

CFU Calling

11 MARCH 2011

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

So much is happening at the moment.

Much of it extremely encouraging, but unfortunately at the same time there is lots of concern over political happenings.

Politically we need to keep our heads down. Please heed this warning.

The differences between the main political parties are coming to a head, and we cannot afford to be caught up in the strife. Once again we see pre election violence escalating with the most vulnerable suffering the most. We cannot afford a North African scenario, and therefore we are stepping up our efforts to bring Land Reform and compensation to an end. Obviously this encompasses compensation.

I was part of the AgriBusiness Panel discussing agriculture at the recently ended EuroMoney Conference at the Rainbow Towers. The conference was well attended, and with the exception of the President of Zimbabwe, most senior Government Ministers were present and participating, including the Prime Minister and two Deputy Prime Ministers. The presentations were good and well debated, with some like "Indigenization" and "Sanctions" becoming very vocal.

During our session the venue was filled with many having to stand as all seats were taken up. Debate was lively as the panel consisted of a moderator and 9 panellists including government, private sector, regional representation, business and myself. All sessions lasted for an hour, but we managed to go over our time limit and debated land and agricultural issues for one and a half hours. The only reason we stopped was because the cocktail function had started. Our viewpoints were well received and debated.

We continue to engage various individuals and countries in promoting our proposal on The Way Forward, with great interest. Charles and I received an invite and will soon undertake a trip outside the country to engage various people. This is a very high level trip, and I pray that we will all benefit from these discussions. The trip is not costing the Union anything, and I thank everyone who is involved in making this trip possible.

I should be able to be more open once the trip has been completed.

Deon Theron

UPDATE FROM VICE PRESIDENT – S A NATIONALS (from the desk of Louis Fick)

Dear farmer,

Firstly thank you to everyone who supported our meeting with the SA Ambassador on the 17 Feb 2011. I would also like to thank Willie Spies and Hannes Botha who attended this meeting.

I hope that you were able to make use of the opportunity given by the SA Embassy to sort issues re passports and Id doc's. The head of this department Mr. Kgatedi Makola tell no 04 251843/52, email dhacon@mweb.co.zw .

We have come a long way since we started this initiative – SA Nationals farming in Zimbabwe – from none existence to being acknowledged, but there is still a long road ahead of us, your continuous support will help us get and maintain a momentum that is growing. Our SA Embassy since Sept 2010, after the ratification of the BIPPA, stepped up in reaching out to some of our farmers and normalizing their situations, this is still far from ideal and some might say they have not enjoyed this reaction, but 18 months ago there was no reaction at all. I said in the beginning that this will be a long and hard road. We need to be realistic about our initiative, any initiative like this takes time to deliver results and it takes a lot of determination to keep it going. Keep on sending your emails to the SA Embassy requesting for compensation and protection.

We have a good team in SA battling for us but we need to keep on doing our bit on this side. Willie Spies on his return to SA once again used the media to refocus on our plight.

Legal – our legal team is waiting for the Von Abo case to be finalized, judgment has been reserved, and a positive ruling will speed up our drive and will add a lot of momentum to our initiative.

The 51% indigenisation drive has also crossed paths with SA Nationals, more in the business environment. I am meeting with the SA Embassy on this issue on Monday and will report back. I have also asked Willie Spies to get a position on this from Pretoria state Advocates. Any SA National facing problems in this regard please send a report through to the SA Embassy and myself. Send to Imran Simmins simminsi@foreign.gov.za or Gary Smith SmithG@dirco.gov.za.

Lastly, the SA Embassy will be hosting our S.A. National Day on the 27 April 2011 at the Ambassador residence and has asked me to invite SA Nationals to join them in celebrating this day. They would like to have names and numbers of interested citizens. I think it is very important that we do support this day, it will give us the opportunity to interact with our SA Embassy staff on a more casual basis. The SA Embassy is also asking for donations for this function – specifically meat (beef, pork, chicken) wine, cheeses and flowers. They are also asking for a display of produce or products produced by SA citizens in Zimbabwe. Need a good response here.....

Lastly our Ambassador Prof. Makalima is leaving Zimbabwe in a week or so, please stop emailing him as today was his last day in office, contact Imran Simmins and Gary Smith until the new Ambassador arrives.

Mooi loop
Louis

EXECUTIVE NEWS

If ever there was a time for all farmers, whether still farming or not, to band together and unite and to rekindle their membership with your Union – now is that time.

