



**26<sup>th</sup> October 2017**

**@Mulungushi International Conference Centre**

## **FRIDAY BRIEF**

**WEEK 42, 2017**

### **HIGHLIGHTS**

- **Whereat Now, Inputs?**
- **Fuel Prices Spiral Up**
- **Kariba: Now at 46%**
- **World Bank Pays Kaoma DFA Visit**

### **IN DETAIL....**

#### **WHEREAT NOW, INPUTS?**

October 15, 2017 has come and gone, which date the Ministry of Agriculture said the 2017/2018 farming inputs' distribution would be flagged off.

With baited breath, farmers are now waiting for the Ministry to flag off the inputs under the E-Voucher, which this season goes 100%.

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Minister of Agriculture Dora Siliya said on October 6, 2017 that government would start the distribution of farming inputs by October 15, 2017 in order for farmers to prepare adequately for the 2017/2018 farming season.

Ms. Siliya is quoted saying government had put in place mechanisms to ensure that the challenges faced last year when the E-Voucher was being test-run, would be addressed.

She said K200 billion has been set aside for this exercise, saying the E Voucher programme has been operationalised to ensure timely and efficient distribution of inputs to farmers.

On April 13, 2017, Ministry of Agriculture Permanent Secretary Julius Shawa said during his visit to Northern Province that farming inputs under the E-Voucher would start in June 2017 and the activation of E-Voucher cards would be done promptly.

## FUEL PRICES SPIRAL UP

The Energy Regulation Board (ERB) has reviewed the wholesale and pump prices of fuel, pushing upwards the cost of diesel, petrol and Kerosene effective October 17, 2017.

In a communique availed to the Zambia National Farmers' Union (ZNFU), the ERB said that the approved October 2017 Retail Pump Prices, or National Uniform Pump Prices is that Petrol is now selling at K12.97 from K11.67, Diesel at K11.09 from K9.87, Kerosene at K7.82 from K6.50 and Low Sulphur diesel at K13.38 from K12.16.

The ERB said the decision to review the fuel prices is consistent with the policy guidance that fuel price adjustments would be made every 60 days, as fundamentals that determine them change: "In addition, this decision is in line with Government policy to remove subsidies on fuel. The current price review is based on the 102,129.435 metric tonnes (MT) of petroleum feedstock cargo imported in September 2017 and imported finished products to be consumed along with the products from the feedstock, that is, 43,219.32 m3 of petrol and 87,581.62 m3 of Low Sulphur Gasoil (LSG). Fuel prices in Zambia are mainly determined by two (2) factors: international oil prices and the exchange rate of the Zambian Kwacha against the United States Dollar.

"The ERB effects a change to current prices of petroleum products if the proposed change in the wholesale prices, on average, is greater than the set 2.5% threshold. With regard to the performance of the key fundamentals since mid-2017, international oil prices, specifically West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude, registered an upward trend, increasing by 8.72% from US\$45.17/bbl to US\$49.11/bbl. Specifically, from the last adjustment on 7th August 2017, WTI crude increased by 2.23% from US\$48.04/bbl in August to US\$49.11/bbl in September 2017."

