

Sebakwe News

Editor : John Gripper

www.blackrhino.org

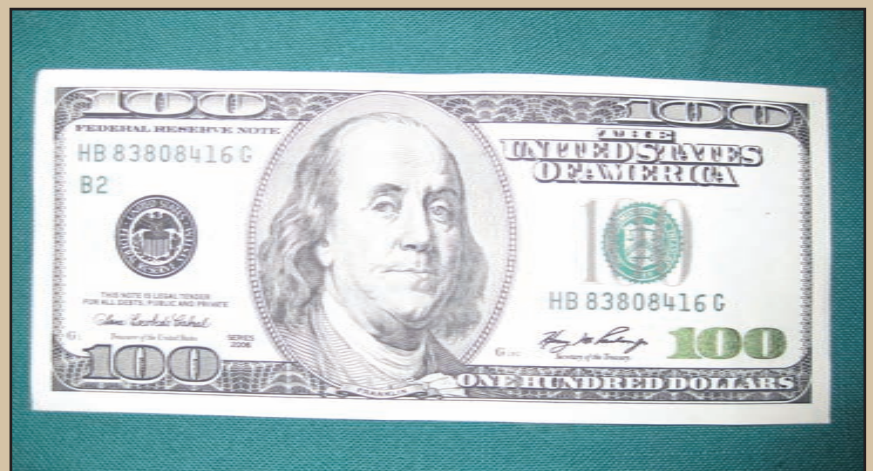
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Dollarisation

In July 2008 hyperinflation in Zimbabwe was officially set at 231 million percent. Prices can double each week and cheques are no longer acceptable as their value can halve before being cleared by the banks. In the last year there have been 35 issues of new bank notes. The highest note was for 10 Trillion Zimbabwe dollars (worth less than one US dollar).

The Reserve bank of Zimbabwe has raised the limit for daily individuals cash withdrawals from the banks from Z\$ 100 million to Z\$ 500 million. However the government could not import enough of the special paper required to print all the new banknotes. Some transactions were running into quintillions (18 zeros) but in January the bank announced it was knocking off 12 zeros from the local currency (it previously knocked off 10 zeros last August).



The school teachers have been on strike because their monthly pay averaged Z\$ 31 trillion (worth about 2 US dollars). The opening of the schools had to be deferred and the teachers demanded to be paid in foreign currency. The truth is that the Zimbabwe dollar is now practically worthless and nearly all transactions including wages are carried out in American dollars, the South African Rand, Botswana Pula, Euros, GB Pounds or Fuel Coupons. The Government has now officially endorsed the use of multiple currencies alongside the Zimbabwean dollar. However many government workers including the army and the police will still be paid in local currency.

Fuel is now more available at the petrol stations and food and imported goods are back on the shelves in the shops but only for those who have foreign currency or fuel coupons. Even the roadside sellers of fruit and vegetables demand US dollars or Rand. This dollarisation of Zimbabwe's currency has increased the demand for more US dollar notes to be put into general circulation and especially the smaller denominations are in great demand so that change can be given to the US\$ 100 bills.

One of the first tasks of the Unity Government in Zimbabwe is to control inflation and rebuild the collapsed economy to ensure that all Zimbabweans can afford to buy basic food. Dollarisation of the currency is to be welcomed as a practical step in the right direction.

Workshop on Rhino Policy in Zimbabwe by John Gripper

During my visit to Zimbabwe in January 2009, I was invited by Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority to attend a three day workshop which was held at the Wild Geese Lodge in Harare and funded by WWF Africa Rhino Programme. It was to review the Zimbabwe Rhino Policy and Management Strategy for 2009-2013.

Dr Russell Taylor was the facilitator for the workshop. There were representatives from the four Intensive Protection Zones - (Sinamatela, Matusadona, Chipinge and Matopas) and the private rhino Conservancies, National Parks, Wildlife Veterinary Department, NGO's and International Donors. The meeting had been called in response to the high increase in levels of rhino poaching. The stakeholders were asked to revise the 2008 Emergency Rhino Action Plan and prepare a policy and management strategy for the next four years.

The increase in rhino poaching in Zimbabwe has badly affected most of the Conservancies and IPZ's and a similar picture has occurred in South Africa, with especially losses of 37 killed in the Kruger National Parks. It is thought that a total of 87 rhino have been killed by poachers in South Africa during 2008. In both countries the poaching is carried out by professional gangs who are armed with AK 47 rifles and often have inside knowledge of the whereabouts of the rhino and it is thought that the horns are smuggled out of the country by Chinese and Vietnamese dealers.



