) was delivered by hand to residences and flats in the south-eastern quarters of the central area of the City of Bulawayo recently. There are four Branch Task Forces in the Bulawayo District.

Being so directly and extensively canvassed, most non-Party residents were impressed by the vigorous organisation of the Branch. This initial impression did not extend to actual attendance at the meeting. The thirty-strong audience which assembled at the Beit Hall, Milton Junior School, Bulawayo, on the 4th August, seemed to be confined to Party officials and Civil Servants, those already committed to the support of Government policies and under the direction of the two majority Zimbabwean political parties.

In the cold dusk of the evening, the warmly wrapped audience sat under two benign photographs of the Executive President of the Republic of Zimbabwe, Comrade R.G. Mugabe, and two sombre portraits of colonialists Cecil John Rhodes and Alfred Beit.

The Meeting chaired by Comrade Ivy Mahanya (and in Bulawayo it has become more usual for women to fill the post of Chairperson) started with the introduction of the District and Branch Task Force officials, who made a determined effort to obey the slogan-instructions approved by the Politburo and Central Committee Task Forces. The two guest speakers, members of the Provincial Task Force startled those assembled by giving non-Party greetings, which

they justified at Question Time by saying that the making of any slogan caused dissension.

Merge the Masses

Comrade F.R. Waniwa, ZANU (PF) Vice-Chairman of the Matabeleland North Province, member of the Provincial Task Force, opened his speech with the statement that there was no need to stress the importance of the Unity Accord.

He reviewed the historical alliance of the two majority parties after the formation of the Patriotic Front in 1976, and the attempts to co-ordinate the revolutionary armies, ZANLA and ZIPRA, in the Liberation Struggle. Speaking of the particular political divisions in Matabeleland after Independence 1980, Comrade Waniwa explained in detail the negative, divisive results of the dual-Party confrontation, which robbed Zimbabwe's western Provinces of the "fruits of Independence"

The failure to form a One Party State lead the masses into political confusion caught as they were between two Parties both professing an identical ideology. Lack of clear political direction inevitably led to the civil disobedience campaign and all the criminal horrors of banditry. Refugees fled from bandit-dominated areas disrupting the Government's development plans, and causing the security forces to be used as a police force.

The Nation as a whole was affected by the political divisions which were most obviously evidenced in Matabeleland.

The Task Forces' directive was to "merge the masses". The directive proceeded from both the President of ZANU (PF) and the Leader of PF-ZAPU after the ratification of the Unity Accord at the Congresses of the two

majority Parties held during April, 1988. Although the two Parties were not of equal numerical strength nationally, the Task Force membership, from Politburo to Branch, was jointly composed of equal numbers from ZANU (PF) and PF-ZAPU.

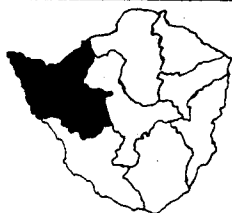
Ending his speech, Comrade Waniwa emphasized the Cell-making function of the Branch Task Forces. This, he said, was essential to the successful implementation of the Unity Accord.

Stating that no local political problem was more important than the attainment of National Unity, Comrade Edson Ncube, PF-ZAPU Chairman of Matabeleland North Province, concurred with the issues raised in the long speech of Comrade Waniwa. He added that the President of ZANU (PF) and the Leader of PF-ZAPU were to be congratulated on their joint political wisdom in leading the masses to unity after only eight years of Independence. An example to the world of political maturity!

The two Provincial leaders answered many questions all concerned with slogans and the new Party Cards. In the main segment the answers to both questions lay in following the direction of the Task Force Central Committee leadership and acting with firm and steady determination.

After thanking the principal speakers, Comrade Ivy Mahanya, Chairperson, said that her Branch Task Force would hold private weekly Executive meetings and frequent public ones. She urged those present to bring the work of the Task Force to the notice of their immediate neighbours.

The meeting ended with the simultaneous singing of the National Anthem in the three major languages. □



FOCUS ON
Matabeleland North

A political Choir emerged in Matabeleland North

The Matabeleland North ZANU (PF) Choir which recently won a Trophy and a prize in Harare in a Singing Contest in which 73 choral and Traditional Groups participated was formed following the signing of the Unity Accord between ZANU (PF) and PF-ZAPU.

