

## **NEWS BRIEFS FROM ZIMBABWE**

**APRIL 2002**

**Editors Arrested and Charged With Criminal Defamation;**

**International Crisis Group's Prendergast Deported**

**Protests Continue Against Elections**

**President Declares Food Disaster**

South African Press Association (Johannesburg)

April 17, 2002

Posted to the web April 18, 2002

Harare

The editor of an independent weekly newspaper in Zimbabwe was on Wednesday charged with criminal defamation after his paper ran a story alleging President Robert Mugabe's wife's brother was involved in a labour dispute at a white-owned firm.

Editor Iden Wetherell said he signed a "warned and cautioned statement" and had his fingerprints taken before being released after 90 minutes.

He said he was charged along with Dumisani Muleya, the correspondent for South Africa's Business Day newspaper.

Muleya was on Monday charged with "criminal defamation" or, alternatively, with "publishing falsehoods", in a report last week which said that the brother of Mugabe's young wife, Grace, had been trying to use her position to help him seize control of a white-owned company for which he worked.

Commenting on his arrest, Wetherell said the police were "perfectly courteous".

Observers say a pattern of growing repression has emerged since Zimbabwe's presidential elections last month.

Pro-Mugabe militias have, according to observers, carried out a wave of violent retribution against people suspected of having supported the Movement of Democratic Change in the elections. Now the regime appeared to be targeting the independent press, they said.

On Monday Geoff Nyarota, editor of the Daily News, the country's only independent newspaper, became the first person to be charged under the new Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act, for a report which said that Mugabe aides had rigged his election.

Two weeks ago, Peta Thornycroft, correspondent here for Britain's Daily Telegraph, was arrested and held for four days, on charges she described as "incoherent."

**Meanwhile the Zimbabwean government on Wednesday deported a former top US official.**

**John Prendergast, a co-director of the International Crisis Group (ICG), the respected Brussels-based political think-tank, was refused admission and arrested when he arrived at Harare international airport, a friend who asked not to be named said.**

**"They just turned him round and now he's waiting for the next plane out," said a friend who was telephoned by Prendergast from their airport.**

**US embassy spokeswoman Heather Lippett said "a US citizen was detained and deported" from Zimbabwe, but would not name Prendergast, who was also the director of African affairs on former United States president Bill Clinton's National Security Council.**

**"The government of Zimbabwe has not provided the embassy with any information regarding the motivation for this action," she said.**

**The ICG is composed mostly of former senior officials of Western governments, including Australia's former foreign minister, Gareth Evans.**

**Prendergast has helped author reports criticising Mugabe's regime and also lobbied for the imposition of sanctions targeted specifically against Mugabe and members of his ruling clique.**

**The sanctions, initiated by the United States and the European Union, include a ban on travel to countries imposing the measures.**

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<http://www.dailynews.co.zw/daily/2002/April/April16/3344.html>

NATIONAL NEWS Tuesday 16 , April

### **Nyarota arrested**

4/16/02 8:43:57 AM (GMT +2)

By Collin Chiwanza

GEOFFREY Nyarota, the Editor-in-Chief of The Daily News, was yesterday arrested by the police in Harare in connection with a story carried in his newspaper last Wednesday which showed that there were serious discrepancies between the total number of votes announced by the Registrar-General, Tobaiwa Mudede, in last month's presidential election and the actual ballots cast.

Three officers, Detective Inspector Denford Dhliwayo, Assistant Inspector Jameson Majachani and Detective Inspector Edward Duri, visited Nyarota in his office and later took him away to Harare Central Police Station, where he was charged.

Nyarota, who was accompanied by his lawyer, Lawrence Chibwe of Stumbles and Rowe, was charged for contravening section 80 (1) (a) of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act, Chapter 10: 27, which deals with the abuse of journalistic privilege.

Part of the section says: “A journalist shall be deemed to have abused his journalistic privilege and committed an offence if he falsifies or fabricates information and publishes falsehoods.”

The Act stipulates that anyone who contravenes that section shall be guilty of an offence and liable to a fine not exceeding \$100 000 or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding two years.

This is the second time that the controversial piece of legislation, crafted by Jonathan Moyo, the Minister of State for Information and Publicity in the President’s Office, has been used since President Mugabe signed it into law late last month.

