

BENEFIT FUND FOR ZIMBABWEAN AGRICULTURE

The economic crisis in Zimbabwe has assumed unmanageable proportions. With an inflation rate on almost 5 000 per cent, increasing disruption and deterioration of essential services, and unavailable production and consumer goods, there is an urgent need for humanitarian, but especially material, support in our neighbouring state. Agri SA had already in the past provided support by administering a benefit fund for the Commercial Farmers' Union of Zimbabwe (CFU) and its members. That fund has now been depleted.

An example of the type of aid that could make a difference is a generator which was recently acquired to keep the CFU head office telecommunication functions and IT systems operational. Lengthy daily power outages made it essential to install alternative sustainable power generation. Agri SA's affiliates were each requested to contribute R3 000 or more. There has been a good response. This is but one of various urgent needs which we identified in Zimbabwe while they work and wait for a political solution as prerequisite for economic recovery

The role of civil organisations in Zimbabwe, such as CFU, in making a contribution to national dialogue and development – now and in future - should not be underestimated. They are also well placed to advise on where the greatest need exists within their sector and what can be done about it.

Against this background, Agri SA calls on agribusinesses, but also every other person or organisation that identifies with this cause, to make a contribution to the benefit fund as mentioned above. Payments can be made per cheque or electronically into the following bank account:

ABSA Bank

Account no: 4050566323

Branch code: 323645 or electronic transfer 632005

Account holder: Agri Info Africa (Pty) Ltd

Your favourable consideration of this request will be greatly appreciated