

FRIDAY BRIEF

WEEK 37, 2017

HIGHLIGHTS

- PRESIDENT LUNGU LOOKS TO ROBUST AGRICULTURE
- ... AND SAYS ENERGY POVERTY MUST END
- MAIZE PRICE REVIEW WELCOME; ZNFU

IN DETAIL....

PRESIDENT LUNGU LOOKS TO ROBUST AGRICULTURE

President Edgar Lungu opened the 2nd Session of the 12th National Assembly with a call for a robust agriculture, livestock and fisheries and the entire value as the lynchpin for moving the economy.

Presenting his speech to the August House under the theme “Building an integrated multi-sectoral approach to development that enhances inclusiveness in development without leaving anyone behind”, President Lungu pinned his government’s resolve to move the country’s economy from its heavy dependency on copper to agriculture.

He said the agriculture sector, fisheries and livestock will be the main focus around which other sectors will be developed in an integrated manner under the seventh national development plan.

“Agriculture will therefore be the major priority of our economic diversification agenda. The rural population in particular, derives its livelihood on and off the land. It is from agriculture that school fees are paid, health bills are met, and it is agriculture that puts food on the table. Agriculture is, therefore, a key lever for improving rural livelihoods. To this end, we will focus on boosting agricultural production, enhancing productivity and increasing earnings for our farmers. We have to make agriculture a real business venture even for small-scale and peasant farmers,” he said.

... AND SAYS ENERGY POVERTY MUST END

President Lungu says the country must not wait until it faces another energy crisis before acting, but instead bolster its position and look to alternative energy solutions such as renewable and clean energies.

Mr. Lungu said: “Zambia must now pronounce clearly, that the nation’s energy strategy will be a combination of clean renewable energies alongside the grid. Energy independence must be a strategy for all areas of Zambia.”



ZNFU

He said the current situation of a grid based electricity supply is under stress, and with the unpredictable rainfall patterns, the country will need to re-think electricity supply.

He said the country is still engulfed in the unavoidable but disruptive load-shedding that the country has experienced since 2015.

“This energy crisis has played a part in our economic downturn over the past months. Energy independence for the nation, and also for as many Zambians as possible is now more than ever an important national goal.

“Government must demonstrate a strong commitment to the promotion of renewable forms, including solar and Biogas Energies. Zambia must urgently lay the foundation for a flourishing renewable energy industry. Zambia must create a path to energy independence. Energy poverty must end,” President Lungu said.

MAIZE PRICE REVIEW WELCOME; ZNFU

The Zambia National Farmers’ Union (ZNFU) has welcomed the stance by Government to consider revisiting the pricing of maize of K60 by the Food Reserve Agency (FRA).

ZNFU president Jervis Zimba has said the intervention comes at the time just when farmers needed it.

“We reaffirm as farmers to play our part for the country to realise the dream of making agriculture the mainstay of the economy and being the food basket of the region. We look forward to the intervention, which as farmers gives us fresh hope of making investments that will help us grow the country’s agriculture. Agriculture remains the most realistic pathway of lifting the majority of Zambians out of poverty,” Mr. Zimba said in a brief statement on Tuesday.

FROM THE REGIONS

NORTHWESTERN

FRA PAYMENTS WORRY FARMERS

Of the 79, 401 x 50 bags of maize purchased by the Food Reserve Agency (FRA) in Kasempa District as at 13th September 2017, the Agency has only paid for 8, 285 x 50 kg bags.

At Central Depot, only two farmers have so far been paid. Total payments made were K497, 100. Thus representing 10.43%.

However, very few farmers have been taking their maize to some depots with majority of farmers holding on to their produce.

FARMERS CRAVE FOR LIMA CREDIT SCHEME

With the announcement that government will this season be restructuring the FISP under the E-Voucher, farmers have started frequenting the ZNFU offices with the view of being listed on the Lima Credit Scheme (LCS).



Farmers are interested in knowing what inputs they can access on the LCS, apart from maize and fertilisers and when this year's programme will be flagged off.

EASTERN

SEEDCO CONDUCTS A SEED STOCKISTS' WORKSHOP

Seedco Zambia this week conducted a seed stockists' workshop with their agro dealer agents in Petauke District who sold seed on their behalf last year. The workshop was aimed at finding a lasting solution to the challenges which the seed stockists went through last season, especially with farmers that got seed using the FISP on E-Voucher system but whose cards have remained inactive. During the same workshop, the Seedco representative in charge of sales and marketing explained and emphasized on how the agro dealers can be managing their credit accounts with the seed company.

PDFA is among the institutions that got seed from Seedco last year on credit. The DFA is currently on 82% loan recovery.

AGRITERRA SUPPORTS PDFA

Petauke District Farmers Association (PDFA) was this week visited by consultants from Agriterra, an organization that provides capacity building support to farmer associations as well as cooperatives.

During the visit, representatives from Agriterra explained that the association may be considered for capacity building support in areas of farmer training, business management as well as financial management for the association to improve its transparency.

