

FRIDAY BRIEF

WEEK 5, 2018

HIGHLIGHTS

- Kasempa farmers protest over FISP
- Kalomo farmers bosh FISP
- Lake Kariba Down 0.02 Metres

IN DETAIL....

KASEMPA FARMERS PROTEST OVER FISP

With the FISP e-voucher K400 deposits having officially closed third week of January 2018, some farmers in Kasempa District have expressed dissatisfaction with the program claiming they made the prerequisite payments but their cards have not been activated.

Over 200 Farmers in Kasempa district stormed the office of the District Commissioner (DC) demanding for their farming inputs under the Farmer Input Support Programme (FISP) e-voucher program. The farmers expected or redeem inputs by December 2017.

The farmers deposited their money with Pay Code before or on 13th December 2017. The farmers, however say their money has not reflected in the system and have not been able to collect their inputs from the agro dealers.

The DC called for calm among farmers as the matter was being investigated.

KALOMO FARMERS BOSH FISP

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Some farmers from Kalomo district are shocked that for three seasons, the FISP has failed to capture them and have their cards activated in spite of meeting all requirements demanded by the program.

The farmers who stormed the office of the Ministry of Agriculture Permanent Secretary Julius Shawa this week say their e voucher cards have not been credited for the 2015/2016, 2016/2017 and the current 2017/2018 farming seasons, despite having successfully deposited the required monies.

Mr. Shawa has assured the farmers that their complaints and proposals would be forwarded to the Minister of Agriculture Dora Siliya for further action.

The farmers have been expecting feedback from the Ministry of Agriculture by today Friday 2nd February 2018.

LAKE KARIBA DOWN 0.02 METRES

Water levels in Lake Kariba have continued to drop, receding to 480.47 metres on 29th January 2018 from 480.49 metres at the close of last week.

This represents a 0.02 metres decline. Last year on the same date, the Lake level was 478.65 metres.

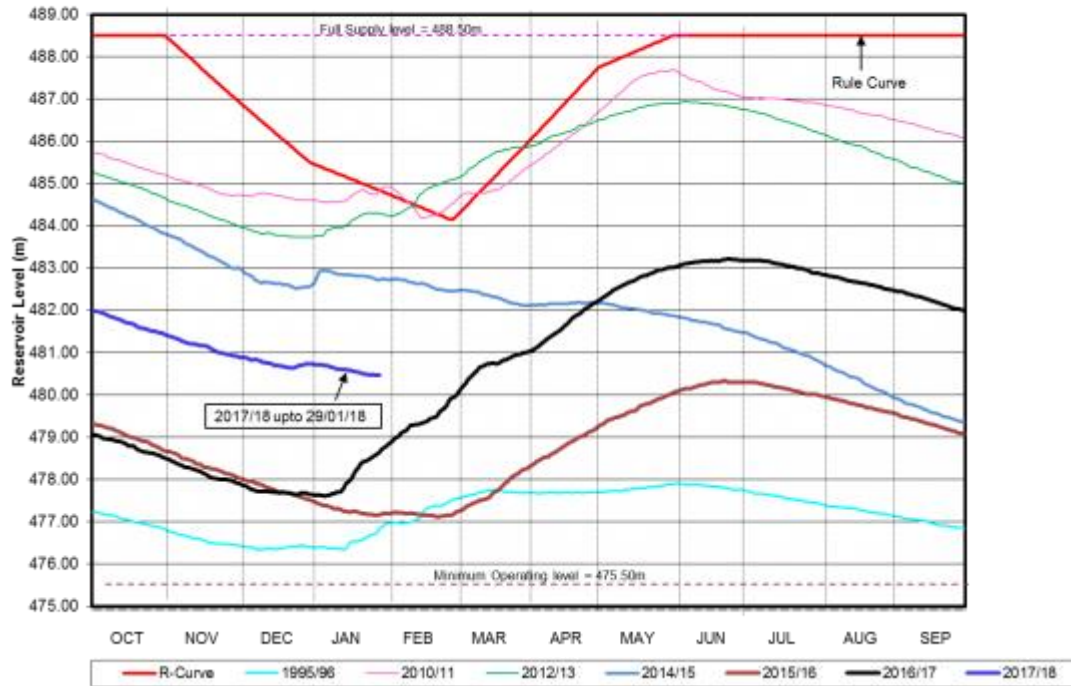
The Kariba Lake was created and designed to operate between levels 475.50m and 488.50m with 0.70m freeboard at all times.

Below is the graph as prepared by the Zambezi River Authority;

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KARIBA RESERVOIR
Comparison of Daily Reservoir Levels



FROM THE REGIONS

EASTERN

COOPERATIVE LEADERS SWINDLING FARMERS INPUTS UNDER FISP IN LUNDAZI

With about 80% reached under FISP e-voucher redemption in Lundazi, there has been an outcry from most cooperative members that they have allegedly been swindled of their farming inputs by their cooperative leaders.

Out of a FISP e-voucher card whose value is K2, 000, farmers have only been receiving two bags of fertilizers from their leaders. The leaders have allegedly also held onto their FISP e-voucher cards.

