

**ZNFU**

# AGRItech

EXPO  
**ZAMBIA**

## FRIDAY BRIEF

WEEK 7, 2018

### HIGHLIGHTS

- **ZNFU IMPORES POLICY CONSISTENCY; CONSULTATION**  
*... as Katambo, Mulenga take up agriculture and Livestock, respectively*
- **CROPS STILL UNDER STRESS IN E/PROVINCE DESPITE RAINS**
- **WATER LEVELS IMPROVE SLIGHTLY AT LAKE KARIBA**
- **FUEL PRICES SPIKE**

### IN DETAIL....

#### ZNFU IMPORES POLICY CONSISTENCY; CONSULTATION

*... as Katambo, Mulenga take up agriculture and Livestock, respectively*

The Zambia National Farmers' Union (ZNFU) has called for consistency in policy implementation and agriculture stakeholder consultation for the sector to post meaningful growth.

**ZNFU CORPORATE SPONSORS**





In a congratulatory message to the Agriculture Minister Michael Katambo and Minister of Fisheries and Livestock Kampamba Mulenga, ZNFU president Jervis Zimba has said for the agricultural sector to post positive growth, there is need to religiously actualize policy and maintain high levels of consultation with agricultural stakeholders.

Mr. Zimba also proffered to work closely with both Honourable Katambo and Honourable Mulenga saying the ZNFU is ready to continue being a positive consultative partner with government as the country works towards making agriculture the mainstay of the economy.

He also wished Honourable Dora Siliya success on her new appointment as Minister of Information. Mr. Zimba said Ms. Siliya did the best she could at the Ministry of Agriculture.

## **CROPS STILL UNDER STRESS IN E/PROVINCE DESPITE RAINS**

In spite of improved precipitation over the past week, which has resulted in some areas having improvements in soil moisture, crops in parts of Eastern Province are still stressed.

According to information released by the Zambia Meteorological Department (ZMD), crops around Chadiza, Katete, Petauke and surrounding areas are still struggling after having experienced six weeks of severe heat and drought.

The Department also says that Petauke has continued to show significant deficits in cumulative precipitation levels posting -37% or below average rainfall.

In contrast, the ZMD reports heavy downpours with flash floods and floods over parts of Western, Southern, Lusaka, Central and Eastern Provinces, areas which had experienced weeks of drought and blistering heat.

Find a full report below under the WEATHER section.

## **WATER LEVELS IMPROVE SLIGHTLY AT LAKE KARIBA**

After weeks of dipping water levels in Lake Kariba, the past week posted an upsurge following intense rainfall and water flows into the Lake.

Lake Kariba collected water levels of up to 0.32 metres to close at 480. 95 metres as at 14<sup>th</sup> February 2018. Last year on the same date, water levels in the Lake stood at 479.31 metres.

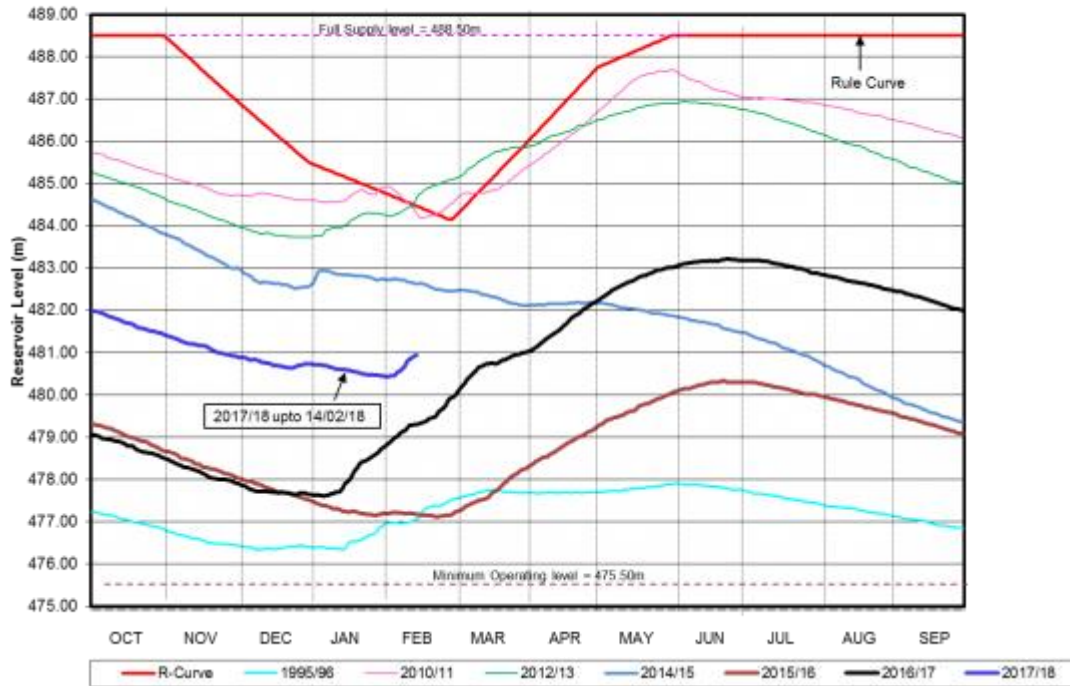
This gives agriculturalists and other sectors of the economy, some relief as the prospects of load shedding during 2018 may be averted.

