

## FRIDAY BRIEF

WEEK 49, 2017

### HIGHLIGHTS

- **Army worms spotted in Chavuma**
- **Forestcol launch Fertiliser Plant**
- **TAZARA cargo movement remains Alive**

### IN DETAIL....

#### Army worms spotted in Chavuma

The dreaded and devastating army worms have been spotted in Chavuma this past week.

Farmers in Chiyeke and Kalombo areas reportedly saw army worms and have since reported to their camp officers. This has prompted the Ministry of Agriculture in the district to set up army worm traps in the areas where they have been reported. Some farmers who planted earlier and have money rushed to the agro dealer with chemicals to buy pesticides to protect their crops.

Farmers travelled from Lukolwe (West bank) Sewe and Chiyeke to buy the chemicals. Meanwhile the Ministry of Agriculture in Chavuma conducted an impromptu visit to agro dealers to ascertain their readiness for the 2017/2018 farming season and also on how ready they are to tackle army worms.

#### Forestcol launch Fertiliser Plant

Saturday, 9<sup>th</sup> December 2017 opens to rumbling awakening of the launch of a state of the art fertiliser plant in Kabwe, Central Province, called Forestcol.

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To be graced by the Her Honour the Vice President Ms. Inonge Mutukwa Wina, Forestcol will be the first private company that manufactures Compound Fertilisers in Zambia.



The company will be producing 150 metric tonnes of fertilisers per day, whose target would be largely small and emergent farmer off-takers.

Forestcol also brings competition to the fertiliser market, offering competitive prices for its produce.

The launch is expected to take place at 09:00 hours, after a conducted tour of the factory, raw material section, the lab and the finished products section.

## TAZARA cargo movement remains Alive

Tanzania Zambia Railways (TAZARA) Management has mobilised and taken over the responsibility to run freight trains in the Zambian region as unionised workers continue their go-slow.

TAZARA Public Relations Manager Conrad Simuchile said Friday that this development effectively avoids stoppage of haulage of commodities and various cargo.

“Freight trains are, therefore, running as planned. However, passenger train operations in Zambia remain suspended until further notice.

In the meantime, funds to pay the striking employees have been secured and we are optimistic that the situation will be fully resolved by Monday 11th December 2017,” he said.

Railway Transport to the Port of Dar-es-Salaam remains the cheapest mode of transporting agriculture produce, and other bulk cargo meant for export.

## FROM THE REGIONS

### NORTH WESTERN

#### Farmers get anxious about FISP

It is usually recommended that planting and Compound D application occurs before first week of December for a farmer to harvest something meaningful, but FISP farmers are still waiting for the long-promised E-Voucher inputs.

This has caused panic among FISP farmers. A contact farmer from Sewe, a Mr. Kayonga wondered how government expects them to progress as farmers when the window for good planting time was never observed by agricultural experts in government.

Meanwhile out of the seven approved FISP agro dealers, only one has stocks of seed and chemicals, while fertilizer is being expected next week. The fact that fertilizer has not arrived in the district has made farmers extremely anxious about farming this year.

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## CENTRAL PROVINCE

### Serenje; Only a Handful paid by FRA

The FRA has delayed paying farmers in Serenje and Chitambo Districts. Information gathered by the ZNFU office in Serenje found that the Agency has only paid 25% of the farmers that supplied maize.

Farmers who visited ZNFU offices complained bitterly over delayed payments and have called on government to intervene.

The District Commissioner (DC) Mr. Kalipeta, encouraged farmers to wait for the FRA to get clear position on the matter.

## LUAPULA

### Mwense Farmers await Pay Code

Farmers in Mwense district have bemoaned the late arrival of Pay Code in the district. Pay Code is the service provider under FISP for Mwense district.

As at 7<sup>th</sup> December 2017, Pay Code had not yet reached the district and most farmers are likely to plant late while others may fail to plant completely. Farmers fear this may result in compromised food security. The majority of farmers in Mwense rely on FISP.

When contacted for a comment, Mr. Mazuba Phidelis, who is the acting DACO, said he is not aware when Pay Code would reach Mwense.

## EASTERN

### Farmers start depositing for FISP E -Voucher

Farmers have started depositing the K400.00 for the 2017/2018 FISP programme in Katete. Information gathered from the Ministry of Agriculture district offices shows that about 2, 000 out of 26, 000 farmers have deposited for the inputs. However, the ZIAMIS network is not up to the required standards and has been very slow, a development that has affected the uploading of the farmers on the system. And some farmers are still waiting for the e voucher cards so that they can deposit the monies for the inputs.

### Big Agro Dealers ready for E- Voucher 2017/2018

The major agro dealers are ready to start swiping for the farmers to access the inputs for 2017/2018 season. Agro dealers talked to; NWK, OMNIA, and ETG said they have enough stock of fertilizers both basal and top dressing. But small agro dealers are mostly stocked with seed and small quantities of fertilizers. They have faced challenges with the ZIAMIS software on its operations and network as they are based in per rural areas. And they





fear that they may not manage to participate on the programme fully if the ZIAMIS network is not worked on.

## FRA Payments in Chadiza Stall

About 32.8% of farmers in Chadiza are yet to be paid for supplying maize and soyabeans to the FRA.

FRA in Chadiza purchased the crop value of K 14,718,060 for maize and K497,380.00 for soybeans, which makes the total crop value of K15,215,440.

As things stand, FRA has paid K9,731,390.00 for maize and K494,390 for soya beans. The total crop balance is K4,989,660 to clear all farmers in the district which is about 32.8%.

## 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 WEATHER FORECAST

9th-15th December 2017



## GENERAL SITUATION

From 9th - 10th December 2017 moist and unstable winds from the Northwest will be affecting the northern and western parts of Zambia leaving the rest of the country under the influence of moist but stable winds from the Southeast. From 11th December 2017 to the end of the forecast period, the moist and unstable winds from the Northwest are expected to progressively advance into most parts of the country.

### Forecast for the Period 9th - 10th December 2017

**Lusaka, Central, Eastern and Muchinga Provinces:** Partly cloudy and mild to warm at first becoming cloudy and hot with afternoon showers and thunderstorms in few places.

**The rest of Zambia:** Cloudy and mild with morning rain, becoming warm to hot with afternoon showers and thunderstorms in places.

*The nights will be mild with less rainfall activities over Lusaka, Central, Eastern and Muchinga Provinces.*

### Forecast for the period 11th - 15th December 2017

All areas of the country will be cloudy and mild to warm with morning rain and afternoon showers and thunderstorms 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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