

## FRIDAY BRIEF

WEEK 3, 2018

### HIGHLIGHTS

- E-Voucher targets 870, 000 Farmers
- ... As farmers Cry foul after being left Out
- Water levels still Dropping ...

### IN DETAIL....

#### E-VOUCHER TARGETS 870, 000 FARMERS

The FISP e-voucher collection of K400 from farmers closed today with government promising a comprehensive review of the program in March.

By Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2018, a total of 700, 000 farmers had been captured on the FISP e-voucher. However, the farmers that had activated and redeemed inputs totalled 575, 617.

Government pledged to capture 87% of farmers by Friday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2018.

Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture Julius Shawa said the Ministry of Finance has to date released a total of K1.149 billion for the programme, of which K989.3 million has been disbursed to the six banks and 2 other financial institutions servicing farmers under the FISP e voucher programme.

Mr. Shawa said the programme, which had been rolled out 100%, had challenges which included; delays and non-delivery of cards, delays in loading processes, ICT challenges (Muchinga, NorthWestern and Western Provinces), delays by banks in loading counter deposits by government, low number of staffing attending to farmers, farmers not approved list also making deposits, wrong NRCs and duplication of NRCs, lost cards and forgotten PIN codes, incompetent point of sale operators and challenges with cards distribution.

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## ... AS FARMERS CRY FOUL AFTER BEING LEFT OUT

Some farmers in Sesheke District have cried foul after being left out of the 2017/2018 FISP e voucher in spite of having made the K400 deposit as required by the system to trigger counter deposits.

According to ZNFU's Sesheke DFA, out of the 400 farmers that registered, were captured on the system, 347 deposited the required K400, of these only 199 farmers have managed to receive the K1, 600 government counter funding. However, only 66 farmers have managed to fully redeem inputs, while 50 have partially managed to redeem. 83 farmers have not managed to access the K1, 600 from government, while 67 farmers have not redeemed for their implements and inputs.

## WATER LEVELS STILL DROPPING ...

With rains having been miserly this rainy season, water levels in Lake Kariba have also dipped.

According to information obtained from the Zambezi River Authority (ZRA), the Lake level dropped by 0.06m during the week and closed the week at 480.60m on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2018.

Last year on the same date, the Lake level was 477.91m

From:

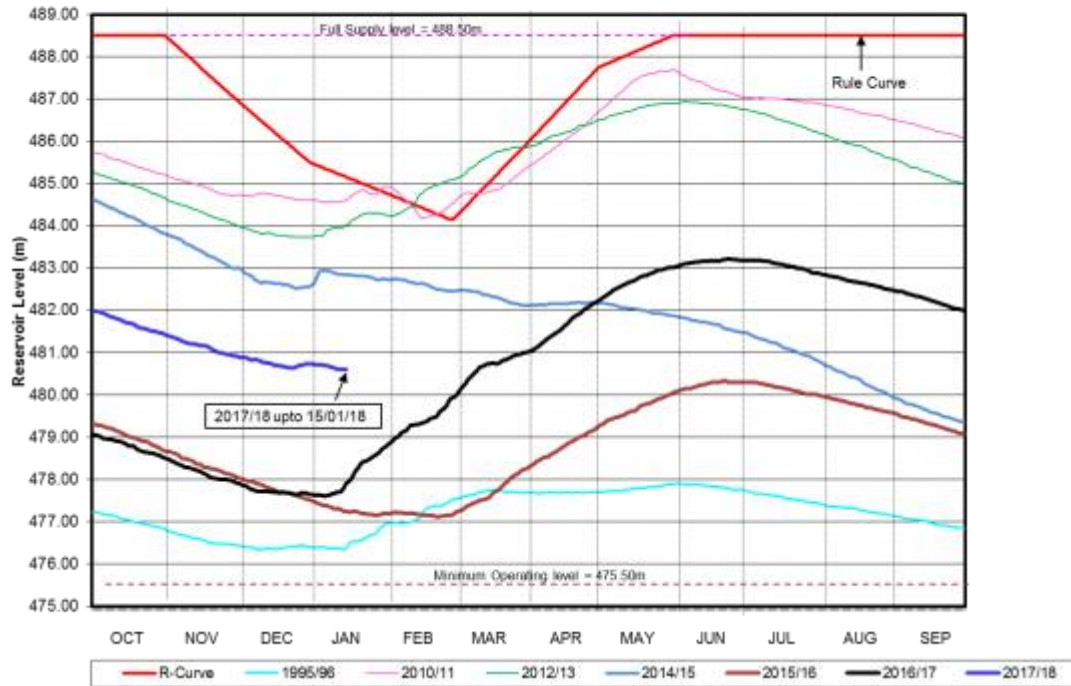
The Kariba Lake was created and designed to operate between levels 475.50m and 488.50m with 0.70m freeboard at all times.