Before its eventual passage, the draconian law had been fiercely resisted by both Zanu PF and MDC legislators who argued that it was specifically tailored to muzzle the Press and curtail the basic freedoms of expression and assembly.

After charging Nyarota, the police proceeded to record a statement and to take his fingerprints before releasing him.

On 10 April, 2002, The Daily News reported that the total number of votes announced by Mudede in a live broadcast by the Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation (ZBC) as having been polled by all five contesting candidates was 700 000 votes less than the figure subsequently published in other media.

A copy of the ZBC tape obtained by The Daily News shows that the total of Mudede’s breakdown of the votes polled by the five candidates was 2 998 758 valid ballots - 700 000 votes in excess of the total figure which he announced to the nation.

Mudede subsequently dismissed the story during a news conference in Harare last week.

In a statement, Mudede accused The Daily News of “cooking up figures in order to justify their allegations against the Registrar-General”.

At the same Press conference, Mudede failed to clear the controversy pertaining to the conflicting figures and proceeded to announce new presidential election results.

In the fresh results, Mudede reduced the number of votes cast in favour of Mugabe by a total of 4 000, while simultaneously increasing Morgan Tsvangirai’s votes by 4 002 in what he said was the final report.

But Nyarota said The Daily News stood by its story as published on 10 April and challenged the ZBC-TV to air the report for the benefit of the nation.

This had not been done as of yesterday afternoon.

On Wednesday night after Mudede’s Press conference ZBC-TV featured, not Mudede, but ZBC newscaster Obriel Mpofo announcing the results. Nyarota said Mudede’s statement on Wednesday failed to address the legitimate concerns raised in the Daily News story.

The police admitted yesterday they had not viewed the tape before proceeding to arrest Nyarota.

The police demanded that Nyarota reveal to them the identity of the reporters involved in compiling the story.

Nyarota refused to do so, saying, as Editor-in-Chief, he was ultimately responsible for the content of The Daily News.

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<http://allafrica.com/stories/200204100224.html>

### **Mudede Tape Proves Mugabe Lost Election**

The Daily News (Harare)

April 10, 2002

Posted to the web April 10, 2002

Staff Reporters

THE total number of votes announced by the Registrar-General, Tobaiwa Mudede, in a live broadcast as having been polled by all five contesting presidential candidates is 700 000 votes less than the figure subsequently published in other media.

In his announcement, which was broadcast live on radio and television, Mudede stated that a total of 2 298 758 votes had been received by all candidates.

Mudede stated at the end of a live broadcast that had taken all night and most of the morning of Wednesday, 13 March:

"The results at national level are as follows: Kumbula, Tarugarira Wilson, Zanu - 31 368; Maya, Shake, NAGG - 11 906; Mugabe, Robert Gabriel, Zanu PF - 1 685 212; Siwela, Independent - 11 871; Tsvangirai, Morgan, MDC - 1 258 401 votes. "Total votes cast 200 - oh, sorry -

2 298 758. This is minus the spoilt papers. Plus spoilt papers they go up to the figure I mentioned which is around 3 million.

"I, Tobaiwa Mudede, Registrar-General of the Elections, having ascertained the results of the 2002 presidential poll in the 120 constituencies, do hereby declare Robert Gabriel Mugabe of Zanu PF party, who has received the majority of the total number of valid votes cast, the winner of the presidential election for the office of President of the Republic of Zimbabwe."

So ended the announcement by Mudede of the presidential election held on Saturday and Sunday, 9 and 10 March, and extended to Monday, 11 March 2002 in Harare and Chitungwiza.

But the actual total of Mudede's breakdown is 2 998 758 valid ballots, 700 000 votes in excess of the total figure which he announced to a stunned nation.

The Daily News obtained a copy of a video recording of the tape which was broadcast live by the Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation (ZBC), which no one seems to have had sufficient presence of mind to cross-check until this newspaper was alerted by a member of the public on Monday.

Perusal of the contents of the tape reveals that the statement made by the Registrar-General that the total number of votes cast, including spoilt papers, was "around 3 million" is totally false.

