

HIGHLIGHTS

- **GROW WINTER MAIZE: ECL**

President Edgar Chagwa Lungu has directed the Ministry of Agriculture to engage farming stakeholders to grow winter maize and prepare for post Covid 19, which has says will be a difficult time.

- **ZESCO RESCHEDULES KAFUE GORGE LOWER WORKS**

Zesco Limited has rescheduled the works at Kafue Gorge Lower to September 2020 in the wake of Covid 19.

- **LAKE KARIBA INCHES UP TO 24.55%**

Latest update from the Zambezi River Authority indicate that he Lake level has continued rising steadily.

- **MAIZE PRICE DROPS**

The price of maize has drastically dropped in Petauke district where the private buyer's were buying the commodity between K3.5 and K 2.5 within town.

- **SCALING UP NUTRITION (SUN) HAPPY WITH VEGETABLE FARMERS IN MBALA**

Scaling up nutrition (SUN) is happy with vegetables farmers are producing in Mbala District.

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DETAILS BELOW ...

GROW WINTER MAIZE: ECL

President Edgar Chagwa Lungu has directed the Ministry of Agriculture to engage farming stakeholders to grow winter maize and prepare for post Covid 19, which has says will be a difficult time.

And President Lungu has directed that multinational chain stores should prioritise the purchasing of agriculture commodities from local producers, especially that which can easily be grown by local farmers.

In his third Covid 19 national address today Friday 24th April 2020, the Head of State directed the Ministry of Agriculture to start putting in place resilient measures that would ensure food security post Covid 19.

With world economies expected to slowdown and production expected to slump amid Covid 19 spread,, President Lungu called for strategic partnership between the Ministry of Agriculture and the private sector to ensure enough food is produced and guarantee national food security.

He instructed the Ministry of Agriculture to encourage and support farmers to grow winter maize and engage in other agricultural activities to ensure that new businesses are created during this period.

The President said food security will be the biggest problem post Covid-19:

“I am directing the Minister of Agriculture and the Minister of National Development Planning to collaborate with the private sector and develop partnerships to grow food for both domestic and export markets. My government will help provide both financial and logistical support towards the programme. The Ministry of National Development Planning is directed to draft a new climate change action plan to secure food production in Zambia in light of recent negative impacts of climate change.”

And President Lungu said in any adversity there is a silver lining, saying local producers should take advantage of the slow down in exports to Zambia by countries under lockdown to increase local production.

He said the current situation that the country finds itself in opens a window of opportunity for Zambian farmers to produce and sell their products to chain stores that for a long time have denied them business and opted for foreign products.

He has directed the Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry to ensure that chain stores prioritise local agricultural products in their localities, saying if a chain store is in Chipata let them buy agriculture products from farmers in Eastern Province.

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He said under the circumstances the country is in, only products that cannot be sourced from locals should be imported. He is optimistic that this would continue into post Covid 19 period.

The President called on farmers to improve on production capacities and snap up the gap and supply agriculture commodities that were being imported. He called on farmers to pool themselves into cooperatives that would meet the demand and quality as requested by multinational by ramping up production and being ingenious with quality.

ZESCO RESCHEDULES KAFUE GORGE LOWER WORKS

Zesco Limited has rescheduled the works at Kafue Gorge Lower to September 2020 in the wake of Covid 19.

Zesco Limited briefed the ZNFU/Zesco Committee meeting on Thursday via a Zoom conference meeting that the rescheduling came about as the Chinese partners that were supposed to make installations of vital equipment had travelled to China and were caught up in the lockdown.

Zesco Limited anticipates that the installations would resume in September when the equipment is expected to be brought in.

The utility had timed installations to be done in April and by year end a total of 750 Mega Watts would have been added to the power grid.

It is now expected that by year end, a total 400 Mega Watts would be added to the generation by end year after the machines.

LAKE KARIBA INCHES UP TO 24.55%

Latest update from the Zambezi River Authority indicate that the Lake level has continued rising steadily.

According to the Zambezi River Authority Lake Kariba water levels closed the period under review at 479.00m (24.55% usable storage) on 23rd April 2020.

Last year on the same date, the Lake level was higher at 480.36m (34.51% usable storage).

