

- 4.6 Illegal gold panning and dealings have since diminished following the launch of the operation. Since its inception, gold inflows to Fidelity Printers have significantly increased.
- 4.7 Ready markets for meat from cattle rustlers were destroyed and significant amounts of revenue have accrued from deposit and other fines. Enforcement of traffic laws by the police during the operation has resulted in impounding of road unworthy vehicles.
- 4.8 The recent report by *The Standard* headlined "**Child killed in Clean Up**" is a deliberate and mischievous attempt by the opposition media fraternity to paint the operation as inhuman and provoke hostility against Police and the Government. The deceased, Charmaine NYIKA died after a wall of an illegal structure that was being demolished by her mother collapsed on the unfortunate child. The police was nowhere near the scene and the sudden death matter is currently under investigations.

5. CONCLUSION

- 5.1 The Operation is not yet complete but it is prudent to take stock of some notable achievements registered by this exercise. Among many others, the following are the major successes of the Operation: -
- (i) Most of the Central Business Districts throughout the country are clean and peaceful following the removal of menacing street kids, touts and kombis, illegal vendors and unroadworthy vehicles. The exercise has resulted in significant decongestion of CBD's in the cities in general.
 - (ii) Crime has significantly gone down following the destruction of illegal structures, which served as rendezvous for criminal activities.

- (iii) Enforcement of traffic laws by the police during the operation has resulted in impounding of road unworthy vehicles
- (iv) Basic commodities, which had disappeared from the shelves of most shops, are slowly re-emerging following the destruction of illegal tuckshops, which served as ready markets for such goods.
- (v) The provision of services such as water and electricity supplies and sewerage systems are set to improve following the demolition of the illegal structures, which diverted the provision of such services away from the proper facilities.
- (vi) Incidences of traffic congestion have reduced following the relentless crackdown on all traffic offenders.
- (vii) Cases of sexual abuse that emanated from the over crowding conditions of some areas such as Mbare are set to diminish.
- (viii) The rapid urbanization of the country in the past decade has witnessed the migration of young and able-bodied man and women into the town and cities some of whom partook in illicit pre-occupations such vending, touting, prostitution, begging, among others. The launch of this operation has reversed this trend and rejoined youths with the elderly who had to fend for themselves in the absence of this productive age group.

5.2 The operation has been received with mixed feelings among the populace with the majority expressing sentiments of appreciation that the operation is the only panacea to the restoration of law and order in the country and provides a sound and lasting solution that complements the current Government efforts to turn-around the economy through monetary and fiscal reforms.

- 5.3 The momentum that the operation has gathered since its inception should be further enhanced through Government support and anti-corruption drive to rid the country of crime that has distorted business practices.
- 5.4 The Operation should be viewed as a sound and lasting solution that will go a long way in complementing the current Government efforts to turn-around the economy through monetary and fiscal reforms.
- 5.5 It has to be appreciated and it is not far fetched to point out that the Western world has glittering cities and does not tolerate illegal structures or unauthorized settlements. It is outright hypocrisy by the west, private/independent and international media organizations to condemn the clean-up operation.
- 5.6 Attempts by the so-called Broad Alliance pressure group led by the opposition to hijack the operation by calling for a stay away on the 9th and 10th of June 2005, proved fruitless as the stay away flopped.
- 5.7 Interestingly, the international media and its allies have kept mouths shut on the vulnerability measures being undertaken by the Zimbabwe Government under which the affected people have already secured designated places from which to conduct their legal businesses or build descent homes. A case in point is the Siyaso informal traders who have been re-allocated stalls at a new multi-million dollar complex in Mbare.
- 5.8 Notwithstanding the campaign to misinform the international community by forces at home and abroad, important achievements has been registered to face-lift the complexion of the policing environment throughout the country. The ZRP will continue to arrest anyone involved in these illegal deals, irrespective of how big or small one is his or her nationality nor the strength or web of economic and political connections one commands.

5.9 The erstwhile chaotic business activities are paving way to an orderly and legal business environment. Proper and well-designated premises with viable infrastructure should be set aside by the local authorities to ensure that local services of electricity and water supplies are not diverted. Once proper public amenities and premises have been set aside, security of such places can be easily arranged by the Zimbabwe Republic Police through establishment of police reporting centres, bases or posts depending on the size of the population to be policed and infrastructure.

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS