



Commercial Farmers' Union

Facts on Land & The Present Situation

APRIL 2000

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INTRODUCTION

Zimbabwe's economy has traditionally been agriculturally based and because of its broad base, in producing a multitude of crops and commodities, it has been able to contribute considerably to the export earnings of the country, comprising a major portion of export revenue earned (+/- 40%). In addition, agriculture contributes 18% of GDP and commercial agriculture employs 26% of the labour force (Figure I). Other sectors of importance are mining, contributing about the same and manufacturing contributing about 20 % of earnings.

About seven and a half million people who live in the communal areas depend entirely on the land for their livelihood. In addition about two million people live on commercial farmland who derive their livelihood from working on the farms and from whatever food they grow on commercial farms. Thus about 76% of the total population of the country is entirely dependent upon agriculture for their livelihood. Agriculture, therefore, plays a major part in the lives of the majority of Zimbabweans.

Furthermore, the inter-relationship between industry and agriculture in our country is very close. About 60% of industry is agro-based while the agriculture sector consumes about 20% of the total output of industry. It is important to understand this interdependence because in seasons of adverse weather conditions, when productivity declines, the industrial sector in Zimbabwe suffers proportionately.

It is for this reason that we believe that it is essential to maintain a viable commercial agricultural sector, if the economy of Zimbabwe is to grow. The land resources of our country are finite while the population is estimated to grow at 3% per annum. Commercial farming, therefore, has to be successful in Zimbabwe because of the role agriculture plays in the economy, irrespective of who farms the land. Indeed all farmers in Zimbabwe should be commercial for the country can no longer afford the luxury of allocating limited resources to subsistence farming. Clearly, redistribution of land for resettlement purposes cannot be considered as the panacea to Zimbabwe's economic problems.

However, all agree that there is need to redistribute land to redress the issue of skewed ownership and the Commercial Farmers' Union has long recognised this need and committed itself to working closely with Government in redressing it.

Because the land issue is a sensitive one, facts about ownership are frequently distorted and the entire issue taken out of context. What follows is an attempt to present the facts as they are in an unemotional, clear and unambiguous manner.

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THE FACTS

- Since 1980 Government has acquired some 3.5 million hectares of commercial farmland for resettlement. This has been facilitated by considerable financial support from the British Government.
- It has been accepted that there were some serious failings in the early phase of resettlement, mainly because of the lack of infrastructure and support services to settlers and this area is now to be re-visited.
- During this phase a dynamic land market has prevailed in which farms consistently change hands.
- It is a requirement under law that any farm that is sold must be offered to the Government of Zimbabwe first. If the Government does not wish to acquire the property, a Certificate of No Present Interest is issued, which enables the sale to proceed.
- Following the mass designation of 1 471 farms for acquisition and the Government's failure to pursue the process under the law, a Donor Conference was set up in September, 1998 to chart the way forward.
- Following this Conference, a Joint Communiqué was issued, signed by all parties, the Government, the Donors and the Stakeholders. (Appendix I).
- This resulted in a policy paper entitled Inception Phase Framework Plan, an Implementation Plan of the Land Reform and Resettlement Programme, Phase 2 which outlines the agreed procedures to continue with the Land Reform Programme. This document was debated in Cabinet and had the full approval of Cabinet.

During this phase some 120 farms were offered to Government following their identification in the List of November, 1997.

- Government has purchased approximately 70 such properties since the start of the Inception Phase.
- Currently, Government owns about 300 000 hectares of former commercial farm land that has not been re-settled.
- In addition, State farming operations (ARDA) occupy about 250 000 to 500 000 hectares of commercial farmland (this number varies considerably as properties are allocated to ARDA).
- The CFU has accepted that there is a need for land reform and has continued to work closely with Government during the exercise.
- The CFU constantly monitors land available for acquisition for re-settlement and submits lists of farms to Government for this purpose.

- In addition, the CFU has embarked on a number of projects itself through the Farmers' Development Trust, which concentrates on small scale tobacco production and through other programmes such as the Angwa South Project and the Chikanga Project.
- At the same time, the CFU has encouraged its members throughout the country to adopt an "across the fence programme of assistance " for less developed small-scale neighbouring farmers. This is widespread.
- Land holdings by various sectors are illustrated graphically in Figure II.
- Production figures for the large-scale commercial sector 1992 – 1999 are given in Appendix II (tonnes 000's) and Appendix III (Z\$ million). This is illustrated graphically in Figure III.
- The change in land holdings since Independence is given in Figure IV.

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THE WAY FORWARD

- All agree on the need for land redistribution in Zimbabwe. This is illustrated in the recent statement by the President of the Commercial Farmers' Union, Mr Tim Henwood, released on 29th March, 2000 (Appendix IV).
- However, land reform must be carried out in an orderly and transparent manner without impacting negatively on the productivity of the agricultural sector and at the same time, in a manner that sustains confidence in the industry and encourages further investment, in order to develop the resources fully.
- Such a programme was agreed by all stakeholders, the Government of Zimbabwe, the Donor Community and farmers following the most successful Donor Conference held in Harare in September 1998.
- At this conference considerable resources were pledged by the community to assist in the Land Reform Programme, if it addressed the issue of poverty alleviation and was carried out in an orderly and transparent fashion under the laws of Zimbabwe.
- This policy was captured in a document entitled "An Implementation Plan of the Land Reform and Resettlement Programme, Phase II" which was agreed to by Cabinet and released to the public last year.
- This is highlighted in a statement to the press by the then Senior Minister without Portfolio in the Office of the President and Cabinet, Honourable J W Msika MP, on 6th February 1999 (Appendix V). In this statement the Minister outlined the categories of farms to be acquired for resettlement as follows:-
 1. Derelict Farms;
 2. Under utilised farms;
 3. Farms belonging to absentee landlords;
 4. In certain cases farms adjacent to communal areas and finally;
 5. Owners of multiple farms
- One of the constraints to successful land reform, recognised at the Conference of September, 1998, was the complex bureaucratic procedures involved in the decision making process. There are some four Ministries involved in the exercise (Ministry of Lands and Agriculture, Ministry of Local Government and National Housing, Ministry of Rural Resources and Water Development, Ministry of Finance), while the land identification process was dealt with by the National Land Acquisition Committee, chaired by Senior Minister Msika, which was answerable to none of these Ministries. Furthermore, land identification was devolved further to the provincial party structures, independent of the above Ministries and without the appropriate technical input into the process. This has led to confusion between Ministries, which has further frustrated the entire programme.
- The conference therefore recommended the formation of a Technical Support Unit, to be funded by the UNDP and attached to the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Resettlement and Rural Development (IMCRD).