**ZNFU CORPORATE SPONSORS**

The Zambezi River Authority (ZRA) issued the graph below;



**KARIBA RESERVOIR**  
Comparison of Daily Reservoir Levels



## FUEL PRICES SPIKE

Four months after increasing fuel prices on 17<sup>th</sup> October 2018, the Energy Regulation Board (ERB) has again adjusted commodity prices upwards by between 6% and 8.3% fuelling speculation that the cost of products might also spike.

The ERB announced on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2018 that effective midnight pump price of petrol had been increased to ZMK13.75 per litre from ZMK12.97, while that of diesel increased to ZMK12.01 per litre from ZMK11.09.

The ERB cited rising international oil prices and the depreciation of the Kwacha as the factors for the February 2018 increment.

ERB Board Chairman Raymond Mpundu said since the last price adjustment in 2017 Murban crude oil prices per barrel increased by 9.04% from US\$58.10/bbl to US\$63.35/bbl in November 2017, reaching US\$64.85/bbl by December 2017.

He said further, the Kwacha has depreciated against the United States Dollar by about 2.15% from an average rate of K9.76/US\$ down to the December 2017/January 2018 level between K9.97/US\$ and K10.03/US\$.

The increase in fuel prices may prompt an increase in transport costs, and further the cost of other commodities, including fresh produce, which would be passed on to the end user, speculators are fearful.

## **ALERTS! ALERTS! ALERTS! ALERTS!**

### **INDEGINOUS LIVE FISH SALES AT KALIMBA FARMS**

As farm dams are finally filling and the focus of Government moves towards aquaculture, Kalimba Farm is pleased to announce that they have available limited supplies of INDEGINOUS live fish for sale in breeding units of 1 male to 3 females.

The species available are *Oreochromis andersonii* (three spot bream) and *Tilapia rendalli* (red breast bream). One is an omnivorous eater and one is vegetarian to clean up weedy dams. Countrywide live travel conditioning and packing can be arranged.

Call Kalimba on 0967-474849 or 0211-847190 for further details.

### **ZASTI HOLDS AGROMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE WORKSHOP**

The Zambia Air Services Training Institute (ZASTI) is offering three-day training session (28<sup>th</sup> -30<sup>th</sup> March 2018) for agriculture stakeholders as a measure to mitigate the impact of Climate Change.

The purpose of the training is to equip participants with basic introductory knowledge and skills to interpret meteorological data and prevailing meteorological conditions, and also with the skills to correctly convey meteorological information to farmers.

Some of the topics to be covered will include;

- Conventional rain-fed agriculture practices
- Climate Change and variability
- Pests and Meteorological conditions
- Cloud Types and associated rainfall
- Agricultural meteorological measurements
- Crop diversification in relation to Climate Change and variability

Participants are required to pay a participation fee of K1, 800. Kindly confirm participation with the Principal; Mr. Billieard Shingalili on Telefax: +260 211 271 293 or Email: [info@zasti.ac.zm](mailto:info@zasti.ac.zm)

#### **ZNFU CORPORATE SPONSORS**



## WEATHER

### SEVEN-DAY FORECAST FOR THE PERIOD 17TH TO 23RD FEBRUARY 2018

#### GENERAL

#### SITUATION

The period from 17th to 20th February 2018, the ITCZ continues to move about the southern parts of Zambia.

From 21st up to the end of the forecast period, the ITCZ will move northwards and will be oscillating about the central parts of the country, thereby increasing rainfall activities to the northern and eastern parts of Zambia.

During this forecast period, a deep low-pressure system associated with the ITCZ will be covering the western half of the country resulting into heavy falls with high chance of flash floods and floods over the area.

#### Detailed Forecast: Period 17th – 20th February 2018

Northern, Muchinga, Eastern and northern districts of Luapula Provinces: Partly cloudy with chances of showers and thunderstorms.

The Rest of Zambia: Partly cloudy to cloudy with morning rains, increased afternoon showers and thunderstorms.

**WARNING:** Heavy falls, flash-floods and floods expected over Western, Southern, Lusaka, Central, Copperbelt and North-western Provinces.

#### Detailed Forecast: 21st – 23rd February 2018

Slight reduction in rainfall activities expected over Lusaka and Southern provinces including the southern parts of Eastern province. The rest of the country will have increased rainfall activities with heavy falls expected over western province.

**Prepared by: The Ministry of Transport and Communications (Zambia Meteorological Department)**

#### ZNFU CORPORATE SPONSORS