It is extremely important that everyone works together very closely as a single team and also gets all 'their ducks in a row' as far as their intentions of how, they, as individuals, want to move forward, be it outright compensation or to continue to farm. It is also very important that your Union has all the correct information available at its finger tips to enable it to be in a position to portray the correct situation at all times.

In this regard we are aware of a number of properties which are still not yet registered with the Valuation Consortium and we urge everyone to do so. Please do your bit and encourage your friends to register.

Without wanting to sound like a stuck record, we have been constantly requesting information on the current disruptions and continued court cases, as well as exactly what happened from 2000 onwards. The old and new incident records are an invaluable tool in plotting a sustainable way forward.

Your Union is working very hard at the moment on a number of initiatives to stimulate the proposed way forward and has been involved in a number of extremely useful meetings and workshops recently. It is therefore important also that you make every effort to attend any meeting called by your Union to keep updated in exactly what the position currently is and what progress is being made.

Obviously, it would be foolhardy to go too much in depth on what is taking place in these open bulletins, but we are able to explain more freely at the meetings. The feedback from those who have attended recent meetings is that they are very encouraged in the current initiative.

Our Open Farmers' Meeting, which was held on Wednesday afternoon at the Union was well attended as usual, but we would like to encourage more of those who are currently still farming to attend as well, as there is a lot of what is discussed which affects them as well.

From the information which is available to us things have been relatively quiet out there this week, apart from one or two incidents. This is overshadowed though by the large number of farmers still being called to court to defend cases under the Gazetted Land (Consequential Provisions) Act. Although most of the cases

have been remanded again this causes uncertainty and instability in the industry, which is a constant cause of concern.

Yesterday it was reported that a farmer, on his way to Bulawayo to pick up his child from school, stopped at a lay-bye 15 km outside Masvingo on the Mashaba Road. He was alone at the time and was attacked by a group of 6 individuals who stabbed him several times and severely beat him, robbing him of all his money and cellphones etc. he is very lucky to be alive and is recovering from his injuries in Masvingo. Although the Police were quick on the scene and followed tracks with dogs into a nearby squatter camp, no arrests have been made and none of the stolen goods yet recovered.

Once again the Police have issued the warning to motorists to avoid stopping at lay-byes on the main highways as a number of similar incidents have been reported, particularly on the stretch of road between Rutenga and Beitbridge border post.

Our explanatory video on compensation and the rebuilding of agriculture proposal, **The Way Forward**, has been attracting a large number of hits on our website www.cfuzim.org and we find this very encouraging. We have therefore drawn up an explanatory document on our proposals, ('Write up for the CFU Way Forward proposal promotional video') which is available under 'Compensation' on the Main Menu of the website. Therefore once you have viewed the video the document could be printed out for easy reference and better understanding of the proposal. We have also made a few minor improvements to the original video on a new version, which is available on request at the Union.

Telephones

People telephoning the Union using **309800** have been experiencing problems getting through at the moment. We have found that it is far better for people to use **309811/20** and they should find they will get through much easier.

Information

There is still the need for your assistance to slot together all the information on farm invasions and disruptions like a jigsaw puzzle to make the recording exercise accurate, credible and worthwhile. Any information, including court dates, should please be sent in to Mike Clark at the Union or mashc@cfuzim.org Every little scrap of information will be very useful.

Accommodation

Every now and again there are still farmers being violently evicted from their properties and we need to be in a position to identify **suitable accommodation** for them as soon as possible. Harare seems to be the destination of choice due to the medical facilities but the very high rentals are generally out of reach of many of the farmers whose income has been severely curtailed over the last few years.

Please let us know, through ARAC of any suitable properties which may be available immediately and affordable by affected farmers and their families.

The dates for the **Open Farmers' Meeting** for next few months are as follows;

6 April 2011

11 May 2011

8 June 2011

6 July 2011

Please remember that our doors are always open for you to come in and discuss your situation with us and we also encourage you to come with any suggestions or solutions you may have to propose to us.

ZESA TARIFF UPDATE (from the desk of Marc Carrie-Wilson

I have interrupted the series of articles on EMA, ZINWA etc which will resume next week to give you a brief update on the proposed increase in ZESA tariffs.

