



FRIDAY BRIEF

WEEK 40, 2018

HIGHLIGHTS

- Consultations with Govt on SI 18, 19 & 20 of 2018 Begin
- Govt weans off FISP farmers
- Revisit FRA, FISP; IAPRI
- Lake Kariba water levels Recede

IN DETAIL ...

CONSULTATIONS WITH GOVT ON SI 18, 19 & 20 OF 2018 BEGINS

The Ministry of Water Development, Sanitation & Environment Protection, WARMA and the ZNFU commenced consultations on SI 18, 19 & 20 in areas highlighted by farmers as requiring review & possible adjustment.

This follows the formation of a technical committee involving all the three parties, by the Ministry responsible for Water. The first meeting was held on Wednesday 3rd October 2018 and the interactions could be at best be described as progressive as in some areas there was convergence of views where there had been information gap while in some areas further consultations will follow.

Guidance was also provided on how to tackle issues that go beyond the current purpose of the committee especially where hurdles hinge on the Water legislation provisions. Members wishing to bring up additional issues on any of these SIs are requested to make submissions to the ZNFU.

The Union will utilize this technical committee as much as possible to resolve all outstanding issues hence our call to members is that let us use this opportunity optimally. Copies of the SIs can be accessed through the ZNFU and will also be placed on the Website.

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GOVT WEANS OFF FISP FARMERS

Government says the reduction in the budget allocation to the Farmer Input Support Programme (FISP) has been done to necessitate the weaning off of some farmers from the programme.

Speaking during the 2019 Agriculture Budget analysis meeting organised by the Indaba Agriculture Policy Research Institute (IAPRI) in Lusaka on Friday, Ministry of Agriculture Permanent Secretary Julius Shawa said some farmers will be weaned off from the FISP in 2019 because they would have met their graduation threshold.

Minister of Finance Margaret Mwanakatwe said when she unveiled the 2019 national budget that Government had reduced the budgetary allocation to FISP from K1.8 billion in 2018 to K1.4 billion in 2019.

Government has also reduced the allocation to the Food Reserve Agency (FRA) for national food reserves to K672 million from K1.1 billion in 2018.

Government intends to spend a total of K5.4 billion in the agriculture sector including fisheries and livestock in the 2019 budget.

REVISIT FRA, FISP; IAPRI

The Indaba Agriculture Policy Research Institute (IAPRI) says Government has been wasting staggering resources on the FRA food reserves programme and the FISP saying this calls for revisitation.

IAPRI Chief Executive Officer Chance Kabaghe says the FRA facility has been abused, with the organisation workforce bloated. He says the organisation can run efficiently with a lean staffing.

Mr. Kabaghe also says the buying of 500, 000 metric tonnes every year was too high. He said this could be reduced by 50%, but the country's food security would still be intact. He makes reference to South Africa that does not have an organisation such as the FRA, but has had enough food reserves.

And IAPRI Research Associate officer Auckland Kuteya says the 500, 000 metric tonnes FRA has been buying annually should be reduced to 350, 000 metric tonnes.

Mr. Kuteya says the country would make huge savings by reducing the tonnage of maize bought by the FRA. He says Zambians consumption patterns have changed and switched from eating nshima to other foods such as pasta, rice and potatoes.



He said currently, the strategic food reserves were not serving the right purpose because the end user, the consumer, was not getting the deserved benefits.

But the FRA says it is debatable to assume that the country should consider reducing the buying of maize to 350, 000 metric tonnes.

FRA CEO Chola Kafwabulula says what should be taken into account is the monthly consumption of maize, which he says was still high.

The FRA has called for further consultations on the matter before a decision to reduce the strategic food reserves.