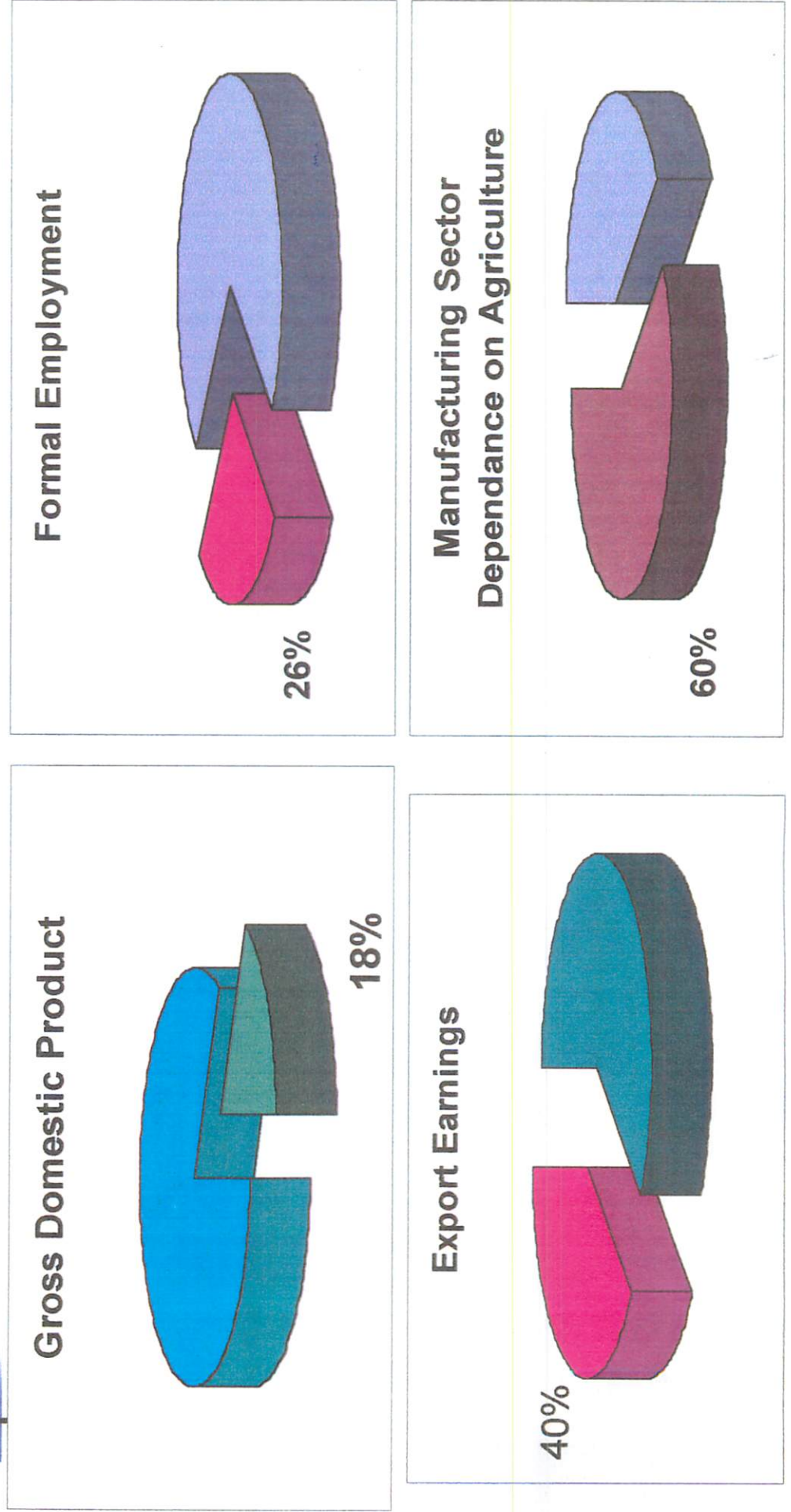
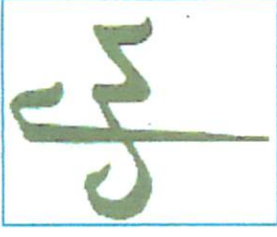
- Such a Unit was to streamline the processes involved in land reform, act as a clearing house for projects admitted to it and channel the flow of information in the appropriate direction. It was seen that no real progress could be made until such time as this Unit was in place.
- Regrettably, some 18 months after the Donor Conference, the Unit is still not yet in place and operating although appropriate personnel have been identified for the various technical posts required.
- In order to make progress in the Land Reform Programme it is essential that such a Unit be given the appropriate resources to operate effectively and efficiently in its designated role.
- One of the most important components of the output from the Donor Conference was the need to monitor and evaluate land reform projects in order to ensure that they succeeded and to identify shortcomings where they did not. No such monitoring and evaluation has taken place.
- It was also agreed at the Conference that existing resettlement schemes would be revisited, in order to determine their productivity and identify constraints to production and again, no such monitoring and evaluation has taken place.
- This is a major weakness of the Land Reform Programme. Former productive commercial farmland, allocated to resettlement schemes, frequently provides little more than subsistence for those resettled. In some cases, in adverse seasons, food aid has had to be supplied by Government to sustain families resettled in the productive Natural Region II of the country.
- The Donor Conference recognised the shortcomings of past resettlement in the lack of provision of appropriate support services from Government, in the way of training, extension, infrastructure and related services. The inability of settled farmers to access the resources necessary to become productive was the major constraint to the success of the early schemes.
- The need for the development of infrastructure and appropriate services was therefore highlighted at the Conference and agreed in the Policy Document produced by the Government, following the Conference.
- To date, such services to resettled farmers are minimal and no infrastructure has been put in place to raise either their standards of living or productive capacity. This issue must be addressed in any further resettlement schemes, for without these support services the schemes cannot succeed.
- An Alternate or Complementary Approach to Resettlement was recommended at the Donor Conference, as this had been a most successful approach adopted in other developing countries, particularly Brazil. The approach is beneficiary driven and market assisted with interventions by the Government and the World Bank to ensure its success.

