

FRIDAY BRIEF

...WEEK 12, 2020

HIGHLIGHTS

- **EARLY MAIZE MARKETING UPDATE**

A tripartite contract was finally signed this week by the Food Reserve Agency (FRA), the Zambia National Farmers' Union (ZNFU) and the Millers Association of Zambia (MAZ) for the supply of 135,000mt by the farmers to the Millers.

- **CABINET APPROVES K659 MILLION BUDGET FOR COVID-19**

Cabinet has approved a contingency and response plan to combat the coronavirus (Covid-19) and come up with a K659 million budget to be handled under the Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit (DMMU).

- **ZAMBIA RECORDS 22 COVID 19 CASES**

Zambia Coronavirus cases have reached a new high of 22. This figure was announced by Minister of Health Dr. Chitalu Chilufya during a press briefing in Lusaka on Friday 27th March 2020.

- **TAZARA SUSPENDS BORDER CROSSING**

Tazara's Mukuba and Kilimanjaro Passenger Trains will no longer cross the border between Tanzania and Zambia, but will instead continue to run within the respective boundaries of the two countries, the Tazara public relations office has said.

- **KARIBA NOW AT 14.4% FULL**

The Lake level at Kariba has continued rising steadily. The Lake closed the period under review at 477.58m (14.44% usable storage) on 26th March 2020.

DETAILS BELOW ...





EARLY MAIZE MARKETING UPDATE

A tripartite contract was finally signed this week by the Food Reserve Agency (FRA), the Zambia National Farmers' Union (ZNFU) and the Millers Association of Zambia (MAZ) for the supply of 135,000mt by the farmers to the Millers.

As soon as the approved list of participating millers is availed, farmers will be informed of the procedures that will be followed and in consultation with the other parties, MAZ and FRA, the Union will facilitate the signing of contracts and follow through to assist where necessary.

With this development, farmers will contribute to improving the country's maize stocks at this stage which is key in enhancing food security.

CABINET APPROVES K659 MILLION BUDGET FOR COVID-19

Cabinet has approved a contingency and response plan to combat the coronavirus (Covid-19) and come up with a K659 million budget to be handled under the Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit (DMMU).

Making the pronouncement in Lusaka, Friday, Minister of Finance Dr Bwalya Ngandu said government is also setting up an epidemic preparedness fund under the Ministry of Health (MoH) amounting to K57 million.

Dr Ngandu said government has started mobilizing funds through the budget and engagement with various local and international stakeholders, saying government is in the process of making applications to multilateral partner and lender organizations for covid-19 support.

He said government would also apply to access funds from the International Monetary Fund, which has announced that it is making available a total of \$50 billion to affected countries via rapid disbursing emergency facilities and the world bank group, which has approved support of up to \$14 billion under a fast track covid-19 facility.

And Dr Ngandu said his Ministry is unlocking K2.5 billion to ease up liquidity in the wake of covid-19. He said these funds would go towards servicing domestic arrears owed to domestic suppliers of goods and services, reduce outstanding arrears to pensioners under Public Service Pension Fund (PSPF), retirees under the Ministry of Justice; and outstanding third-party arrears and other employee related commitments and a further K140 million to amortise arrears for local contractors in the road sector.

ZAMBIA RECORDS 22 COVID 19 CASES

Zambia Coronavirus cases have reached a new high of 22.



ZNFU

This figure was announced by Minister of Health Dr. Chitalu Chilufya during a press briefing in Lusaka on Friday 27th March 2020.

Dr Chilufya said of the laboratory confirmed 22 cases, 20 of the cases are being treated in Lusaka at Tubalange in Chilanga and Levy Mwanawasa Hospital, while 2 are being treated at Masaiti Hospital in Luanshya.

Twelve (12) cases that were symptomatic and were tested, have all tested negative and been discharged.

Dr. Chilufya said government is implementing interventions to combat the Covid 19 and have continued to track people that have recently come into the country from Covid 19 hit countries. Suspected cases, including those that had been in close proximity, have been tracked and tested.

