

## FRIDAY BRIEF

WEEK 47, 2017

### HIGHLIGHTS

- **Activate Them!**
- **Let's diversify; ZNFU**
- **Beware of fake Seed!**
- **Soften Up a Little; Dora tells Banks**
- **... as BoZ reduces Policy Rate 10.25%**

### IN DETAIL....

#### Activate Them!

President Edgar Lungu says government cannot afford to continue repeating past mistakes which threaten the growth of the agriculture sector and has called for speedy distribution of FISP inputs and activation the E-Voucher system.

President Lungu said sound agricultural practices such as planting within the window for planting crops, is vital as this determines crop success, saying therefore, he would like to see the distribution of farm inputs expedited.

Speaking when he launched the 2017/2018 farming season in Monze on Thursday, the President said his government is determined to ensure that agriculture becomes the main driver of the country's economic diversification programme and called for avoidance in policy mistakes.





President Lungu said government would continue to create an enabling environment for the private sector to flourish so that it may help create the needed jobs.

## Let's diversify; ZNFU

The Zambia National Farmers' Union says it has taken heed of government policy direction of agriculture diversification and has called on farmers to take the cue.

Speaking during the launch of the 2017/2018 farming season in Monze on Thursday, ZNFU president Jervis Zimba encouraged farmers *take time to explore market opportunities and grow specific crops to meet the identified demand and grow crops for ready markets.*

Mr. Zimba said farmers have also recognised that exporting agriculture products is one of the major ways of sustaining any expansion in production. He said policy environment and priority public investments should be geared to support the Export Drive.

He, however, called on government to be consistent in policy implementation so that farmers can grow for export markets in a predictable environment.

## Beware of fake Seed!

ZNFU president Mr. Jervis Zimba has prodded farmers to be wary when purchasing seed and not fall prey to dubious seed traders.

Mr. zimba also told farmers not to buy other products such as fertilizers from undesignated outlets, but instead buy inputs from reputable outlets and agro-dealers.

He also called on the Zambia Bureau of Standards (ZABS) to be alert in weeding out counterfeit inputs in trading places as such vices contribute to poor productivity.

He was speaking in Monze during the 2017/2018 planting season launch.

## Soften Up a Little; Dora tells Banks

Agriculture Minister Dora Siliya has called on Banks to "Take a chance on agriculture" by making borrowing less expensive.

Ms. Siliya, who was speaking at the 2017/2018 planting season launch called on commercial banks to reduce their lending rates to attract more players in the agriculture who would want to make investments that would trigger production and productivity of the agriculture sector in Zambia. She said current lending rates were inhibitive.

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## ... As BoZ reduces Policy Rate 10.25%

The Bank of Zambia has reduced the policy rate by 75 basis points from 11.0% to 10.25% and also lowered the Statutory Reserve Ratio to 8.0% from 9.5% at the back of a continued decline in inflation among other influences.

This was announced at the Governor's presentation of the Monetary Policy Statement on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2017.

Central Bank Governor Dr. Denny Kalyaya said this was arrived at after meetings by the Monetary Policy Committee held on 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> November 2017.

He said the Monetary Policy Committee decided took into account the following factors to arrive at these decision:

- i. Continued decline in inflation over the last ten months;
- ii. Inflation projections, which indicate that inflation will remain within the medium-term target range of 6-8%, with a bias toward the lower bound of the inflation target range;
- iii. High cost of credit, which have been sluggish downwards;
- iv. Weak growth in credit to the private sector;
- v. Risks to financial stability as reflected in elevated Non-performing loans; and,
- vi. Sluggish economic growth.

## FROM THE REGION

### EASTERN

#### Petuaque farmers start making Deposits for 2017/18

The Ministry of Agriculture in Petauke has opened its doors to farmer participation on the 2017/18 E-FISP program and called on farmers to start depositing their K400 cash contribution.

The exercise which began on Monday this week has seen several farmers' queuing up at the DACO's office to collect their ATD's so as to make their deposits.

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Meanwhile, some farmers have expressed concern over the sluggish approach to the programme by banks in attending to them. Some farmers have had to spend more than



two days on the queue waiting to make a deposit, with some opting to sleep outside the banks in an attempt to be attended quicker.

Meantime, in spite of some farmers having made deposits since the beginning of the exercise, no visa card has been activated for this season. The DACO's office has confirmed this, but assured farmers that they would soon start receiving SMS's on their phones acknowledging their K400 cash contribution.

## NORTHERN

### Mporokoso DFA Chairperson Dies

Mporokoso DFA Chairperson Andrew Mutapa has died.

Mr. Mutapa died at Kasama General Hospital after an illness on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2017. His remains have been transferred to his home village in Chinsali where he will be buried on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2017.

Mr. Mutapa has been Mporokoso DFA Chairperson since 2014, a position he held until his demise.

## ALERTS! ALERTS! ALERTS!

### Deadline for Ground Rent Payment Nears

The Union wishes to inform members that Ground Rent payments deadline has been set for 31<sup>st</sup> 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;

Annual ground rent for small holdings and farms;

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

### Also note that;

members who have not yet received their ground rent bills to get in touch with Grace Kambidima on [grace@znfu.org.zm](mailto:grace@znfu.org.zm) or Florence Phiri on [florencephiri@znfu.org.zm](mailto:florencephiri@znfu.org.zm); ~~indicating your~~ property number(s) and contact details. These staff will forward you your current bills as captured by the Ministry of Lands.



## WEATHER

### SEVEN DAYS WEATHERFORECAST

25th November - 1st December 2017

#### GENERAL SITUATION

From 25th to 28th November 2017, Moist and unstable airflow from the Northwest will be affecting most parts of Zambia resulting in widespread rainfall activities. From 29th to the end of the forecast period, much of Zambia will continue to be under the influence of moist and unstable airflow from the northwest except for Western, Southern and the western districts of Central province which will be under the influence of relatively moist airflow from the Southeast which will result in a slight reduction in rainfall activities.

#### Forecast for the Period 25th - 28th November 2017

**All areas:** Partly cloudy and mild with morning rain in some places, afternoon thundershowers in many places.

*The nights will be mild with rain and thunder in places.*

#### Forecast for the period 29th November - 1st December 2017

**Western, Southern and the western districts of Central province:** Partly cloudy and mild, becoming cloudy and warm to hot in the afternoon with thundershowers in few places.

**The Rest of Zambia:** Partly cloudy to cloudy and mild with morning rain in places, becoming warm to hot in the afternoon with thundershowers in many places.

*The nights will be mild with rainfall activities in places.*

*Produced by the Zambia Meteorological Department, Ministry of Transport and Communications.*

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