



Govt plans smooth FISP transition



•FARMING inputs delivered in Kaoma District in Western Province.

Kaoma receives 2022/23 inputs

By MABOSHE MACHOBANI
KAOMA District in Western Province has started receiving farming inputs for the 2022/2023 farming season.

KAOMA District in Western Province has started receiving farming inputs for the 2022/2023 farming season. The district had also received 28.30 metric tonnes of maize seed out of the 120 metric tonnes allocated for the district in the 2022/2023 farming season.

Mr Ng'ambi said more deliveries were expected this week and farmers would soon start depositing their K400 contribution.

Government's total tonnage of fertilizer for the farming season was 307,330.20 metric tonnes, of which 153,665.10 is D-Compound fertilizer and 153,665.10 was urea. Fertiliser had been procured at a total cost of fertiliser US\$ 369,073,965.74.

By HAPPY MULOLANI
GOVERNMENT will facilitate a smooth graduation of farmers who have been on the Farmer Input Support Programme (FISP) for some time, Agriculture Minister Reuben Mtolo has said.

Speaking at a Press briefing in Lusaka on Wednesday, Mr Mtolo said the Government was considering a gradual graduation of older farmers who had been receiving inputs under the FISP until they were phased out.

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Mr Mtolo said both new and old farmers belonging to cooperatives would be allowed to access inputs to ensure that they gradually graduated from the Government supported FISP.

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The Agriculture minister said the Government would support 1,024,434 farmers through the Direct Input Supply System (DIS) for the input distribution.

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Mr Mtolo said the district had been allocated 1,800 metric tonnes of D-Compound and 1,800 metric tonnes of Urea.

He said other inputs were 120 metric tonnes of maize seed, 120 metric tonnes of soya beans and the same tonnage for groundnut seed.

Nsama to get 1,050 tonnes of fertiliser

By JONATHAN MWAMBA
NSAMA District in Northern Province is expected to receive 525 metric tonnes of Urea and an equal quantity of D-Compound fertilizer this farming season.

District Agricultural Coordinator Mwangi Chela said the region was plagued by a poor state of feeder roads and inadequate storage facilities for farming inputs.

situation was hampering the smooth delivery of extension services to the farmers who were predominantly dotted in far-flung areas. Mr Chela further said most agriculture extension officers lacked motor bikes in their respective agricultural camps for transportation.

10 agricultural camps in Nsama District, only four were equipped with motor bikes which were also in a poor condition.

said the Government was committed to ensure that delivery of agriculture extension services to the farmers was improved through the provision of reliable transport.

exploring ways of procuring motor bikes next year to lessen the transport challenges which the extension officers were grappling with in most of the districts in the province.



•MTOLO

Nyimba farmers collect ATD forms, make bank deposits

By ELVIS MILAMBO
THE Farmer Input Support Programme (FISP) has peaked with several farmers collecting Authority to Deposit (ATD) forms and making bank deposits as rainfall starts in several areas in Nyimba.

Mr Labasi said the three financial institutions providing banking services to the farmers during the 2022/2023 FISP.

farmer based at Luaci Camp in Nyimba appealed to the Government to supervise and regulate the quality of service that Internet service providers were providing to the citizens.

With the increasing numbers of the farmers that were expected to deposit funds for FISP, the banking services, including the farmer tagging, were being hampered by poor mobile broadband.

Mr Liywalii said the poor Internet service was affecting FISP operations at camp and district level with Airtel and MTN reportedly experiencing weak and erratic connectivity.

One farmer can wait for 10 minutes before the Internet responds. When will we finish? he asked.

Mr Liywalii called on Airtel and MTN to provide quality services so that the farmers were assisted on time.

Zondani Sakala, a local



•SMALLHOLDER farmers are more vulnerable to environmental shocks and ecosystem degradation due to climate change.

Adopting Climate Smart Agriculture practices critical

By DORCAS KABUYA CHAABA
AGRICULTURE is one of the key sectors contributing to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of countries in the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) region.

Climate change has the highest impact on Africa where most countries have low adaptive capacity because of financial and technological limitations coupled with over reliance on rain-fed agriculture.

Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) is believed to be the solution to climate change in the agricultural sector. Small scale farmers have high potential to improve food, income and nutritional security if they are supported with capacity around mitigation and adaptation.

CCARDESA Programmes and Grants Manager Simon Mwale noted that one of CCARDESA's priority thematic areas of the strategic plan and the operational plan is designed to address the impacts of climate change.

Dr Mwale said the role of CCARDESA is to build capacity of SADC countries to integrate climate change aspects into agricultural programmes and investments through the promotion CSA.

and ecosystem degradation due to climate change. He said countries in the SADC region will only increase food production under the increasingly harsh climate conditions if they adopt CSA technologies such as intercropping, crop rotation, minimum soil disturbance and water harvesting.