A meeting was held at the Ministry of Energy and Power Development to consult a few "stakeholders" on their position as regards the proposed tariff increase for electricity. The new tariffs were given to the delegates. I have tabulated the proposed increase in Agricultural Tariffs below:

	Agricultural Customers					
	Low Voltage E5.1		11 kV Supply E5.2.11		33kV Supply E5.2.33	
	CURRENT TARIFF	NEW TARIFF	CURRENT TARIFF	NEW TARIFF	CURRENT TARIFF	NEW TARIFF
a) Fixed Monthly Charge	\$31.99	\$48.77	\$88.14	\$134.39	\$88.14	\$134.39
b) A monthly Capacity charge per unit of demand	n/a	n/a	\$4.88	\$7.44	\$3.58	\$5.46
c) An uninterruptable demand charge	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
d) On peak energy charge per Kwh	\$0.08	\$0.12	\$0.08	\$0.13	\$0.08	\$0.13
e) Standard energy charge per Kwh	\$0.08	\$0.12	\$0.04	\$0.06	\$0.04	\$0.06
f) Off peak energy charge per Kwh	\$0.08	\$0.12	\$0.03	\$0.04	\$0.03	\$0.04

The effective cost of electricity in Zimbabwe under this NEW tariff regime will be 9.83 USc/Kilo Watt hour WHICH MAKES OUR COUNTRY AN EVEN LESS COMPETATIVE BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT.

The following representations were made to the Ministry and ZESA

Agriculture

The viability of the production of many agricultural commodities is already very marginal. The electricity tariffs combined with the relatively unreliable and erratic supply noted in farming areas has already been a key component in the destruction of the viability of Zimbabwe's winter cropping programme; affecting mainly wheat and barley. Indeed local buyers of these commodities are already looking to competitors in the regional markets such as Zambia to meet demand.

Therefore, a tariff hike could only be sustained if:

- a) It was a modest increase; and
- b) It was to be accompanied by the immediate and absolute improvement in the reliability of electricity supply

Consumer Skepticism

A further point to note is the need to address public perception of any increased tariff. It is our contention that members of the public remain unconvinced that this tariff hike is truly necessary. Conversely, the perception is that this increase is precipitated merely by the inefficiency and poor management of the power utility in two key areas:

- 1) Consistent errors in a seemingly complex billing process leading to a reduction in the credibility of ZETDC in the eyes of consumers and potential legal disputes.
- 2) An inability to effectively collect payments for electricity consumed; meaning that only a few customers carry the full cost of electricity while other consumers enjoy electricity for free.

The question is if ZESA did not have a monopoly on the generation administration, maintenance and distribution of electricity would it still be necessary to increase electricity tariffs? Our contention is that the general public will be unconvinced that this would be so.

It is therefore imperative that ZESA do much more to convince the public of the need for a tariff increase; in the first instance by increasing its overall transparency and accountability. ZESA must genuinely engage the people of Zimbabwe as partners in solving the electricity problem.

The Ministry noted these concerns and promised to do more in the Agricultural sector.

It was highlighted that power saving measures could save the country as much as 300 Mega Watts. To this end restrictive measures on the sale of incandescent bulbs (i.e. not energy savers) were proposed by some of the delegates. The secretary of the Ministry of energy and Power development proposed that we email him a list of the types of incandescent bulbs used in Agricultural Production so that these may be excluded from any restrictive measures.

I know it is a strange request but, please may members assist me by send me a list (to marc@cfuzim.org) of the exact type of incandescent bulbs used in any area of Agricultural production. Please also detail what the bulb in question is used for e.g. chickens, pigs etc.

LABOUR UPDATE (from the desk of Marc Carrie-Wilson

We have no doubt that many of our members are experiencing pressure from the NEC to remit dues to them. This article is intended to update members on this issue.

To recap SI 101 of 2010 published in June 2010 sets out a purported Collective Bargaining Agreement ("CBA") which was concluded in February 2009. It sets the dues payable to NEC as 1 USD deducted from each employee matched by a further 1 USD paid by the employer for each employee.

In terms of the Labour Act a CBA becomes binding when it is registered and published as a SI by the Registrar of Labour, so in this case this was in June 2010. The Act further provides that it is a criminal offence to not abide by the terms of a legally binding CBA.

