

## **ZIMBABWE PROGRAMME UPDATE TO THE 17MSP**

### INTRODUCTION

1. Your excellence the president of the 17MSP, distinguished Delegates, let me take this opportunity to give you an update on Zimbabwe's mine action programme. The programme continues to score much success albeit funding challenges. As you may be aware, Zimbabwe is currently sitting on the fifth and possibly final extension period which was granted by the 16 MSP in Vienna running up to 31 December 2025.

### PROGRESS TO DATE

2. One year through the strategic plan, much has been done in the Land release, safe behaviour promotion as well as international and national awareness fronts. It is victim assistance which still lags.

3. Clearance. During the 16MSP, the remaining contamination was **61.9km<sup>2</sup>**. As at 31 October 2018 the remaining contamination was **54.6km<sup>2</sup>**. The country has five operators namely National Mine Clearance Unit, HALO Trust, NPA, MAG and APOPO. All these are operational save for APOPO which is still mobilising resources and may start operations early 2019. We are likely to meet if not surpass our 2018 target as set out in our National Strategic Plan.

4. The National Mine Clearance Unit continue to work on the Sango Border to Crooks Corner minefield. Part of this minefield was allocated to APOPO. The introduction of mechanical assets has resulted in increased pace on dealing with areas where manual processes were not viable in HALO Trust's Musengezi to Mazowe River stretch. MAG started operations in December 2017 with a single team but to date boast of three teams with a possibility of increasing capacity early next year. NPA continue to work on both Sheba forest to Leacon Hill and the Rusitu to Muzite Mission Minefields.

5. Mine Risk Education. ZIMAC and the operators educate people in mine-affected areas on the dangers of mines/ERWs. Mine risk education teams make use of schools, exhibitions and community social gatherings to disseminate information. The Zimbabwe National Army holds an annual MRE Music gala in mine affected areas to

give awareness to the affected communities. This has resulted in reduced number of yearly new victims.

#### POST CLEARANCE IMPACT ASSESSMENT

7. Various areas cleared during this extension period have already been put to good use resulting in increased business opportunities in agriculture and unhindered movements across mined areas to conduct daily chores.

#### LOOK FORWARD

8. I am happy to mention that during the year MAG and NPA managed to add two teams and one team respectively. I expect APOPO to start operations early next year (2019). With this trend, more accelerated land release activities are expected in 2019 going forward. The Government of Zimbabwe remain committed to its Article 5 obligation and will continue to fund mine action programmes within its capacity. Zimbabwe calls for all States and organisations willing to assist to come on board and be part of this successful story come 2025. Frantic efforts continue to be put to ensure the mine problem, our efforts and shortfalls are known nationally and internationally. Zimbabwe will continue to use international mine action meetings to share updated information on key achievements and remaining challenges.

#### CONCLUSION

9. Zimbabwe is within reach of its 2017 to 2025 National Strategy. The current support given to our demining partners by Governments and organisations from various parts of the world will always be cherished. May the support endure and if possible be increased to finish earlier than 2025. Zimbabwe is open to more willing partners with every kind of assistance to either the national institutions and operator or the Non-Governmental Organisations accredited to Zimbabwe. **I Thank You**