

Permits closer for Zim aid trucks

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Stranded in Johannesburg for nearly three weeks

The clearance certificates for emergency relief aid to Zimbabwe should be ready by Monday, the South African Council of Churches (SACC) has said. Ron Steele, a spokesperson for SACC, said the non-governmental organisation distributing the aid, Christian Care, informed them today that its application for a maize import permit had been accepted. According to the NGO, the next step was to get a document from the Zimbabwe Grain Marketing Board, in order to get the duty-free permit, from the Zimbabwean ministry of agriculture. "The 37 tons of white maize, sugar beans and cooking oil have been stranded in Johannesburg for nearly three weeks awaiting a duty-free permit," said Steele. He said the 5 000 blankets were off-loaded in a bonded warehouse in Harare this morning. "A Christian Care official says that the Zimbabwean Collector of Taxes has accepted an application for a rebate letter on the blankets. According to Christian Care this should be granted on Monday."