Below is the graph as captured by the ZRA.

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**KARIBA RESERVOIR**  
Comparison of Daily Reservoir Levels



## ALERTS! ALERTS! ALERTS! ALERTS!

### BAMBOO SEEDLINGS ON SALE

Bamboo is an alternative to traditional timber. It's a renewable resource, it matures in 3-4 years and has 1500 recorded uses and benefits.

Competition for timber is getting tougher, trees resources are becoming scarce and opportunities to plant are more limited. Farmers can use bamboo for erosion control and regeneration of land. Free falling bamboo leaves can be used to obtain humus of between 20-25 tons per acre.

Bamboo is an excellent substitute for making of briquettes and charcoal and thus reducing deforestation by making use of idle land. Bamboo seedlings are available for sale.

Please contact: Bwalya Lumbwe on 0966 755980 Or by email: [bwalyalumbwe@yahoo.com](mailto:bwalyalumbwe@yahoo.com)

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## CCPC SEEKS VIEWS ON PROPOSED 90% SHAREHOLDING ACQUISITION IN ZAMPALM BY IDC

The Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (CCPC) is currently assessing a transaction where the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC), an investment wholly owned by the Zambian Government, is applying to acquire 90% of shares in ZamPalm, a subsidiary of the Zambeef Group of companies.

CCPC is seeking views and comments from the Zambian public on this transaction, its impact on the production and processing of Crude palm oil, and what would be the benefits of such a transaction to the country.

Those willing to make contributions on this matter can write to Mr. Chilufya Sampa, the Executive Director, or Mrs. Luyamba Mpamba Kapembwa, Director Mergers and Monopolies on Tel: 0211 222 787 or 0211 222 775 or Fax 0211 222 789 or email: [zcomp@ccpc.org.zm](mailto:zcomp@ccpc.org.zm) before or on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2018.

## 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](mailto:ruth@8tofive.com) . OR John Henderson, York farm, on +260966863404

## WEATHER

### RAINFALL PERFORMANCE

Generally, cumulative rainfall recorded since the start of the season up to 10th January 2018 indicates normal to below-normal rainfall over Eastern Central, Lusaka, Southern and Western provinces including part of Muchinga and Copperbelt provinces.

Meteorological stations that recorded below normal rainfall include Lusaka city with a deficit of 40%, Magoye 38%, Kenneth Kaunda International Airport 37%, Kaoma 22%, Petauke 21% and Kafue Polder 20%.

On the other hand, meteorological stations that recorded above normal rainfall include Msekera with a surplus of 56%, Kasempa 55%, Isoka 48 %, Mansa 39%, Kalabo 30%, Kabwe and Kafironda 29%.

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## AGROMETEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS

Observed soil moisture conditions indicate insufficient amounts which may cause stress and wilting in maize crop especially over the southern half of the country. Areas that are experiencing stress in maize crop are Western, Southern and Lusaka provinces including southern parts of Central and Eastern provinces. Areas around Sioma, Mulobezi and Itezhi-tezhi east indicates signs of crop wilting.

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

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