- The World Bank funded a study tour of appropriate officials of Government and some private sector parties, to Brazil in November of 1998, to study such Complementary Approaches to Resettlement.
- This approach has been incorporated in the official policy document of Government on the way forward in the Resettlement Programme.
- This has been highlighted in a Press Statement by the then Minister Without Portfolio in the Office of the President and the Cabinet, the Honourable J W Msika, MP in April, 1999 (Appendix VI).
- In October of 1999, the World Bank and Government of Zimbabwe signed a Memorandum of Agreement to enable the appropriate funds to be released by the Bank for this approach.
- Regrettably, the Government has not met the counterpart funding aspect of the Memorandum of Agreement and the Programme has stalled.
- A number of Donor funded projects are thus held up in the pipeline and have not been implemented.
- Until this issue is redressed no progress can be made on this aspect of resettlement.
- In the interim the Commercial Farmers' Union continues to monitor and forward to Government appropriate properties offered for sale for the Resettlement Programme.
- With clear indications from Government as to its requirements for land, commensurate with availability of resources and capacity, the CFU could assist in identifying and sourcing such land on an annual basis. This would ensure a planned and orderly Resettlement Programme that could go a long way to meeting the aspirations of land hungry peasants.
- At the same time such a programme would sustain investor confidence in agriculture so necessary to full development of the resources.
- In addition, the CFU has planned, and will continue to assist with, appropriate Complementary/Alternate approaches to the Resettlement Programme.
- As can be seen from the contents of this document there is a programme for land reform which has been agreed by the Zimbabwe Government, commercial farmers and the donor community. The plan is transparent, phased and makes provision for orderly resettlement with the necessary infrastructure and international funding is provided for this.
- The agreed Land Reform Programme offers a practical and attainable way forward and the CFU are willing to assist with its implementation.

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Figure I

Impact of Agriculture on the Economy



Appendix I

COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE END OF THE
INTERNATIONAL DONORS' CONFERENCE
ON
LAND REFORM AND RESETTLEMENT
IN ZIMBABWE

9 - 11 SEPTEMBER, 1998 HARARE, ZIMBABWE

The International Donors' Conference on Land Reform and Resettlement in Zimbabwe was held in Harare, Zimbabwe from 9 to 11 September, 1998.

The Conference was convened by the Government of Zimbabwe in order to inform donors on land reform and resettlement issues and to mobilise support for the Land Reform and Resettlement Programme.

The Conference was attended by Representatives of Donor Countries and International Organisations as well as Representatives of Government, local institutions, non-governmental organisations, civic leaders and other stakeholders.

The Conference was officially opened by His Excellency President R. G. Mugabe. In his opening statement, the President underscored the importance and urgency of resolving the land question in Zimbabwe. He reiterated Government's commitment to acquire five million hectares in the next five years to resettle about 150 000 families. He stressed that the objective of the Land Reform and Resettlement Programme is to establish a more efficient and rational structure of farming, achieve optimal utilisation of land and natural resources and provide equitable access to land to all Zimbabweans irrespective of colour, gender or creed. The representatives of the UN Secretary General, the OAU Secretary General, the World Bank and the Presidency of the European Union also spoke during the opening session.

The following Donor Countries and International Organisations made statements in the Plenary Sessions of the Conference. Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Cuba, Denmark, Egypt, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kuwait, Malaysia, the Netherlands, Norway, South Korea, Sweden, the United Kingdom, United States of America, ADB, ECA, the European Union Delegation, IFAD, IMF, IOM, UNEP. The following local organisations also addressed the Conference; CFU, ZFU, ICFU, ZTA and the Women and Land Lobby Group.

The Donors commended Government for the openness, frankness of the consultation process leading to the Conference and the proceedings of the Conference itself. They welcomed the opportunity offered to them to comment on the documentation prior to the Conference and the open and frank responses provided by Government on the Donors' Comments.

The Donors' unanimously endorsed the need for land reform and resettlement in Zimbabwe and affirmed that this was essential for poverty reduction, economic growth and stability.

Donors appreciated the political imperative and urgency of the Land Reform and Resettlement Programme and agreed that an Inception Phase covering 24 months should commence immediately. A significant number of Donors' have pledged technical/or financial support for the Programme.

The delegates to the Conference had the opportunity to observe and talk to rural communities during field visits. Some of the key experiences gained from these visits were that most communal families are living under growing land pressure and that there is ample evidence of poverty. Delegates also noted that communities are actively involved in settler selection.

The Conference agreed that the effective implementation of the Programme will be greatly enhanced by improvements in the following aspects:-

- The Land Reform and Resettlement Programme is integrally located within the on-going national land policy formulation exercise and that it be integrated into the national macro-economic policy reform process and the evolving poverty alleviation action plans. Such policy refinements will include the introduction of an agricultural land tax, the streamlining of land subdivision regulations and the operationalisation of improved land tenure arrangements.
- The Programme will be enriched by further and on-going consultations with stakeholders and co-operating partners as well as learning from external experiences.
- The focus of the programmes on poverty eradication will require selecting beneficiaries from among the poor, those living in congested communal areas and those with farming aptitude as well as vulnerable groups such as farm workers.
- The Programme will address more adequately gender aspects such as equal access and ownership of land by men and women and the involvement of women in the planning and implementation process.
- The Land Reform and Resettlement Programme will integrate communal area reorganisation and ensure equitable allocations of resources and development opportunities in resettlement and communal areas.
- The Programme will be implemented in a transparent, fair and sustainable manner, with regard to respect for the law, and broadened stakeholder as well as beneficiary participation. It should also be affordable, cost effective, and consistent with economic and financial management reforms.
- The institutional arrangements for managing the Land Reform and Resettlement Programme will include consultations and partnerships of Government with all stakeholders, the beneficiaries and civil society including the National Economic Consultative Forum, the Commercial Farmers' Union, Zimbabwe Farmers' Union, Indigenous Commercial Farmers Union, Women's Organisations and other non-Governmental Organisations.