## KARIBA: NOW AT 46%

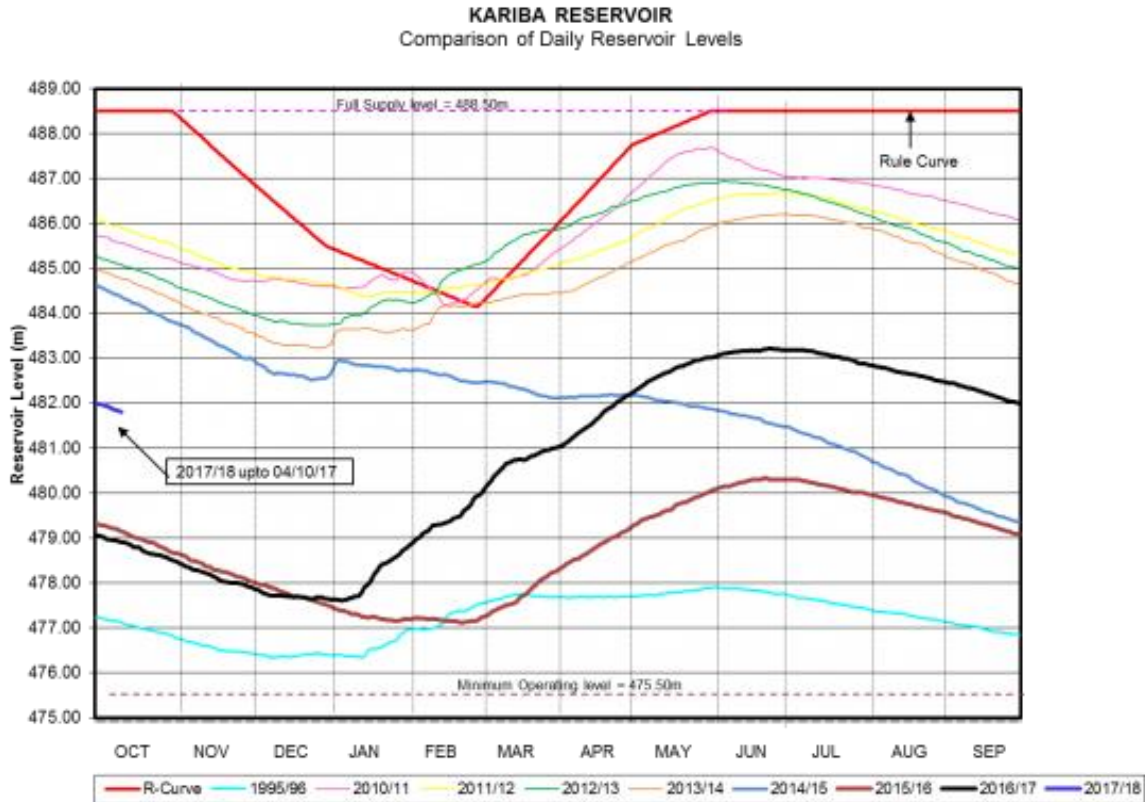
Simmering temperatures have continued taking a toll on water levels with Lake Kariba dropping from 47% to 46% in a space of two weeks.

Information obtained from the Zambezi River Authority (ZRA) by the Zambia National Farmers' Union (ZNFU), the Lake level dropped by 0.13m during the week under review and closed the week at 481.81m on 11<sup>th</sup> October 2017. This is, however, a much sound position compared to the same period last year.



The ZRA says: “Last year on the same date, the Lake level was 478.91m.”

The current levels translate into the Lake Kariba bubbling at 46% compared to 24% last year. Below is the graph as prepared by the ZRA.



## FROM THE REGIONS

### WESTERN

#### WORLD BANK PAYS KAOMA DFA VISIT

Kaoma District Farmers’ Association (KDFA) was privileged to be visited by a World Bank economists team which wanted to understand the economic issues of the district.

The team was given insights of developments in the agriculture sector, high on the list being the high inputs cost and low commodity prices (maize and soya), that have negatively impacted on farmer growth in the district. The DFA also said that poor road infrastructure and network have also contributed to failure to access good markets. The team was also told that another setback is the delay inactivation and actualisation of E-Voucher cards, which despite giving farmers a wider range of choices of inputs, become meaningless. The World Bank were pleased with the farmers’ candidness and enthusiasm to grow in spite of reported hindrances.



## NORTHERN

### MBALA AGRO DEALERS E-VOUCHER TRAINING

More than 20 agro dealers and supporting staff have been trained in Mbala District in the operations of the E- Voucher system in readiness for 2017/2018 farming season.

The aim of the training was to equip agro dealers with knowledge and skills to meet the farmers' needs. Provincial Agriculture Coordinator (PACO), Mr. Mulenga, advised agro dealers to be honest and fair to the farmers as they fix the price for agricultural inputs.