If we add the 115 277 spoilt votes as published in The Herald of 14 March 2002 to the total number of valid votes cast as announced by Mudede, the total number of votes cast in the presidential election would be 2 414 035, a figure very far away from Mudede's "around 3 million" total.

Mudede was not available yesterday to explain why he, as Registrar-General, would speak casually of "around 3 million" votes when all the relevant figures were right in front of him.

Mudede would have been asked to explain why he did not speak in very specific terms in announcing the figures that were part of the result of such an important and controversial presidential election.

But by announcing that "if the total number of spoilt papers was added to the 2 298 758 valid votes cast the total number of votes casts would be around 3 million" the Registrar-General suggested that more than 700 000 ballot papers had been spoilt.

"ZBC should re-broadcast the tape in which Mudede announced the results, so that the public can see for themselves how gullible they were in accepting at face value the false statement by Mudede," the resident of Chitungwiza who alerted The Daily News to the discrepancy suggested on Monday.

"Assuming Tsvangirai would not benefit from Mudede's charitable miscalculations, if one were to subtract his total of 1 258 401 votes, as attributed to him by the Registrar-General from the total vote cast of 2 298 758, as announced by Mudede, that would leave Mugabe and the three lesser candidates with a total of 1 040 357 votes.

"Subtracting the total votes cast for Maya, Kumbula and Siwela from this figure would leave Mugabe with 985 212.

"If the 700 000 excess votes referred to earlier were added to 985 212, the total would be 1 685 212, the total figure said to have been won by the President in the election. That would leave Mudede with no spoilt ballots. This would explain why the Registrar-General cannot announce that figure."

The Zimbabwe Electoral Support Network yesterday said according to its own calculations, a total of 95 670 ballot papers had been spoilt in the election.

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<http://allafrica.com/stories/200204100226.html>

**EU Parliament Says Daily News Report On Election Rerun Correct**  
The Daily News (Harare)

April 10, 2002

Posted to the web April 10, 2002

Staff Reporter

THE European Union (EU) on Monday said The Daily News reporting of the joint deliberations of the African, Caribbean and Pacific and European Union Joint Parliamentary Assembly (ACP-EU JPA) last month in South Africa, was accurate and true and that the government was confused in its interpretation of the proceedings.

At the start of Parliamentary business, British Conservative Euro-MP John Corrie (UK - West Midlands) raised an Urgent Point of Order to highlight the latest attempts by the Zimbabwean government to suppress the freedom of the media and free speech by threatening The Daily News with punitive legal action for publishing "accurately and truthfully" the Zimbabwe Resolution from the ACP-EU JPA.

Addressing the 626-member European Parliament, Corrie said: "All MEPs

(Members of the European Parliament) will be stunned to learn of the

Zimbabwe government's latest attempt to suppress Zimbabwe's free Press and in particular The Daily News.

"The accurate reporting of the Cape Town meeting of the 92-nation ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly's 4th Session by The Daily News must be praised."

The government's threat to prosecute, Geoffrey Nyarota, the Editor-in-Chief of The Daily News, is the first case under the new draconian Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act passed barely four days after the disputed outcome of the 9-11 March 2002 presidential election.

Corrie, on behalf of other MEPs asked Pat Cox, the President of the European Parliament, to raise this issue "strongly and to lodge an official protest with Zimbabwean Justice and Information Ministers".

Corrie, who was an Honorary Co-President of the ACP-EU JPA, three weeks ago in Cape Town, said the European Commission and European Council must likewise not ignore the increasing erosion of human rights, the rule of law and democracy in Zimbabwe.

The ACP-EU JPA brings together politicians from 92 nations across Europe, Africa, the Caribbean and Pacific.

Professor Jonathan Moyo, the Minister of State for Information and

Publicity, threatened Nyarota on 25 March with prosecution under the new Press and privacy law if he did not print a correction to the 22 March article that reported the EU and the ACP countries had drawn up a resolution calling for a new election in Zimbabwe.

Nyarota said he would rather go to jail, if it pleased the minister, than be

forced to publicly correct a story that was 100 percent correct.

The resolution calling for a new election in Zimbabwe within the year under the auspices of the Commonwealth and the international community was passed in a secret ballot by the ACP-EU JPA by 68 votes in favour, two against with three abstentions.