Mr. Chabota Miyoba, business advisor for Agriterra, was happy with the activities that the DFA is conducting in the district and looked forward in partnering with the association.

COPPERBELT

MYSTERIOUS CATTLE DISEASE BREAKS OUT IN LUFWANYAMA

Suspected East Coast Fever (ECF) has broken out in Lufwanyama district. So far, a farmer has lost more than 7 cattle.

The disease has gone unreported for some time. Farmers believe the outbreak of the disease is due to the lack of adequate dip tanks in the district and illegal movement of cattle from one district to another. From January to date, more than 105 cattle have died is suspected East Coast Fever. Three dip tanks; at Fungulwe; Chananda and another one in the East of the district are all reported to be white elephants.

ALERTS! ALERTS! ALERTS!

ZAMACE ACCEPTING WHEAT DEPOSITS

ZNFU CORPORATE SPONSORS





The ZAMACE trading platform is now available on www.zamace.co.zm/trading Registered Brokers have access to a live trading platform to place bids/offers.

For further details, kindly contact :0960283604 for storage in Lusaka and 0965872082 for Mpongwe and Mkushi facilities.

ZAMACE contact number: +260 960 432 266

ULTRAVETIS TO HOLD TRAINING FOR POULTRY FARMERS

ULTRAVETIS will be hosting a training on poultry production for farmers in September, tentatively 30th September 2017. ULTRAVETIS is now inviting interested farmers to attend this training AT ZERO COST.

Those interested can call Dr. Mzota Lungu on 0968 222 976.

DEATH NOTICE

This notice serves to inform all members of the farming community, especially the ZFEA members, that the former Chairman of Fidelity Labour Consultants Limited, Dr. Alick Palata Kapisa passed on, on the 9th September 2017 and was put to rest on 13th September 2017.

Fidelity Labour Consultants Ltd had been providing Labour Consultancy services to members of the ZFEA. MHSRIP

ZFE OFFERING TRAINING IN TALENT MANAGEMENT AND SUCCESSION PLANNING FOR BUSINESS GROWTH AND SUSTAINABILITY

The Zambia Federation of Employers will be running a workshop on **Talent Management and Succession Planning for Business Growth and Sustainability**, from 21st to 22nd September 2017 at Chaminuka Lodge in Lusaka.

The training aims at equipping staff with skill and knowledge suitable for current work and future business and work environment.

The ZFE is offering an opportunity to corporate entities who wish to enhance existing competence in their staff to nominate participants to this workshop. Participation confirmation will be upon payment of participating fees or Local Purchase Order not later than Monday 18th September 2017.

For further details, kindly contact Mildred Kuwema Mukuma on Tel: 0211 295969 or Cell: 0977 825112 or email: zfe.training@acl.com or zfe@zamnet.zm

COMPETITION AND CONSUMER PROTECTION COMMISSION REQUESTS FOR COMMENTS ON ABUSE OF DOMINANCE AND FINES GUIDELINES

The Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (CCPC) is in the process of drafting Abuse and Dominance and Fines Guidelines pursuant to Section 84 of the Competition and Consumer Protection Act No. 24 of 2010. The Commission therefore, wishes to invite comments on the above ~~Guidelines before~~ they are published before or on 25th September 2017.



Entities seeking clarification or further details should call Mrs. Luyamba Mpamba Kapembwa – Director Mergers and Monopolies or Mr. Chilufya Sampa – the Executive Director on +260 211 222787/+260 211 222789 or email: zcomp@ccpc.org.zm

WEATHER

SEVEN DAYS WEATHER FORECAST

16th September – 22nd September 2017

GENERAL SITUATION

The period from 16th – 18th September 2017, moderate to strong airflow from the South east will be affecting most parts of Zambia resulting into windy, hazy and hot weather. Meanwhile, from the 19th to the end of the forecast period the direction of the airflow is expected to change and start blowing from the east.

Forecast for the period 16th - 22th September 2017

All Areas: Sunny, windy, hazy and warm becoming hot in the afternoon and very hot in the valleys. ***The nights will be clear and warm.***

ZNFU CORPORATE SPONSORS



ZNFU

Use your



and get your discounts @

CAMCO
Inputs and Services

MONSANTO

MRI SEED

DEKALB



AGRICROP
SERVICES LTD

PIONEER
A TRIMARK COMPANY

omnia
NUTRITION

TSOGO SUN

syngenta

SHAKA'S
SPECIALTY MEATS

Homad's Court



Benefits of the Card

With the ZNFU prepaid Visa card you enjoy:

- Freedom of choice of inputs
- Great discount offers on inputs, agro equipment and hospitality services from great brands
- Convenient, efficient and secure real time payments
- Building up savings as money will be securely deposited on the prepaid card.

+260 213 252 848 | info@znfu.org.zm | www.znfu.org.zm

NO FARMER, NO FOOD, NO FUTURE!



ZAMBIA NATIONAL
FARMERS' UNION

ZNFU CORPORATE SPONSORS

