

MAJOR GENERAL (RETD) G. CHANAKIRA PERMANENT SECRETARY IN VICE PRESIDENT, HON. GEN (RETD) DR. C. G. D. N. CHIWENGA'S OFFICE'S ADDRESS TO THE COMMERCIAL FARMERS UNION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Following the signing of the Global Compensation Deed on 29 July 2020 Government constituted the Joint Resource Mobilization Committee. The Committee is comprised of Government officials from the Ministries of Finance and Economic Development, Lands, Agriculture, Water and Rural Resettlement and Local Government and Public Works, the Office of the President and Cabinet and members of the Compensation Steering Committee. The mandate of the Joint Resource Mobilization is to spearhead the process of mobilization of resources for payment of compensation to the former farm owners for improvements made on the land. The objective is to raise USD3.5 billion to fund the compensation bill on the land that was compulsorily acquired during the Land Reform Programme. Half of the amount is to be paid within 12 months from 29 July 2020 and the balance in four annual equal installments thereafter.

The JRMC has registered significant progress in the following areas:

- Engagement with the World Bank culminating in completion of a roadmap for the resource mobilization process
- Workshop with World Bank on the establishment of a Land Bank to fund revival of the agricultural sector.

- Simplification of procedures and offer letter application form for former farm owners who have remained farming on acquired land but without tenure documents as part of the confidence building measures. 147 applications for Offer Letters submitted to the Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Water and Rural Resettlement yesterday. It is hoped that by 16 November 2020, a significant number of these will have been granted.
- Engagement of BIPPA countries (Netherlands, Germany and Switzerland) resulting in comparison of databases held by embassies with those held by the MLAWRR.
- Streamlining of the procedures for submission of applications under Statutory Instrument 62 of 2020.
- Halting of illegal farm occupations of productive farms.
- The process to procure Financial Advisory Services to the Compensation Resource Mobilization process is well underway and should be finalized within a month.
- Work underway to set up a project office with a dedicated Secretariat funded by Government to spearhead the work of the JRMC.
- Government has set aside a significant asset which it has committed to payment of compensation for improvements. Full details will be unveiled in the 2021 National Budget Statement before the end of this month.
- Preparations for a Development Partner Conference in March 2021 to begin soon.