

# Kanyemba residents seek food in Mozambique

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**Herald Reporter:  
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RESIDENTS of Kanyemba in the Zambezi Valley are now travelling to Mozambique where they exchange soap, salt and clay pots for maize as the drought takes its toll in this remote northern part of Zimbabwe.

According to residents interviewed during a recent visit to the area, the maize they are receiving from Government is not adequate.

The residents are travelling to Bawa, Mozambique, because it was much nearer than the local Grain Marketing Board depot which is at Mahuwe, more than 150 km away. The people in Bawa had a reasonable harvest this season despite the drought.

Kanyemba is at the border of Zimbabwe, Zambia and Mozambique.

Chief Chapoto said he has had to cook porridge for hungry peasants who called on him for assistance while waiting for the next Government food aid.

He said unlike other enterprising peasants who exchanged goods for maize in Mozambique, some were poverty-stricken and could not afford to buy maize from the GMB, resulting in them going for days without food. Some people said they had not received food aid for two months.

Asked how the former mountain dwellers, the Dema, were faring, Chief Chapoto said according to reports, some of which were confirmed by locals, some of the Dema people were wandering back into the mountains in search of honey and wild roots — their former diet.

In an interview with The Herald at Angwa, about 79 km north of Gुरुve, the Resident Minister of Mashonaland Central, Dr Sydney Sekeramayi, confirmed that maize deliveries were not meeting demand owing to low national stocks.

Cde Sekeramayi, who is also the Minister of State (National Security), however, said it was not true that some people had not received food aid in Kanyemba for the past two months.

"That cannot be true because I was in Kanyemba on the 12th and 13th of last month and personally witnessed maize being distributed to the locals.

"There has been another delivery after that one. It is natural to have such conflicting re-

ports in that kind of situation, supposedly to catalyse action on the part of Government."

He said there was need to increase national stocks "to enable us to make headway" and that the problem with Kanyemba was that it was far from major urban areas.

The minister said such a situation made it difficult for residents to buy mealie-meal and other basics owing to the "vast distances" they had to travel.

Another contributing factor was the historical disadvantages of "these very peripheral areas which have been neglected, hence they tend to be most adversely affected".

He said the district administrator and the GMB were identifying additional maize points to shorten distances being travelled to depots.