Matters discussed at the workshop were:-

- The current status of rhinos in Zimbabwe
- The merits of targeted dehorning as an emergency measure
- Identification, ear notching, radio telemetry and monitoring of rhino
- Training of monitors, rangers and guards
- National reward system for informers
- Shortage of food rations for rhino rangers due to economic situation.
- Sale and valuation of rhino within the borders of Zimbabwe
- Coordination and collaboration between all stakeholders and the Police
- Law enforcement and the failure of Courts to convict rhino poachers
- Control of the trade in rhino horn

It is hoped that the exchange of views and a concerted effort from all the stakeholders to implement the Emergency Rhino Action Plan can bring about a reduction of rhino poaching.

Pauldale School

Because of the teachers strike, Pauldale School had not opened this term at the time of my visit in January but there was great activity to complete the building works in time for the start of the new term. After many delays in sourcing the materials, getting them paid for in US dollars and then having them delivered to the site, I was pleased to see that construction of the school roof was nearly complete.



The wood for the roof trusses had been delivered, the asbestos sheeting was being erected and the concrete flooring completed by a large volunteer group of local villagers who were working hard under the watchful eye of a local builder. All that remained was the purchase of the roof ridges and at our visit we agreed to fund the cost of these at US \$660



The new independent and resourceful community at Pauldale is growing fast and the number of pupils at the school is expected to continue to rise above the present 330. I was delighted to see that some small scale farming was taking place in the surrounding villages to help them become self sufficient. However there is a serious problem over the supply of fresh water.

There is an old borehole and bush pump at Pauldale but it is insufficient to provide enough water for the village community, the livestock and the school children. During the dry season the pump can run dry. At the moment each of the schoolchildren bring their own bottles of drinking water with them to school. There is an urgent need for a second borehole to be dug and a hand pump installed to supply clean water for the school. We are assured that there is a high water table in the immediate area so we are seeking to raise enough funds to sink a borehole and install a hand pump for the use of the school children.

Fundraising in Shropshire by Paul Holmes & Alastair Neale



How to raise over £3,000 in one evening....

In February 2008 100 people spent the evening in Pontesbury village Hall surrounded by African decorations, listening to live music, enjoying delicious food and hearing TV vet Steve Leonard's anecdotes about life in front of the camera for the BBC. Steve does make life as a vet sound terribly exciting!

Local artist/zoologist Rory McCann donated an exquisitely detailed drawing of a black rhino for auction. This alone raised a staggering £325 !



We were given a selection of fantastic raffle prizes including a signed copy of the very famous photograph of an African elephant churning up the Botswanan mud by the local 'Shell Wildlife Photographer of the Year 2007' Ben Osborne. Our live music was provided by Izzy Warner and James Oldham who sang and played beautifully for a bouquet of flowers and a bottle of wine!



The team in the photo, cooked all the food, (chicken peri-peri, sweet potatoes, roasted squash and cous cous, and an impressive range of desserts), organised the decorations, raffle etc and washed up for several hours. The children did a great job being the waiters/waitresses.

The proceeds were split between the SBRT and a Tanzanian medical charity, The Pontesbury Muheza Link.



Sale for Africa

Each June, for the last few years, we have held a 'Sale for Africa' on the village green in Pontesbury. Each year the event has grown and the range of produce, clothes, cards, bric a brac and cakes for sale has increased.

We play African music, serve hot dogs, coffees and teas and fizzy drinks for the children. As long as the weather is kind we attract quite a crowd as people come into the village to do their Saturday shopping.

We usually manage to raise around £400 which is split between SBRT and the Tanzanian medical charity, The Pontesbury Muheza Link.



The Longmynd Hike

In October Alastair and Patrick Neale and James Oldham attempted the Longmynd Hike this is an annual 50 mile walk which covers many of the most beautiful and rugged areas in South Shropshire, the course has to be completed within 24 hours starting at 1.00pm.

This year the weather was exceptional, strong winds harsh constant rain and lower than normal temperatures proved a real test for all entrants with only 288 out of 500 completing. Despite blisters, cramp, the weather and a bit of a row over the location of last trig point they completed the course with time to spare and James was the fastest to complete under 21.

In total £300 was raised to help Sebakwe. If anyone wants to join them next year get in touch !!



The stylish hat belongs to Alastair !

Cards For Sale

High quality cards are now being sold to help the Trust. Cards include photos of the children and rhino in Sebakwe, landscapes, wildlife and flowers. They are individually made and come with an envelope.

Packs of 10 cards can be purchased for just £15.00 (which includes the delivery postage). A minimum of £10 from each order goes to the SBRT Trust.