The Conference committed itself to supporting an Inception Phase which will be implemented over a period of 24 months. The main elements of this Phase are:-

- Immediate implementation of resettlement beginning with the 118 farms on offer.
- The implementation of current Government resettlement models and the provision of opportunities for testing alternative approaches such as market driven and beneficiary initiated models.
- Community based land redistribution initiatives will be encouraged including through on-going programmes such as the Community Action Programme of the Poverty Alleviation Action Plan.
- Funding arrangements will encompass various approaches including sector specific and scheme based project proposals.

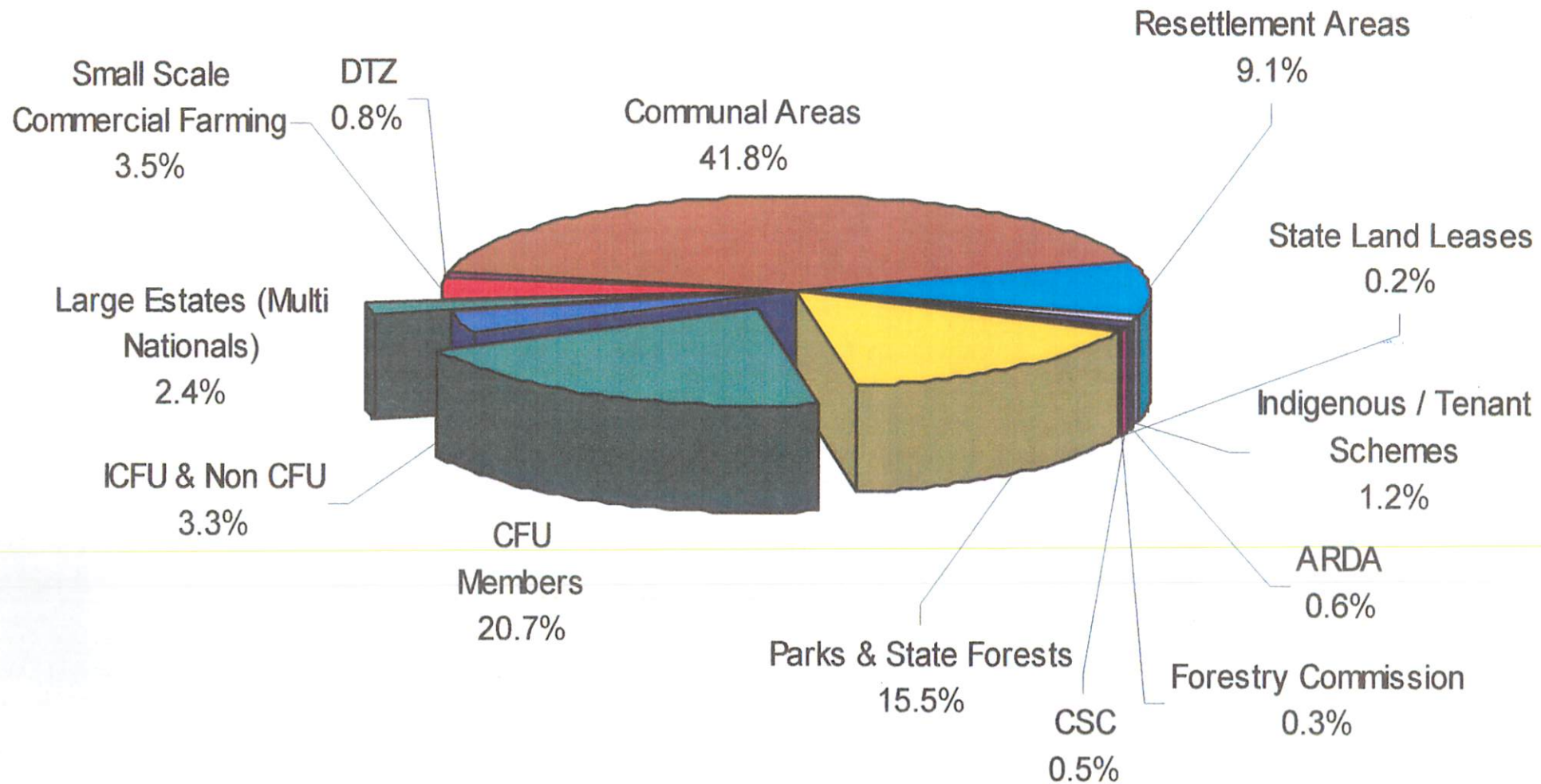
- Some of the undisbursed funds in the programmes that Donors are currently supporting will provide a framework to kick-start the Inception Phase.
- Monitoring will be on-going during the Inception Phase with an evaluation at the end of the period.

The Conference agreed to establish a Task Force constituted by the Government and Donors willing to substantially contribute to the programme to elaborate specific implementation and funding arrangements of the Inception Phase and the longer term. The Task Force will hold its first meeting on September 24, 1998.

Figure II

Land Holdings 2000

Total Hectares - 39,070,000



Appendix II

ESTIMATED TOTAL PRODUCTION LARGE SCALE COMMERCIAL SECTOR (Tonnes 000's)

	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Maize	11.90	639.82	855.00	435.00	837.40	738.37	521.01	648.00
Groundnuts	0.07	2.20	8.50	9.00	1.00	3.60	2.81	2.00
Cotton	23.17	52.64	56.28	50.46	86.08	70.00	76.54	60.67
Wheat	53.44	274.90	275.00	85.25	250.00	250.00	270.00	281.25
Soyabean	40.22	70.00	100.00	77.00	95.00	94.05	108.00	103.40
Tobacco	208.05	210.00	177.52	196.50	202.76	185.92	213.12	184.41
Sunflowers	0.24	6.00	1.00	1.00	0.50	1.50	1.23	1.50
Coffee	4.21	2.62	9.64	4.78	11.50	9.30	10.00	10.00
Sorghum	0.02	18.60	29.40	12.75	20.52	14.94	22.61	12.00
Sugar	328.00	35.00	523.16	512.83	337.88	567.60	570.13	570.00
Tea	9.21	10.18	14.97	14.57	14.88	16.81	17.76	18.50
Sheep	0.10	0.18	0.18	0.25	0.29	0.29	0.27	0.30
Horticulture	19.08	22.02	30.15	34.40	45.83	60.68	55.49	68.33
Barley	5.90	33.10	33.00	13.06	30.00	45.00	57.06	17.50
Beef	139.25	102.28	107.27	78.68	70.81	73.79	73.50	67.20
Dairy	220.76	204.82	196.92	200.19	200.90	185.40	184.32	181.29
Poultry	36.29	31.09	33.36	33.94	33.82	36.42	35.02	38.52
Pigs	6.50	8.78	9.21	8.51	8.80	9.90	10.59	11.00
Wildlife	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Paprika	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	11.40	15.00	12.00	9.80
Ostriches							27.38	26.00

Notes: Poultry figures only include table eggs and slaughtered birds. It excludes all day old chick sales.

