

FRIDAY BRIEF

...WEEK 1, 2020

HIGHLIGHTS

- **SHORTAGE OF UREA HITS SERENJE**

As the agricultural season hits full gear, Chitambo and Serenje districts have reported a shortage of urea or top dressing.

- **FMD BULLISHLY ENTERS 2020**

Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) has bullishly crossed into 2020 showing no signs of slowing down.

- **ARMY WORMS REAR HEAD AGAIN**

Fall Army Worms (FAWs) have been spotted in Kafue, Chilanga, Lusaka West, parts of Chongwe, Eastern and Southern Provinces after the dry spell experience.

DETAILS BELOW ...

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SHORTAGE OF UREA HITS SERENJE

As the agricultural season hits full gear, Chitambo and Serenje districts have reported a shortage of urea or top dressing.

According to reports received from Chitambo and Serenje by the Zambia National Farmers' Union (ZNFU) on Friday 10th January 2020, the two areas report grand shortages of the fertilisers.

This comes at a time when farmers that planted early are seeking to start applying top dressing, but agro dealers around these areas do not have the commodity. Farmers are now getting anxious because this is a critical time to reinforce fertiliser supplements for the plants.

Farmers in Chitambo and Serenje are now wondering whether other districts have been equally hit by the shortage of top dressing or urea fertilisers.

FMD BULLISHLY ENTERS 2020

Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) has bullishly crossed into 2020 showing no signs of slowing down.

Reports received by the Zambia National Farmers' Union (ZNFU) indicate that Kasempa – North Western Province, Mbala in Muchinga, Northern, Copperbelt, Central, Eastern, Southern Provinces have all reported suspected FMD cases.

This brings the number of provinces suspected to be harbouring the FMD to seven out of 10.

Only Western, Luapula and Lusaka Provinces have not reported suspected cases of FMD, but Western Province, especially Kaoma, is at risk due to movement of animals between the two areas using the Kasempa/Kaoma route. Lusaka's proximity also puts the Province at risk of catching FMD, unless heightened biosecurity measures continue being implemented.

Government response to addressing the FMD continues being hamstrung by the lack of vaccines.

Lack of skilled manpower to enforce quarantine, biosecurity and emergency disease control measures remains another major hindrance to the fight against FMD.

Hope, is, however, in the offing as Government has engaged the private sector to start bringing in vaccines to combat the serotype O strain. A massive vaccination exercise is expected to be rolled out soon.

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ARMY WORMS REAR HEAD AGAIN

Fall Army Worms (FAWs) have been spotted in Kafue, Chilanga, Lusaka West, parts of Chongwe, Eastern and Southern Provinces after the dry spell experience.

Vigilant farmers have gone flat out purchasing pesticides with many having experienced the devastation the caterpillars caused during the past seasons.

While some farmers have been proactive, the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) on the other hand has started distributing pesticides to areas that have reported or spotted the FAWs.

In Lusaka and Kafue alone, about 7000 hectares of maize have been run over by the FAWs.

An estimation of other areas attacked by the FAWs is yet to be done, but with quick action by both individual farmers and government, it is expected that the situation should be brought under control.

ALERTS! ALERTS! ALERTS! ALERTS!

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CALL FOR PARTICIPATION AT 2020 ZAMBIA INTERNATIONAL TRADE FAIR

The Zambia International Trade Fair Limited is calling for participants at its 56th Zambia International Trade Fair to be held from 1st to 7th July 2020.

Those wishing to participate in the 2020 Trade Fair; for further information and registration forms go to www.zitf.org.zm or email: marketing@zitf.org.zm by 31st March, 2020.

WEATHER

THE SEVEN DAY WEATHER FORECAST FOR THE PERIOD FROM 11TH TO 17TH JANUARY 2020

GENERAL SITUATION

From 11th to 17th January 2020, the intertropical convergence zone (I.T.C.Z) will be oscillating about the southern borders of Zambia enhancing rainfall activities across the country.

DETAILED FORECAST: 11th to 17th January 2020

Most parts of Zambia: Cloudy with morning rain and occasional thunder. The afternoons will be mainly cloudy with rain and thunder. From 11th to 13th January 2020 Luapula, Northern, Muchinga and Eastern Provinces the nights will be mainly cloudy with rain and thunder while the rest of Zambia will remain partly cloudy with a chance of rain. The period from 14th to 17th January 2020, the nights will be mainly cloudy with rain and thunder over most parts of Zambia.

ADVISORY

The continuous presence of the I.T.C.Z over the southern borders of Zambia may increase chances of heavy fall and flash floods over the southern half of Zambia (Southern, Lusaka, Central and southern parts of Eastern and Western Provinces)

Register to get daily Weather updates by requesting through info@zmd.gov.zm

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