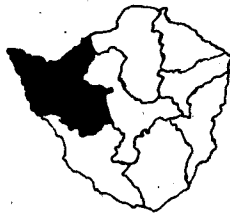
The Choir which has performed in various national activities and at certain occasions to entertain foreign dignitaries visiting Matabeleland North Province is composed of 40 women drawn from the Women's Leagues of the two Parties. Twenty are from ZANU (PF) while the other twenty are from PF-ZAPU. The Singing Group has two leaders, Mrs Manzine from ZANU (PF) and

Mrs Mloyi from PF-ZAPU.

Comrade Manzine said that the choir was formed to cement the unity amongst the Women's Leagues of the two Parties. "We sing songs of Unity and praise our leader Comrade R.G. Mugabe for the job he has done well to unite all Zimbabweans" she said.

The Zimbabwe Traditional musicians have been integrated in the new group.

"The group is becoming a very popular entity that it has been invited to many occasions", said Comrade Mloyi. □



FOCUS ON
Matabeleland North

Unfair treatment — Cause for Concern for the Disabled

Samson Mudhimba is disabled. He cannot see. Like other blind people, he had a skills training at the Jairos Jiri Centre in Bulawayo.

Like many blind persons, he feels he has been unfairly treated by society especially in the field of employment. This is a cause for concern for him in particular and the other disabled in general.

Samson says "the blind people are not accepted for jobs. We are skilled, we know the job like anybody else. We are strong. Blindness or not seeing does not mean that the blind man is unknowledgeable".

The blind complainant is asking the Government "to help us to get jobs in the

government or private sector" because "we can and we want to contribute to the social and economic development of our country."

Blind Samson also said that if the government cannot offer employment to the blind, "we can say we are not independent".

His second problem concerns money given from the Social Welfare Department. "We filled forms to get \$50,00 but instead of this amount we receive \$30,00 monthly. Where does the other amount (\$20) go? We are worried about this and also of the fact that that which we receive is often delayed. Can we be informed of the problem?" he asked.

Comrade Samson thanks the people of Bulawayo for respecting the blind. "If I get

lost, they come to assist me. Long live the people of Bulawayo!" He also urges Bulawayo residents to ensure that the blind people do not fall in the canals.

Samson disclosed that he is a singer. "If there is anyone or people interested in singing, please I want to join him or them. I can also compose songs."

To those who may want to contact Samson Mudhimba: His business address is: Jairos Jiri Association

PO Box 7018
Mzilikazi
Bulawayo

Home Address: 71298 Lobengula West
Bulawayo



FOCUS ON
Masvingo

Takaita Njere Co-op gives hope to the Local Women In Masvingo District

Etina Mushanyuki is a Community worker stationed in Mugabe Ward 15 in Masvingo District. She tells of Takaita Njere Co-operative which she says is the hope for the local women who are its members.

Takaita Njere engages in dressmaking. It was started by 30 women in 1987 after each contributed \$20,00 as capital share while two of the members contributed two sewing machines.

"With the two sewing machines and members' financial contributions, the group started operations at Gwanha Business Centre where they rent a House for \$10,00 a month. The house they rent belongs to one of the members," reported the Community worker.

Information reveals that though the Co-op is not yet registered, normal meetings as in every co-operative are held to discuss the problems facing the members.

Comrade Etina explained further that the co-op is potentially viable because the mem-



Comrade Etina Mushanyuki — Community Worker in Mugabe Ward 15 in Masvingo

bership is really determined to succeed. "They see the project as a source of hope" she said, adding that "Right now they have

\$1 400,00 in their bank account and \$900,00 in the current account from which they draw to buy clothing materials in Masvingo especially from N. Richards and Whitehead Wholesalers."

Ministry's Assistance

The Ministry of Community Development and Women's Affairs financed Mrs Mamwadi, the Secretary of the Co-op, to train in Retail and Management. She has completed part I of the Six-parts course. The same Ministry also plans to teach the co-operators sewing, cutting and design. It is on-the-job-training.