It was adopted formally as a joint ACP-EU text.

The crucial amendment calling for a new election was tabled at the initiative of the 233-strong EPP-ED Group by the British Conservative MEPs Corrie and Mrs Jacqueline Foster, and Germany's Christian Democratic Union MEPs Konrad Schwaiger and Michael Gahler.

### **American Blacks Slam Mugabe Over Arrests**

Zimbabwe Independent (Harare)

April 19, 2002

Posted to the web April 19, 2002

Blessing Zulu

PRESIDENT Robert Mugabe has come under renewed criticism this week for his crackdown on the opposition.

The president and chief executive officer of the United States-based National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People (NAACP), Kweisi Mfume, slammed Mugabe's decision to charge MDC leader Morgan Tsvangirai with treason.

The NAACP was invited by the government to observe the March 9/11 presidential election. Founded in 1909, it is the oldest and largest African American organisation in the US. It has half a million members.

Mfume sent the letter of protest to the Zimbabwe ambassador to the United States, Simbi Mubako.

"The election is over. This sort of heavy-handedness to kill off all opposition voices is too much for anyone to be silent about," Mfume said. "These actions indicate that Mugabe does not want to live by the basic tenets of a democratic election. You cannot run a democracy by jailing the opposition and everyone who disagrees with you."

Mfume said Mugabe's actions could have "a chilling effect on democracy in Zimbabwe and work against the precepts of the democratic process.

"The NAACP believes that democracy is a necessary precondition for social, political and economic transformation and is crucial to attracting assistance for the development of the developing world."

It was in this spirit that he was writing to Mubako about the treatment of Tsvangirai and other opposition leaders, he said.

Meanwhile, the Franciscan Fathers, an order of the Catholic Church in

Zimbabwe, has commented on Zanu PF's campaign methods of intimidation, beatings, arson and disenfranchisement.

In particular, the fathers castigated the violence perpetrated by youths from the Border Gezi Training Institute.

"The use of youth groups and the unemployed as pawns in a political struggle was shameful," the Franciscans said.

"It caused nothing but violence and destroyed traditional values of respect for elders and concerns for the weak and innocent," they said.

The fathers also lashed out at the chaotic land grab exercise and the growing favouritism in food distribution.

"Party membership as a requirement for assistance to those on the brink of starvation is a sin before God and man. Who are the people making such evil demands?" they asked.

Mugabe claims to be a member of the Catholic Church. The statement by the Franciscan fathers joins a growing dossier of complaints about the conduct of the presidential poll, widely seen as flawed.

It was reported recently that President Abdoulaye Wade of Senegal had added his voice to the chorus of those critical of Mugabe's conduct.

"Mr Mugabe did not respect the rules," Wade said.

"The opposition could not wage its campaign. There were many deaths. Electoral laws were changed days before the election. We can't call that an election.

"I was in the opposition for too long to forget the opposition as soon as I arrived in power," he said. "I refuse to belong to this trade union of presidents. Mugabe or not Mugabe is not my concern. My concern was what the people of Zimbabwe wanted."

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200204240140.html>

### **Thousands Elude Police to Stage NCA Demo**

The Daily News (Harare)

April 24, 2002

Posted to the web April 24, 2002

Staff Reporters

ARMED policemen descended on thousands of National Constitutional Assembly (NCA) protesters countrywide with batons, teargas and other weapons and arrested 50 of them in Mutare, Harare, Masvingo and Bulawayo.

The NCA members eluded a tight police cordon thrown around the



major cities to stage a peaceful mass protest demanding a new constitution.

In Harare, about 5 000 demonstrators marched on and off as they dodged the police cordons along Angwa Street, Union Avenue and First Street.

Some of them, however, were entrapped by the police who beat them up severely.

Three women protesters suffered serious injuries, while several others sustained minor injuries.

An NCA official, who preferred anonymity, said: "This is just the beginning of massive demonstrations currently in the making. We will not rest until the people of Zimbabwe reclaim their power through a new constitution. The government should just build more prisons and employ more police officers because we are determined to continue fighting for our rights."

In Masvingo, at least six people were arrested as the police fought running battles with NCA demonstrators.

