



PRESS STATEMENT

INCORRECT MEDIA NEWS ARTICLES OF 21 MARCH 2019 ON US\$ PAYMENTS TO TOBACCO GROWERS

1. On 21st of March 2019, some newspapers incorrectly published stories purporting that the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe will no longer pay tobacco growers in United States Dollars. This is not the correct position as tobacco growers are being paid 50% of their net sale proceeds into their Nostro FCA bank accounts.
2. It appears the respective newspapers failed to understand the modalities that were agreed by the tobacco merchants and tobacco growers to ensure orderly marketing of the green leaf tobacco.
3. As agreed with the players in the tobacco industry, the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe shall ensure that all tobacco growers have accessed their entitlement of 50% of the net tobacco sale proceeds into their Nostro FCA bank accounts.
4. In addition to accessing cash at a rate of RTGS\$0.50 per kg of tobacco sold, and up to a maximum of RTGS\$300, the small scale tobacco growers, (i.e. those growers with 2 hectares and below), are eligible for a United States Dollars cash withdrawal of USD0.10 per kg of tobacco sold per sale,

up to a maximum of USD50.00, after their Nostro FCA bank accounts have been credited with the foreign currency entitlement.

5. The Reserve Bank and the Tobacco Industry and Marketing Board have opened lines of communication with tobacco growers and merchants, who are satisfied with progress on the payment modalities.
6. It is regrettable that some newspapers failed to interpret the payment modalities agreed between the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe and the players in the tobacco industry, thereby choosing to publicise false reports which are counter-productive.

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Governor
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21 March 2019