

Consumer Watch

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EDITORIAL

Zamtel Keen to Drive Zambia's Digital Transformation

State-owned Telecommunications Company Zamtel mentioned that it remains firmly committed driving for Zambia's digital transformation. Zamtel Chief Executive Officer Sydney Mupeta said his firm is developing products and services that promote the 'Ease of doing Business' through digital platforms. Mupeta said Zamtel is also exploring ventures in the provision of digital solutions in other sectors of the economy, such as agriculture and education.

Mupeta said using its vast countrywide presence, Zamtel with other partners will ensure that it delivers the country's digital agenda. The Zamtel CEO was speaking when Zamtel signed a partnership with the Zambia National Credit and Marketeers Association (ZANAMACA) that will see around 6 million Marketeers and small scale traders remit their base tax using the Zamtel electronic platform.

Moreover, Mupeta has commended the Zambia Revenue Authority (ZRA) for taking a lead in digitalising the tax system. He said ZRA has in the recent times pioneered innovations that have made payment of taxes much easier through digital platforms. He said digitalising the tax system has the potential to increase tax compliance levels among tax payers.

"The step we have taken with ZANAMACA is just the beginning of an exciting journey to provide a cashless trading ecosystem in markets and beyond. Zamtel's vision in the next few years is to elevate mobile transactions as the main platform for conducting businesses in the country", Mupeta added.



This Editorial has been adapted from news published in Lusaka Times on July 24, 2018

INSIDE

• FRA Increases Maize Purchasing Price from K65 to K70



• Avoid Fast Foods, Experts Warn



• Chinese Contraceptive Pill Worries State and Medical Bodies



• Zambia Sugar Counterfeits Emerge



• No Fuel Price Hike despite Volatile Crude and Kwacha Depreciation Pressure: ERB



NEWS

FRA Increases Maize Purchasing Price from K65 to K70

The Food Reserve Agency (FRA) has increased its maize purchasing price from K65 per 50 kg bag to K70. This follows a



President Edgar Lungu's directive for the agency to revise the price.

In a statement, FRA Board Chairman, Joe Simachela has reiterated the agency's commitment to its mandate to purchase and administer the National Strategic Food Reserve through efficient provision of market access to the rural-based Small-Scale Farmers who are the primary stakeholders of the programme. Simachela has reminded the farmers in the FRA targeted areas to continue to prepare as guided in the 2018 Crop Marketing Modalities.

(Lusaka Times, 27.07.18)

Avoid Fast Foods, Experts Warn

The Pharmaceutical Society of Zambia (PSZ) has urged members of the public to avoid fast foods and adopt healthy eating habits to



safeguard their lives from harmful products. PSZ President Jerome Kanyika said that the revelation that *Pizza Hut* has allegedly been

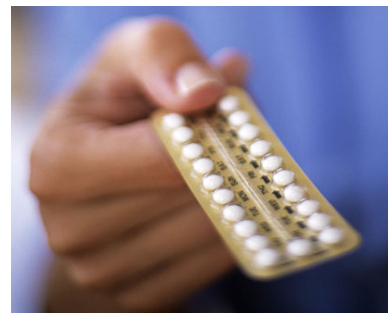
using expired ingredients should be an eye opener to citizens who like eating fast foods.

Kanyika said in a statement that his organisation is saddened by the closure of *Pizza Hut* on account of allegedly using expired ingredients in its food production. "Using expired ingredients can trigger food poisoning which among other ways will present as stomach cramps, vomiting, fever, dizziness, dehydration and persistent diarrhoea and might result in death, if not quickly addressed stated warned Kanyika".

(Zambia Daily Mail, 24.07.18)

Chinese Contraceptive Pill Worries State and Medical Bodies

Zambian government and some medical bodies have raised concern and alarm over a Chinese contraceptive pill which is dispensed to Zambian women because the instructions and other information are in Chinese language. The once-a-month single dose contraceptive pill is accessed by women at a cost of between K30 and K50.



The Ministry of Health Permanent Secretary Kennedy Malama stated all importation of medicines and medical devices are guided by specific rules and regulations, among which is the language of instruction. "Reports of the Chinese contraceptive monthly single dose are worrying", Dr Malama said. He said that the fact that contraceptives are dispensed with labels in a foreign language, means that it is in the country illegally.

(Zambia Daily Mail, 22.07.18)

Zambia Sugar Counterfeits Emerge

Lusaka Securities Exchange – LuSE listed and Illovo's local unit, Zambia Sugar are battling to extinguish counterfeit packages and products that have re-emerged in Lusaka, Zambia.

This was made public after the Zambia Police Service Intellectual Property Unit on June 04, 2018 conducted an operation in Lusaka's Zani-Muone west and city market, after receiving a complaint from Mazabuka-based largest sugar company in Zambia.



Zambia Sugar Plc, the legitimate brand owner of White Spoon Sugar label are poised to face more competition even locally with more sugar companies being set up and other expanding their production capacity within Zambia. The key competitors include Kafue Sugar, Kasama Sugar and a new Greenfield Mwansa Sugar.

(Zambia Business Times, 05.06.18)

No Fuel Price Hike despite Volatile Crude and Kwacha Depreciation Pressure: ERB

Zambia's energy regulator the Energy Regulation Board (ERB) in a recent review stated that it will not make



any adjustments to the current pump prices of fuel despite the recent depreciation of the Kwacha. The regulator decided to maintain the current retail price of fuel with petrol ZMW13.75/l, diesel at ZMW12.01/l, kerosene at ZMW8.85/l and low sulphur gasoline (LSG) at ZMW14.30/l respectively.

This was mentioned in a review statement carried on by the ERB on its website. The energy regulator cited two key determinants of fuel prices in Zambia as international crude (oil) prices and the Dollar/Kwacha (US\$/ZMW) exchange rate. ERB applies a cost-plus pricing methodology model (CPM) which accounts for all the costs incurred in the supply value chain to reflect in the final price of fuel quoted.

(Zambia Business Times, 22.06.18)

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