

## FRIDAY BRIEF

WEEK 31, 2017

### HIGHLIGHTS

- ZNFU/FRA MEET OVER MAIZE PRICE
- ZNFU LAUDS MONSANTO'S CHILALA CROP INSURANCE
- PRESIDENT LUNGU SAYS EXPORT THE MAIZE
- MAIZE/SOYBEANS PRICES NOSE DIVE
- ... AS FRA NETS ZERO IN SOLWEZI

### IN DETAIL....

#### ZNFU/FRA MEET OVER MAIZE PRICE

The much-anticipated meeting between the Zambia National Farmers' Union (ZNFU) and the Food Reserve Agency (FRA) over the K60 maize price took place today Friday 4<sup>th</sup> August 2017.

The meeting extensively discussed the crux of pegging a 50kg bag of maize at K60. After a lengthy discussion, the FRA pledged to call for an urgent FRA board meeting to present the farmers' position.

The meeting will be held early next week and final resolution will also be communicated within the course of the week.

Farmers across the country have bemoaned the market pricing of maize announced by the FRA saying it was below production cost and farmers cannot make a full cost recovery. Farmers now await the next week's FRA Board meeting with bated breath.

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#### ZNFU LAUDS MONSANTO'S CHILALA CROP INSURANCE



# ZNFU

The Zambia National Farmers' Union (ZNFU) has lauded the newly launched Chilala crop insurance program saying crop insurance this will help minimise losses to farmers in the event that they encounter some weather-related challenges that have come with vagaries of climate change.

In a speech delivered at the launch of Monsanto Zambia's Chilala crop insurance program on Friday August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at the Radisson Blu hotel, Lusaka

Board director commodities of the ZNFU Mr. Fisho Mwale said the union is delighted to see that one of its partners, Monsanto Zambia has innovated and is rolling out a crop insurance product.

He said the recent crop season has not only been fraught with challenges, but farmers are starting to witness weather changes that threaten the ability of farmers to compete and feed the region.

Mr. Mwale pin pointed some of the challenges as the prolonged drought that affected the SADC and most of sub Saharan African regions and the invasion of fall army worms, among many others.

"These challenges have resulted in depressed crop harvests and therefore a financial burden on our farmers many of whom are small holder or subsistence in nature.

Because we do not know what mother nature will throw at us tomorrow, but we need to be mindful of the threats that can bring us from hero to zero," he said.

## PRESIDENT LUNGU SAYS EXPORT THE MAIZE

President Edgar Lungu conducted a pre-tour of the stands at the 91<sup>st</sup> Agriculture and Commercial Show and took the opportunity to call on Zambians to export the excess maize.

President Lungu said local entrepreneurs should take advantage of the bumper harvest and liberal market to trade and export the commodity to other countries such as Kenya and Tanzania for their businesses to grow.

The President said neighbouring countries are awash with market opportunities for the maize crop.

President Lungu also took the opportunity to explain that the decision to peg the market price of maize at K60 per 50kg by the FRA was not made by him but the Agency alone.

President Lungu said he will not intervene to adjust the maize market price this time around.

**ALERTS! ALERTS! ALERTS!**

~~FARMERS' DAY HOLIDAY~~





Monday 7<sup>th</sup> August 2017 is Farmers' Day, a public holiday. All members should also observe this as a public holiday.

## ALEXSWILL FARM TO HOLD 13<sup>TH</sup> PRODUCTION SALE

Alexswill Farm in Kalomo will be holding its 13<sup>th</sup> Production Sale on 12<sup>th</sup> August 2017. On offer will be approximately 30 bulls and 65 females (BONSMARA BREED).

For more details contact Graham or Kitty Mulders on;

+260 213 225 435 or 0977 796 722/44

Email: [alexswillfarm@gmail.com](mailto:alexswillfarm@gmail.com)

## RED SUNNHEMP SALE

Red Sunnhemp Seed for sale. K18/kg (recommend 25kg/ha). Significant Discounts for orders over 1 tonne. Excellent for legume rotation. Improves soil organic matter, adds nitrogen, suppresses weeds and nematodes, breaks soil pans, cools soil temperatures. Contact Andrew Moffat. 096 689 8939 or [a.and.c.moffat@gmail.com](mailto:a.and.c.moffat@gmail.com)

## INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE AT THE WORLD EXPORT DEVELOPMENT FORUM

The Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry wishes to inform business entities, including farmers, that the International Trade Centre (ITC) of the United Nations will be hosting the 17<sup>th</sup> World Export Development Forum (WEDF) in Budapest, Hungary from 24<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> October 2017.

The Forum will involve policy discussions, practical workshops and facilitated Business To Business (B2B) meetings, which gathers farmers, manufacturers, exporters, importers, wholesalers, retailers and investors.

