

ZIMBABWE

ON THE BRINK OF TOTAL COLLAPSE

FEB 10, 07. Zimbabwe, (formerly Southern Rhodesia) was once one of Africa's most prosperous economies. Today President Robert Mugabe's 27-year regime is facing a meltdown. The economy is collapsing. The army and police forces are disintegrating. Along with a wave of strikes and power black-outs, the country is experiencing a breakdown of every essential service.

Water treatment plants are collapsing, and cholera has broken out.

Inflation is running at nearly 1,600%. There's tension on the streets, as so many people are out of work. The jobless rate is 80%.

Children have stopped going to school because they cannot pay fees. Many teachers are not attending classes as their take-home pay is not enough for transport fares to get to work.

The bankrupt regime continues to print money to stay alive, but this only fuels further inflation. Every pay rise is wiped out within a few weeks.

Zimbabwe's largest hospitals are crippled by a two month strike among junior doctors, who earn next to nothing. Soldiers, while better paid than teachers or nurses, are also enduring "desperate" conditions. Most earn less than \$1 per day. Even the Presidential Guard, which has higher salaries, is also disgruntled.

Life expectancy for men is 37 years, and 34 for women. Infant mortality rate is 60 per 1000 live births. 20% of the adult population has HIV/AIDS.

Corruption abounds. Senior members in the ruling Zanu-PF party are able to buy US dollars from the Reserve Bank and then sell them on the black market at a 2,000% markup. They can also buy fuel from the state at one twelfth of the market price. Magube keeps this wealthy handful happy, and relies on the army and police to suppress challenges.



President Mugabe, celebrated his 83rd birthday on 26 February with a grand party that cost \$Z 200 million. This sum would have been worth \$370,000 in December, but by his birthday the value was down to \$57,000, so fast is the currency falling in value. - Source: the Telegraph, the Sunday Times, and other reports

**International Day of Prayer and Fasting for
Zimbabwe. April 18, 2007**

“‘Because of the oppression of the poor, because of the groaning of the needy, I will now arise,’ says YHWH; ‘I will set *him* in the safety for which he yearns’.” (Psalm 12:5)

If you would like to be a part of organizing and mobilizing this event, please let Kiki Cherry know. Can you help us get the word out? All we’re asking is for people to ... 1) pray 2) organize a prayer event in their city, and 3) pass the word along to everyone in their address book and ask them to do the same.

Kiki Cherry, www.prayzimbabwe.org