This came to light when the ZNFU Lundazi office visited the District Agricultural Coordinators (DACO)'s office which was crowded by farmers demanding an explanation. And when reached for comment Mr. Philemon Lungu, the DACO for Lundazi, blamed the whole occurrence on the agro dealers and the farmers themselves. He said his office has tried to educate farmers on the policy guidelines for e-voucher. He also said some agro





dealers were playing a part by giving commissions to the co-operative leaders per card redeemed.

Meanwhile, out of the 27,070 registered farmers under FISP e-voucher 2018, only 23,989 managed to meet the K400 obligation and according to the DACO's office only 18,210 cards have been redeemed so far. Some of the challenges experienced are; agro dealers bypassing the ZIAMIS system, missing cards and withholding of cards.

CENTRAL

STOCK BORERS ARE DESTROYING CROPS

Stock borers have invaded Serenje District destroying crop, resulting in some farmers panicking. ZNFU visited some farms around Serenje and found that more than 10 hectares of maize fields had been destroyed by the worms. And the worms are spreading fast.

A farmer, Mr. Ernest Chilambe Ernest, said his 5 hectares of maize field has been destroyed by the stock borers. The ZNFU encouraged farmers to be vigilant and spray their fields and control the manifestation of the worms.

And farmers in Serenje have complained of late activation of their VISA cards and late payment for the crop supplied to the Food Reserve Agency (FRA). Farmers are also worried with the prolonged dry spell.

NOTICE OF A MEETING

DROUGHTS; FINANCE FOR FARMING

There will be a meeting on Thursday 8th February 2018 at the Zambia National Farmers' Union Offices in the showgrounds in Lusaka starting at 10.00hrs.

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the impact of consecutive droughts over a four-year period on production and finance for farming in Zambia. Of great concern to commercial agriculture is that Zambia has been having droughts of varying degrees in the last four years and this has had devastating effects on farming.

The meeting will review the effects of the changing weather factors and determine how farmers have been affected in terms of production and financially. It is a known fact that most farmers have taken huge losses and the effects have spilled over to the Banks through poor performance of loans extended to the agricultural sector.

The meeting will target to come up with possible solutions through policy measures so that some relief is extended to the farming sector during this difficult period. The solutions once adopted and implemented should go a long way in extending the lifeline





of farming in this country and reduce the likelihood of more and more farms being foreclosed at a time when Government is targeting the agriculture sector to be the main spinner of inclusive economic growth. Members are invited to attend this brainstorming session including those with personal experiences. Contact the ZNFU on 252834 or return email to confirm your participation.

ALERTS! ALERTS! ALERTS! ALERTS!

SALE OF ZNFU MOTORBIKES BY PUBLIC TENDER

ZNFU is inviting sealed bids from the public to purchase eighteen (18) motor bikes.

Bidding form should be obtained from ZNFU head offices after paying a non-refundable fee of K50. The bids must be clearly marked **“Sale of motor bike by Public Tender”**, and addressed to ZNFU, Plot No. 2374 Tiyende Pamodzi Road, Show grounds. Telephone: +260 211 252649/254431

Kindly bring the bids in sealed envelopes and deposit them in the Tender box stationed at the Reception of ZNFU offices on plot No. 2374 Tiyende Pamodzi Road, Show grounds.

The closing date for receipt of bids is Friday 9th February 2018 at 16:30hrs. Successful bidders will be notified before or by Monday, 12th February 2018. Payment must be made by cash or bank certified cheque to ZNFU before collection of the motor bikes.

Viewing of the motor bikes will be from Monday 29th January 2018 to Friday 9th February 2018

Kindly note that:

1. ZNFU will not accept late bids and /or bids sent by email.
2. ZNFU will however, accept bids sent by registered mail provided they reach ZNFU office before 16:30hrs on Friday 9th February 2018
3. ZNFU reserves the right to accept or reject bids without assigning a reason thereto.

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~~ between 20-25 tons per acre.



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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

WEATHER

GENERAL SITUATION

The Inter Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) has continued to oscillate about the southern parts of Zambia.

RAINFALL REPORTED AT 08:00 HRS: FRIDAY (02/02/2018) IN MILLIMETERS.

Serenje 54, Ndola 33, Lusaka City Airport 28, Lusaka International Airport 22, Kawambwa, Mansa and Zambezi 21, Kabwe Met 20, Mt Makulu and Solwezi 19, Chipeto and Samfya 16, Petauke 14, Kaoma and Misamfu 13, Mkushi Agro and Kalabo 12, Choma 8, Magoye 7, Mpika 3, Chinsali FTC and Kafue Polder 2, Kasama 1, Senanga, Mfuwe, Kabompo and Isoka had less than a millimeter (Trace).

FORECAST FOR TONIGHT: FRIDAY (02/02/2018)

Northern, Muchinga and northern districts of Luapula and Eastern Province: Few clouds and mild with a chance of rain in places.
The Rest of Zambia: Partly cloudy to cloudy with rain and thunder in many places.

FORECAST FOR THE WEEKEND: SATURDAY (03/02/2018) AND SUNDAY (04/02/2018)

Northern, Muchinga, Luapula and northern districts of Eastern Province: Partly cloudy and mild becoming cloudy with afternoon showers and thunderstorms in few places.
The Rest of Zambia: Cloudy with morning rain, afternoon showers and thunderstorms in many places.

OUTLOOK TO MONDAY (05/02/2018).

Rainfall activities to continue over most parts of Zambia.

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As produced and compiled by the Zambia Meteorological Department.

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