

Zambia's leading outdoor agriculture expo



FRIDAY BRIEF

WEEK 4, 2017

This Week's Highlights.....

- REPUBLICAN PRESIDENT CONFERS WITH THE ZNFU BOARD
- CORPORATE MEMBERS USHER IN A NEW CHAIRMAN AT THE 2017 AGM
- UNIDO TRADE CAPACITY BUILDING FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME FOR ZAMBIA WINDS UP
- SOUTH AFRICA SAYS EUROPE IMPORTS PUT CHICKEN SECTOR IN DISTRESS

..... SEE DETAILED UPDATES BELOW....

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INDUSTRY UPDATES

REPUBLICAN PRESIDENT CONFERS WITH THE ZNFU BOARD

The ZNFU Board held a meeting with the Republican President, His Excellency Mr Edgar Chagwa Lungu, at State House on Wednesday 25th January 2017. Opening the meeting, His Excellency announced that he plans to be meeting the Union more frequently and regretted that the meeting had not taken place sooner. The Union used this opportunity to present the challenges that the farmers are facing and provided recommendations on what should be done to resolve. Most of the issues were centred on the increasing cost of production resulting from regulatory measures of government departments such as the Zambia Environmental Management Agency (ZEMA), Water Resources Management Authority (WARMA), Zambia Medicines Regulatory Authority, National Pensions Scheme Authority (NAPSA), as well as council levies, new fees for veterinary services, Value Added Tax on farm equipment, and unfair competition from subsidized imports. A dossier of all the issues was submitted to Government for action. Among the issues highlighted were a catalogue of multiple costs that are being passed onto farmers because of policy or statutory regulations issued by Government Departments and that this was contradicting Government pronouncements to encourage diversifying the economy through agriculture. The new veterinary fees and charges recently issued by Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock formed part of the discussion. Further, tax related issues were highlighted, the VAT on tobacco and the need to make agriculture competitive for export given that our imported inputs and all exports are faced with a US\$100 transport cost disadvantage from or to the port of entry or exit.

On the E-Voucher, the Union underscored the savings and the freedom of choice of inputs that has been brought to the farmer through this programme but it also recognised there were some problems that should be taken as lessons and addressed in a timely manner going forward. His Excellency, welcomed the exchange and promised to review the challenges by revisiting our written submission. The Union will follow through the open invitation to dialogue with the Head of State in future for feedback. Present at the meeting were the Minister of Fisheries and Livestock who is also Acting Minister of Agriculture and the Permanent Secretaries for both Ministries, Secretary to the Cabinet and other Senior Government Officials. The delegation from the Union was led by the President, the Board members, Trustees and Management.

CORPORATE MEMBERS USHER IN A NEW CHAIRMAN AT THE 2017 AGM

At a Corporate members meeting held at the ZNFU, the ZNFU President and Chair of the Finance Committee briefed the members in detail of the current state of the Union following the withdrawal of donor support. The presentation also revealed that the Union has some debts for the donor re-claims, staff obligations and some goods & services and the debts will be paid by adopting various strategies. However, the debt figures are still subject to confirmation by the new auditors PKF.

A special appeal was made to members to pay their subscriptions which will go towards the current running costs of the Union. Going forward, the Union will re-focus on its traditional role of lobby and advocacy to ensure that members' interests were efficiently addressed and retain certain critical services to the small-scale farmers. Further, any donor support in future will be ring fenced and any liabilities will be tied to the life span of the project.

After deliberations, corporate members resolved to double the current subscriptions to ZNFU in order to ease the institution's financial pressure and the Union was encouraged to make further direct appeals for corporate support. In order to ensure that members pay their subscriptions on time, the Secretariat will dedicate one staff to focus on collecting subscriptions from members.

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With the downsizing of the Budget, the ZNFU Board has engaged Mr Songowayo Zyambo as Change Manager to facilitate the restructuring of the ZNFU Secretariat in order to enable the institution live within its means. The corporate members were informed that Mr Zyambo was engaged to undertake the restructuring exercise due to his experience when he served as Executive Director at the Union. At the Secretariat, Mrs Ellah Chembe was appointed as Acting Executive Director.

The Corporate members meeting also held an AGM and Mr Antony Barker of Buya Bamba was ushered in as the new Chairman for Corporates taking over from Mr Dave Gordon who served the corporate members with dedication for many years. The meeting was held on Thursday 26th January 2017.

UNIDO TRADE CAPACITY BUILDING FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME FOR ZAMBIA WINDS UP

The Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry has been implementing the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) Trade Capacity Building Programme Framework from 2009 to 2016 (Phase I & II). The project contributed to development of supply side capacity and competitiveness enhancement of the access to conformity assessment services to market requirement in Zambia's private sector. Through the project, the Ministry indicated that it assisted in reviewing the overall organisation framework relating to Metrology, Standards, Accreditation, Inspection, Testing and Certification. This came to light during the closing ceremony of the UNIDO trade capacity building programme that took place on 27th January, 2017 in Lusaka.

At the same occasion, the Minister for MCTI said that notable contribution of the project is the development of the National Quality Policy and that the purpose of the Policy is to ensure that goods and services emanating from or traded in Zambia are designed, manufactured, produced and supplied in a manner that will meet the needs, expectations and requirements of the purchasers and consumers as well as those of the regulatory authorities in the local and export markets.

Meanwhile UNIDO officials presented key sustainability messages for the project which include approval of NQI related legislation was key to the sustainability of the project achievements and that the Ministry should work with the private sector and consumers to create demand for quality services.

