

FRIDAY BRIEF

WEEK 40, 2017

HIGHLIGHTS

- Rains Pour in Parts of Lusaka
- Consider Modelling Existing Farm Blocs First; ZNFU
- ... and Lauds Govt for Exempting Unprocessed Tobacco
- Lake Kariba Levels Dip to 47%

IN DETAIL....

RAINS POUR IN PARTS OF LUSAKA

Surprise rains cascaded in some parts of Lusaka on Friday October 6, 2017, a development that has been uncharacteristic in the recent past of experiencing rains early on in October, what with changes in weather patterns.

As projected by the Zambia Meteorological Department (ZMD), most parts of the country were characterized by searing temperatures, before temperatures dropped in the evening, then suddenly there was precipitation.

The ZMD predicted that: "Lusaka, Eastern, Muchinga and the eastern districts of Central Province would be partly cloudy, windy at times, hazy and hot becoming warm to mild in the evening.

"The Rest of Zambia: Cloudy and hot with thundershowers becoming warm to mild in the evening."

CONSIDER MODELLING EXISTING FARM BLOCS FIRST; ZNFU

The Zambia National Farmers' Union (ZNFU) says it will be too costly to develop new farming bloc models in Muchinga, Northern and Copperbelt Provinces when there are models that have already been developed, which just need little funding to kick start.

Reacting to the 2018 Budget on agriculture, which the ZNFU has passed as a **"don't rock the boat budget"**, the Union says while it is plausible to think of having farm bloc models, there are, however,



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numerous other farm blocs that have already been developed. The ZNFU says government has already spent huge sums of monies on farm blocs such as Nansanga and have already been surveyed, modelled and have already have roads, electricity and dams.

The ZNFU says: "The proposed Green Field models in Muchinga, Northern and Copperbelt Provinces will require full financing, will take much longer to develop and start yielding results. So why not revisit existing successful Brown Field cases like Nansanga to be developed into a model in 2018?"

... AND LAUDS GOVT FOR EXEMPTING UNPROCESSED TOBACCO

ZNFU has welcomed government's move to exempt unprocessed and semi processed tobacco from VAT saying this brings the industry to par with other neighbouring countries.

The Union says Tobacco is a major foreign exchange earner and deserves the support.

The ZNFU also termed as progressive the decision by government to remove the surtax from certain raw materials: "Our added view on this is that the surtax is too low in some cases such that it does not offer the desired protection to local producers. We have observed this on agricultural products that can be produced locally where the influx of imports has continued e.g. milk, fruits and vegetables, etc. The surtax should be increased on some products. Therefore, consultations with key stakeholders will be critical during the process of identifying the products that will be affected by this measure. We must add that the removal of customs duty on inputs used in stock feed and fish feed is positive and addresses the added cost that producers have been facing for a long time on inputs such pre- mixes which are a critical additive in stock feed production."

LAKE KARIBA LEVELS DIP TO 47%

As temperatures begin to soar, with the summer heat beginning to bear, water levels in Lake Kariba have dropped to 47%.