- Dairy milk litres converted to kilograms by a factor of 1.03.
- Beef numbers converted to cdm by a factor of 210 kilograms per live animal.
- Horticulture represents export figures only.
- Ostriches reflect the number of birds slaughtered for meat, feathers and hides ('000s)

Appendix III

ESTIMATED TOTAL PRODUCTION LARGE SCALE COMMERCIAL SECTOR (Z\$ Million)

	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Maize	130.9	732.4	769.5	433.0	1088.6	886.0	1354.6	2916.0
Groundnuts	4.5	9.9	20.4	25.5	7.5	14.4	12.7	23.4
Cotton	87.6	155.3	208.2	271.1	507.9	420.0	682.7	864.5
Ostriches							198.5	188.5
Soyabean	47.9	121.5	180.0	199.8	261.3	319.8	496.8	775.5
Tobacco	1629.4	1789.7	2428.3	3654.8	5839.0	4927.0	7372.3	11598.3
Sunflowers	1.5	8.8	1.5	1.9	1.0	3.5	3.1	4.5
Coffee	89.3	51.4	50.9	80.0	322.0	351.9	1091.4	924.0
Sorghum	3.5	15.2	21.2	13.4	27.2	20.8	35.1	49.2
Sugar	18.0	146.0	893.0	811.0	608.4	1497.9	2252.6	2850.0
Wildlife	34.3	65.3	75.1	130.5	166.0	200.0	250	295.0
Dairy	232.0	248.9	256.7	385.2	444.4	471.7	640.8	1372.8
Horticulture	260.1	316.9	471.2	774.3	987.2	1265.5	1817.8	2626.2
Barley	5.9	51.3	54.5	21.9	66.0	99.0	199.7	119.9
Beef	609.0	1012.7	861.0	1589.7	1451.6	1623.3	1976.2	2688.0
Sheep	2.0	3.0	4.0	4.6	4.8	5.0	5.1	8.3
Poultry	174.2	292.6	369.7	461.7	642.3	789.4	994.2	1509.1
Tea	110.4	108.4	207.1	181.7	261.2	319.2	511.3	965.7
Pigs	31.4	54.4	57.1	78.8	96.0	117.0	249.7	280.0
Wheat	65.3	400.2	302.5	192.5	625.0	650.0	1296.0	1771.9
Paprika	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	182.4	300.0	159.6	294.0
TOTAL - Actual	3537.2	5583.9	7231.9	9311.4	13589.7	14281.4	21600.1	32124.8
TOTAL - Real	2019.0	2497.3	2645.2	2778.7	3339.8	2953.1	3391.4	3583.8
Growth (Real)	0.00%	23.7%	5.9%	5.0%	20.2%	-11.6%	14.8%	5.7%
Growth	0.00%	57.9%	29.5%	28.8%	45.9%	5.1%	51.2%	48.7%
Deflators	1.75200	2.23600	2.73400	3.35100	4.06900	4.836	6.369	8.964

Figure III

EST VALUE OF LARGE SCALE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION 1999 (Major Commodities) \$32 billion