Plans

The group aims to expand their activities. They need more sewing machines and a place to build a house for sewing. The Masvingo Council, to which they applied, fortunately provided them with a place.

The problem now is lack of money to

finance the construction. Members have opted for fruit and vegetable selling in order to raise funds for the building. Through this exercise, they managed to raise \$180,00. They also think of financial donors for the construction of the sewing house, for buying fencing materials of the garden, the

watering cans and the sinking of the borehole.

At present, they use claypots to fetch water from the river to irrigate their vegetables. Natural Resources Board officials now forbid these co-operators to fetch water from

the river. A little dam or borehole will help towards solving their problem. Once this is overcome the members would want to accommodate their children in the co-operative project particularly school-leavers to ensure their assistance and participation in social and economic development. □



Nyajena District: Zorogwi Women's Co-operative Aspires for Self-Reliance and Community-based Solutions to Problems

Formed in 1984 by 48 local women, Zorogwi co-operative in Nyajena makes uniforms to satisfy the needs of the local school community.

A councillor for Nyajena Ward 30, where the co-op is found, and also a school teacher and instructor in sewing, Comrade Fungai Mazani said that the co-operative members contributed monetarily to buy clothing.

She said that she contributed her own sewing machine and added, "At present we have three machines donated by the organization for the Collective Co-operatives of Zimbabwe (OCCZIM)."

OCCZIM also gave the co-operators six bundles of cloths, four tapemeasures, four pairs of scissors, four boxes of soft pins and ten rolls of sewing cotton.

Aim

"With this little material basis, we managed to establish our co-operative, the objective being to make cheaper uniforms for our school children and to help the local community to mend their clothes at affordable prices. This collective project also aids us in creating self-employment in the rural area so as to get money to sustain our families," said Comrade Mazani.

She continued saying that "through organised collective work, we managed to raise \$1 000,00 which we banked."

Besides sharing a little money to buy soap and salt, Zorogwi Women's Co-operators help their husbands by sewing their tattered shirts and trousers.

"Our group aspires for self-reliance and community-based solutions to our local problems. We eagerly learn skills imparted by organisations such as the Association of Women's Clubs of Zimbabwe based in Harare. This organization together with the Ministry of Community Development and Women's Affairs regularly send people to teach us the basic skills in sewing." Comrade Mazani went further:

"Agritex, Health officials, Local Government officers and the Local Headmasters teach and advise us too."



Comrade Fungai Mazani (left) — Councillor for Nyajena Ward 30

Setback

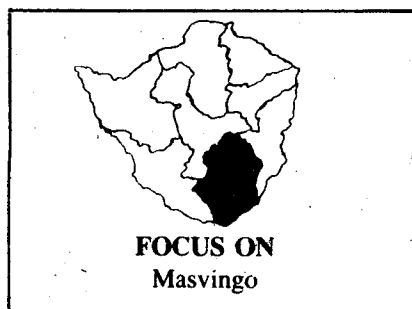
The co-operative is not yet registered. The women are struggling to get it legalized.

Besides sewing, co-operators have started vegetable gardening but there is a problem of water. So a borehole is needed.

Some members absent themselves regularly while others want to share the proceeds of co-operative work early. A few are lazy. This slows down the pace of co-operative

development. If more sewing machines were available, the members would be able to increase the volume of their operations. The co-operators welcome any kind of assistance in order to secure more sewing machines.

At present, "we aim to build a big house for our sewing activities. Bricks are already moulded but what lacks is a fund to secure a builder. \$35 000,00 would be enough to finance the construction, to buy other building materials and to sink a borehole" she concluded. □



Rural self-employment creation

In order to create self-employment and provide services to the surrounding community five rural men and three youths formed a co-op in April this year to embark on bread-baking at Nyahombe Rural Service Centre near Tokwe Bridge in Masvingo Province.

The Chairman of Tasvunura Bakery co-operative Comrade Chenjerai Bevhura revealed that the Vice-Chairperson who once worked for Cheziya Bakery in Masvingo before being expelled is experienced in bread-baking.