He said the Zambian surveillance system is on high alert, but urged all citizens to be responsible and behave responsibly. He called on people not to travel to countries with Covid 19 cases

Meanwhile, government is implementing interventions to combat Covid 19. These include;

- Social distancing
- Avoiding Public gatherings of more than 50 people
- Shutting down Cinemas
- Closing of Gymnasiums
- Closing of Night clubs
- Closing of Bars
- Closing of Casinos
- Restuarants to be servicing take away food only
- All international airports to remain closed except for Kenneth Kaunda International Airport

COVID-19 Preventive Measures:

- Washing hands regularly with soap and water or using an alcohol-based hand rub.
- Cooking meat, eggs and other animal products thoroughly before eating.
- Avoiding unprotected contact with live farm or wild animals.
- Avoid handshaking, hugging and public gathering.
- Avoiding close contact with anyone with cold or flu-like symptoms.
- Covering the nose and mouth with flexed elbow or tissue when coughing and sneezing and throw tissue in a bin.

COVID-19 Symptoms:

- Fever
- Cough
- Difficulty in breathing
- Shortness of breath
- Headache





- Chest pains
- Sore throat

TAZARA SUSPENDS BORDER CROSSING

Tazara's Mukuba and Kilimanjaro Passenger Trains will no longer cross the border between Tanzania and Zambia, but will instead continue to run within the respective boundaries of the two countries, the Tazara public relations office has said.

Tanzania – Zambia Railways Authority Head of Public Relations Conrad Simuchile, however said freight train operations will not be affected by this change. This development follows the pandemic levels the Covid-19 has reached and is a measure taken to combat its spread.

KARIBA NOW AT 14.4% FULL

The Lake level at Kariba has continued rising steadily.

The Lake closed the period under review at 477.58m (14.44% usable storage) on 26th March 2020.

Last year on the same date, the Lake level was much higher at 480.77m (37.58% usable storage).

From:

13 March 2020

To:

