

CFU Calling

26 NOVEMBER 2010

EXECUTIVE NEWS

At least the week started with some reasonably good news in that arrests had been made of suspects involved in the callous and unmitigated murder of fellow farmer, Mr Kobus Joubert. Two pistols which were stolen at the time of the murder were also recovered and positively identified.

Police investigations are continuing as the gang is suspected to have been responsible for a series of armed robberies and attempted robberies on farms situated along the Harare – Bulawayo and Harare – Masvingo highways. We still advise our members to remain vigilant and to take the necessary precautions in case there are still more members of the gang operating out there.

Since the arrests were made we have now received belated reports of the above mentioned incidents. You are once again reminded of the importance of reporting any incidents to us as soon as they happen so we can follow the pattern of events and possibly prevent them occurring by warning our members.

The police have been congratulated for their dedicated work on the investigations which led to the final capture of the suspects.

Preparations are well under way for the Special Congress which will be held on Tuesday 30 November 2010 at the Union at 9am with registration from 8.30am. We look forward to seeing as many members out there as possible.

CFU Council will be meeting the day before on the 29 November at 2pm.

The official notice has been sent out to inform everyone about the **Special Congress** which will be held here at the Union on **30th November 2010**.

Please be advised of a "Special Congress" to be held at Agriculture House commencing at **09:00 hours**.

The Agenda is as follows:

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| 08:00 – 09:00 | Registration of Delegates |
| 09:00 – 09:15 | Opening of Special Congress with scripture reading and prayer |
| 09:15 – 09:30 | i) Directors welcome and notice to convene
ii) Welcome and opening statement by CFU President |
| 09:30 – 13:00 | In house discussion points
i) CFU Strategic planning and restructuring
ii) CFU Policy document
iii) CFU Constitution
iv) Way forward and debate
v) Closure |
| 13:00 - | Lunch |

Following our announcement last week that the implementation date of Statutory Instrument 154 of 2010 had been deferred we print an extract taken from a recent article published on the front page of The Herald this week:

“Transport, Communication and Infrastructural Development Secretary Mr Partson Mbiriri yesterday said Statutory Instrument 154 on Road Traffic (Construction, Equipment and Use) Regulations remained unchanged except for the effective date.

"I have indicated in two meetings that when Statutory Instrument 154 of 2010 was initially discussed within the ministry, our intention had been to give the motoring public as much as 12 months' notice.

"Regrettably, there were delays in having the Statutory Instrument gazetted resulting in an effective notice period of only three months," said Mr Mbiriri in an interview yesterday.

"Accordingly, it is the ministry's intention to defer the effective date of the Statutory Instrument by another six months so that the motoring public have reasonable time to relate to the Statutory Instrument. The provisions of the Statutory Instrument shall remain the same in toto," he added.

Mr Mbiriri said the regulations had been served to lawyers in the ministry as well as the Attorney-General's Office.

"We are not amending anything but merely deferring the effective date," he said."

Reports have been received, however referring to a few incidents where some public servants are unaware, or claim to be unaware, of the deferment of the implementation of the regulations and allegedly harassing motorists over the requirements as listed in the regulations. We suggest therefore that members at least abide by the reflective triangle part of the regulation and as soon as the amending Statutory Instrument is published we will inform you accordingly.

With the holiday period upon us due care needs to be taken on our main highways, especially with reports of young people 'playing chicken' by running across the roads in front of speeding vehicles. A number of incidents have recently been reported, one of which resulted in the unfortunate death of one child. There is no need to remind you of exactly what may result from such an unnecessary tragedy. Please take care.

The following extract has been taken from the recent Valuation Consortium newsletter:

“This is less of a newsletter and more of a notice.

We have for the period October 2009 to September 2010 received funding channelled through the CFU to continue our project. We have been grateful for this and hope that we have produced our worth in free registration, a very well developed GIS mapping system which classifies 96% of all past commercial farms and preparation of the Global Estimate for Compensation. We have the tools needed and the data for the compensation exercise whenever it begins. This will happen when Zimbabwe re-engages with the world and there is a demonstrable return to the rule of Law. **IT WILL HAPPEN.**

Our funding has now dried up and we are unable to maintain a fully staffed office and provide the service free as we have for this year.