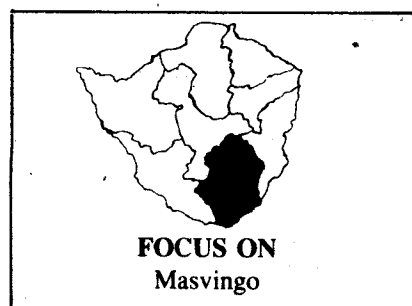
"We take advantage of his experience in bread-baking, and we were able to create rural self-employment for ourselves" said Comrade Chenjerai. So the one trained member teaches others how to bake bread.

With \$300,00 donated by the owner of the building in which the co-operators bake bread, they bought two bags of flour and 20 litres of cooking oil, sugar and salt. So far these rural bread-makers have successfully

supplied bread to the local community of the Nyahombe Resettlement Scheme, to business people from Dare, Gororo, Razi, Chasiya, Tende, Musvovi, Shongamiti and so on.

Bread output would be increased provided accommodation and electricity problems are resolved.

At present, the members of the co-operative are looking for a stand upon which to build a bakery. It is hoped that the Resettlement officer Comrade P. Madzikanda will do his best to secure a piece of land for the co-operators who have already completed some forms which were sent to Harare for approval. The members are also seeking financial assistance from the non-governmental organizations and government. Government officials dealing with co-operatives should assist in facilitating legalization of the co-op through which the members intend to create and expand rural employment opportunities. □



Apalling Conditions at Ngundu Government Clinic

Pregnant women from the surrounding rural areas are subjected to unhealthy conditions at Ngundu Government Clinic built in 1984 at Ngundu Growth Point in the Chivi District in Masvingo Province.

A *Zimbabwe News* reporter visited the clinic recently. The nurses working there refused to be interviewed saying it was against government regulations to disclose any information relating to their work without permission from their superiors. However, permission was granted to chat with a number of expectant mothers at the clinic.

No cotton, no light and soap

The first interviewee was Mrs Keresina Chisasa who comes from the area near Gororo School. She came to the clinic on the 13th of September, her ninth month. She said she was glad that the local nurses do their best to teach the local community on Family Planning, on feeding children with different kinds of food and on health problems but she was disappointed with the conditions under which they lived at the government clinic.

"When we give birth, we are not supplied with cotton. We know we are entitled to cotton but we are not given. The result is that sometimes there is a horrible smell of blood in the ward."

To worsen the plight, there is no shower or enough water to wash after giving birth. The water which is used there is got from the tap. It is cold water which is not good

for mothers and babies. When mothers give birth, babies are taken home unwashed; they are washed at home because nurses do not have adequate places.

Another woman who refused to be named said that there are no lights at the clinic and "we use candles. If one does not have a candle, it is a problem . . . You have to give birth in darkness".

A real paradox! Isn't? Where there are electricity installations right on the clinic premises! This is a serious problem which should be addressed to by the relevant Ministry.

The Government should also do something to provide soap for mothers at this clinic. The soap is for washing government sheets. At present, patients buy soap to wash those sheets yet in other government clinics it is not so.

No phones, maternity clothes, beds and medical staff

The means of communication is very poor because there is no phone. When a mother is affected by pregnancy complications, nurses use phones of the local businessmen. Sometimes patients have to wait many hours before an ambulance arrives to take them to Masvingo Town which is 95 kilometres away. If the ambulance arrives very late, the life of the mother is endangered.

Can't the government do something to instal a phone to save lives of the mothers,

part of the masses who played a crucial role in the war of liberation? The contribution of the rural masses to our national independence is undisputed!

Up to now, expectant mothers at Ngundu do not have maternity dresses; they use their tattered clothes which they bring from their rural homes. This is a health hazard both to the mother and child.

The situation is aggravated by lack of beds for sick mothers. There is only one bed which is shared by all the mothers, to give birth. If say five women get labour pains at the same time, the other four have to give birth on the floor; usually on the mats which they bring from their homes.

