

POST CABINET PRESS BRIEFING: 1ST MEETING
6 FEBRUARY, 2024

1.0 UPDATE ON SUMMER CROPS AND TOBACCO MARKETING

The Minister of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Rural Development, Honourable Dr. Anxious Jongwe Masuka, presented the Update on Summer Crops and Tobacco Marketing, which was adopted by Cabinet.

Cabinet wishes to inform the nation that the country produced 2.57 million metric tonnes of maize and traditional grains during the 2022/2023 season. Zimbabwe consumes 2.2 million metric tonnes of maize/traditional grains (1.8 metric tonnes for food and 400 000 for stock feed). This translates to 6 027 metric tonnes daily, with 4 931 metric tonnes going towards human consumption. The monthly human consumption requirement is 150 000 metric tonnes.

Cabinet wishes to assure the nation that there will be enough grain before the commencement of the next maize/traditional grains intake in April 2024. Wheat stocks of 247 371 metric tonnes as at 28 January, 2024 will last eleven months, at a monthly drawdown rate of 21 000 metric tonnes.

Regarding the summer crops marketing update, the nation is informed that the total marketed crops was 526 082 metric tonnes for the 2022/2023 summer crops, out of which the GMB purchased 210 579

metric tonnes. The GMB intake constituted 39% market share for all the marketed crops.

Pertaining to tobacco, a total of 36.8 million kilogrammes has been exported this year, at an average price of US\$7.33 per kilogramme, compared to the 11.6 million kilogrammes exported over a similar period in 2023 at an average price of US\$4.31 per kg. As the nation may recall, from a record production of 296 million kilogrammes under the Second Republic, 236 031 405 kilogrammes of tobacco worth US\$1 237 342 456 was subsequently exported in 2023. Most of the tobacco being sold in 2024 is destined for the Far East, Africa, the Middle East and European Union markets.

A total of 88 747 082 kilogrammes of seed cotton was marketed as at 25 January, 2024, compared to the 55 972 612 kilogrammes sold over a corresponding period in 2023.

2.0 UPDATE ON PREPARATIONS FOR THE 2023/2024 SUMMER SEASON

Cabinet considered and noted the Update on Preparations for the 2023/2024 Summer Season, which was presented by the Minister of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Rural Development, Honourable Dr. A.J. Masuka.

The nation is informed that a total of 3 027 559 hectares was planted to crops during the 2023/2024 Summer Season, out of the targeted 3 674 000 hectares. Of the total planted area, 1 676 274 hectares was planted to maize, 362 541 hectares to sorghum, 141 169 hectares to pearl millet, and 271 823 hectares to groundnuts. A cumulative 2 283 272 metric tonnes of maize and 271 623 metric tonnes of traditional grains is expected from the planted area. A total of 11 932 505 plots which are equivalent to 744 588 hectares had been prepared under the Climate-Proofed Presidential *Pfumvudza/Intwasa* Programme by 20 November 2023, compared to the 5 867 292 plots equivalent to 366 706 hectares that had been prepared by 21 November, 2022 and 4 602 209 plots equivalent to 287 640 hectares by 19 November, 2021. This is a reflection that farmers are adopting the recommended climate-proofing interventions, especially during the *El Nino* condition.

The nation is further being assured that there is adequate water for irrigation, with the national dam storage level at 84.8% as at 1 February, 2024. Cabinet also wishes to advise the public that the 31% reduction in water charges for farmers has since been effected as directed.

3.0 UPDATE ON THE NATIONAL CHOLERA OUTBREAK RESPONSE

The Minister of Health and Child Care, Hon. Dr. Douglas Mombeshora updated Cabinet on the Cholera outbreak situation and the response thereto.

The nation is informed that cholera cases are on the decrease in Zimbabwe. The Ministry of Health and Child Care continues to institute control measures that include: distribution of water treatment chemicals at the point of use; training of water point committees; demonstrations on handwashing; setting up of Oral Rehydration Point; engagement with religious leadership; and awareness and health education. The Ministry also received 60 000 litres of Intra-Venous fluids, tents and other cholera supplies from the United Nations Children's Emergency Fund in the previous week, thereby strengthening measures to control the disease.