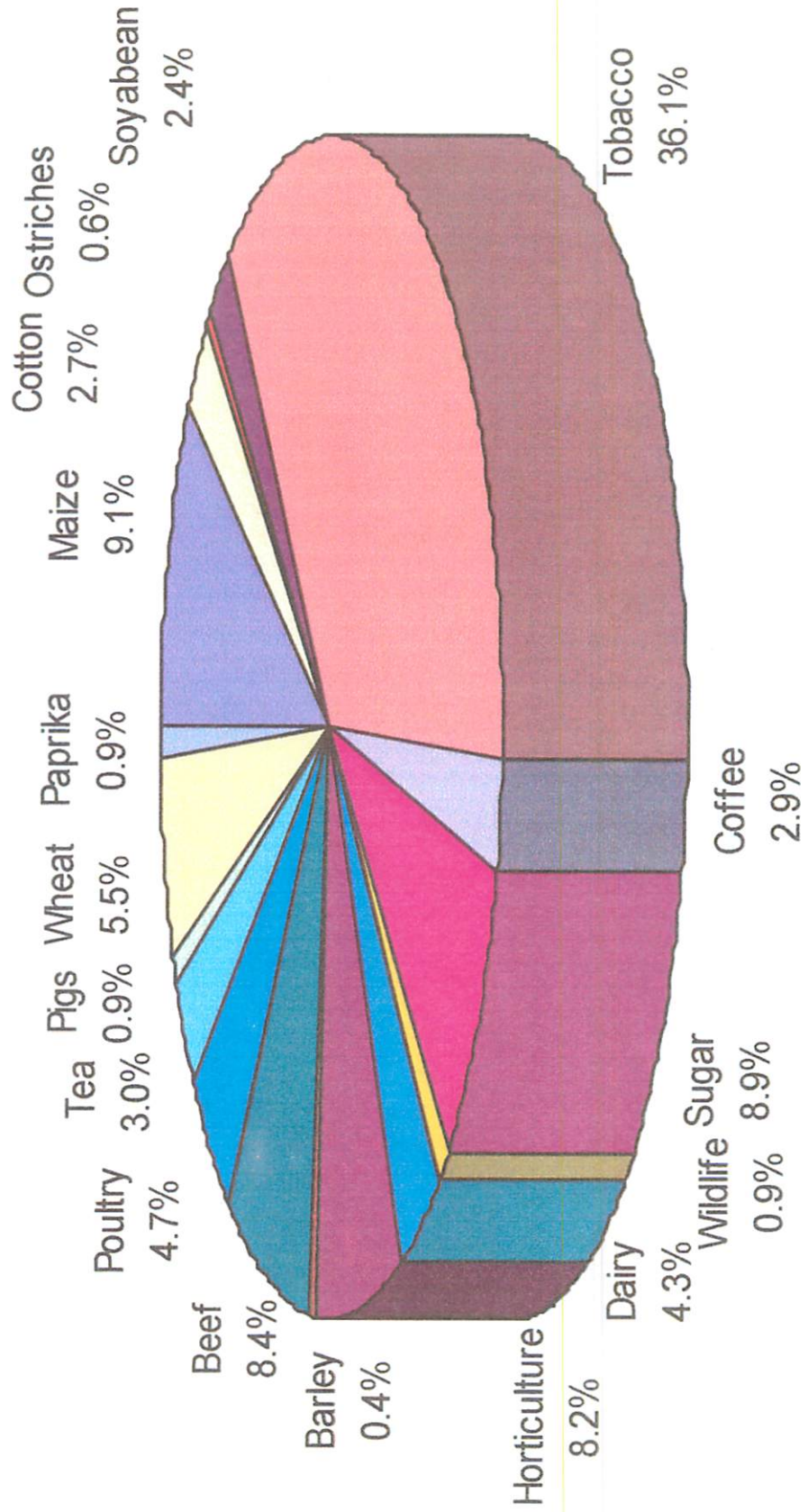
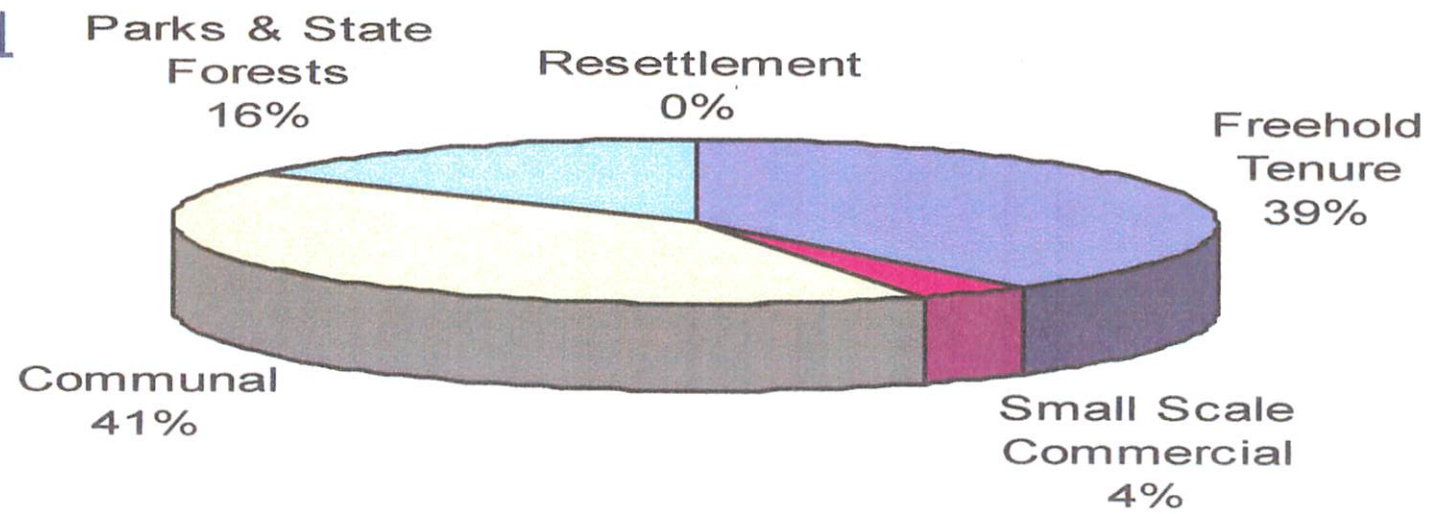