At other government clinics or hospitals, there are nurses and workers to wash pregnant mothers but at Ngundu Clinic no one does that. Maybe it is because of shortage of staff! So it is up to the local Member of Parliament (Hungwe) to do something to bring to the attention of the government this Ngundu health problem.

Unhealthy accommodation.

The expectant mothers who come to Ngundu Government Clinic to give birth are exposed to unhealthy conditions. They sleep on mats which they spread upon the cement floor of the two building blocks with no window panes. At night, they are mercilessly bitten by mosquitoes. They are in danger of

(Continued on next page)



**FOCUS ON
Masvingo**

News in Brief

Masvingo Youths welcome the Unity agreement achieved by ZANU (PF) and PF-ZAPU and will do everything to safe-guard it.

It is the Unity Accord which has made it possible for the integration task forces to

tackle the first task of creating Provincial Task Forces to a stage of registering cell/village groups. These groups are at present waiting for the new membership cards and the election of committees.

Security

The security situation in the five districts of Masvingo is satisfactory except in the Chiredzi District which is often disturbed by the South Africa sponsored MNR bandits.

Sometime in June this year, the Youths of Masvingo held a meeting with Security officers from the Party Headquarters and with some from the Department of National Security. They explained the security problems. Since then the situation in Chiredzi has improved.

Heroes Day

Though attendance was not satisfactory, all districts in Masvingo celebrated the Heroes Day. On the day in question, 54 heroes were reburied in Bikita, 11 in Mwenezi, 45 in Chiredzi, 86 in Chivi, 77 in Zaka and in Masvingo District 9. In Gutu, the remains of 417 heroes have been located and they are yet to be reburied.

Unemployment

Masvingo, lacking in industrial development, is one of the densely populated provinces in the country. To that end, the level of unemployment is very high. It affects the Youths.

Small-scale youth projects cannot create enough jobs or absorb many people. Masvingo Youths hope that the National Secretary for Youth took note of their needs during his visit.

Training and Culture

Youths in Masvingo would like to sincerely thank the National Scholarship Committee for granting scholarships to some Party Youths to study overseas. Seven students are already benefiting from these scholarships.

However, a lot of youth roam the streets of Masvingo towns and Growth Points because some do not have 'O' level passes. The courses offered at some institutions are not adequate so the youths feel that it would be better to establish in Masvingo Province more training colleges to cater for the needy youths particularly in the areas of building, carpentry, co-operative management, book-keeping and so on.

Appalling conditions at Ngundu Government clinic

(Continued from page 31)

malaria. It is sometimes cold or hot depending on the prevailing weather.

A visitor would easily notice a lot of flies hovering upon the food and little pots brought by the mothers from their homes.

Moreover, the pregnant mother is not allowed to come with someone to cook and take care for her. It is this clinic's regulation which mothers do not understand. "We do not favour this regulation because if we become seriously sick, we need someone to help cook for us," they argue.

It is hoped the government, particularly the Ministry of Health will immediately do something to rectify the appalling situation at Ngundu Government Clinic. □

Bitter About Non-promotion

In April this year, we published in the Zimbabwe News Special Issue a report on the problem of integration and promotion exercise of the ex-combatants. (see page 26).

The Director of Prisons said the exercise has been very slow due to a sharp drop in the prison population. According to a report by Comrade Charles Manzini, the Deputy Public Relations Officer (Prison Service), the 1980 general amnesty drastically reduced the prison population from 22 000 to about 5 500. This, he said, must have been the reason for retarding integration or promotion of ex-combatants.

Embittered Ex-combatants Speak out
Some ex-combatants who have been lucky to be integrated in the Prison Service hold different views regarding their promotion.

"Chances of promotion are very slim," said Comrade X, a 30-year old ex-combatant

stationed in Bulawayo. The reasons for not being considered in promotion are that most of the ex-combatants are not in a position to know most of the things, they are barred by "the old guards in the service". Access to administrative issues or staff is limited because "We have low ranks" he said adding that "I have the lowest rank in the prison service."

Comrade X has "O" Levels and says is aware of the main obstacles to the promotion of ex-combatants namely, they have lower ranks, administration does not expose them to office work because it argues that they are too junior to be in offices and the seniors most of whom served in the colonial regimes are jealous about the young active ex-fighters.