Thousands of people marched through the streets of Masvingo denouncing President Mugabe for rejecting constitutional reform.

The placard-waving protesters handed over 30 copies of the NCA's draft constitution to Ministry of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs officials for onward transmission to Patrick Chinamasa, the minister, and Mugabe.

Although the demonstration was peaceful, the police pounced on the activists and sent them running in all directions before confiscating their placards.

Ray Muzenda, the NCA regional chairman for Masvingo, described the protest as "a great success".

In Gweru, five NCA activists were arrested while demonstrating. They were charged of contravening a section of the repressive Public Order and Security Act.

Meanwhile, Lovemore Madhuku, the NCA's chairperson, was to spend another night in custody after Harare magistrate Joyce Negonde yesterday said she would give a ruling on his bail application this afternoon.

She, however, granted \$8 000 bail each to Maxwell Saungweme, the civic body's information officer, and Ednah Zinyemba, the acting co-ordinator, Madhuku's co-accused.

The State had opposed granting Madhuku bail.

The three, who were arrested on Monday, are being charged with contravening Section 360 (2) (a) of the Criminal Procedure and Evidence Act by conspiring to commit public violence.

The MDC yesterday condemned the arrest of Madhuku saying it was disturbing that the government had deployed its riot police to deal with peaceful protesters when violent and armed Zanu PF gangs are allowed to cause mayhem with police assistance.

"Surely how can a demonstrator armed only with a petition pose a threat to national security?" read part of the MDC's statement.

The MDC said every single effort towards peaceful change in Zimbabwe had been met with arrests, violence, abductions and murders by the Zanu PF government.

"The point has to be made that the right of Zimbabweans to peacefully express their ideas on the streets is a right that lies at the foundation of any democratic society and is the lifeblood of a free land," the MDC statement noted.

"Finally, the MDC shares the cause for which NCA officials are being persecuted. The MDC objects to government's intentions of stopping the process of crafting a new and democratic constitution for Zimbabwe."

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## **ELECTION PROTESTS CONTINUE**

Harare, April 24

Tuesday, police roadblocks ringed the Harare city centre while scores of riot police armed with batons were stationed around the city ahead of a demonstration planned by the National Constitutional Assembly (NCA), an alliance of civic, labour and church groups. The NCA was to protest in support of a new democratic constitution which would reduce the president's sweeping powers.

Police have banned the demonstration under the Public Order and Security Act, legislation that gives police powers to stop public meetings at will.

"We have notified the NCA that this demonstration is illegal and the police are ready to deal with the demonstrators," said police spokesman Inspector Tarwireyi Tirivavi. The demonstration would create violence, he claimed.

NCA chairman Lovemore Madhuku, acting national coordinator Edna Zinyemba, and official Maxwell Saungweme were arrested by police at the NCA's offices on Monday, said lawyer Alec Muchadehama. He said the police refused to admit on Tuesday that they were holding him.

Muchadehama said he spoke to Madhuku on his cellphone two minutes before confronting police.

"He said he was in a CID (Criminal Investigation Department) office in Harare central police station. I went there immediately and the police told me they were not there," said Muchadehama.

"I was made to go from one station to another. I think they have taken them (away) from the city."

He had not been able to reach Madhuku since, he said.

"They have removed his telephone so he cannot be in touch with the outside world," he said.

A high court judge was due, on Tuesday afternoon, to hear an application to order police to produce them immediately.

It is the third time in three months that Madhuku has been arrested for trying to hold demonstrations.

Zimbabweans were told on Tuesday of worsening economic hardship as the government announced that the state-controlled price of bread had gone up 20 percent to ZD60,44 (US1,04; R11,36) for a loaf, and cooking oil by 35 percent to ZD198.54 (US3,42; R37,38) for a 750ml bottle.

Cooking oil and maize meal, the national staple, are both virtually unavailable as a result of drought and state-sanctioned policy of forbidding white commercial farmers from sowing maize crops on their land.

Other commodities like milk and sugar are only occasionally available.

Manufacturers say price controls introduced by Mugabe's government late last year are forcing them to sell basic commodities at prices at less than it costs to produce them.

