

FRIDAY BRIEF

WEEK 45, 2017

HIGHLIGHTS

- ZNFU Board holds first meeting after Congress
- Lake Kariba levels down to 41%
- CHICOL officially unveils organic Fertiliser

IN DETAIL....

ZNFU Board holds first meeting after Congress

The Zambia National Farmers' Union (ZNFU) held its first Board Meeting after the 112th Annual Congress held on 26th October 2017.

The Board discussed a wide range of issues surrounding the ZNFU and other strategies for its growth going forward. The ZNFU is arguably the largest farmers' body in Zambia and the region, which embraces all strata of farmers; small, emergent and large scale.

The Board welcomed new entrant, Maria zaloumis.

Lake Kariba levels down to 41%

Lake Kariba levels have dropped to 41 per cent.

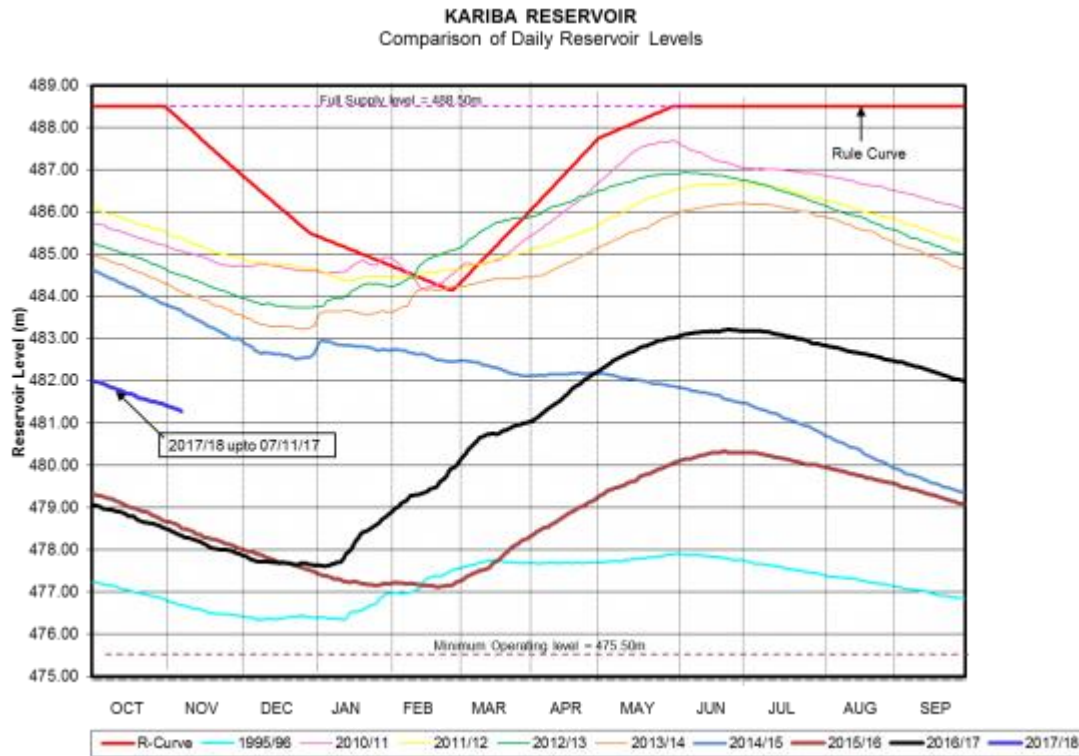
This is according to the information obtained from the Zambezi River Authority (ZRA) by the Zambia National Farmers' Union (ZNFU).

According to the ZRA the Lake level dropped by 0.13m during the week under review and closed the week at 481.29m on 7th November 2017.



Last year on the same date, the Lake level was 478.34m. Lake Kariba was created and designed to operate between levels of 475.50m and 488.50m with 0.70m freeboard at all times.

Below is the graph depicting water levels obtained from ZRA.



CHICOL officially unveils organic Fertiliser

Chicol Estates on Thursday officially unveiled the Chicola Natural Fertilisers after eight years of trails.

The occasion also launched a new company, the Green Valley Fertilisers Zambia Limited, which has been designated to handle the anticipated increased production from the current 5 tonnes per day to between 50 tonnes and 100 tonnes per day once the plant is opened in the MFEZ area early next year.

The Fertilisers has been tried on soya beans, maize, vegetables and lawns and been a huge success. The natural fertiliser has been approved by the Zambia Agriculture Research Institute (ZARI).



Chicol Estates proprietor, and founder of the Chicola Natural Fertilisers, Aaron Chungu says the fertiliser is now ready for uptake. He says the new company, Green Valley Fertilisers Zambia Limited, will be moved from Chicol Estates to MFEZ, to allow for more poultry farmers to be bringing in their chicken droppings, which is the major raw material for the fertilisers, which is processed into small smooth pellets.

He says the cost of putting up the plant will cost about US\$1.5 million. He is buoyant the product is ready for FISP and the general market.

ALERTS! ALERTS! ALERTS!

ZFEA Wage negotiations extended

Negotiations have begun for the 2017/18 minimum wages but are running behind schedule. This has necessitated the collective bargaining unit to apply to the Labour Commissioner for a six-week extension of the 2016/17 wage agreement which expired on 31 October 2017. Therefore the 2016/17 minimum wages will remain in force until a settlement has been reached.

Spanish companies engage Zambian businesses

CRUZ DEL SUR INVESTMENTS, LTD, a Spanish company facilitating “Business to Business” (B2B) meetings between 15 Spanish business entities and their Zambian counterparts is inviting local entities involved in the business of agriculture to explore ways in which they could create business linkages.

The meetings will be held on 15th November 2017 from 13:30 hours to 17:00 hours and on 16th November 2017 from 08:00 hours to 17:00 hours at Intercontinental Hotel, on the 8th floor (Makumbi Room).

For more information, kindly contact Mr. Carlos Gayete on Tel. 0977 926 153

Email: c.gayete@gmail.com

Deadline for Ground Rates Payment Nears

The Union wishes to inform members that Ground Rent payments deadline has been set for 31st December 2017. All those that have not made good of this statutory requirement are asked to do so in good time to avoid penalties.

Herewith the ground rate schedule;

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Annual ground rates for small holdings and farms;



ZNFU

Category A; land within Lusaka, Copperbelt, Central and Southern Provinces:

Up to 1 hectare = K83.10

Above 1 hectare = K5/ha Cumulative/additional charge

Category B; land within Eastern, Western, Muchinga, North-Western, Luapula and Northern Provinces:

Up to 1 hectare = K83.10

Above 1 hectare = K4/ha Cumulative/additional charge

Vacancies and Job Seekers

1. A 24-year-old agroforestry graduate from the Copperbelt University of Zambia; Friday Nyimbili, is looking for employment. He is reachable on 0950 542 063 or 0963 639 093 or Email: fridaynyimbili@gmail.com
2. Simon Ngwira, a product of NRDC, holder of a Diploma in Agriculture with a major in Crop Science seeks a job.

Interested? Call him on 0975 101 199 or Email: simonngwira@gmail.com

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