Figure IV

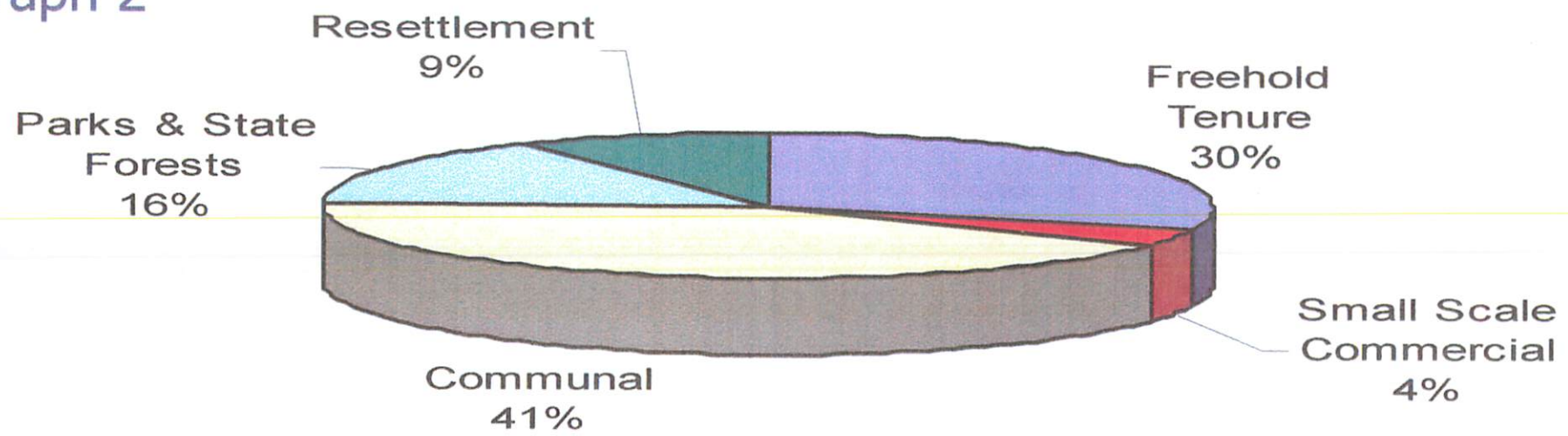
Graph 1

1980 Land Holdings



Graph 2

2000 Land Holdings



Appendix IV

STATEMENT BY MR T K HENWOOD, PRESIDENT OF THE COMMERCIAL FARMERS' UNION

- I wish to reiterate that the CFU is an apolitical organization which works with the elected Government of the day in an impartial and professional manner.
- The CFU is prevented by its Constitution from participating in party politics, its resources are generated by levies and fees from its membership under the Farm License and Levy Act and its accounts are subject to scrutiny by the Minister of Lands & Agriculture and the Commissioner of Taxes.
- However, as an organization we believe in and support the democratic process as an essential ingredient of good governance.
- We believe in the rule of law for without it no civil society can sustain itself.
- We are therefore deeply concerned at the current widespread farm occupations which are causing anxiety and disrupting the Nations Agricultural Industry and we believe a mutually acceptable solution will be found to the current problem.
- We fully support the land reform programme in Zimbabwe and remain willing and committed to working with our Government in carrying out this Programme.
- We reiterate that the reform process must be conducted in an orderly, transparent and accountable manner addressing the most serious issue of poverty alleviation and must be carried out under the laws of Zimbabwe as always stated by the Chairman of the National Land Acquisition Committee the Honourable Vice President Comrade J Msika.
- We have together with our Government, solicited funds from the donor community to enable the Government to carry out this Programme and are aware that considerable resources are available for the Programme once it is back on track, as outlined in the Inception Phase Document of Phase II of the Land Reform Programme.
- The land reform issue is a Zimbabwean issue and will be addressed and solved by Zimbabweans.
- The majority of Commercial Farmers are Zimbabweans committed to our country and its future. We therefore believe a permanent solution will be found to the present situation very soon.
- In conclusion I call on everybody involved internally and externally to refrain from emotional reaction and interference. Zimbabweans will solve this problem in a cool and level headed manner.

T K Henwood
President
29.03.2000

Appendix V

PRESS STATEMENT
BY THE NATIONAL CHAIRMAN OF THE
LAND REFORM AND RESETTLEMENT
COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS AND
MINISTER WITHOUT PORT FOLIO IN THE
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT AND CABINET
HONOURABLE J. W. MSIKA, M.P.

6 FEBRUARY 1999 REPUBLIC OF ZIMBABWE
HARARE

**NATIONAL LAND REFORM AND
RESETTLEMENT PROGRAMME**

REPUBLIC OF ZIMBABWE

- The Government of Zimbabwe continues to implement the second Phase of the Land Reform and Resettlement Programme with the determination to resolve the land issue in an orderly and peaceful manner.

Pursuant to this the government has put in place settlement and land redistribution operational policies and procedures which form an established legal framework emanating from the Land Acquisition Act 1992.

This framework spells out the method Government applies to acquire land and defines clearly the beneficiaries for the resettlement programme. The current phase of the Land Reform and Resettlement Programme focuses mainly on congested communal areas. Recent studies on poverty have established that the incidence of poverty is highest in the congested rural areas. By giving priority to congested communal areas the resettlement programme is therefore targeting poverty at its roots.

Selection of individual beneficiaries is done in a very transparent manner. It is the local community leaders such as the Headmen, Chiefs and Councillors who do the actual selection. Line ministries facilitate the implementation of the resettlement process by providing the necessary infrastructural and technical support services.

The Land Reform and Resettlement Programme also recognizes the right of women to own land in their own right.

In addition, plans are in place to develop and test various alternative models and approaches involving private sector, communities, NGOs and donors. The support from these parties will complement the government's effort in the Land Reform and Resettlement Programme.

- One of the major objectives of the Land Reform and Resettlement Programme is to establish a more efficient and rational structure of farming and to achieve optimum utilisation of land. There is also a need to address the imbalance of land distribution in order to safeguard peace and stability. During the second phase of the Land Reform and Resettlement Programme Government intends to acquire a total of 5 million hectares for resettlement purposes. The target include:
 1. Derelict Farms;
 2. Under utilised farms;
 3. Farms belonging to absentee landlords;
 4. In certain cases farms adjacent to communal areas and finally;
 5. Owners of multiple farms

Compensation of acquired farms will be made in accordance with the existing laws of Zimbabwe.

- During the implementation of the Land Reform and Resettlement Programme, prioritisation will be made to reduce uncertainty in the agricultural and financial sectors resulting from the mismatch between the timing of land acquisition and agricultural seasons. The affected farmers will be made aware of the actual time of acquisition so as not to disrupt planning and farming activities.
- Following the Land Identification exercise of 1997, a preliminary notice to acquire 1 471 farms was gazetted in terms of existing laws. Approximately 510 farms were subsequently delisted, as they were deemed unsuitable for resettlement, in terms of laid down criteria. 102 farms were initially not contested and a further 19 farms were uncontested in 1998 making a total of 120 farms measuring in extent approximately 223 111 ha. The balance of 841 farms, as allowed by the law, contested their acquisition. It was therefore necessary in accordance with the law, to issue these farms with founding affidavits.

At the beginning of this year 11 farms had been acquired, using internal resources. 10 farms are currently being processed for acquisition thus making a total of 21 farms available for immediate resettlement of beneficiaries. The number of farms is within our target of acquiring 1 million ha of land annually, for resettlement purposes. Valuation and other necessary arrangements are being handled on the 99 other farms, by the Ministry of Lands and Agriculture and the Ministry of Local Government and National Housing.

I therefore appeal to those farmers who have not contested Government's intentions to compulsorily acquire their farms to assist the resettlement process by cooperating with the relevant line ministries involved in the implementation of the resettlement programme. Goodwill on both sides will facilitate the process enormously and will speed up land delivery during the Inception Phase. This is in the interest of both the farmer and the Nation.

- Government remains committed to the letter and spirit of the International Donors Conference of September 1998 as captured in the communiqué issued at the end of the conference. Government re-affirms its policy on land reform and is anxious to proceed with the Inception Phase which will subsequently usher the expanded land reform programme focusing on poverty alleviation.

Consequently, the following recommendations were recently made in Cabinet:

1. To adopt deliberations of the International Donors Conference as encapsulated in the Communiqué issued at the end of the Conference.
2. To formalize donor government consultative meetings.
3. To establish a highly specialised technical support unit to assist in the preparation of all the necessary action plans for the implementation of Land Reform and Resettlement Programme.
4. To establish a Land Reform and Resettlement Fund to manage the funds necessary for this programme.

Cabinet has since noted the position and relevant line ministries are now proceeding with the implementation of the above.