And a Musika representative highlighted the importance of the E-Voucher to agro dealers such as creating employment, reducing on wastage and levelling the playing field for agro dealer players.

## EASTERN

### ZaOU, MUSIKA, MOA HOLD A SEED-FARE IN PETAUKE

The Zambian Open University in collaboration with Musika and the Ministry of Agriculture held a seed fair in Petauke this week under the theme; 'EMPOWERING FARMERS WITH AGRICULTURAL INFORMATION'.

The seed fair was attended by farmers from all the agricultural blocks in Petauke and all the seed companies; including several agro dealers, who showcased their products during the same event.

The ZNFU credit and marketing facilitator emphasized the need for farmers to use such an opportunity to interact with the seed companies as the seed fair came at the right moment when farmers are starting to acquire farming inputs such as seed, fertiliser and herbicides.

## ALERTS! ALERTS! ALERTS!

### PUBLIC HOLIDAY

This serves to advise members that **TUESDAY 24<sup>th</sup> October 2017** is a **public holiday** for the country's **National Independence Day** Celebrations and the ZNFU Offices will be closed. ZFEA members should take note that this is an **Agricultural Holiday**.

Find below a complete list of all the 2017 Agricultural Holidays.

- |                              |   |                         |
|------------------------------|---|-------------------------|
| 1. New Year's Day            | - | 1 <sup>st</sup> January |
| 2. International Women's Day | - | 8 <sup>th</sup> March   |
| 3. Good Friday               | - | 14 <sup>th</sup> April  |
| 4. Labour Day                | - | 1 <sup>st</sup> May     |
| 5. Africa Freedom Day        | - | 25 <sup>th</sup> May    |
| 6. Heroes Day                | - | First Monday in July    |





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- |                     |   |                           |
|---------------------|---|---------------------------|
| 7. Unity Day        | - | First Tuesday in July     |
| 8. Farmers Day      | - | First Monday in August    |
| 9. Independence Day | - | 24 <sup>th</sup> October  |
| 10. Christmas Day   | - | 25 <sup>th</sup> December |

## 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.

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**  
Email: [grace@znfu.org.zm](mailto:grace@znfu.org.zm)

## HAVE YOU TRIED MYCORRHIZAL FUNGI, AND MYCOAPPLY?

Hi Zambian Friends and Farmers!

If you are excited about possible early rains in Zambia, awesome! Have you prepared for the season by protecting your crop from drought should the rains stop short and ensure they have the best chance to bring you a good return, reduce inputs, help the soils and increase your yields?

If you have not heard of mycorrhizal fungi, and MycoApply, it is time for you to hear!

See our website at [www.mycozambia.com](http://www.mycozambia.com)

## WEATHER

### GENERAL SITUATION

The period from 21<sup>st</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> October 2017, moist and unstable winds from the North-west will be affecting Western, North-western, Copper belt and Luapula Provinces resulting in cloudy and warm to hot weather conditions with thunder and rain in few places while the rest of Zambia will be affected by winds from the south east causing few clouds, hazy and hot weather. From 26<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> most parts of the country will be under the influence of moist and unstable winds from the North West causing showery activities except for Eastern, Muchinga and Northern Provinces which will be affected by airflow from the North East.

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## Forecast for the period 21<sup>st</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> October 2017

**Western, North western, Copper belt and Luapula Provinces:** Few clouds, windy at times and warm becoming partly cloudy and hot in the afternoon with a chance of thunder and rain in few places.

**The Rest of the Country:** Mainly sunny and warm becoming hot in the afternoon.

*The nights will be mainly clear and warm.*

## Forecast for the period 26<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> October 2017

**Western, North-western, Copper belt, Luapula, Northern, Central and Lusaka Provinces:** Partly cloudy, wind times and warm becoming cloudy and hot in the afternoon with thunder and rain in places.

**The Rest of Zambia:** Few clouds, hazy and warm in the morning becoming partly cloudy and hot in the afternoon with a chance of thundershowers in few places.

*The nights will be partly cloudy and warm with thunder and rain over Western, North-western, Copper belt and Luapula Provinces.*

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