As efforts to fight cholera continue, the priority actions for the next 12 weeks, especially for Harare and Chitungwiza, include the following: Oral Cholera Vaccine Deployment to the targeted hot spots; Procurement of Cholera Response Medicines, Supplies and Commodities; Mobilisation of additional funding to support the cholera response at national and Sub-national levels for optimal and comprehensive response to the outbreak; and Support for the implementation of the integrated community strategy to optimize access to safe water and sanitation. Other initiatives will include applying the concept of Clean cities and environment by prioritizing deployment of law enforcement agents to: remove all food vendors from undesignated areas in all suburbs; supervise removal of refuse from areas where this has been dumped and make sure this does not pile up again; and monitor and halt gatherings for religious and funeral purposes in other known hotspots until the situation normalizes.

4.0 MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE REPUBLIC OF ZIMBABWE AND THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA ON COOPERATION TO COMBAT CROSS-BORDER LIVESTOCK RUSTLING

Cabinet considered and approved the Memorandum of Understanding between the Republics of Zimbabwe and Botswana on Cooperation to Combat Cross-Border Livestock Rustling, which was presented by the Minister of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs, Hon. Ziyambi Ziyambi as the Chairperson of the Cabinet Committee on Legislation.

The nation is informed that the Memorandum of Understanding aims to establish a legal framework for cooperation between the Republics of Zimbabwe and Botswana in order to harmonise efforts on combating livestock rustling and any other associated crimes. This initiative also seeks to maintain the historic ties between the Parties through cooperation, while respecting national sovereignty.

5.0 MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE REPUBLIC OF ZIMBABWE AND THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA ON IMMIGRATION COOPERATION

Cabinet considered and approved the Memorandum of Understanding between the Republics of Zimbabwe and Botswana on Immigration Cooperation, which was presented by the Minister of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs, Hon. Ziyambi Ziyambi as the Chairperson of the Cabinet Committee on Legislation.

The Memorandum reflects the desire to cooperate in the area of immigration by both Parties, born out of the Parties' mutual belief that cooperation will foster stability and prosperity. The Memorandum aims to establish a legal framework for cooperation of both Parties in immigration matters. Areas of cooperation include: facilitation of movement of persons; anti-human trafficking and smuggling; capacity building; harmonization of immigration related laws and policies; and the establishment of one-stop border post, among others.

6.0 MEMORANDUM ON THE PRIVATE MEMBER'S DEATH PENALTY ABOLITION BILL

Cabinet considered and approved the Memorandum on the Private Member's Death Penalty Abolition Bill, which was presented by the Minister of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs, Hon. Ziyambi Ziyambi as the Chairperson of the Cabinet Committee on Legislation.

The nation is informed that a Private Member's Bill was introduced in the National Assembly, and its main purpose was to abolish the death penalty in Zimbabwe through the amendment to the Criminal Law Code and the Criminal Procedure and Evidence Act.

Following ongoing debates locally, regionally and internationally on whether or not the death penalty should be abolished, the Government of Zimbabwe through the Ministry of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs conducted countrywide grassroots consultations in 30 districts of

Zimbabwe, three (3) districts per each of the ten provinces, after which a Report was produced. From these consultations, critical comments and views were expressed for, and against the death penalty.

Cabinet approved the abolition of the death penalty and agreed that the circumstances attracting death penalty options include where the murder is committed against a prison or police officer, or minor or pregnant woman; or it is committed in the course of other serious crimes or where there was pre-meditation. In view of the need to retain the deterrent element in sentencing murderers, it is expected that the new law will impose lengthy sentences without violating the right to life. The existence of aggravating circumstances may attract life sentences.

7.0 REPORT ON THE 19TH NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT (NAM) AND THE 3RD SOUTH SOUTH SUMMIT (G-77+CHINA): KAMPALA, UGANDA: 19-20 JANUARY, 2024

The Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Hon. Frederick Makamure Shava reported on the 19th Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and the 3rd South Summit (G-77+China) which was held in Kampala, Uganda from 19 to 20 January, 2024.