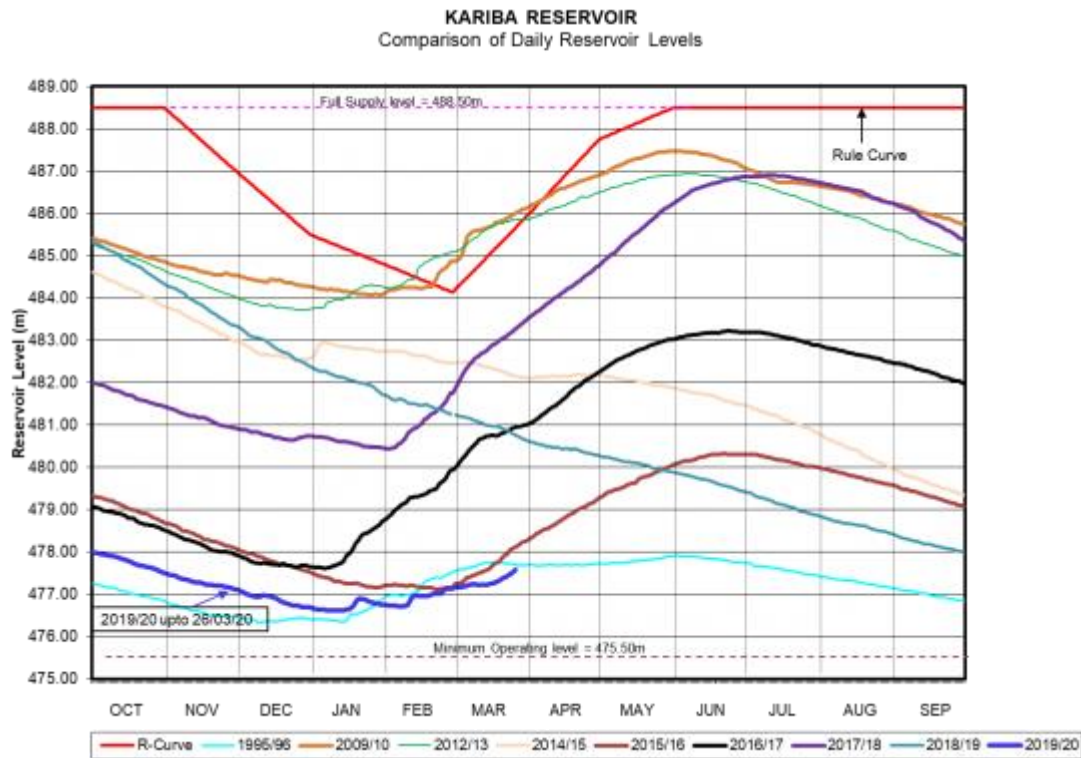
26 March 2020

| Day | This Year | %Full | Last Year |
|-----------|-----------|--------|-----------|
| 13/3/2020 | 477.21 | 11.83% | 481.01 |
| 14/3/2020 | 477.22 | 11.90% | 481 |
| 15/3/2020 | 477.24 | 12.04% | 480.99 |
| 16/3/2020 | 477.25 | 12.11% | 480.98 |
| 17/3/2020 | 477.26 | 12.18% | 480.98 |
| 18/3/2020 | 477.3 | 12.46% | 480.97 |
| 19/3/2020 | 477.32 | 12.61% | 480.95 |
| 20/3/2020 | 477.35 | 12.82% | 480.93 |
| 21/3/2020 | 477.39 | 13.10% | 480.89 |
| 22/3/2020 | 477.41 | 13.24% | 480.87 |
| 23/3/2020 | 477.44 | 13.45% | 480.85 |
| 24/3/2020 | 477.49 | 13.80% | 480.82 |
| 25/3/2020 | 477.53 | 14.09% | 480.78 |

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| Day | This Year | %Full | Last Year |
|-----------|-----------|--------|-----------|
| 26/3/2020 | 477.58 | 14.44% | 480.77 |



LUFWANYAMA FARMERS CONTINUE FISP REGISTRATION

Farmers have continued to register names for the FISP 2020/2021 in Lufwanyama district.

A check by ZNFU in Lufwanyama confirmed the continued registration of farmers on the ZIAMIS, though it is not yet known the target for farmers to be registered in the district.

And farmers who planted their crops near the river are in a quandary as the riverbank has burst due to heavy torrents of rain and the crops have been submerged in water. The heavy rains have also affected roads, which has become impassable.

LIVINGSTONE/KAZUNGULA DFA's BUSINESS PLAN GETS APPROVED

The Business plan that was submitted by the Livingstone/Kazungula District Farmers Association for a Matching Grant support under the Zambia Agribusiness and Trade Project (ZATP) has finally been approved.

The matching grant will support the upscaling of the fish project which the District Farmers Association (DFA) has been managing.





The DFA is also actively involved in vegetable and improved village chicken production with offtake arrangements/ supply contracts with hotels, lodges and other organisations.

FLOODS 'DROWN' MWENSE

Mwense district has been hit by floods.

The floods started in the first week of March 2020. A check by ZNFU on 23rd March 2020 found that most of the crops that were planted near Luapula River were submerged and over 100 houses have collapsed.

On 24th March 2020 the Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit (DMMU) visited the district to assess the extent of the damage the floods have caused.

Mwense district has continued receiving rains on almost daily basis.

MINISTRY OF COMMERCE GRACES KASAMA

The trade facilitation awareness workshop was held in Kasama to sensitize the business community in the district. The workshop was organized by the Ministry of Commerce Trade and Industry (MCTI) in conjunction with Kasama district chamber of commerce.

The workshop drew the stakeholders from various organisations such as ZNFU, small scale germ stone miners, Kasama district cooperative union, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock, ZRA, PACRA, CCPU, and local businessmen and women among others. The purpose of the workshop was to share information on the number of trade facilitation agreements Zambia has signed under World Trade Organization-Trade Facilitation Agreements (WHO-TFA) such as AGOA, SADC, PTA.

The facilitator from the ministry of commerce advised the business community to take advantage of these trade agreement to access markets to members countries of these same agreements to grow their business. The facilitator further went on to mention that Zambia is developing a Trade portal were everyone can access trade information like other countries have done e.g. Botswana so that traders from both public and private sectors can access information and follow the trends of what is happening in business across the borders of Zambia.