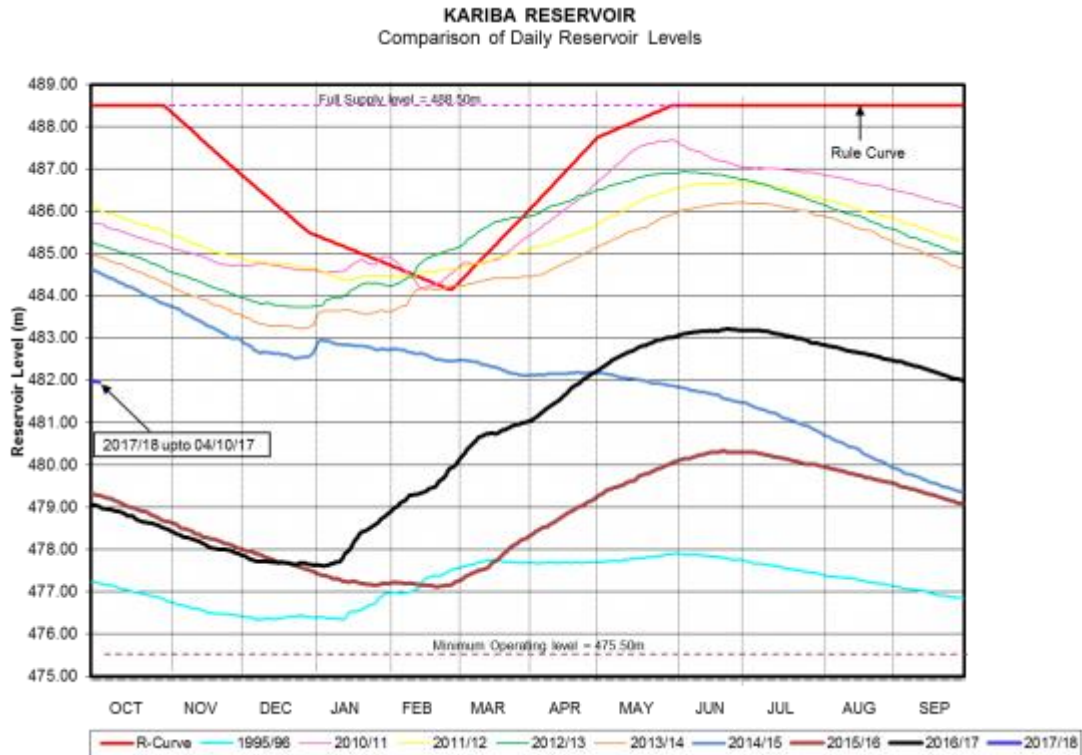
According to information obtained from the Zambezi River Authority (ZRA) on Friday October 6, 2017, the Lake levels dropped by 0.08m during the week under review and closed the week at 481.95m on October 4, 2017.

Last year on the same date, at the height of load shedding, the Lake level was 479.02m, translating into the Lake level of 25%

The Kariba Lake was created and designed to operate between levels 475.50m and 488.50m with 0.70m freeboard at all times.



See below, the Lake Kariba levels as compiled by the ZRA.



FROM THE REGIONS

CENTRAL

KAPIRI FARMERS BEMOAN CONSULTATION FEES INTRODUCTION BY MINISTRY OF FISHERIES AND LIVESTOCK

Kapiri farmers have received the news of Consultation fees recently introduced by the Veterinary Department under the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock with mixed feelings.

Even though the funds would help in the effective running of the department, farmers see it as an added cost to the already expensive costs of keeping livestock.

This came to light during the Kapiri DFA Annual General Meeting which took place on 29th September 2017 where the farmers brought up the issue.



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Mrs. Ngosa Chipinda, who is the District Fisheries and Livestock Coordinator, confirmed the new development and stated that it is law and already being implemented. She pointed out that consultation fees are being charged for both technical advice and farmer request field check-up's. The fees are in categories, of which, the field check-ups are being charged per hour after an initial payment of K150.

NOW MUMBWA FARMERS TURN TO ZNFU

With maize price offer by the Food Reserve Agency firmly stuck at K60 for 50kg bag, farmers in Mumbwa have now turned to ZNFU to help them find markets that would offer reasonable prices.

Farmers in Mumbwa have described this year's marketing season as extremely poor and "a punch below the belt."

This came to light during the visitation by the ZNFU officer and MDFA board members to Chibangabwe Information Centre (IC).

Speaking on behalf of the farmers, the Contact Farmer, Mr. Honest Mweemba, said that if ZNFU can't look for markets for the farmers it will be difficult to clear the outstanding balances on some loans that farmers had obtained from banks. Farmers fear that once they sell at the current price (K60/50kg bag) there will be nothing left for them to pay for the security deposits as the prices cannot even meet the cost of production.

He pleaded with the Union to come to the aid of the farmers by looking for good alternative market.

ALERTS! ALERTS! ALERTS!

ZNFU CREATES LAND/GROUND RENT HELP DESK

Following the amendment to the Lands Act (Laws, Volume 12 Cap.184) through Statutory Instrument (SI) No.106 of 2016, which changes came into effect on January 1, 2017, farmers may have experienced variances to costs of Ground Rent, Fees and Charges.

The ZNFU has continued receiving numerous queries as regards the effected changes. To help farmers address the challenges they may be encountering, the ZNFU has set up a Help Desk on Land and Ground Rent matters.

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For any queries and or clarifications, kindly call ZNFU Head Office on;
+260 211 254 431 or Florence Phiri on **0977434312** or Grace on **0977984219**



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