

FRIDAY BRIEF

WEEK 28, 2018

HIGHLIGHTS

- ZNFU/Minister of Agriculture Confer
- Zambia Suffers low fertiliser Usage
- Ministry of Labour approves Minimum Wage for farm Workers

IN DETAIL....

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE/ZNFU CONFER

As the agriculture sector soldiers onto a path for survival, dialogue and engagement with Government remains at the helm of forging ahead.

Today, Friday 13th July 2018, the ZNFU president accompanied by Board Committee Chairpersons met the Minister of Agriculture to table matters that need special attention.

The Union used the meeting to run through the issues presented to the Union for action through the various members meetings and they included the rising cost of doing business, unfair international trade conditions, crop marketing, preparations for the next farming season and the need to support diversification into new commodities.

The Union emphasised the importance of paying farmers on time and addressing the FISP E-voucher challenges identified last season by riding on the Union structures and communication platforms. On the rising cost of doing business, the Minister was presented with a whole list of new costs being passed on to farmers by Quasi Governments institutions and local level government institutions.

These are eroding the competitiveness of local products and making imports cheaper. The plight of new commodities as farmers embark on diversification was highlighted and an appeal was made for incentives. The Minister welcomed the meeting and promised to continue engaging the Union as a key stakeholder representing farmers so that public pronouncements support the farmers in the country. The Union also presented the Minister with compilation of the cost of producing selected commodities.

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ZAMBIA SUFFERS LOW FERTILISER USAGE

Fertilizer usage in Zambia has remained virtually the same over years, below 400,000 MT per annum, the Indaba Agricultural Policy Research Institute (IAPRI) has said.

IAPRI's Rhoda Mofya-Mukuka attributed this to high cost of fertilisers, which is unaffordable to most small-scale farmers, and high importation and transport costs.

She also attributed the decline, especially after the introduction of the e voucher FISP, to enhanced diversification.

She was speaking during the Seminar of the Role of Regulation in Stimulating Private Sector Development in the Fertilizer Value Chain.

Ms Mofya-Mukuka said lack of storage facilities in critical farming areas made it impossible for the commodity to be available throughout the year.

Ms. Mofya-Mukuka also bemoaned the increased distribution of fake fertilisers on the market, which she blamed on poor or lack of proper inspection and monitoring by relevant institutions and political frustration in the fertilizer market as other stumbling blocks.

She, however, said for the fertilizer distribution, storage and usage to be enhanced, the fertilizer value chain should be private sector led.

She said also called for the availability of fertilizer throughout the year in all parts of the country alongside the e voucher.

Ms. Mofya-Mukuka emphasised that Government should take effective regulatory and standards role and help build regulatory and monitoring capacities in institutions such as Zambia Compulsory Standards Agency formerly ZABS, Zambia Environmental Management Agency, the Ministry of Agriculture and the Competition and Consumer Protection Commission.

MINISTRY OF LABOUR APPROVES MINIMUM WAGE FOR FARM WORKERS

The Ministry of Labour has endorsed the minimum wage agreement between the Zambia Farm Employers Association (ZFEA) and the Unions, NUPAAW, GRAMUZ and ZUSIAW.





This is contained in a letter to the Zambia National Farmers' Union (ZNFU) by the Labour Commissioner, appended by the Labour Inspector Ms. Moola Dindi of 11th July 2018.

The Minimum Wage agreement was reached on 28th March 2018. The agreed upon minimum wages run for the period 2018 to 2019.

Paid up members can access the Collective Agreement from the ZNFU Secretariat at the Showgrounds, Lusaka or call **+260 252 649**.

LAKE KARIBA CLOSE TO REACHING 87% FULL

Lake Kariba water levels are 1.40 metres short of touching a laudable 488.50 metres capacity.

According to information obtained by the Zambia National Farmers' Union (ZNFU) from the Zambezi River Authority (ZRA), the Lake level steadily rose by 0.03m during the week under review due to inflows on the main stream Zambezi River, closing the week at 486.90m on 9th July 2018. This translates into the lake levels reaching 86.90%.

Last year on the same date, the Lake level was 483.17m or 56%.

