

Zimbabwe: No winds of change at the Grain Marketing Board

HARARE: The Zimbabwean government has announced new measures to boost local cereal purchases through its crisis-ridden Grain Marketing Board (GMB), but farmers are not convinced the plan will work.

In early June the finance ministry said it had secured US\$100 million for a revolving fund to support the GMB's procurement of grain through its countrywide depots.

The board had a long-standing monopoly on cereal purchases until March 2009, when private traders were allowed into the market - a response to the GMB's inability pay decent prices to farmers, which fuelled a parallel market.

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