It may be that funding will resume and if it does we will restart. In the interim we are calling a moratorium on Valcon activities and our staff have been laid off or transferred to other organisations.

We will accept registration from new clients but will be charging a fee commensurate with the costs involved, probably US\$250 for the first title reducing thereafter.

We will continue to service phones, email and Facebook. The phones may be answered Redfern Mullett or Purkis and Co. but you will get to Valcon such as it will be.

As we are servicing 7 out of every 10 farmers entitled to compensation the number of new registrations will be limited, a large portion of the 3 remaining have simply dropped off the face of the planet and others have no faith in any compensation process. This will of course change when there is money on the table.”

We note that in today's Herald one property in Gweru has been listed for acquisition under section 61B (2) (a) (iii) of the Constitution of Zimbabwe. The owner and our Gweru office have been notified.

The 2011 Budget was read yesterday in Parliament and we are currently preparing a report, which will be sent out separately from this bulletin once completed. The speech will be put on our website www.cfuzim.org today.

Judgment was handed down today in the Supreme Court. As expected, the appeal to ask the Supreme Court for a moratorium was dismissed. Full judgment can be viewed on the Union's website – www.cfuzim.org

LABOUR AFFAIRS UPDATE (from the desk of Marc Carrie-Wilson)

Members are informed that we have been advised by the ALB that the new purported "collective bargaining agreements" applying to the General Agricultural, Agro and Horticulture sectors are in the process of being challenged in the Labour Court. We have requested documents and letters to this effect from the ALB to distribute to the Membership. It is highly improper for these agreements to be enforced by the NEC in collaboration with trade Unions before the legal issues have been finalised.

If individual members are approached by NEC or a Trade Union and pressurised please contact our offices without delay. Call Labour Officer Tongai Marodza or the writer for more details.

Agrarian Conference Update

From the Desk of Marc Carrie-Wilson

This week a Conference entitled AGRARIAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA: A STAKEHOLDER'S CONFERENCE took place at the Meikles Hotel from the 24th to the 25th of November, 2010. The conference was arranged by the Ruzivo Trust. The main "stakeholders" appeared to be drawn from the world of academia and included Professor Ian Scoones and Professor Sam Moyo who have both done controversial studies which cast favourable light on the fast land reform programme. Representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture were also present. The CFU was not officially invited to the conference but a representative was allowed to attend.

The delegates at the conference focused on the merits of research and empirical evidence to understand the Fast Track Land Reform Programme and its impact on re-settled farmers. However, the political dimensions of land reform were not discussed in any real depth or with any real honesty. Most of the research focused on how giving people access to land had improved their livelihoods. In the course of the conference Professor Ian Scoones (from and his research team were given an opportunity to launch their book on the study conducted in the Masvingo Province entitled Zimbabwe's Land Reform: myths and realities.

COMMODITY UPDATE

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF DAIRY FARMERS (from the desk of Rob Van Vuuren)

Please be advised that there will be a NADF Mash A Regional Meeting on December 1st 2010 at 9.00a.m. in the NADF Committee Room, South East Wing – S.E. 08, at CFU, Agriculture House, Harare. Please could all Mash A Farmers make every effort to support the newly elected Mash A Regional Chairman, Talfan Stamps by attending this meeting.

The Mutare Regional Meeting has been postponed until January 2011 and details of this will be sent out as soon as they are to hand.

The NADF Executive met last week and this is likely to be the last meeting for 2010.

STABEX '95 VACCINE PROGRAMME

PLEASE WILL ALL FARMERS NOTE THAT DUE TO CFU CLOSING FROM 20TH DECEMBER 2010 UNTIL 3RD JANUARY 2011 THE LAST DATE FOR ACCEPTANCE OF VACCINE APPLICATION FORMS UNDER THE VACCINE PROGRAMME WILL BE DECEMBER 10TH 2010 at 1.00P.M. TO ENABLE THESE FORMS TO BE PROCESSED TIMEOUSLY PRIOR TO SHUT DOWN. NO EXCEPTIONS WILL BE CONSIDERED AND THIS IS THE FINAL DATE FOR SUBMISSIONS OF APPLICATIONS FOR VACCINES UNDER THE STABEX '95 VACCINE PROGRAMME.