### **President Declares Disaster**

UN Integrated Regional Information Networks

April 30, 2002

Posted to the web April 30, 2002

President Robert Mugabe has declared a state of disaster throughout Zimbabwe in the face of a government report that estimates that about 7.8 million people - over five million of them children - will need humanitarian help for the next 18 months.

A government gazette published last week said: "As a result of the prevalent drought, a state of disaster exists in all communal lands and resettlement and urban areas in Zimbabwe with effect from April 3 2002."

The briefly worded notice issued under the Civil Protection Act comes amid concerns that crops are failing and predictions that wheat and grain stocks

will run out in August. The declaration lasts for three months and can be extended.

Judith Lewis, World Food Programme regional director in East and Southern Africa, last week warned that unless food began arriving within the next four months, there would be "an all-out disaster" in Southern Africa.

WFP is already feeding over 500,000 Zimbabweans and has included Zimbabwe in its list of the six most vulnerable countries in Southern Africa along with Malawi, Zambia, Lesotho, Mozambique and Swaziland. Malawi has already declared a disaster and Lesotho, a famine.

Zimbabwe's economic crisis, political uncertainty, disruptions to commercial farming through a land resettlement programme and HIV/AIDS have been cited as factors compounding the problems brought by the drought.

According to the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) a report compiled for Zimbabwe's Interministerial Committee of Ministers on Drought and Social Protection, indicates that the situation is "grim and getting worse".

The estimate of 7.8 million affected people is made up of 5.9 million rural people (74 percent of the rural population) who are affected by the drought and 1.9 million urban poor (51 percent of the urban population) heavily affected by the harsh economic situation.

More than two thirds (69 percent) of the 7.8 million are children up to the age of 14. Of those children, 1,7 million are under five years old and 3,6 million are between the ages of 5 and 14.

The Zimbabwe government has asked UNICEF to support a rapid nutrition status assessment and re-introduce the Child Supplementary Feeding Programme (CSFP) that responded successfully to the 1991/92 drought.

The United Nations Country Team (UNCT) has requested an inter-agency mission to be led by the Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs to update the December Humanitarian Assistance and Recovery Programme (HARP).

In preparation, the Zimbabwe UNCT has initiated a series of assessments on the humanitarian situation and the HARP to show the level of response needed.

UNICEF have already started the food security and nutrition, and water and sanitation assessments.

The assessments from the other agencies, including WFP and the Food and Agriculture Organisation, will be completed by mid-May. The Farm Community Trust of Zimbabwe (FCTZ) will also assess the humanitarian needs of farmworkers.

However, UNICEF said: "While food is important, non-food response in health, nutrition, water and sanitation and social protection and education are crucial in responding to this emergency."

Reacting to Mugabe's declaration, Chris McIvor, Programme Director for Save the Children said: "It is completely appropriate for the president to declare a disaster. If the world doesn't want to see starving children on their

television screens later this year we need to start moving now. People need to realise that they are staring a disaster right in the face."

"We have done nutritional surveys and find that many families have exhausted all their coping strategies. They have sold their livestock, their household assets, used up employment options and their money. They are now down to the bare minimum and if a major intervention doesn't take place, there will be a notable increase in malnutrition," he told IRIN.

"In Binga, (in the north west) where we are feeding about 130,000 children, production has dropped 80 percent compared to normal harvests. The current harvest will last families about two to three months, after that people only have their livestock and other assistance available.

"The declaration will help mobilise donors. Food is going to have to be imported and this is five or six times more expensive. The government will need millions in foreign currency. Many surrounding countries are also battling with shortages and don't have much to spare for Zimbabwe so emergency supplies have to be sourced from as far afield as Brazil," McIvor said.

In March the WFP launched an appeal for US \$69 million for its emergency programme but the donor response was slow.

On the situation in the cities, Pedro Figueiredo, WFP regional logistics officer said: "In the shops by 10 am there is no food left."

He said a vessel is currently on the high seas from the United States bringing 33,000 mt of maize to Beira in Mozambique.

Some of this would go to Zimbabwe and the rest would be shared throughout the region.

A report in The Herald newspaper said the government is finalising a ZD \$95 billion programme to fund maize imports, food aid, child supplementary schemes and winter crop inputs.