



Livestock & Meat Advisory Council

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OVERVIEW

The livestock industry has welcomed the open-door policy of the new Ministry of Lands, Agriculture and Rural Resettlement. Dialogue on price stabilisation is with the Ministry ongoing and while government has no intention of controlling prices, industry has been requested to take the lead in stabilising prices. It has been recommended that manufacturers publish their recommended wholesale and retail prices in the same manner as mealie meal millers and bread bakers. Fifteen basic products are being monitored and the authorities reiterated that an open-door policy is also in place for the industry to discuss the cost drivers.

Annual General Meeting of the Stockfeed Manufacturers' Association

In his address to the AGM, Chairman Israel Muchuchu highlighted that the single outbreak of Avian Influenza caused a decline of almost 10% in the stockfeed business. This was also a contributory factor in meat price hikes triggered by shortages of chicken and eggs. Observing that 2017 had been a 'torrid year' of challenges, Mr Muchuchu noted that shortages of foreign currency and the high cost of this were impacting severely on the importation of raw materials such as soya, drugs, minerals and vitamins. He also cited the high cost of compliance as an impediment to livestock production.

Israel Muchuchu was unanimously re-elected as Chairman of SMA.

Council Meeting of the Stockfeed Manufacturers Association

The late start to the season and Army Worm damage is likely to affect maize production, but following the large crop of 2016/17, there should be sufficient maize for stockfeed as well as human consumption. Locally produced soya beans are likely to be in short supply, and other regional producers of soya are likely to process this crop for value addition, meaning that only soyameal will be available for importation, at a price higher than the raw bean.

It was noted that there is a need to strategize with government and the oil expressing industry on procurement of imported soya, which brings livestock production into the equation whilst also meeting national cooking oil requirements.

Local molasses is not available and the Association is making follow-ups to obtain clearer understanding on supplies, usage and availability going forward. Alternative sources in Mozambique and Zambia are prohibitively expensive when transport is factored in.

It was proposed that the stockfeeds industry should explore aggregated procurement of raw ingredients, mineral supplements and additives as a way of balancing allocation and the cost of procurement across the industry. The current global shortage of vitamins is of concern to the livestock industry.

The meeting noted with concern that rising meat prices over the last few months are incorrectly attributed to stockfeed price increases and that it is important to correct this misperception.

Council Meeting of the Zimbabwe Fish Producers Association

The meeting, attended by stakeholders across the industry, reaffirmed that ZFPA is the biggest stakeholder in the growing fish industry and must play a coordinating role in guiding the development of the fish sector. Sound fish husbandry practices, underpinned by animal health regulations, are critical for the success of fish farming projects. The current drive to boost national fish production is seeing numerous new fish projects being established across the country, many of them under the Command Fisheries Programme initiated by National Parks.

It was noted that Zimbabwe is one of few SADC countries that does not yet have a national fish strategy in place.

The formation of an African Chapter of the World Aquaculture Society is a welcome development and shows that the efforts of the South African government, supported by ZFPA and other fish producer entities in Africa, have borne fruit. The Chapter, based in SA, will provide an important platform for the continent's growing fish farming industry at a time when aquaculture is the fastest growing food production industry in the world.

Garikayi Munetsirei succeeds Paul Mwera as Chairman of the Zimbabwe Fish Producers' Association.

Schedule of forthcoming meetings and events: January

<i>Wednesday 31st</i>	Annual General Meeting of the Zimbabwe Association of Abattoirs, Bulawayo
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Enclosures

- Investment Guidelines and Opportunities in Zimbabwe