



PRESS RELEASE

EU Ambassador to Zimbabwe officially opens the Protracted Relief Programme (PRP) Fair

The Protracted Relief Programme (PRP) Fair opened at Wild Geese Lodge in Harare on 6 October. PRP is a programme financed by several development partners, including the European Union, which focuses on empowering poor and vulnerable communities in 57 out of 62 districts in the country to improve food security, access to clean and safe water and care for the chronically ill. Every year, the PRP organizes a Fair.

The Fair provides a platform for beneficiaries to exhibit their products and demonstrate the practicality and usefulness of PRP projects to them and their communities.

Developmental partners who fund PRP activities also interact with the beneficiaries at the Fair.

The Head of the European Union Delegation to Zimbabwe, Ambassador Aldo Dell'Aricecia, presided over the opening ceremony of the PRP Fair. During his opening speech, the Ambassador conveyed the satisfaction of the EU for the success of the Programme so far. "The EU supports programmes aimed at assisting Zimbabweans to reach the Millennium Development Goals. The Protracted Relief Programme particularly contributes to the MDG on reducing poverty" he said, adding that "the PRP is also a very good example of actions where a number of development partners join forces to provide direct support to the people of Zimbabwe who are most in need."

Mr. Dell'Aricecia pointed out that an important characteristic of the PRP programme was the skills transfer that empowered communities long after the donors had left thereby reducing donor dependency.

The European Commission contribution of €5.1 million (over US\$ 7 million) that has recently been added to the PRP pool is targeted at the poor and vulnerable population in the urban areas whose situation has worsened due to the socio-economic challenges the country experienced in the recent past. This contribution complements EU allocations to the programme from the UK

which is managing the pool fund, Denmark and the Netherlands. Other non-EU countries also contribute to the programme, such as Australia, Norway and the World Bank.

For more information:

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