To place your order contact Alastair Neale on 01743 790352 or email him at: alneale@tiscali.co.uk



Rhino Adoptions

Tenashe was five months old when his mother Tapiwa was shot by poachers. It was decided that he should be moved from the Midlands to Buby Valley for hand rearing, where Carla and Lisa Marie were already rearing two other young orphan rhino calves called Millie and Sassi.

Each rhino calf drinks nineteen litres of skim milk a day, plus extra vitamins and brown rice. These daily needs will decrease after ten months of age but milk bottle feeding will continue until the calves are twenty months old. Tenashe is doing well and he has made great friends with Millie.



Sadly, Rhino poaching has greatly reduced the Rhino population throughout Africa including the Midlands Conservancy but we still have Rosalind and her female calf Rhonda born in 2007, Tangarira, our oldest male and the orphan calf Tenashe, all of which you can adopt.

STOP PRESS NEWS

It is with great sadness that we have to report Rosalind was killed by poachers on 26th February 2009

School Aid Container

We are in discussion with School Aid and hope to jointly arrange for another container to be sent out to Zimbabwe later this Summer. This will contain school books, games and clothes for the school children. The last container was received with great glee by the children. We are already packing boxes with items donated to us, which we know will be put to good use in Zimbabwe.



Rhino Scholarships

We have decided to award a further three rhino scholarships this year. The scholarship scheme is now in its fourth year so that the pupils awarded our first scholarships are now entering their final year. We have eight boarding scholarships made in collaboration with CAMFED and six day scholarships.



The girls in Form 9H at Oxford High School raised the amazing sum of £837 to send another child from one of the primary schools in the Conservancy to secondary school for four years in our scholarship scheme. They raised the money by having a talent show, a home fashion day and six cake stalls.

Thank you very much to the whole form 9H and especially to Beth Warne, Lily Grieve and Rosie Corr who organised this tremendous effort and the teacher Mrs Jane Berry who encouraged it.

Mahewu Drink

In December we managed to source a supply of 40 bags of Mahewu high protein drink which are being distributed to local schools so that all the children in the six local schools will be able to have a daily drink when they return to school.



Rhino Quiz

The rhino Christmas Quiz 2008 provided the usual fun and headaches up and down the country and increased phone bills as families and friends "traded answers". In spite of our two mistakes in the answers we raised over £296. Two ladies both had 100% correct answers – one from Suffolk and one from Oxfordshire.

Thanks you everybody for your support. Any ideas for future quiz subjects will be gratefully received, I'm sure that some of you know some. In the meantime work is underway on the next one for Christmas 2009 - so watch this space !!

Please Help Us !!!

Adopting a rhino cost just £30 for two years and is an excellent Birthday or Wedding present for your friends or relations. Our Website (www.blackrhino.org) has a full list and display of pictures of the rhinos for adoption.

Membership, Adoption, Quiz, Scholarship & Donations form

Tick		Amount £
<input type="checkbox"/>	Family Membership -	£25
<input type="checkbox"/>	Adult Membership -	£15
<input type="checkbox"/>	Junior Membership -	£ 5
	(12 years and below)	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Adoption Donation -	£30
<input type="checkbox"/>	Quiz -	£ 2
<input type="checkbox"/>	Scholarship Fund -	£
<input type="checkbox"/>	Tenashe feeding -	£
<input type="checkbox"/>	Schools Water Project -	£
<input type="checkbox"/>	General donations -	£

Total enclosed £

Cheques - Please make payable to SBRT

Visa/Mastercard

Card Number

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Valid From

--	--	--	--

Expires End

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CV2 No (last 3 digits on rear)

--	--	--

Signature.....

I wish to ADOPT for TWO YEARS:-

TANGARIRA

TENASHE

RONDA

Name of Adopter for certificate.....Special date (if required).....

PLEASE PRINT

Name.....

Address.....

.....

.....

.....

Postcode.....

Tel:.....

Completed forms to be returned to:-

**Annie Gripper
Manor Farm
Ascott under Wychwood
OXON
OX7 6AL**

Tel: +44 (0)1993 830 278

Fax: +44 (0)1993 830 395

For Adoptions - Send (with or without) card to:-

Name.....

Address.....

.....

Post Code.....

From.....

.....

Tel:.....

Please sign the following form so that we can reclaim 28% GIFT AID tax relief.

I am a UK taxpayer and want the Sebakwe Black Rhino Trust to treat all donations I have made since 6th April 2000 and all donations that I make from the date of this declaration, unless I notify you otherwise, as gift donations.

Signature.....

Date.....