As a result, bilateral discussions have been held with donors and has resulted in projects such as the testing out of alternative approaches study to be sponsored by the World Bank and the establishment of a Technical Support Unit to be sponsored by UNDP.

- Government accepts the need and remains committed to expanding and deepening the ongoing consultation process with stakeholders and its cooperating partners in the donor community. Detailed consultative process is intended to yield an expanded Land Reform and Resettlement Programme that is truly national in character and will engender confidence in the land reform programme amongst cooperating partners and potential investors in our economy.

To this end Government through the Cabinet Committee on Resettlement and Development (CRD) has invited the Land Task Force of the National Economic Consultative Forum to contribute to the preparation of the Implementation Project Plans of the Inception phase of the Land Reform and Resettlement Programme. Preparations of these project plans should be completed by the end of February this year. Detailed Provincial Land Reform and Resettlement project plans will subsequently be prepared in the course of implementation.

- Government would like to assure all concerned that the Second Phase of the Land Reform and resettlement Programme would be carried out in a transparent and peaceful manner and in accordance with the laws of Zimbabwe. Government is committed to orderly resettlement. Random invasions of farms will not be tolerated and invaders will be dealt with in accordance with the law.

Dialogue between Government and interested groups including donors will continue through clearly established channels and structures which include line ministries and the National Economic Consultative Forum's Land Task Force. During the implementation of the Inception Phase, Government will intensify dialogue with those donors who have indicated serious intentions to contribute substantially to the programme.

Appendix VI

PRESS STATEMENT
BY THE NATIONAL CHAIRMAN OF THE
LAND REFORM AND RESETTLEMENT
COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS AND
MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO IN THE
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT AND CABINET
HONOURABLE J. W. MSIKA, M.P.

22 APRIL 1999

REPUBLIC OF ZIMBABWE
HARARE

Preamble

Further to my last Press Conference, held in February this year, concerning our National Land Reform and Resettlement Programme, I am pleased to announce progress in this process.

The Government of Zimbabwe has endorsed the Inception Phase Framework Plan of the Land Reform and Resettlement Programme and in so doing has sanctioned the implementation of the Inception Phase with immediate effect.

The basis of the Inception Phase implementation plan is the Land Policy Framework document which was adopted and agreed to, at the International Donor's Conference held in Harare, in September 1998.

Aims and objectives

The Inception Phase is expected to build upon the real experiences of Zimbabwe's first Phase of Land Reform and Resettlement Programme, that of 1980 – 1997 which redistributed 3,498,440 hectares of land to 71,000 families. The programme will be guided by the existing policies and procedures on Land Reform and Resettlement. Where necessary however we will consider appropriate policy reviews and waivers to allow for the implementation of alternative and complementary approaches.

The Inception Phase, which is the initial stage of the second Land Reform and Resettlement Programme, is a twenty-four months action plan. It aims to resettle 118 800 beneficiary families on approximately 1 million ha of land.

The Programme will be financed through an integrated approach which will coordinate funds from Government of Zimbabwe, donor finances and other contributors.

In order to contribute to key national strategic objectives, the Inception Phase plan will be multifaceted and intersectoral in approach.

Programme components

The major components of the Programme are:

1. The implementation of existing and improved Government approaches;
2. The testing of new and complementary approaches to land reform and resettlement;
3. In the process develop an implementation strategy for the expanded Phase of the Land Reform and Resettlement Programme;

The existing Government approaches aim to immediately resettle beneficiaries on the 120 uncontested farms currently available to Government. In the process the programme will enhance the capacities of all Government and private agencies as well as beneficiaries to achieve the resettlement of 77 700 families on 700 000 hectares of land.

The Programme will also provide opportunities to test new and complementary approaches to land reform and resettlement. This component aims to resettle 41 100 families on 300 000 hectares of land. Access to post settlement support in the form of finance, extension and marketing services for beneficiaries will be emphasised.

The Programme will also provide opportunities for the refinement of the national land policy and the establishment of its linkages with other macro-economic policies such as ZIMPREST, the Zimbabwe Agricultural Sector Investment Programme and sectoral policies like the Poverty Alleviation Action Plan and the indigenisation of the commercial farming sector.

The Programme will develop appropriate management arrangements aimed at strengthening the capacities of existing institutions to support its effective and efficient implementation. The implementation of the Programme shall rest with the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Resettlement and Rural Development (IMCRD), which will be assisted by a Technical Support Unit under the overall supervision of the Working Party of Cabinet Committee on Resettlement and Rural Development. The implementation of the Programme will also provide for stakeholder participation and consultation through the Land Reform Task Force of the National Economic Consultative Forum.

In so doing I have invited the Land Reform Task Force together with the Working Party of CRD to form a Joint Working Committee which will play a leading role in the technical coordination of the whole programme.

Conclusion

The Programme, as a precursor to the Land Reform and Resettlement Programme Phase II will impact the rural economy by transferring under-utilised land from the large scale commercial farming sector to the small holder farming sector. This will have a knock-on effect in terms of the creation of direct and indirect employment opportunities and the redistribution of incomes and in turn increase the demand for non-farm rural based commercial activities, which will create employment opportunities of their own.

The transfer of land from the large scale commercial farming sector to beneficiaries in the small holder farming sector will increase rural people's access to highly productive land in natural regions I, II and III. Post-settlement financial, extension and marketing support will also result in optimal use of the redistributed land.

The success of this programme will be judged by the extent to which it will reduce poverty among the rural families and population.

Most importantly the redistribution of land will go a long way in redressing the historical inequalities in land distribution and patterns of land ownership in Zimbabwe. This will provide a durable base upon which to predicate long term peace and national political stability and the prospects for sustainable economic growth.

I now call upon all the local stakeholders involved in this programme to put into practical terms the agreed principals of the programme.

Together as a nation we must now work to remove erroneous misconceptions and perceptions created by some local and foreign media who disparage and denigrate the image of this country by reporting baseless and unfounded stories which are in most cases blatant lies. All of us involved in this programme agree that there is need for Land Reform and Resettlement in this country and my government has been carrying out this programme with respect to the laws of our country and will continue to do so.

Ladies and Gentlemen, on behalf of the Government of Zimbabwe, it is now my pleasure to officially present the Inception Phase Implementation Plan document for dissemination to all interested parties.

I thank you