

ZNFU

AGRItech

EXPO
ZAMBIA

FRIDAY BRIEF

WEEK 6, 2018

HIGHLIGHTS

- Agritech Expo Countdown: 9 Weeks to Go
- Kalomo Farmers Call E-Voucher a Sham
- Torrents of Rain after Dry Spell; Flash Floods Loom

IN DETAIL....

AGRITECH EXPO COUNTDOWN: 9 WEEKS TO GO

Barely nine weeks are remaining before the country celebrates the country's biggest agriculture showpiece, the Agritech Expo.

Into its fifth year, the 2018 Agritech Expo is expected to attract some 20, 000 farming professionals and visitors, and 270 leading local and international industry suppliers of the latest agri-machinery and technology.

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With its growing number of international pavilion, this year's Agritech Expo will be sitting on 70, 000 square meters of land, where live crop demonstrations and new seed varieties, livestock and aquaculture will be prominent features, and expert industry speakers will dissect industry developments and growth pointers during AgriTeach sessions.

The Expo will also host the VIP Large Scale Farmers, where issues of policy and financing and where the agricultural mood is swinging, should take centre-stage.

But perhaps the latest feature to make the Agritech Expo is the Agritech App, which would allow visitors that would download it to have the Agritech Expo Info on the mobile phones; select meetings to attend, pre-arrange people and business entities to meet, get exact location of a feature or company one would like to attend. All that one needs to do is go online to the Agritech Expo; download the App and CLICK; the prompts would appear.

KALOMO FARMERS CALL E-VOUCHER A SHAM

Some farmers from Kalomo district are demanding to know why their accounts have not been credited in spite of making the prerequisite K400 deposits. This is the same group of farmers that met with Ministry of Agriculture Permanent Secretary Julius Shawa to air their position about the FISP e-voucher.

The farmers have said there are a lot of flaws with the system. They said when they made deposits they received PIN codes and were supposed to have their accounts activated within 72 hours, but this has not materialized. The farmers received their PIN codes a fortnight ago.

The Kalomo farmers have since called for the abolishment of the FISP e voucher calling it a sham and burdensome.

Out of the 16, 591 farmers that deposited K400, about 3, 000 farmers have failed to redeem nor have their cards activated due to mix ups with their PIN codes.

TORRENTS OF RAIN AFTER DRY SPELL; FLASH FLOODS LOOM

After close to six weeks of searing weather, which resulted in some crops coming close to wilting in parts of Lusaka, Central, Western, Southern and parts of Eastern Provinces, cascades of rain have been experienced the last four days.

Though the rains may be too late for farmers whose crop has prematurely tasselled, others may salvage some crop albeit with a struggle.

~~THE CORPORATE SPONSORS~~ Edson Nkonde, Acting Director of Meteorology Zambia Meteorological Department says areas, some of which were hard hit by the dry spell, may experience flash floods due to





the influence of a deep low-pressure system associated with the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) covering the western half of the country. The areas likely to be affected include Western, Southern, Lusaka, Central, Copperbelt and North-western Provinces.

He says the ITCZ will be oscillating about the southern border of Zambia causing wide spread rainfall across the country.

FROM THE REGIONS

EASTERN

FRA CLEARS CHADIZA FARMERS

On Friday Last week, the Food Reserve Agency (FRA) in Chadiza finished paying off farmers who sold their Maize and Soya beans to the Institution. The late payment has caused negative impact to Farmers in the District because some farmers have failed to acquire the FISP due to lack of money. Some farmers have even gone into Debts for them to pay for FISP/E-voucher. What hurts them most is that Government closed the FISP payment before paying all the farmers.

ALERTS! ALERTS! ALERTS! ALERTS!

CCPC CALLS FOR COMMENTS

The Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (CCPC) is calling for representations from members of ZNFU on the proposed acquisition of Joint Control by Mitsui & Co Group Ltd in ETC Group (Mauritius) Ltd. ETC operates in Zambia through Export Trading Co. Ltd, ETG Zambia Inputs Ltd, FVG Kabwe Ltd, Quality Commodities Ltd, Seba Foods Zambia Ltd, and Zambian Fertiliser Ltd, while Mitsui is NOT physically present in Zambia. This follows a notification from COMESA Competition Commission (CCC) under Article 24 of COMESA Competition Regulations of 2004 for purposes of whether to approve it or not.

The CCPC is requesting comments and representations on the transaction, benefits, prospects and concerns that may arise in light of this transaction.

For comments, clarifications, kindly get in touch with Mrs. Luyamba Mpamba Kapembwa Director Mergers and Acquisitions before or on 11th February 2018 on;



WEATHER

GENERAL SITUATION

The period from 10th to 13th February 2018, the ITCZ will be oscillating about the southern border of Zambia causing wide spread rainfall across the country. During the same period a deep low-pressure system associated with the ITCZ will be covering the western half of the country. This low-pressure system will be centred over Lake Kariba and will result into continuous and heavy falls with high chance of flash floods/floods over Western, Southern, Lusaka, Central, Copperbelt and North-western Provinces.

The rest of the country will experience rainfall and thundershowers in many places. From 14th to 17th February 2018, the deep low-pressure system will start to weaken thereby causing a temporal reduction in rainfall activities over Southern, Lusaka and Central Provinces.

Detailed Forecast: Period 10th – 13th February 2018 Western, Southern, Lusaka, Central, Copperbelt and North-western Provinces: Cloudy with outbreaks of rains with occasional thunder. The Rest of Zambia: Partly cloudy to cloudy with morning rains, increased afternoon showers and thunderstorms.

Detailed Forecast: Period 14th-17th February 2018 Luapula, Northern and Muchinga Provinces: Partly cloudy to cloudy with a chance of morning rain, Afternoon showers and thunderstorms in places. The Rest of Zambia: Cloudy with morning rain with increased afternoon showers and thunderstorms.

WARNING: Heavy falls, flash-floods and floods expected over Western, Southern, Lusaka, Central, Copperbelt and North-western Provinces during the period 10th – 13th February 2018.

Issued by: Edson NKONDE Acting Director of Meteorology Zambia Meteorological Department

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