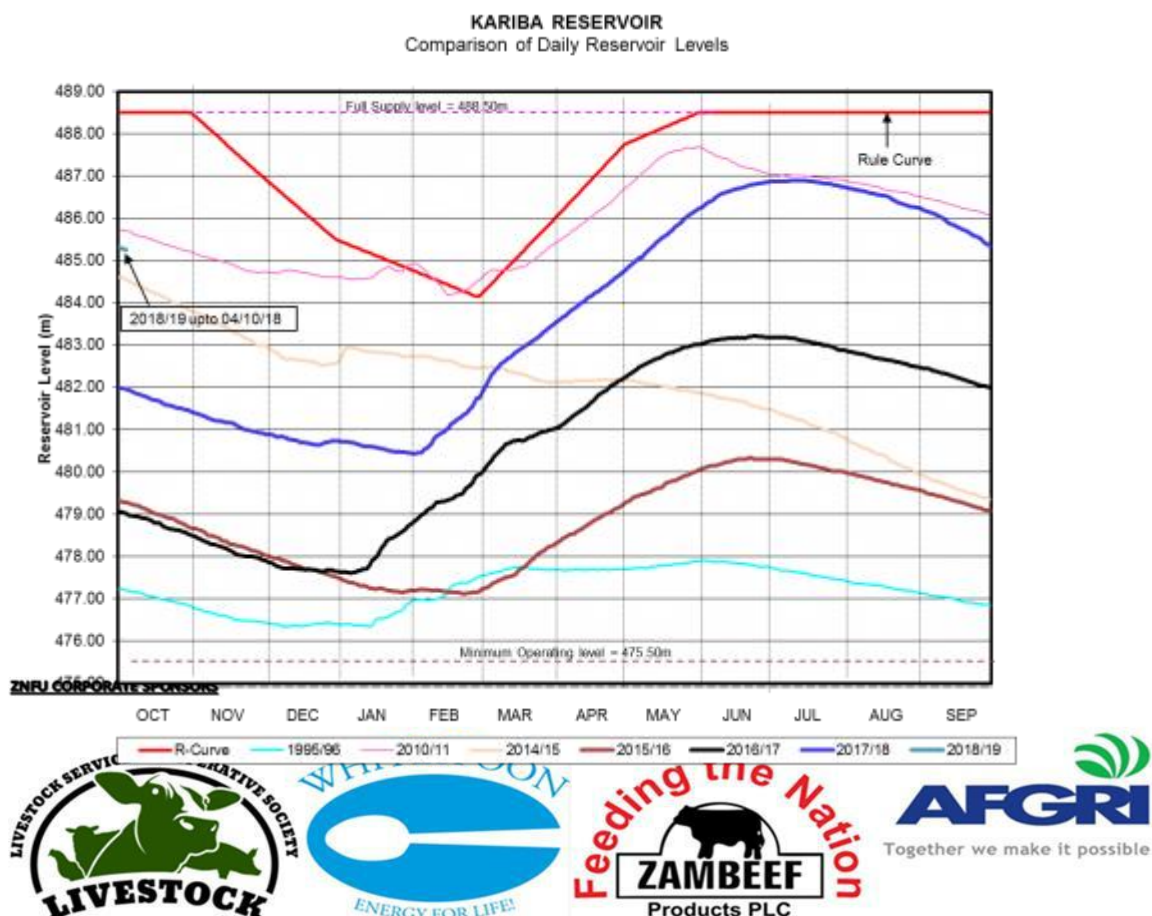
LAKE KARIBA WATER LEVELS RECEDE

Water levels in Lake Kariba have continued to reduce as the summer heat takes it toll on the environment.

According to information obtained from the Zambezi River Authority (ZRA), the Lake level dropped by 0.15m during the week under review, closing the week at 485.26m as of 4th October 2018. Last year on the same date, the Lake level was 481.95m or at 47% full. Currently, the Lake Kariba is 73% full.

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 Lake Kariba water level graph as plotted by the ZRA.





ALERTS! ALERTS! ALERTS! ALERTS!

ZNFU/ZESCO COMMITTEE MEETING

This notice serves to inform all ZNFU/ZESCO Committee members that there will be a ZNFU/ZESCO Committee meeting on Thursday 11th October 2018 in the ZNFU Boardroom at ZNFU HQ.

Those that have not received minutes kindly get in touch with Judy on Email: judyhamonzwe@znfu.org.zm or Calvin at kakoma@znfu.org.zm

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WEATHER

SEVEN DAYS WEATHER FORECAST 6th to 12th October 2018

GENERAL SITUATION

For the period 6th to 10th October 2018

Moderate and relatively moist airflow from the south east will be affecting most parts of Zambia resulting into partly cloudy and windy weather conditions. However, from 11th October 2018 to the end of the forecast period, warm airflow from the east will be controlling the weather over the southern half of the country bringing about an increase in day time temperatures while the northern half will be under the influence of moist and unstable winds from the northwest resulting into showery activities.

DETAILED FORECAST FROM 6th to 10th OCTOBER 2018

North-western, Copperbelt, Luapula, Northern and Muchinga Provinces: Cloudy, slightly windy and warm in the morning becoming hot in the afternoon with a chance of showers. The nights will be partly cloudy and warm. The rest of Zambia: Few clouds, hazy, windy and warm in the morning, tending to be partly cloudy and hot in the afternoon. The nights will be mainly clear, windy at times and warm.

DETAILED FORECAST FROM 11th TO 12th OCTOBER 2018

Northwestern, Copperbelt, Luapula, Northern, Muchinga and northern districts of Western Province: Partly cloudy and warm at first, and later becoming cloudy and hot in the afternoon with showers in few places.

Produced by Zambia Meteorological Department, Ministry of Transport and Communications

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