See the graphs below;

From:
10 April 2020

To:

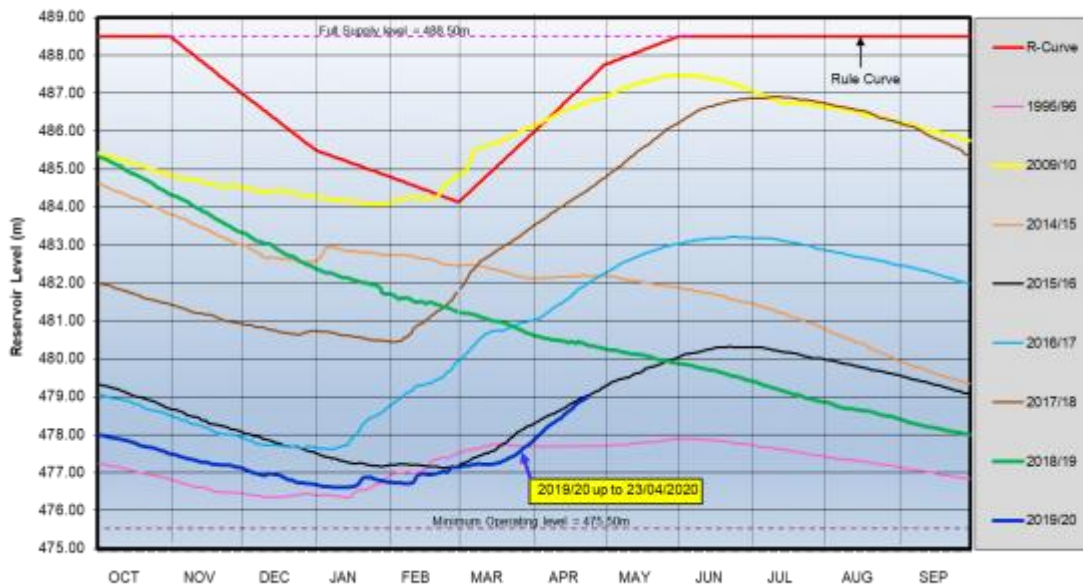


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23 April 2020

Day	This Year	%Full	Last Year
10/4/2020	478.37	20.01%	480.49
11/4/2020	478.4	20.23%	480.47
12/4/2020	478.45	20.58%	480.47
13/4/2020	478.53	21.14%	480.46
14/4/2020	478.57	21.43%	480.45
15/4/2020	478.62	21.80%	480.43
16/4/2020	478.67	22.16%	480.45
17/4/2020	478.73	22.60%	480.44
18/4/2020	478.8	23.10%	480.41
19/4/2020	478.83	23.32%	480.45
20/4/2020	478.87	23.68%	480.43
21/4/2020	478.91	23.90%	480.42
22/4/2020	478.96	24.26%	480.39
23/4/2020	479	24.55%	480.36

KARIBA RESERVOIR
Comparison of Daily Reservoir Levels



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MAIZE PRICE DROPS

The price of maize has drastically dropped in Petauke district where the private buyer's were buying the commodity between K3.5 and K 2.5 within town.

The price has now gone down to as low as K1.5 to K1 within the district and the buyers are attributing the reduction in the price to high levels of moisture content.

This sad development has shocked most of the farmers who are now busy harvesting and were so expectant of a very good price owing to the fact that fertilizer prices were high at the time of production.

Meanwhile, the price of mealie meal has dropped from K175 to K145 within the district.

SCALING UP NUTRITION (SUN) HAPPY WITH VEGETABLE FARMERS IN MBALA

Scaling up nutrition (SUN) is happy with vegetables farmers are producing in Mbala District.

This came to light during the follow ups on the lead farmers who were trained in vegetable farming with the view of fighting malnutrition as they were given egg plants, Mbereshi beans, Impwa, Amaranths, carrots and among other things.

The lead farmers were trained to cultivate community gardens and lead the whole process with the help of camp officers.

Community gardens are like farmer field schools where farmers acquire knowledge and take it to their household to reduce malnutrition. Farmers are appreciative of this model as most of the farmers used to deal with field crops only.

The officers took time to also sensitize the farmers on COVID 19.

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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

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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>

WEATHER

OUTLOOK FOR FRIDAY (24/04/2020)

Mainly cloudy with windy weather at times conditions are expected over most parts of Zambia.

Produced by Ministry of Transport and Communications.

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

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