
**BRIEF FOR SUB-NATIONAL JOC BY ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER
MAWERE N. ON OPERATION HAKUDZOKWI PHASE VII ON
07/05/2010**

1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Period ranging from 23 March 2010 to 05 April 2010 witnessed an increase in gweja population and activities in the area of Chiadzwa Primary and Muchena areas. This was attributed to connivance with gwejas by outgoing contingent of 2.2 infantry battalion. The unit formed syndicates with illegal panners towards the end of its tour of duty.

- 1.2 As a result the command tightened security at the illegal panning sites by pitching tents at the sites and allocating responsibilities to each officer. In addition, sweep up operations were conducted in the area to deal with increased gweja population.

2.0 CHIRASIKA AND JESSE PANNING SITES.

2.1 When there was tight security at Chiadzwa and Muchena areas, gwejas shifted attention to Chirasika and Jesse areas.

2.2 CHIRASIKA PANNING SITES

Chirasika concession is under a joint venture between a Chinese company and Zimbabwean government. The concession has generally four illegal panning sites all near Chirasika primary namely;

- Chirasika
- Chirigo site which is situated about 1.5km from Chirasika Base
- New Samples
- Red Soils

During the era of 2.2 infantry battalion, both army and police officers were conniving with gwejas and formed syndicates which were panning at the old shafts. As the shafts remained open, the gwejas continued sneaking into the area for illegal panning.

The area is inhabited by the local population. Approximately, there are 49 households that surrounds the old panning sites. There are two homesteads in Chirigo panning site. Locals have history of illegal panning which also makes it difficult to detect.

2.3 JESSE ILLEGAL PANNING SITES

On the 5th of April 2010, 2.2 Infantry battalion removed its tent from Jesse base. The base was closed and the officers were relocated to Tonhorai Base situated about 7km from Jesse illegal panning sites. The gwejas took advantage and returned at the old shafts in connivance with some of our security officers and started panning on the site. Sweep up operations were done in the area. The base has since been re-established at Jesse.

3.0 COUNTER MEASURES

3.1 ARRESTS

Illegal panners regularly sneak and prospect for diamond in the old panning sites during day and night. There has been numerous arrests and apprehensions by security forces and the records indicate that since the 1st of March 2010, a total of 121 illegal panners were arrested at Chirasika panning sites only. The illegal panners were searched immediately and were found with nothing.

3.2 Old pits are being filled up in all areas by security forces.

3.3 Tents were set up at these old pits to increase security forces visibility.

3.4 Sweep up operations are being conducted in all areas to flash out gwejas.

3.5 Disciplinary action has been taken against the offending officers. Since the operation started 14 officers including the commander of Jesse base were expelled from the operation.

4.0 MINING OPERATIONS

4.1 There are three investor companies namely Mbada, Canadile and Anjin Investments [Chinese / Zimbabwe joint venture]. Operations are going on well at these companies. Of concern is gathering of people at the Chinese concession seeking employment. Some of these job seekers end up doing illegal panning in the area.

5.0 RELOCATION

5.1 There is no progress on the ground since the last visit by the Sub-National JOC on the 26th of March 2010. The following number of families need to be relocated immediately to ARDA Transau.

- Mbada 49
- Canadile 44
- China / Zimbabwe 49

6.0 CASES OF INTEREST

6.1 SHOOTING INCIDENTS

On the 12th of April 2010, Lance Corporal Maride of 4.2 infantry battllion who was deployed at 24hrs Base, proceeded to Muchena business centre and shot dead Herbert Gwiriri a suspected gweja. During disarmament he shot and injured Constable Bhizeki Emmanuel of Headquarters Troop, Fairbridge on the left finger and the lower left leg. Lance Corporal Maride is being charged with murder and attempted murder.

7.0 CHALLENGES

- 7.1 To have all pits and shafts refilled.
- 7.2 There is need to supply adequate food rations to security forces to avoid cases of armed robbery and indiscipline.
- 7.3 Supply of transport for commanders, fuel and lubricants in order to increase V.Os by commanders.
- 7.4 Need to provide T & S to members to minimise cases of syndicates and armed robberies.

8.0 CONCLUSION

Situation is under control and manageable. The gweja population has drastically decreased and the estimated population is around 400. A total of 527 panners were arrested during the month of April 2010.

9.0 FUTURE INTENTIONS

- 9.1 To have all open pits and shafts closed.
- 9.2 Sweep up operations to focus on gweja hide outs.
- 9.3 To keep the area under control manageable and conducive for investor environment.