However, acting on direction from the ALB we have advised all members to keep these dues aside until the conclusion of a legal challenge instituted in the Labour Court. The reasons for this are that there are allegations which have come to our attention of very gross breaches of the financial and other provisions of the NEC Constitution by the NEC and its secretariat as follows:

- The NEC has not produced an audited set of accounts for the past five years. (This is in violation of Article 24(2) of its Constitution).
- The NEC has regularly not had an annual budget ratified by the full Council, or if so, not all the Councillors were invited to attend the meeting where such ratification took place, nor have they had sight of such budget. (This is in violation of Article 22(2) of the NEC Constitution).
- The NEC has not recorded proper and accurate minutes of all the meetings of the council or the Collective Bargaining Processes. (Contravening Article 19 of the NEC Constitution).
- No proper notice of meetings of the NEC is sent to all NEC Councillors. (See Article 16 (4) of the NEC Constitution).
- CBAs concluded at subcommittee level are not ratified by the **full** Council of the NEC before being forwarded to the Ministry of Labour for Registration. (See Article 13(1) of the NEC Constitution).
- NEC Councillors are being paid extravagant meeting allowances of approximately USD 200 for every meeting they attend. This is more than the salary of many Civil Servants.

It has also been reported that requests to view the audited accounts have not been entertained. Thus we can only assume that there is substantial validity in these allegations. How can any reasonable person continue to remit funds to the NEC when its fundamental structures of governance and financial accountability have seemingly collapsed? Instead we advise that these dues be held aside by members until these issues are settled by the Labour Court. If on the other hand the NEC is able to show you the authentic and duly audited accounts for the past 5 years, which accord with proper budgets made in terms of the NEC Constitution, then you are encouraged to remit your dues to the NEC without delay.

The NEC's only remedy which it will pursue is to make a complaint of a criminal offence against members who to the ZRP in order to institute Criminal Proceedings. However this matter is already before the Labour Court and it would be advisable for the Labour Court (which has the status of the High Court) to make its determination on this matter before a Magistrates Court consider the criminal case. We would ask any member presented with this challenge to contact our offices (Tongai or Marc) for advice on this point.

Rumours of NEC personal seizing the property of certain members are extremely alarming if these are true. To be clear, no one has a right to seize property in recovery of an alleged debt unless they have obtained an order from a court in their favour and the seizure is presided over by a court official. Such activity should be reported to the Police.

Other developments are that the CBA setting the General Agricultural Wage at USD44 per month, back dated to September 2009, has finally been Gazetted as a Statutory Instrument in the form of SI 25 of 2011. Once again our representative body in these negotiations has informed us that they were not party to this Agreement notwithstanding the fact that they are named as a party in the Agreement. They have informed us that they will be exploring the possibility of a legal challenge against this and we will keep you informed accordingly. The publication of this Agreement as a Statutory Instrument is confusing because of the

presumption against the retroactive application of legislation. Therefore it is submitted that the SI does not oblige employers to make back payments. It is absurd to think that any legitimate employer would willingly agree to pay 7 months or more back pay in the current multi currency economy. This seriously undermines the viability of business.

COMMODITIES

ZIMBABWE CROP PRODUCERS' ASSOCIATION (from the desk of Richard Taylor)

Local as at 4 March 2011 R6.89 - US\$

Commodity	GMB	Agrifoods	Intergrain	Staywell	Croplink
White Maize	275	270	255	255	270
Yellow Maize	275	270	230	255	270
Maize Bran	150	155		160	170
Soyabeans	300	725	580	650	700
Soyabean Meal		750		700	750
Wheat	466		440@30 Days 400@7 Days	500	440 (imported)
Wheat Bran		155		(130 Buy)	170
Groundnuts	470 (unshelled)		(shelled)	900 (shelled)	(shelled)

South African Foreign Exchange (SAFEX) as at 10 March 2011

Commodity	Rand/Tonne	US\$/Tonne	Import Parity Rand/Tonne	Import Parity US\$/Tonne
White Maize	1600	231	1760	254
Yellow Maize	1655	239	1815	262
Wheat	3148	454	3308	477
Soyabeans	3800	548	3960	571
Sunflowers	4620	667	4780	690

International Gulf

Commodity	US\$/Tonne			Import Parity US\$/Tonne
Wheat	360			510
Maize	309			459
Soyabeans	548			698

Source: South African Grain Information Service (SAGIS)

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH TRUST

Open Day Wednesday 23 March 2011 - 9am for 9.30am

A.R.T. has pleasure inviting all farmers and interested members of the trade to our Summer 2011 Open Day. Numerous variety trials on different major food crops being conducted can be viewed. Short field presentations will be made by seed house representatives and A.R.T. staff.

Regrettably no schools and colleges, please

Calgary Close off Alpes Road (Teviotdale Ext)
Opposite Wingate Golf Club
Telephone: 2930401
Email: artres@mweb.co.zw

For any farmers looking at growing wheat this season and require financial assistance, please contact me. We also have inputs for any who would like to grow paprika this year. Capsicum is looking for 10 – 15 growers.

