

**ZIMAC UPDATE FOR THE 13<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF STATE PARTIES 04 – 06  
DECEMBER 2013 – GENEVA**

**INTRODUCTION**

1. Your Excellence the President of the 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of State Parties, the remaining mined land in Zimbabwe stands at approximately 208.88km<sup>2</sup>. The 12 Meeting of State Parties granted Zimbabwe a third extension request until January 2015 within which we must obtain clarity regarding the remaining challenges so as to provide a detailed clearance plan. The country has however remained resolute in its endeavours to fulfil its obligations under Article 5 although with challenges along the way.

**CURRENT EFFORTS**

2. **National Mine Clearance Squadron.** The National Mine Clearance Squadron is currently deployed on the South Eastern part of the country on demining operations on the Sango Border Post to Crooks Corner minefield where they are currently carrying out survey and clearance of the secondary minefield. During period April 2013 to November 2013, the Squadron has managed to clear an area of 147 357 square meters recovering and destroying 5 782 anti-personnel mines. The Unit managed to clear the Kariba SHA in June 2013 covering 0.6 square kilometres and destroying 210 Improvised Explosive Devices.

3. **Norwegian People's Aid.** The NPA Mine Action Programme has conducted non-technical and impact assessment surveys in three minefields namely Sheba Forest to Leacon Hill, Burma Valley and Rusitu to Muzite during in 2013. Currently they are conducting technical survey and clearance of the Burma Valley minefield where 50 989m<sup>2</sup> has been cleared recovering and destroying 28 X M969 mines. ZIMAC QC teams are set to conduct an external QC beginning 08 December 2013 on the cleared area to pave way for land release of part of the minefield which has been cleared.

4. **HALO Trust.** HALO Trust commenced resurvey of the Musengezi to Rwenya minefield in August 2013 and has so far resurveyed 79.3km frontage (16 019 200m<sup>2</sup>) from Mkumbura River to Ruya. From November 2013, the organisation commenced clearance with 3 sections of deminers and so far have cleared 3 137m<sup>2</sup> recovering and destroying 135 mines.

5. **Capacity Building Support.** I am happy to report that the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) continues to assist ZIMAC with the provision of training and demining equipment and tools.
6. **Zimbabwe National Mine Action Standards.** The Zimbabwe National Mine Action Standards (ZNMAS 01) were approved as a legal document with effect from 01 July 2013. All mine action organisations have started operating basing on these standards.
7. **Mine Risk Education.** The country has increased its MRE efforts with the Government launching a Mine Action Media Awareness campaign on 31 October 2013. The inaugural event involved eight (08) local and international media houses. HALO Trust and NPA have also begun to conduct community liaison and MRE within allotted areas.
8. **Common Border Demining.** Demining of the minefields that either straddle the Zimbabwe-Mozambique border or stretch into Mozambique remains a challenge as the issue requires input by the two countries. The two parties are working on the finer details of how this can be done. Work on the proposed area will commence once this process has been completed.
9. **Meeting Convention Deadlines.** As has been alluded to in previous meetings that another extension request was unavoidable, Zimbabwe will be submitting another request by 15 December 2013. We hope that this time around we will be able to achieve our set objectives before the expiry of the extension period.
10. In a nutshell there have been very positive developments in as far as mine action is concerned in Zimbabwe. The dream of seeing Zimbabwe free of mines is fast coming into light and I am very excited about these developments. Let me conclude by saying Zimbabwe remains committed to her obligations under Article 5 to ensure a mine free Zimbabwe and the world at large.

**I thank you**

November 2013

**Lt Col AA EDWARDS**

**Acting Director ZIMAC**