



Refugee Documentation Centre (Ireland)
LEGAL AID BOARD

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Information on privileges enjoyed by Zanu-PF members

The *IWPR* in April note

“A series of lucrative perks dished out by President Robert Mugabe to the members of Zimbabwe's new government is enraging the country's impoverished population. At a time when most Zimbabweans are struggling to afford basic commodities, cabinet ministers have taken delivery of their official three-litre Mercedes Benz E280 vehicles, which retail at 50,000 US dollars each” (*IWPR*, (8 April 2009), *Public Anger at Officials' Lucrative Perk*).

Also in April 2009 another article by the *IWRP* says quoting Phillip Pasirayi, coordinator of the Centre for Community Development in Zimbabwe

““There is a need to stem the rot and put an end to the looting of the public purse,” said Pasirayi. “The new government needs to institute a forensic audit in key state institutions, including the [central bank], and bring to book all those who abused state resources.” Tsvangirai, he added, has an uphill task to stop corruption that pervades the Zimbabwean society. “The [prime minister] needs the support of ethical and professional leaders in government who stand ready to fight corruption,” he said. “I don't see this in the current crop of public bureaucrats we have, especially from the ZANU-PF party. It is the same self-serving and corrupt leaders who have been re-appointed as ministers, governors and permanent secretaries by President Mugabe.” “ (*IWPR*, (2 April 2009), *New Anti-Corruption Drive*).

Commentary in the *Times* in February 2009 shortly after Zanu-PF and the MDC began to work together notes

“At the same time, analysts believe that the debacle over ministerial posts showed the eruption of hostilities within Zanu (PF) as the party loses half its ministerial posts — and all the perks, privilege and patronage that went with them. “It's going to be huge,” said one MDC senator. “You get hard currency at preferential rates, farms, luxury cars . . . and there's a whole range of perks we don't know about.” “(*The Times*, (14 February 2009), *Zimbabwe government in crisis as Roy Bennett charged with treason*).

No further information on this issue could be found among sources available to the RDC.

References

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This response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Refugee Documentation Centre within time constraints. This response is not and does not purport to be conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to refugee status or asylum. Please read in full all documents referred to.

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