BUSINESS SECTION (from the desk of Richard Taylor)

We now have just over 170 companies as partners offering varying discounts with more and more companies interested and joining. If you are interested in joining the discounters club as a member and benefit from these discounts then please come on board. Should you wish to see the list of the companies that are partners and offering discounts then contact us and we can email the list to you. Negotiations continue with some of the supermarkets, with Ballantyne Spar having joined as a partner offering pensioner's who hold a discount card 5% discount. So ladies and gents, this discount card would be a great gift for those who have parents or mates who are of the pensioner's age.

We have recently employed a young lady to assist in getting systems etc for the discounters club up and running smoothly, in order that partners and discount cardholder members are kept up to date with developments within the club. We have contracted a number of other ladies who are visiting companies and sweet talking them into joining as a partner. Their other duties involve convincing potential customers of the benefits to becoming cardholder members, along with selling advertising space in the AgriZim magazine. Once again this Saturday these young ladies will be manning a stand in Borrowdale Village and again on Sunday at the flea market at the back of the Village, so please if you are in that area, pull in to the Village and get your discounters card from them.

For more info on the discounters club, contact myself rich@discountersclub.com or Robyn robyn@discountersclub.com

The AgriZim Magazine grows from strength the strength and has improved every month. The Feb edition has been the best to date with the March edition more than likely surpassing it. If you have an agribusiness that is interested in advertising in the magazine, please contact me. We have also started an editor's letters page, so please send in your letters or comments to "Editor in Chief" email address agrizimb@gmail.com

The Zambezi Trader is currently the largest ship on Zimbabwe Waters. She has carried up to 170 people on a day cruise and has a cabin capacity of 52 people. The cabins range from 16 x Twin cabins, 2 x 4 sleeper bunk cabins, 4 x Double suites, 1 x King suite and 1 x Honeymoon suite. All cabins, dining room, conference and games rooms are air conditioned.

Win a trip for two nights at Kariba on the Zambezi Trader:

Winner will receive 2 nights free whole ship use for up to 44pax. Including everything except drinks (cash bar) cruising up to Elephant Point. Departing Marineland on Sat 30th April and returning Mon 2nd May at 12h00 (long weekend Workers day 1st May).

Money raised by this raffle will go to elderly welfare. The draw date will be 30th March 2011. Raffle Tickets are available at the CFU Offices. See Robyn to buy yours and stand the chance of winning what should be a memorable trip for yourselves, family and friends.

The below items are now available through the Radzim Agri-Power, CFU scheme. Please get hold of me at CFU rtaylor@cfuzim.org or contact Radzim directly: Sean Bell 0912 515 920; Keith Lowe 0912 515 919; Office 744 759, otherwise pop in to Radium Africa, 17 Pichanick Drive, Alex Park, Harare for a chat with Sean or Keith.

These prices include interest and insurance. You will be required to pay a 30% deposit and then equal monthly instalments. As security for these loans Radzim will require:

1. Personal Guarantees from the directors
2. Facility letter from their bankers and/or Tobacco company
3. For the 12 month deals, Radzim will require a pledge of title deed or by negotiation
4. CR14 (confirmation of directors), Certificate of Incorporation
5. Introduction letter by CFU and recommendation

Item	Price US\$	Months
Harrow 18 disc	12000	6
Harrow 24 disc	15225	6
Harrow 28disc	17350	6
Planter 4 row	20900	12

Planter 6 row	31000	12
Planter 7 row on 4 row frame	36000	12
Spreader Fert and Lime Single Disc	3015	3
Spreader Twin Disc 12001	6850	6
Spreader Fert and Lime Trailed 4.3m	16000	12
Spreader Lime attachment 6m boom	6750	12
Spreader Manure and Lime 6m3	23100	12
3 Furrow Plough Hydraulic	5800	6
Single Row Silage Machine	11050	6
Double Row Silage Machine Trailed	29500	12
Double Row Silage Machine Mounted	23700	12
4 Wheel Metal Trailer with Sides	8000	6
Radium Unigrader	8000	6
Electric Maize Mills with Cyclone	5500	3
Montana Boom Sprayer 6001 10m	6300	6
Montana Boom Sprayer 6001 12m	6500	6
Montana Canon Sprayer 4001	6700	6

The above scheme varies in time span according to price.

COMMENTS AND VIEWS

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