A young upcoming farmer, J.C van Wyk, in the south is crying over land, saying shortage of land in Namibia hinders many young Namibian who would want to farm with small livestock. The young farmer who has more than 300 sheep in the area of mariental, Hardap Region wants land to be more productive than he is now. It is very difficult with the current policy of willing buyer willing seller to get land. Although the Namibian Government is eager to acquire land for resettlement the system is not conducive at all.

He is not the only young farmer looking for land, there are many out there with similar problem. All they are looking for is a piece of land so that they can be self employed. Others are farming with crops and need land to produce their crops as well.

The youthful farmer has set an example to other youth country wide, although he is feeling a pinch of paying for rent. Some time the renting amount is exorbitant as a result the income he gets is not adequate to sustain him and the livestock.

By Golden Shanda

Zim economic recovery hailed

The African Development Bank has commended Zimbabwe’s economic recovery and called on the Government to consolidate the gains made to date as the economy reaches its full potential.

ADB president Mr Donald Kaberuka said this on Tuesday during the two-day Zimbabwe Investment Conference, which ended in Harare yesterday.

The Indaba, co-hosted by Euro Money Conferences and the Government of Zimbabwe, sought to unlock foreign investment.

Mr Kaberuka said since the formation of the Inclusive Government in February 2009 hyperinflation had been tamed and fiscal discipline restored.

This, said the ADB boss, showed that the country’s potential as the second engine for economic growth in SADC region, was still vastly high. He said for the first time in a decade Zimbabwe had not only reversed economic decline, but is moving forward economically despite many challenges.

It shows the potential of Zimbabwe’s recovery is in place. It is up to this point to how far it can go (the right conditions) are in place,” said Mr Kaberuka.

The economy rebounded from decline to post successive growths of 5.7 percent and 8 percent in 2009 and 2010 respectively. Finance and Economic Development Minister Tendai Biti has projected the economy will expand by 9.3 percent this year. Annual inflation closed at 5.4 percent in 2009, further declining to just 3.2 percent last year and is expected to be about 5.4 percent by the end of the year.

The ADB president said after restoring macro-economic stability, most economic indicators had shown promising trends and should move to green. “Economic prospects are brighter, key sectors as mining and agriculture are responding, exports have increased, while the balance of payments improved significantly in 2010,” said the ADB president.

To show its confidence in Zimbabwe and the rest of the World, Minister Biti said the country would need at least US$4.5 billion to fund one of the most promising thermal power projects in Galore North.

He said water and sanitation require an estimated US$3.5 billion in a bid to close the technology gap between Zimbabwe and the rest of the World, Minister Biti said the Government allocated significant amounts to connect the ICT backbone to undersea cables in Mozambique.

The Finance Minister also said total resolution of the country’s US$7.1 billion debt overhang was critical as that was standing in the way of external credits.

He said the country was moving towards fiscal discipline and was ready for and required significant funding to address this.

An assessment that ADB conducted in January at the request of Government established that Zimbabwe needs US$14 billion to rehabilitate and expand infrastructure to meet demand in the next decade.

In light of financial constraints, Government faced, ADB suggested a combination of donor assistance, parasitist and private sector interventions.

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