

eGram



9892/05

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From	HARARE	
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Info Routine
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 Lead
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 Subject
 Summary

ZIMBABWE: OPERATION RESTORE ORDER: UPDATE

1. Despite GoZ assertions to the contrary, there are reports of demolitions continuing in some areas, albeit on a reduced scale. Reconstruction operation underway, but slowly. Many people still without adequate shelter.
2. GoZ continues to rubbish Tibaijuka report.

DETAIL

3. This is the latest in a series of updates ending with Harare e-gram [REDACTED]
4. Despite a GoZ announcement of a suspension in the Operation (made with reference to the richer "low density" suburbs, but widely understood as a way of halting the whole exercise in response to international, including UN, pressure), there have been reports of continuing demolitions over the past week. This is mainly affecting rural areas.
5. The much-heralded reconstruction operation (Operation "Garikai") has received many column inches

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in the state media. But the construction of houses is proceeding slowly. Even the showcase site of Whitecliff (Harare), to which GoZ took a delegation of NAM and Chinese diplomats earlier this week, has only 38 houses built "to roof level" (ie incomplete) and another 440 "at various stages of completion." Since the IOM estimate that over 20,000 families were affected in Harare alone, this is clearly woefully inadequate. There are also allegations of political and other bias in the allocation of plots (ie ZANU(PF) card carriers and public sector workers getting preference). [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Many people are still without adequate shelter. Although the night-time temperature has risen slightly over the past week, the winter chill remains.

6. In the last few days, the authorities have moved to close down the Caledonia Farm "holding camp" on the outskirts of Harare. This was where many of those displaced from the Porta Farm informal settlement and other affected areas around Harare were taken. It has received widespread negative media attention because of the poor conditions: people sleeping under plastic sheeting, refusal of the authorities to allow aid agencies to install running water etc. (Tibajuka visited both Caledonia Farm and Porta Farm). Some of those from Caledonia Farm have reportedly been moved to another site in Harare, others have been told to "return" to their rural areas. [REDACTED]

7. [REDACTED]

8. [REDACTED]

9. Daily life continues to be difficult for all ordinary Zimbabweans. There has been no easing of the fuel shortage, and unpredictable shortages of essential items (currently soap and sugar) persist. Even the national airline, Air Zimbabwe, has had to cancel and postpone flights due to lack of fuel.

10. [REDACTED]