Experience

Comrade X whose Chimurenga name was Bee went to Mozambique in 1977 from where he was sent for military Training in

Syria in 1979. In the same year, he operated in Tete from where he went to Mary Mount Assembly Point in 1980 to wait for integration in the Zimbabwe National Army.

He was demobilized in 1982. From 1983 to 1984 he was studying 'O' Level by correspondence. He sat for the examination in 1985. In 1986, he joined the Prison Service after training at Chikurubi. He studied the Prison Act, Prison regulations and Prison Standing Orders for six months before he was posted to Bulawayo in October 1986.

"We have got the potential and ideology but we are not given chances of promotion. We also have experience gained in the bush during the war."

It is a fact that the Prison Service needs people with military experience but the old guards do not consider our experience in war. So they consider the ex-combatants as nothing.

Other Reasons for non-promotion

Comrade W is another ex-combatant whom we had a chance to interview. Born in 1960, Comrade W went to Mozambique and stayed at Chibawawa in 1977.

In 1979, he was sent to undergo military training in Syria. In October of the same year, he was sent to Mavhonde by the Military Training Department to become an instructor. Thus, he continued to train other comrades till 1980, the year in which he went to Chitungwiza Assembly Point. In the same year, he was integrated in the 5th Brigade (Gukurahundi). In 1983, he was demobilized. He and other demobees formed a co-operative (Don Carlos Consumer Co-operative) which was to operate in Chitungwiza. However, the co-op dismally failed in 1985 and on 2nd May 1986 Comrade W joined the Prison Service after six-months training at Chikurubi.

Dissatisfied

Comrade W is dissatisfied because of non-promotion in his present employment. Among reasons for non-promotion are the common misunderstanding between the former guards and ex-combatants, lack of representation of ex-combatants in the senior positions in the prison service. The highest rank of ex-combatant is that of the Principal Prison Officer. Unlike in the Army and the Police, no ex-combatant in the Prison Service has been issued with a Liberation Medal.

"The most disappointing thing is that the old guards who served in the colonial system still continue to put on Medals of

Rhodes, the Rhodesian medals they were given during the colonial days!" said Comrade W.

It is really demoralizing to note that many Comrades carried out the mission given by the Party; they have done Company Battalion Commander Courses and Diplomas in

Syria, China etc yet these are not considered.

It is the wish of many, if not all the ex-combatants that "some of our years abroad and in the struggle should also be considered as years of experience for purposes of pension and promotion in employment." □

Highfield Polyclinic — Occasional free lectures to Outpatients

The sisters and nurses of Highfield Polyclinic should be commended for doing a good job of treating patients nicely and lecturing to them every morning on six child killer diseases: measles, tuberculosis, diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus and polio.

One of the State Registered Nurses, Sister Murashiki said, while lecturing to outpatients one morning:

"It is our duty and the duty of all parents to prevent diseases and sicknesses in order to save the lives of our children. We can do it by being clean every time. If a child becomes sick or is affected by measles, sore eyes, diarrhoea, take it to the nearest clinic or hospital for medical treatment."

Apart from teaching the symptoms of measles, the Highfield Polyclinic nurses discourage superstition. "We want to save the

lives of children. It is only the scientific methods of treatment that can effectively cure diseases," said Sister Murashiki. She pointed out that some churches for instance the Apostolic Faith, preach that children should not be injected but "we all know that God helps those who help themselves". So the parents should be advised to help themselves by bringing their children to the clinic or hospital to be treated or get immunized.

It is the duty of those parents with a knowledge of hygiene to teach their neighbours. Helping each other is good because it saves human life. In addition, parents are responsible people who should talk to or teach their children on ways of avoiding the spread of diseases.

The Highfield Polyclinic nurses are urging parents to communicate with their children, teaching them on Sexually transmitted Diseases (STD) and on AIDS. □

Grinding Mills to Spread to growth Points

by J. Ngwenya

Chirichena, successful in running businesses in Harare and Bulawayo, has decided to embark on big business — The Milling Project which is aiming to serving people in the rural areas.

