

2. INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS TO EXECUTE THE OPERATION

2.1 Contrary to common misconceptions, the operation was conceived and planned by Government and the concerned Local Authorities in order to address the observed problems. To this extent the following Government organs were activated and mandated to execute the operation:

2.2 **Provincial Coordinating Committees**, which are chaired by the Provincial Administrators and given guidance by the provincial Governors/Resident Ministers. The Committees are composed of:

- Law enforcement agencies
- Ministry Local Government, Public Works and Urban Development
- Ministry of Health and Child Welfare
- Ministry of Public Service Labour and Social Welfare
- Ministry of Youth Development and Employment Creation
- Ministry of Lands and Agriculture
- Ministry of Small and Medium Enterprises Development
- Local authorities.

2.3 The Committees operate through a number of subcommittees as follows:

- a. Identification sub-Committees, mandated to identify the illegal developments.
- b. Allocation sub-Committees, which re-allocate space for legitimate use.
- c. Development and funding Committees, mandated to source funds for financing legitimate land use – the Committee has already sourced \$2 billion for SMES.
- d. Social Services Committee – provides social protection to cover the temporarily induced vulnerability.

- e. Co-operatives Committee – Assist in reorganising the affected persons into organised units for orderly development.

- 2.4 The same structures have been replicated at district level to cater for small urban and rural centres.

3. LEGAL BASIS

- 3.1 The Government of Zimbabwe is quite aware, and needs no reminding, that with the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948, the right to adequate housing joined the body of international law, and that since that time this right has been reaffirmed in a wide range of additional human rights instruments. In this regard, the Government of Zimbabwe is also aware that no less than twelve different texts adopted and proclaimed by the United Nations explicitly recognize the right to adequate housing. The Government of Zimbabwe is proud of the fact that it participated actively in the fashioning and adoption of many of these texts.
- 3.2 The Government is also aware of the entitlements that follow from the right to adequate housing such as that the beneficiaries of the right to adequate housing should have sustainable access to clean drinking water, heating and lighting, refuse disposal and site drainage. Adequate housing must be habitable, providing the inhabitants with adequate space and protection from the cold, damp, heat, rain, wind or other threats to health. We are aware that housing should not be built on polluted sites or in immediate proximity to pollution sources that threaten the right to health of the inhabitants. In short, the physical safety and health of the occupants must also be guaranteed. As becomes clear, these extensive entitlements reveal some of the complexities associated with the right to adequate housing.
- 3.3 As regards the illegal structures subject of the evictions, the basic entitlements of the right to adequate housing were absent. The Government