NADF is circulating a form via e-mail for completion by those farmers who have benefited under the vaccine programme to enable us to try to evaluate the success of the programme. We will also have hard copies available at the office, so if you are dropping in to CFU, please could you fill one out. Hardcopies will also be given to ZFU and ZCFU for distribution. Your comments etc. will help us with our final reporting and data capture to the E.U. Please could you assist us by completing this form and returning it to NADF either to Debbie Mylroie at livestock@cfuzim.org or the Marilyn Taylor at livestock2@cfuzim.org This will also assist us with information as to whether we should seek funding for the vaccine project to be continued. Many thanks for your assistance and cooperation.

STABEX '95 MARKETING PROGRAMME

The NADF Stabex '95 Small Scale Dairy Farmer of the Year Competition has been completed and our congratulations go out to all the winners, as follows:

1 st Place	Mr Elias Chiweshe	Gokwe Dairy Association
2 nd Place	Mr Z. Mutengu	Mayfield Dairy Association, Rusitu
3 rd Place	Rev. W. Simbabure	Sangano Dairy Association
4 th Place	Mr John Nyamuda	Tsonzo Dairy Association
5 th Place	Mr Adam Sithole	Mayfield Dairy Association, Rusitu
Best Kept Records	Mr Peter Manjoko	Mayfield Dairy Association, Rusitu
Best Laid Out/ Most Improved Farm	Mrs Mabel Ncube	Umzingwane Dairy Association

Thanks to the tremendous sponsorship received, a most successful Winners Dinner was held on Saturday 23rd October 2010 at the Courtney Hotel in Harare. This was followed by a well supported Winners Field Day at Mr Chiweshe's farm in Gokwe on Tuesday 2nd November. It's important to note the effort made by our Small-Scale members to attend this day, approximately 100 farmers from the Centres country-wide were able to attend. Thanks to them for helping to make the day such a success! ***It was announced by Land O Lakes that the top 10 farmers from the competition will be going on a tour to Zambia in January next year.***

On the 10th and 11th November we held an Administrator Training session in Harare. Topics covered were running an AI scheme as a business, Demonstration Plots, Seed Bank and Field Extension.

The Accounting Bureau office continues to receive information on a regular basis from the 7 Centres. From the 22nd November to 1st December we are running further training to the Executive Committees and Administrators on Introduction to the Profit and Loss Account, Balance Sheet and Ratio Analysis. This is intended to give the Committees practice with using their Financial Statements as a Business Tool Kit. This is also a good opportunity for the Centre Committee to meet together and share ideas, challenges and success. The sessions will be held in Mutare, Harare and Bulawayo. Sue Bell, Linda Nielsen and Hilda Musukutwa are training the Rusitu, Tsonzo and Sangano Executive Committees in Mutare this week on *Introduction to Financial Statements*. This will be a hands on workshop where the groups, working with their own financial reports from the ABS office, will learn the Profit & Loss Account, Balance Sheet and work with Ratio Analysis. This will be an all day session on Tuesday 23rd November.

On Thursday 25th November they will do the same training with the Guruve and Marirangwe Committees. Next week on Tuesday 30th November will be in Bulawayo for the Gokwe and Umzingwane groups.

CATTLE PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION

WEEKLY CATTLE PRICES

GRADE	AVERAGES PER KG/LIVE WEIGHT PRICES		
	HARARE	GWERU	PLUMTREE
SUPER	1.76	2.09	2.03
COMMERCIAL	1.53	1.87	1.80
CHOICE	-	-	1.85
ECONOMY	-	1.59	1.48
COMMERCIAL ECONOMY	-	-	1.60
MANUFACTURING	-	-	1.25

BULLS	-	-	1.50
WEANER HEIFERS	2.11	2.25	-
BULLING HEIFERS	1.85	-	-
LONG WEANER HEIFERS	1.88	-	-
COW & CALF	1.71	-	-
WEANER STEERS	2.15	1.94	-
LONG WEANER STEERS	1.84	1.74	-
FEEDER STEERS	1.89	1.84	-
COMMERCIAL WEANER STEERS	-	-	-
COMMERCIAL WEANER HEIFERS	-	-	-
STANDARD MUTTON	-	-	-

COMMENTS AND VIEWS

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