The ambitious businessman has plans to import Grinding Mill Equipment worth over one million dollars.

The Managing Director of Shirichena Group, Comrade Reuben Zemura said that the Milling Equipment will be distributed to various Growth Points throughout the country.

"We shall install Grinding Mills in Kezi, Nkayi, Murehwa, Plumtree, Jotsholo, Binga, Gokwe, Shurugwi, Mberengwa, Gutu, Chivi, Chirumanzi, Wedza, Chiweshe, Rusape, Chipinge and so on," he said.

Comrade Zemura further said that the Shirichena Group will draw people from various districts to undergo training in the operation of the Grinding Mills so that

they will work in their respective localities. "This would also serve as employment creation," he added.

It is hoped that the problems of the people in the rural areas will be eased in that they will bring their grain crops for processing at low cost. Sorghum will also be processed. People in urban areas will no doubt benefit from the Milling Project in getting better quality mealie-meal.

Apart from creating employment for some people in their respective areas, the project will of course enhance the quality of life of the people in those areas — a health advantage. □

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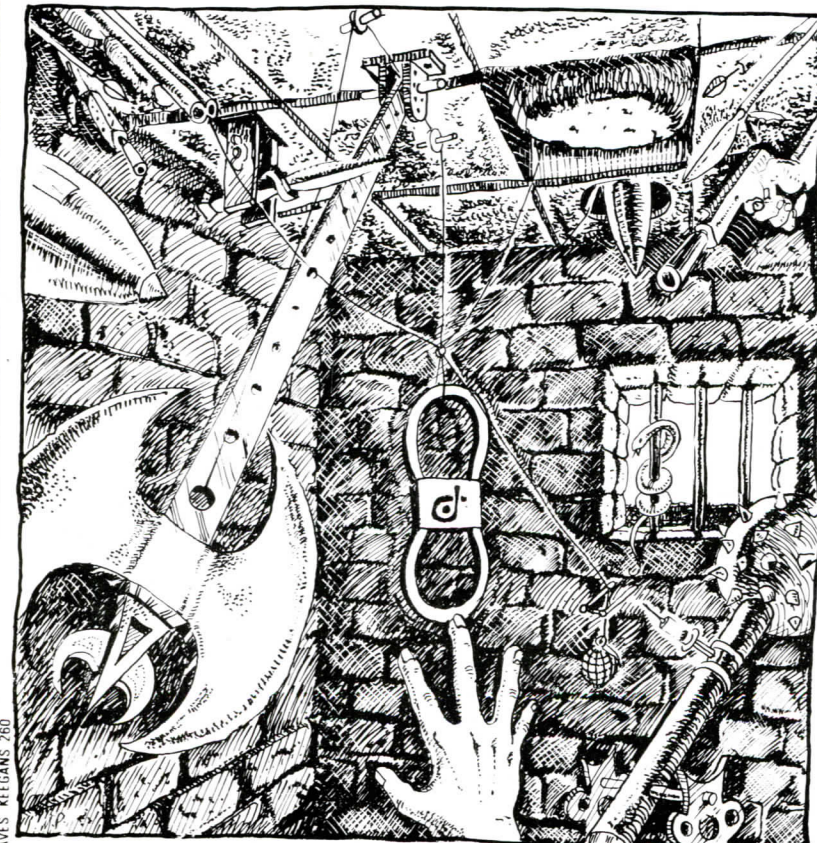
From the Fashion House of G&D Shoes, Belmont.

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WORSE THAN A SHORTAGE...

We reluctantly present our illustrated guide to guarding your remaining stocks of drive-belts.

While every effort is being made to secure forex for raw materials, we regret to advise that back-orders for Wedge-, Vee- and Fan-Belts have reached 300 000.

