



ZIMBABWE

STATEMENT ON LAND INVASIONS AND FAKE OFFER LETTERS BY THE MINISTER OF LANDS, AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES, WATER AND RURAL RESETTLEMENT, HON DR A. J. MASUKA

1.0. PREAMBLE

- 1.1 The rights of Zimbabweans to agricultural land are enshrined in Section 72 of the Constitution, while the Principles guiding policy on agricultural land are clearly articulated in Section 289 of the Constitution.
- 1.2 Zimbabwe's land reform is irreversible and the State will guard jealously against any threats to the integrity of the Land Reform Programme.
- 1.3 Land is a finite natural resource that forms Zimbabwe's common heritage and access to this valuable resource is guided by the principles set out in section 289 of the Constitution

2.0. LAND INVASIONS

- 2.1 While every Zimbabwean has a right to land, due process must be followed in accessing agricultural land at all times. It is the responsibility of the State, not individuals, to alienate agricultural land.
- 2.2 In this regard, recent reports of illegal land invasions are not only unfortunate but raise great concern as they negate the revolutionary gains made to date.
- 2.3 It is in this regard that the President, His Excellency, Dr E.D. Mnangagwa, recently exhorted all Zimbabweans to follow due process in acquiring land, while warning invaders, and highlighting that the days of Jambanja are over and that no lawlessness would be tolerated by the Second Republic.
- 2.4 As we follow the President's directive to weed out invaders, law abiding Zimbabweans are urged to assist Government in exposing land invaders, including their handlers and masters. **Land invaders - you have been warned.**
- 2.5 The current policy position on land redistribution focusses on identifying for re-allocation land in the following categories:
 - 2.5.1 Multiple farm ownership;
 - 2.5.2 Abandoned farms;
 - 2.5.3 Under-utilised farms and;
 - 2.5.4 Derelict farms.
 - 2.5.5 Farms above the maximum farm size as guided by S.I 41 of 2020
 - 2.5.6 While sparring, for now, productive farms notwithstanding the farm size.
- 2.6 Applications for land are made through the Districts and Provinces. Currently the *waiting lists* are in excess of 250 000 across all provinces because of the soaring demand for agricultural land.
- 2.7 Unfortunately, not every Zimbabwean wishing to get land will be allocated land. However, one does not have to own land in order to undertake farming or engage in a profitable agricultural business. The Government has recently approved a Joint Venture Agreement Framework such that investors can legally farm with the consent of Government. This method allows for access to agricultural land for production purposes while ensuring there is skills transfer to the land reform beneficiaries.

3.0. FAKE OFFER LETTERS

- 3.1 Disturbing reports on the issuance of fake offer letters, sometimes with the collaboration and connivance of Ministry officials, have been on the increase. Some culprits have already been apprehended and brought before the courts of law.
- 3.2 We will endeavour to bring every culprit to account and we urge the public to check with their Province and District for the authenticity of any offer letters not secured through the recommended channels.
- 3.3 All offer letters will now have improved security features, and are issued through the Province and Districts, upon signing the requisite acceptance and acknowledgment forms.
- 3.4 Older offer letters will be replaced with new serialized offer letters with new security features. These will be collectable from the Provinces and the Districts. This will weed out old fake offer letters.

4.0. PERMITS

- 4.1 A1 farmers received their permits from Lands Officers from 2014 onwards or from other authorities prior to 2014.
- 4.2 To further curtail illegal land allocation, a new permit with improved security features will also be issued.
- 4.3 Additionally, new guidelines for the allocation of A1 plots have been distributed to Provinces and Districts to curb illegal land allocation.

5.0. CORRUPTION

- 5.1 Continuing reports of corruption across all land categories are worrisome and Government will not tolerate any unbecoming behavior that is prejudicial to our cherished land reform programme.
- 5.2 We must collectively fight corruption. Please report any suspected case of corruption to the nearest Provincial or District Lands Office, or the Police or Anti-Corruption Commission. The Minister's Office is also open to receive any such complaints or reports.
- 5.3 The public is advised that no payment is required for any of the processes associated with the application, vetting and allocation of agricultural land.

Be guided accordingly.