If interested, kindly follow the link the below to complete registration and obtain more information; <http://www.intracen.org/WEDF-2017-Business-to-Business-meetings-24-and-25-October-2017/>

Kindly note that the cost of participation will be covered by the entity wishing to participate.

For further details contact Ms. Zungaye Phiri or Ms. Lina Mutandwa in the Department of foreign Trade on +260 211 224 115.

## INTELECTAUL PROPERTY AND GENTIC RESOURCES – INTERNATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAMME

On behalf of the Swedish International Development Corporation Agency (SIDA), the Embassy of Sweden in Zambia is inviting Zambians to nominate candidates for the INTELECTAUL PROPERTY AND GENTIC RESOURCES – INTERNATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAMME, scheduled for 12<sup>th</sup> to 1<sup>st</sup> December 2017 in Sweden, and a regional follow up in one of the participating countries in June 2018.

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Closing date for applications is 4<sup>th</sup> September 2017.

Members that are interested should send their applications (including an extra copy) to:





**The Embassy of Sweden  
Haile Selassie Avenue  
Opposite Ndeke House  
P.O Box 50264, RW  
LUSAKA**

## **CHULU BORANS CHINGOLA PRODUCTION SALE & FIELD DAY**

**DATE: SATURDAY 5TH AUGUST 2017**

**VENUE: LAZY A RANCH CATTLE YARDS, CHINGOLA**

VIEWING: COMMENCES 9.00 HOURS

SALE BY SILENT AUCTION: 10.00 TO 10.30 HOURS

FIELD DAY: 11.00 TO 13.00 HOURS

**10 BORAN BULLS, 30 BORAN HEIFERS, 20 STEERS**

**FURTHER DETAILS WILL BE AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE BY MID JULY 2017**

**<http://www.chuluborans.com>**

**CRAIG SHIEL 0978-787979 SALLY SHIEL 0977-770336**

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## **FROM THE REGIONS**

### **CENTRAL**

#### **DOG VACCINATIONS CHEER MUMBWA FARMERS**

Mumbwa District Council carried out a dog vaccination exercise on 1<sup>st</sup> August 2017 following an incidence where a person was beaten by a rabid dog.

This prompt action excited residents around Mumbwa as many dogs in the district are not vaccinated and pose danger to the environs.

ZNFU paid a courtesy call at the Council office and was informed by the officer in charge of the exercise Mr. Robert Gondwe that the plan is to roll out the exercise to all parts of Mumbwa and would love to collaborate with other stakeholders in order to make this activity possible and finish in time, especially with the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries.

ZNFU assured the council that the sensitization message will be delivered to the farmers.

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## MAIZE/SOYBEANS PRICES NOSE DIVE

Farmers in Mumbwa have expressed disappointment at the prices of maize and soybeans which have kept nose-diving and in turn affecting their incomes

A check at Badat, which is the largest grain buyer in Mumbwa, found prices of maize had reduced from K55/50kg bag to K52/50kg bag and soybeans from K115/50kg bag to K110/50kg bag.

This development has worried farmers saying the cost of production was higher than the prices the commodities are being pegged at.

Another check at NWK ginnery, which previously was buying at K60/50kg bag of maize, found reduced prices of K55/50kg bag.

## NORTH WESTERN

### FRA NETS ZERO IN SOLWEZI

Despite the Food Reserve Agency (FRA) beginning its maize marketing ON 1<sup>st</sup> August 2017, no farmer has so far supplied any single bag of maize in the region.

This is because the farmers are not happy with the pricing of K60 for a 50 kg bag of maize.

On the other hand, some buyers who were buying a 50 kg bag of maize at K70, reduced the price to K60 per 50 kg bag immediately the Agency announced the price of K60.

A check conducted on Wednesday by ZNFU at FRA main shed found a dreary situation with stranded looking deport supervisors with their scales and empty grain bags. Farmers who visited the ZNFU office vowed not to sell their produce to the Agency if they maintained the K60 price.

Farmers also complained bitterly saying maize farming was no longer an attractive business venture looking at the high cost of inputs and challenges encountered during this just ended farming season like Fall Army Worms and Red locusts. Farmers appealed to ZNFU to help them find alternative profitable markets.

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## COPPERBELT

### LUFWANYAMA FARMERS CRY FOR E-VOUCHER INCLUSION

Lufwanyama farmers are crying for help from ZNFU to help them participate on the E-Voucher system because for many it is going to be their first time.

Out of the 23, 000 registered farmers only 10, 000 will be beneficiaries while 13000 will have to find their own means.

In addition, farmers are calling for the scrapping of grain levies saying the prices were too low for the local authorities to charge levy on the grain. Farmers fear they will remain with nothing.