FUNDING AVAILABLE FOR POULTRY FARMING-DBZ

The Development Bank of Zambia (DBZ) is rolling out funding for the poultry players. Access to finance has always been a major challenge to the poultry sector. Hence DBZ's introduction of multiple lending facilities available to local business enterprises is a welcome move. The Lines of credit comprise of: (i) China Development Bank (CDB) - US\$ 30 million (ii) Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) - US\$ 20 million (iii) Africa Development Bank (AfDB) - US\$ 25 million. The funds represent an expression of the commitment by DBZ to provide affordable funding for private sector development in Zambia. To be eligible for the facility, companies must meet the following requirements: (1) Must be a Zambian registered limited liability company (2) The minimum acceptable loan amount is US\$100,000 (ZMW 1 million) with a maximum loan tenor of 8 years. In this regard, the Bank wishes to invite applications from eligible Zambian businesses. If you are a PDF paid up member of the Poultry Association of Zambia and interested in obtaining this funding, please do not hesitate to contact PAZ Secretariat for application form and other details. Repayments for the poultry funding will be tailored to suit the life cycle of the both broiler and layer industries.

RAPIDLY EXPANDING GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF OUTBREAKS A CAUSE FOR CONCERN

The World Health Organization called on all countries to monitor closely outbreaks of deadly avian influenza in birds and poultry and to report promptly any human cases that could signal the start of a

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flu pandemic. Different strains of bird flu have been spreading across Europe and Asia since late last year, leading to large-scale slaughtering of poultry in certain countries and some human deaths in China. Nearly 40 countries have reported new outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza in poultry or wild birds since November 2016, according to the WHO. "The rapidly expanding geographical distribution of these outbreaks and the number of virus strains currently co-circulating has put WHO on high alert," Margaret Chan told the start of the U.N. agency's 10-day executive board. The new H5N6 strain causing severe outbreaks in Asia was created by gene-swapping among four different viruses, she said. This is according to Poultry Association of Zambia.

SOUTH AFRICA SAYS EUROPE IMPORTS PUT CHICKEN SECTOR IN DISTRESS

South Africa must defend its chicken farmers from an influx of imported dark meat from Europe or face the collapse of the local industry, said Trade and Industry Minister Rob Davies. While domestic producers must become more competitive to ensure the industry's sustainability, their efforts will be useless unless cheap imports are stemmed, Davies said. Since tariffs were removed five years ago under a trade agreement between Europe and South Africa, imports of bone-in portions, such as legs and thighs, have tripled to more than 188 million kilograms (414 million pounds) in 2016, according to the South African Poultry Association.

ALERTS!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

CONTACT THE ZNFU FOR ALL YOUR LOBBY ISSUES

For All Lobby Issues Affecting Members, please contact Mr. Humphrey Katotoka from the ZNFU Research and Economics Unit. Email: humphrey.katotoka@znfu.org.zm

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TRACTOR FOR SALE

Offers are invited for the sale of a Massey Ferguson Tractor 440 Xtra, 82HP; Model Year 2013. The tractor is being sold along with a Massey Ferguson Planter 106 (model year 2013) as well as an AGRION Disc Plough. Contact Dr Patrick Nkanza on 0977771243 or pknkanza@iconnect.zm for more details.



NEWS FROM THE REGIONS

CENTRAL REGION

ZAMBIA ARMY URGED TO ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE IN AGRICULTURE

The Minister of Defence, Mr. Davies Chama, says the defence forces' active participation in agricultural production is key to enhancing food security and job creation in the country. Mr Chama is happy that the defence wings are responding to President Edgar Lungu's call for the diversification of the economy. Speaking after touring a Fish Farming Development Project at Mupepetwe Engineering and Contracting Company (MECCO) in Serenje District of Central Province recently, Mr. Chama said the project was in response to President Lungu's call for Zambians to take up fish farming. He said it was unacceptable that Zambia was importing the same fish it exported to China instead of being the net exporter of fish. He also encouraged active participation in maize production as this would help in stabilising the high mealie meal prices.

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COPPERBELT REGION

FERTILIZER PRICES SOARS ON THE COPPERBELT

The prices of fertilizer have continued to skyrocket on the Copperbelt with most shops rapidly running out of stock. Both Urea and Compound D fertilisers are generally fetching K220 and K240 respectively but Chingola and Chililabombwe have now pegged the price between K330 and K400 for both Urea and D Compound fertilisers. Some Agro dealers spoken to attributed the increase to non-availability of the commodity citing the breakdown of the pontoon at Kazungula border post where most of the fertiliser carrying trucks are marooned.

However, farmers have cried foul saying the increase is unjustified, because other border points such as Nakonde and Livingstone are still open and accessible for business. They have since appealed to government to intervene and normalise the situation, as the prices have become uneconomical for most farmers.

EASTERN B REGION

PETAUKE RESIDENTS LAUDS PRESIDENTIAL FOOD BASKET INITIATIVE

Over 1500 households in Petauke district have expressed gratitude to Government over the gesture of considering them in the Presidential Food Basket (PFB) relief donated by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The beneficiaries were identified from 5 wards found in the valley of Chinika Agriculture Block after an impact assessment on the drought experienced during the 2014/15 farming season which was conducted by the Disaster Mitigation Management Unit from the office of the Vice President working in conjunction with the district team. The identified beneficiaries are being given an assorted package of different food products which include the following; 25kg bag of Breakfast mealie meal, 20kg bag of Rice, 5kg of Sugar, 4kg of Beans, 2.5L of Cooking Oil and 2kgs of salt and this package is meant to supplement efforts made by the households to ensure that they have food.

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 - ☑ Convenient, efficient and secure real time payments
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