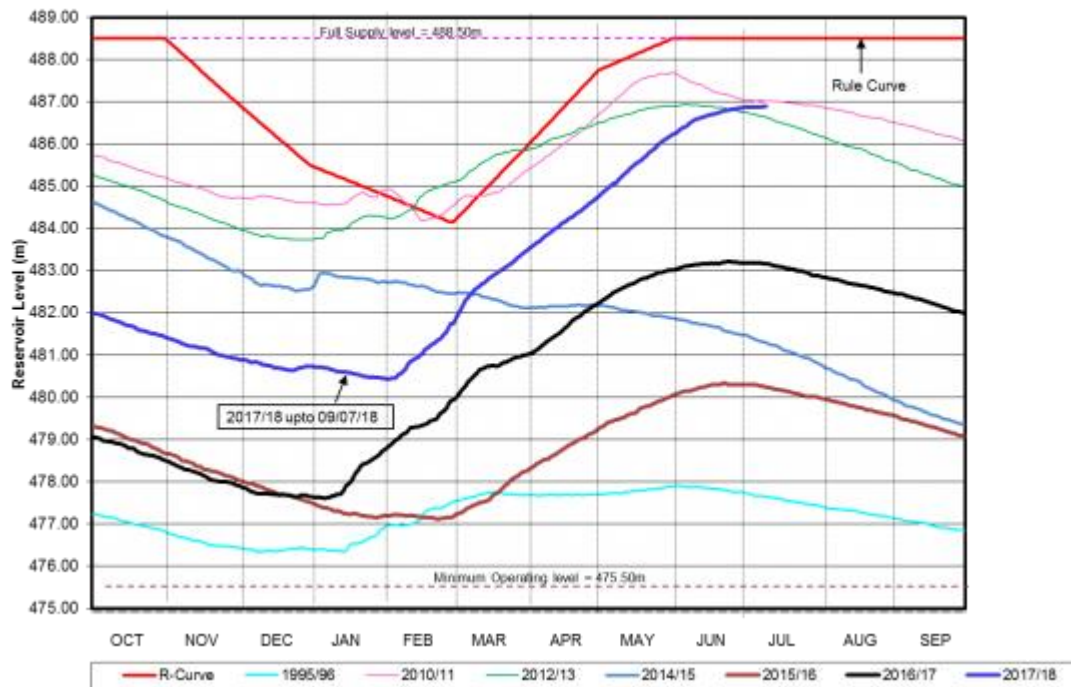
The Kariba Lake was created and designed to operate between levels 475.50m and 488.50m with 0.70m freeboard at all times.

Below is the graph as prepared by the ZRA;

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KARIBA RESERVOIR
Comparison of Daily Reservoir Levels



ALERTS! ALERTS! ALERTS! ALERTS!

ZNFU OFFERING GROUP LAND SURVEY SERVICES



ZAMBIA NATIONAL FARMERS UNION

- Zambia National Farmers Union (ZNFU) is offering Group Land Survey Services (GLSS) to farmers and entities intending to obtain title to land
- The GLSS enables farmers/entities to make payment as a group for land survey to be conducted making the procedure affordable

ZNFU CORPUS This service also helps to facilitate procedures for land deeds registration





For further details call Florence Phiri at ZNFU on;

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Email: florencephiri@znfu.org.zm

Or Grace Kambidima

Email: grace@znfu.org.zm

ZNFU CALLS FOR BUDGET SUBMISSIONS

Government has started calling for budget submissions from various sectors of the economy. It is from this background that the ZNFU is calling on its members to make budget submissions on salient issues affecting the agriculture sector in Zambia.

For submissions or further details contact;

Mrs. Judy Hamonzwe on;

Email: judy.hamonzwe@znfu.org.zm

WEATHER

SEVEN-DAYS WEATHER FORECAST 13th to 19th July 2018

General Situation

The period 13th to 14th July 2018, relatively moist and warm airflow from the south-east will be affecting most parts of Zambia, resulting into a slight increase in day time temperatures.

From 15th to the end of forecast period, strong, moist and cool airflow from south-east, will be affecting most parts of the country leading to an increase in windy conditions and reduction in day time temperatures.

Forecast: 13th to 14th July 2018 Eastern, Central and Lusaka Provinces: Mainly sunny, windy at times and cool to mild in the morning becoming mostly cloudy and warm in the afternoon. The rest of the country: Sunny, windy at times and cold to cool becoming mild by midmorning, developing some clouds and warm in the afternoon. Nights over the western half of Zambia will be mainly clear, windy at times and cool to cold.

Forecast: 15th to 19th July, 2018 Muchinga, Eastern, Central, Lusaka and Southern Provinces: Mainly cloudy, windy and cool with a chance of very light rain (drizzle), becoming less cloudy and mild in the afternoon.

The Rest of Zambia: Few clouds, windy and cool becoming partly cloudy and mild in the afternoon. The nights over Muchinga, Eastern, Central, Lusaka and Southern Provinces will be partly cloudy, windy at times and mild.

The rest of Zambia will be mainly clear and mild to cool.

Produced by Zambia Meteorological Department, Ministry of Transport and Communications.



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