## EASTERN

### PETAUKE FARMERS HAPPY WITH VILLAGE CHICKEN PROJECT

Farmers in Petauke District are happy that the DFA board decided to fully maximise on the village chicken breed improvement project that was funded by SAPP. The project which is being implemented at the DFA premises has received an overwhelming response from the farmers within the district. The project is aimed at improving the local chickens breed by addressing the challenges of egg laying and meat quality of the local chickens. The DFA has so far acquired an incubator, which will be used to provide a service to its members for hatching eggs at a minimal cost of K2.5/egg to members and K5.00/egg to non-members.

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POULTRY HOUSE



INCUBATOR

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Hatched Chicks

## CFU/ZNFU CONDUCT WORKSHOP ON BUNJIMI ASSET PLUS

The Conservation Farming Unit (CFU) in collaboration with ZNFU Petauke office held a workshop with emergent farmers to explain the Bunjimi Asset Plus facility.

The workshop, which was held at the CFU offices in Petauke was also attended by a representative from Natsave Bank and Saro Agro sales personnel. The workshop was meant to explain the conditions that the emergent farmers need to meet in order to access farming equipment such as tractors and other implements as well as the conditions from the financial institution. Farmers that attended the workshop expressed gratitude to the institutions for the information that was given to them and looked forward to acquiring the farming implements that they lacked at their farms.

## KATETE FARMERS BEMOAN FRA PRICING

Farmers in Mutunga Camp Northern block of Katete, Eastern Province on Tuesday expressed displeasure with FRA's low Market price. This was during a camp agriculture committee (CAC).

Farmers also complained of long distances to the new depot as the only depot in the camp has been shut. There are no private buyers in the area as the road and geographical terrain is very bad. The camp boasts of high production of maize, soya beans and cotton. The major markets for this camp are FRA and cotton companies. But cotton companies such as NWK and Cargill are only buying cotton in the camp leaving ~~over 2000 farmers~~ over 2000 farmers stranded with markets for maize. The CAC appealed to ZNFU to help farmers in the camp with better markets, saying if it means the whole camp joining ZNFU to access better markets they would do so without hesitation.





## NORTHERN

### FARMERS STRANDED WITH MAIZE

Farmers in Kasama are stranded with maize due to lack of maize market following the announcement of low buying price of K60 per 50kg by the FRA.

Most farmers have held on to their crop waiting for FRA to adjust the price upward or sell to any buyer who can offer a reasonable price. Farmers have since challenged FRA to explain the logic behind the reduction of maize price as the price of inputs and replanting was very high.

### MBALA FARMERS ANXIOUSLY AWAIT FRA TO REVIEW MAIZE PRICE

Farmers in Mbala District are still anxiously waiting for the Food Reserve Agency (FRA) to review the maize price. The K60 FRA maize price has brought about panic and anxiety among farmers. Some private buyers have taken advantage of the low FRA market price and are offering farmers as low as K 55 per 50 kg bag of white maize on cash basis, which many farmers are saying is just a drop in the ocean.

A random survey conducted in some selected Information Centres, found that farmers are longing to know if the Agency will make any adjustments to the maize price for the 2017 marketing season.

### ATS TRAINS FARMERS IN MBALA

Agchem Techikem services (ATS) has trained 19 farmers in Mbala District as spraying service providers for vegetables and crops. The aim of the training is to equip farmers with knowledge in herbicides, dosage and right chemicals application on the type of weeds in the fields. The service providers will be providing services to the farmers in the District.

## SOUTHERN

### ECF VACCINATIONS KICK OFF

The Ministry of Livestock has begun the East Coast Fever (ECF) vaccinations in Monze.

The Ministry is targeting to vaccinate 5, 000 livestock in this phase. The exercise has been necessitated by deaths of about Nine (9) reported cattle in the District. However, the Ministry is planning on scaling up numbers, resources allowing. The Ministry has since appeared to other stakeholders to consider coming on board so that the exercise can be extended to save livestock.





## COMMODITIES PRICES SLUMP

Prices for maize and soyabeans in the region are in free fall.

A snap survey today revealed that NWK Agri services are only buying two crops, which include soyabean and sunflower. Soya beans is fetching K2.00 per kg while sunflower is at K1.30 per 1kg. The company has not yet started buying maize grain though indicators are that it may enter the market in a fortnight's time at a price of K1.10 per 1kg. This is according to NWK Agri Services Southern Region Manager.

Others buying on the local market are offering farmers in the range from K49 to K55 per 50kg bag of maize.

## FRA MARKET PRICE SADDENS FARMERS

Farmers are saddened that Government, through the FRA, can announce the price of K60 per 50kgs bag when the cost of production is far much higher. Farmers have therefore, placed their hopes in the Zambia National Farmers' Union (ZNFU) as their mouth piece to renegotiate with government over the pricing.

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