The nation is informed that His Excellency the President, Dr. Emmerson Dambudzo Mnangangwa attended the 19th Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Non-Aligned Movement, which was held under the theme "***Deepening Cooperation for Shared Global Affluence***". During the Summit, His Excellency Yoweri Museveni, President of the

Republic of Uganda assumed chairmanship of the Movement for the period 2024 to 2027. President Museveni will be guided by a vision that will foster "***A Stronger and United Non-Aligned Movement that Contributes to a Better World for All***". The Summit adopted the Final Kampala Outcome Document, the Kampala Declaration and the NAM Declaration on Palestine.

The Final Kampala Outcome Document covered global political, regional and sub-regional issues, particularly the developments in the Middle East, Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean. It also noted the successful holding of Harmonised Elections in Zimbabwe in August 2023, and acknowledged the efforts of the Second Republic in accelerating the attainment of Vision 2030. Delegations expressed their unwavering support to the Palestinian people, while the Foreign Minister of the State of Palestine thanked the Non-Aligned Movement for its unwavering solidarity. His Excellency the President acknowledged and expressed gratitude to NAM Member States for their support in the call for the removal of the unjust and unilateral sanctions imposed on Zimbabwe by some countries.

8.0 REPORT ON THE PARTICIPATION OF HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT, CDE E.D. MNANGAGWA AT THE INAUGURATION CEREMONY OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO, HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT FELIX TSHISEKEDI TSHILOMBO: 20 JANUARY, 2024

Cabinet received and adopted the Report on the Participation of His Excellency the President at the Inauguration Ceremony of the President of the Democratic Republic of Congo, His Excellency Felix Tshisekedi Tshilombo which was presented by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Honourable Dr. F. M. Shava.

The nation is informed that the well-attended and peaceful ceremony was also attended by the Presidents of South Africa, Zambia, Mozambique, the United Republic of Tanzania, Malawi and Angola. In his inauguration speech, President Tshisekedi called for a more united, stronger and prosperous Democratic Republic of Congo.

9.0 REPORT ON THE ITALY-AFRICA SUMMIT: ROME, ITALY: 28-30 JANUARY, 2024

Cabinet received the Report on His Excellency the President's attendance at the Italy-Africa Summit, as presented by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Honourable Dr. F. M. Shava.

The nation is informed that His Excellency the President, Cde E.D. Mnangagwa, led a delegation to the Italy-Africa Summit from 28th to 30th January, 2024. The Summit was held under the theme, "A Bridge for Common Growth." The objective of the Summit was for the Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni to present Italy's strategic plan of cooperation with Africa, and to increase economic cooperation in several sectors for the benefit of both Africa and Italy. The development model called the Mattei Plan, named after Enrico Mattei, founder of Italy's energy company, seeks to transform Italy into Europe's gateway for Energy

from Africa. The plan also seeks to increase investment into Africa so as to curb illegal migration to Europe.

In his keynote address during the Food Security Session, His Excellency the President Dr. E.D. Mnangagwa highlighted the importance of food security for safeguarding Africa's stability. He underscored the need for the continent to be food secure first, as part of measures to address socio-political stability and ensure sustained economic growth and prosperity. The President stressed the significance of empowering communal and smallholder farmers, as well as women and youths, who form the backbone of agriculture in countries such as Zimbabwe.

His Excellency the President also held bilateral meetings on the sidelines of the Italy-Africa Summit with the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organisation, Dr. Qu Dongy, the Director-General of World Food Programme, and the founder of Sant'Egidio.

10.0 REPORT ON HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT'S OFFICIAL VISIT TO LUGANO, SWITZERLAND: 30-31 JANUARAY, 2024

Cabinet received the Report on His Excellency the President's Official Visit to Lugano from 30th to 31st January, 2024 at the invitation of Mabetex Group, which was presented by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Honourable Dr. F. M. Shava.

The nation is informed that His Excellency the President, Dr. E.D. Mnangagwa held a meeting with the executive management of the Mabetex Group, headed by the founder and owner, Mr. Behgjet Pacolli at the company headquarters. The Mabetex Group's investment portfolio includes construction of major infrastructural projects such as airports, hotels and conference facilities.

11.0 DEATH OF HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT HAGE GEINGOB OF NAMIBIA

Cabinet expressed deep sadness over the passing on of the Namibian President on Sunday, 4 February, 2024. His Excellency the President, Dr. E.D. Mnangagwa, sent a message of condolence to the then Acting Namibian President, His Excellency Nangolo Mbumba.

I Thank You!