2020 PUBLIC HOLIDAYS (in yellow farmers' holidays)

Wednesday 1st January 2020 – New Year's Day

Monday 9th March 2020 – International Women's Day

Thursday 12th March 2020 – Youth Day

Friday 10th April 2020 – Good Friday

Saturday 11th April 2020 – Holy Saturday

Monday 13th April 2020 – Easter Monday

Friday 1st May 2020 – Labour Day

Monday 25th May 2020 – African Unity Day

Monday 6th July 2020 – Heroes' Day





Tuesday 7th July 2020 – Unity Day

Monday 3rd August 2020 – Farmers' Day

Monday 19th October 2020 – National Day of Prayer

Saturday 24th October 2020 – Independence Day

Friday 25th December 2020 – Christmas Day

DESK OFFICERS AT ZNFU

General Issues affecting farmers/Union - Mrs. Ellah Chembe –

Executive Director – **0973 795 942**

Email: chembe@znfu.org.zm;

Outreach/Land Issues – Mrs. Florence Phiri – D/Head MMS – **0977 434 312**

Email: florencephiri@znfu.org.zm

Accounts/Administration – Mr. William Ndhlovu – Finance Manager – **0977 433 347**

Email: william.ndhlovu@znfu.org.zm

ALERTS! ALERTS! ALERTS! ALERTS!

**ARE YOU A COMMERCIAL FARMER? THIS SURVEY IS FOR YOU!
PROCEED TO CLICK THE SURVEY BUTTON AFTER THE BRIEF
INTRODUCTION;**

Dear Farmer,

My name is Seb Mulders and I am currently studying a (BSc) Agriculture at Harper Adams University in the UK. I am researching **farmer attitudes towards adoption of renewable energy technology in Southern Africa** for my HRP (Honours Research Project).

I would like to ask if you could please complete a short (5 minute) survey to help contribute to my research; your participation would be much appreciated.

Kind regards,
Seb Mulders.

Link to survey: <https://harper-adams.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/farmer-attitudes-toward-the-uptake-of-solar-technology-on>

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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 28TH MARCH TO 3RD APRIL 2020

GENERAL SITUATION

From 28th to 29th March 2020, moderate and moist airflow from the northeast will be affecting much of the northern and western parts of Zambia resulting into cloudy weather conditions with rainfall activities. The southern parts of the country will be under the influence of moist cool airflow from the south east resulting into cloudy, windy weather conditions with isolated thundershowers and a reduction in temperature. From 30th March to 3rd April 2020, rainfall activities will be confined to the northern and western parts of the country due to the relatively dry airflow from the south east which will be affecting most parts of Zambia. This will lead to mainly sunny weather conditions and less rainfall activities in most areas.

DETAILED FORECAST: 28th and 29th March 2020

Western, Northwestern, Copperbelt, Luapula, Muchinga and Northern Provinces including the northern parts of Eastern Province: Cloudy and mild in the morning with a chance of rain. The afternoons will be mainly cloudy with rain and occasional thunder while the nights are expected to be partly cloudy with a chance of rain.

Southern, Lusaka and Central Provinces including the southern parts of Eastern Province: Mainly cloudy, windy and mild in the morning with a chance of light rain. The afternoons will be partly cloudy and warm with a likelihood of isolated thundershowers. The nights will be partly cloudy.

DETAILED FORECAST: 30th March to 3rd April 2020

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Northwestern, Copperbelt, Luapula, Northern and Muchinga Provinces including the northern parts of Western Province: Cloudy and warm in the mornings with showers and thunderstorms by afternoon. The nights will be partly cloudy with a chance of rain.
Eastern, Central, Lusaka and Southern Provinces including the southern parts of Western Provinces: Mainly sunny and warm in the mornings tending to be partly cloudy and hot in the afternoons with a chance of isolated thunder showers. The nights will be mainly clear and warm.

Produced by the Ministry of Transport and Communications.

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

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