

FRIDAY BRIEF

WEEK 2, 2018

HIGHLIGHTS

- Riots; as farmers Relocate to Wholesale Area
- Alfred Boamah Interred
- Farmers laud SNV soil Testing

IN DETAIL....

RIOTS; AS FARMERS RELOCATE TO WHOLESALE AREA

Two days after farmers where found a temporary place where to conduct wholesale trade, traders, vendors, eateries and all and sundry that rely on farmers have also moved to the area in Kamwala South bringing with them the confusion that happens at Soweto Market.

Middle-men have since muscled their way into the farmer wholesale trading area. And those that were evicted from the Central Business District (CBD) during a massive clean-up by the defensive forces at the height of the Cholera outbreak and have no alternative place to go to, have since taken to the streets, damaging property in Kanyama and Chibolya areas before attacking the temporary area in Kamwala South.

Police struggled to contain the onslaught by the rioting youths Friday Afternoon, before the reinforcement of soldiers who brought the situation under control. The soldiers scattered the riotous youths and gunshots were heard. The rioting youths are demanding that they be allowed to occupy the streets in the CBD or find them an alternative place to conduct trade.

This leaves farmers in limbo as clearly it will be difficult to conduct wholesale trade in a brazenly unconducive environment.

The Ministry of Health, Ministry of Local Government, Ministry of Water and the Zambia National Farmers' Union (ZNFU) are yet to meet again to plan the next course of action after the trade riots.



ALFRED BOAMAH INTERRED

Former ZNFU Board member Alfred Kojo Boamah who died on 1st January 2018 was interred on Tuesday 9th January 2018.

Mr. Boamah, a farmer of Dambo Farms of Minsundu Area in Ndola, died after an illness at Ndola Teaching Hospital.

A pharmacist by profession, Mr. Boamah migrated to Zambia in 1970, where he plied his trade, working for the Zambian Government, including the Nchanga Consolidated Copper Mines.

He eventually married within Zambia and turned into a farmer; rearing dairy animals, pigs, and cultivating crops such as maize, soya beans and chillies, among other activities. This saw him being elected on the ZNFU Board, which he served with diligence and passion.

Mr. Boamah is survived by a wife and six children.

FROM THE REGIONS

EASTERN

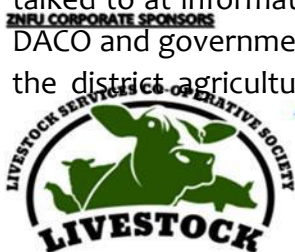
E-VOUCHER LIMPS IN KATETE

Katete, like any other district participating on the e-voucher, still has a big number of farmers who have not deposited for 2017/2018 season. The register indicates that there are 26 000 farmer beneficiaries, as on 10th January 2018.

Only 17000 farmers have deposited the K400 since the program started in November 2017. Some farmers talked to say they have not received the e- voucher cards, while some cannot afford to pay K400 after poor marketing prices last year. Some respondents fear that the government may not load the money in the cards as those that paid earlier have not accessed inputs apart from groundnuts. The redeeming exercise by farmers in the district has been very poor, agro dealers have attested. Farmers fear this may result in hunger and increased poverty.

SINDA E- VOUCHER ACCESS HITS 95%

Sinda district has 18000 farmers on e-voucher for the 2017/2018 season. Most farmers talked to at information centres and cooperatives express gratitude to the office of the DACO and government for timely distribution of inputs. When the ZNFU office contacted the district agriculture coordinator (DACO), he said the district stands at 95 % Inputs



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distributed as on 11th January 2018. He said the system used in Sinda is different from Katete for example, as they are using a South African company called Pay Code, which uses a system where farmers do not use cards but pin codes and NRCs. The system also allows farmers to deposit money at Zoono and Airtel booths who transact with **Pay Code** for the farmers to redeem. However, the system has not gone well without challenges as some agro dealers have performed very poorly.

FARMERS LAUD SNV SOIL TESTING

The response on soil testing by SNV continues to impress in the district. About 592 farmers had their fields tested in the year 2017. SNV has three soil scientists in the districts. Agro dealers talked to say the exercise has been well received by farmers and demand has increased for the service.

The organisation has also been offering farmers legume (groundnuts, soya beans and bean) subsidies, to stimulate the soil improvements in the three camps where the SNV operates.

WESTERN

SESHEKE FARMERS AWAIT FISP

Out of the 400 farmers that registered for the FISP – e voucher for the 2017/2018 farming season in Sesheke district, only 86 farmers have fully redeemed inputs while the rest are still waiting for the system to fully activated.

According to information obtained by the Sesheke DFA, out of the 400 farmers that registered on the system, 328 farmers made their K400 deposits, but from this only 86 have had full access of the system as at 9th January 2018.

ALERTS! ALERTS! ALERTS! ALERTS!

LAND FOR SALE: MKUSHI

A Zambian family based in the United Kingdom is selling 562 hectares of land for sale in Mkushi. Interested parties can contact Kabulo Ruth Chalwe on +260979763596 or ruth@8tofive.com . OR John Henderson, York farm, on +260966863404

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WEATHER

EVENING WEATHER FORECAST (12/01/2018)

GENERAL SITUATION

Moist and unstable winds from the northwest is affecting the Northern parts of Zambia leaving the southern half of Zambia under the influence of moist but stable airflow from the Northeast.

RAINFALL REPORTED AT 08:00 HRS: FRIDAY (12/01/2018) IN MILLIMETERS

Mpulungu 20, Kawambwa 12, Lundazi 11, Mpika 10, Mbala and Chinsali F.T.C 6, Jalila 4, Mufungu 3, Sichibonde, Solwezi and Kalabo 2, Zambezi 1, Kasama, Serenje and Kaoma had less than a millimetre (Trace)

FORECAST FOR TONIGHT: FRIDAY (12/01/2018)

North-western, Copperbelt, Luapula, and Northern Provinces: Partly cloudy to Cloudy and mild with rain and thunder in few places.

The Rest of Zambia: Partly cloudy and warm with a chance of rain and thunder.

FORECAST FOR THE WEEKEND: SATURDAY & SUNDAY (13&14/01/2018)

Southern, Lusaka and the western districts of Central Province: Few clouds and mild becoming partly cloudy to cloudy and warm with afternoon showers and thunderstorms in few places.

The Rest of Zambia: Cloudy and mild with morning rains, becoming warm with afternoon showers and thunderstorms in places.

OUTLOOK TO MONDAY (15/01/2018)

Similar weather.

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

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