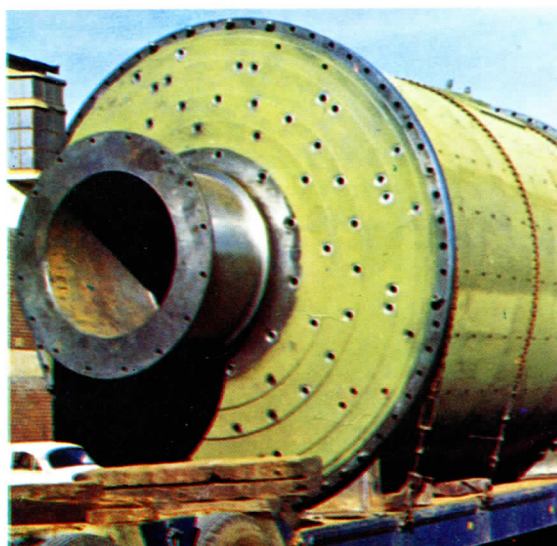
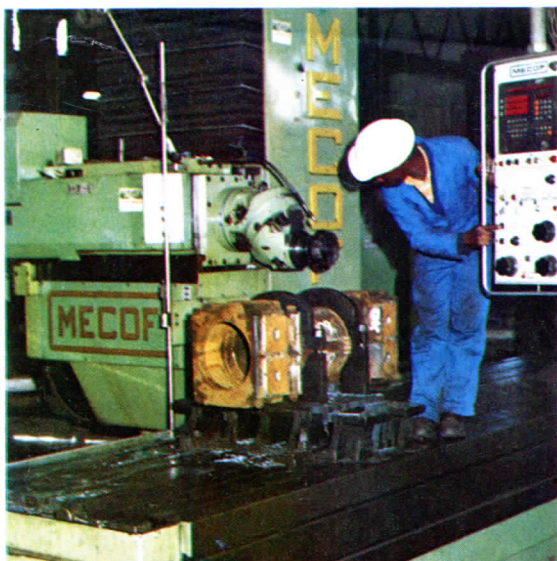
The problem is made worse by a chronic imbalance in demand for different sizes; which we hope to rectify before all your mining and industrial machinery and vehicles grind to a halt.

Until then — guard those spare belts with your life!

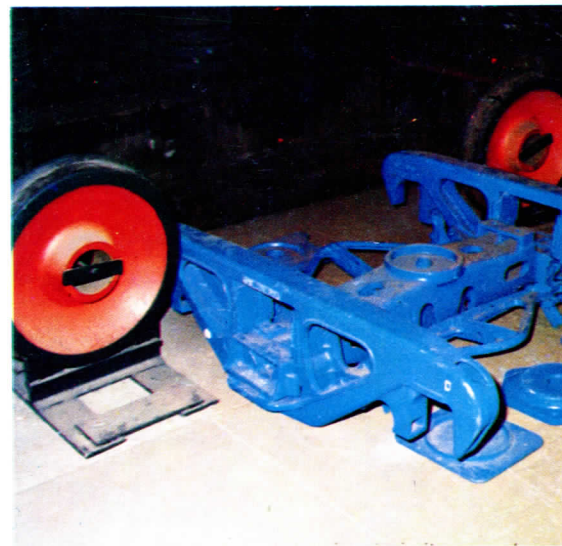
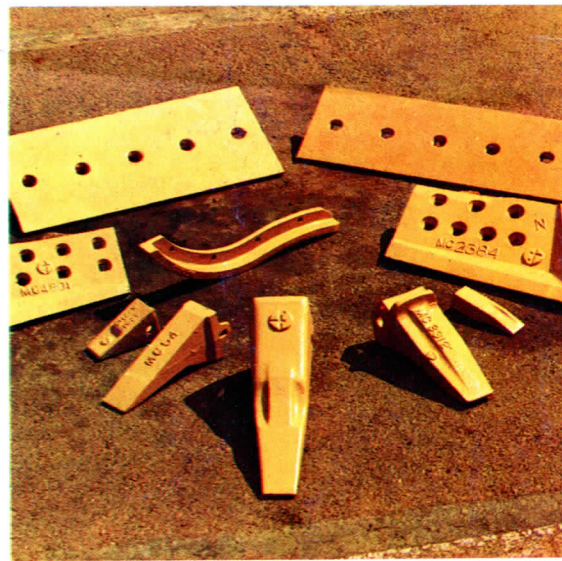


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