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ZSE Statistics

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Item	Closing	% Change	Major Movers	Price	% Change
Industrial Index	133.94	(0.10)	TURN	0.80	14.29
Mining Index	29.10	-	NICO	1.70	13.33
Total Volumes '000'	4,332.17	0.73	FIDE	8.50	8.97
Total Value 'US\$ 000'	360.93	(0.02)	MASIM	1.00	1.01
Active Counters	15.00		BARC	4.35	0.93
Advances: Declines	6:3		-	-	-
Dual Listings	Price	USD Equivalent	Major Decliners	Price	% Change
ABCH (BWP)			NMB	3.20	(11.11)
PPC (ZAR)			OK	6.50	(7.14)
Hwange (ZAR)			NAMP	2.07	(0.48)
Old Mutual (ZAR)			-	-	-
			-	-	-

Corporate Calendar

Calendars	
Zimbabwe	
September 14- September 18	
Monday	
Tuesday	
Wednesday	Pearl Properties Interims and Analysts Briefing (2pm , Royal Harare Golf Club)
	FML Interims and Analysts Briefing (3pm, Royal Harare Golf Club)
Thursday	RTG Interims and Analysts Briefing (3 pm, Jacaranda 2, Rainbow Towers)
Friday	

Zimbabwe Press Summary

AfDB sets aside grant for Zim (*Herald*, Wednesday September 16, Pg B1, also in *Daily News*, Pg 11)

The African Development Bank (AfDB) has set aside a grant to help Zimbabwe clear its arrears with the continental bank, a development which will put Zimbabwe in good stead to push for debt relief with multilateral and other bilateral creditors. Zimbabwe's total arrears to the AfDB are US\$601m. "The amount (grant set aside) is yet to be determined by the (AfDB) board. They have assured us that those funds which have been set aside to assist Zimbabwe in clearing its arrears will be available for us until December 2016," Finance and Economic Development Minister Patrick Chinamasa said yesterday. He was addressing a joint Press conference with Sibry Tapsoda, the head of the AfDB mission in the country to assist with the strategy for debt clearance. Chinamasa said the AfDB funds are available until December 2016 and Government is making efforts to access the grant and clear the arrears by end of this year.

Major breakthrough for Zim on debt (*NewsDay*, Wednesday September 16, Pg 13)

Government is set to receive a grant from the African Development Bank (AfDB) to clear its arrears to the bank, International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank. This will be a major breakthrough for Zimbabwe, which has to clear US\$1.8 billion arrears to the three institutions to start accessing cheap loans to revive the economy. Speaking at a media briefing in Harare yesterday, AfDB director Sibry Tapsoba, who is the head of a 12-member delegation currently in the country, said the financial institution had set aside some funds to assist Zimbabwe to clear its arrears. He said the amount was yet to be agreed as it required approval from the Abidjan-headquartered AfDB, "but at this point and time we have just reassured the [Finance] Minister [Patrick Chinamasa] we have the resources available".

IMF, Britain to spearhead Zim re-engagement (*NewsDay*, Wednesday September 16, Pg 14)

International Monetary Fund resident representative Christian Beddies and British Ambassador to Zimbabwe Catriona Laing will be part of the panel to discuss the economic prospects for Zimbabwe and re-engagement with the international community. The duo will be joined by representatives from different social spheres at the event on Friday that will run under the theme Re-imagining the Future for Zimbabwe. The event is organised by The Space, Zimbabwe's only international platform convened by young people designed and anchored on four activities that run parallel to each other to provide solutions and opportunities for growth and thought process to current and future challenges.

Zimra moves on tax evaders (*NewsDay*, Wednesday September 16, Pg 13)

The Zimbabwe Revenue Authority (Zimra) is working on a real-time invoice management system, as it moves to net tax evaders. A Chinese IT firm, Inspur, is set to complete the pilot project on invoice management that will see more transparency in revenue collection. The move is set to increase the tax base as it will target all companies, Zimra board chairperson Willia Bonyongwe said yesterday. "The Chinese company is providing a more comprehensive invoice management system which will, for a while, run parallel to the fiscal machines, which the big companies are already on. There will be integration at some point in the future. The project will be completed in October 2015," she said.

ZCT forecasts slow growth in tourism (*Herald*, Wednesday September 16, Pg B34)

The Zimbabwe Council for Tourism (ZCT) has projected slower growth for tourism due to the impact of value added tax on accommodation for foreign visitors. Finance Minister Patrick Chinamasa introduced VAT on foreign hotel accommodation in January, worsening Zimbabwe's profile as an expensive destination. ZCT president Francis Ngwenya told a media briefing yesterday that growth in the sector would have been better had there been no VAT obstacles. He said the VAT on accommodation for foreign tourists remained a thorny issue and hailed calls by a parliamentary tourism committee for its scrapping.

Zim tourism services most expensive in region (*NewsDay*, Wednesday September 16, Pg 14)

Zimbabwe is 30-40% more expensive in offering tourists packages and services, a study by the Zimbabwe Council for Tourism (ZCT) has shown. This comes as the tourism industry is smarting from a 15% value-added tax (VAT) imposed on international tourists' accommodation bills beginning this year. Speaking at a Press briefing in Harare yesterday, ZCT president Francis Ngwenya said VAT would derail government's goal of a US\$5 billion tourism sector by 2020.

Tourism council warns against price increases (*Daily News*, Wednesday September 16, Pg 11)

The Zimbabwe Council of Tourism has urged local authorities to reduce costs on the leisure industry products as part of efforts to make the country an attractive tourist destination. This comes as Victoria Falls Town Council early this year effected a 650% increase on levies, a move described by various stakeholders as "retrogressive". ZCT president Francis Ngwenya yesterday said at a time when all hospitality establishments are facing viability problems, tourism players are looking for reductions in input costs and not increases.

Reckless bank directors, executives face legal suits (*NewsDay*, Wednesday September 16, Pg 13)

Directors and senior executives of banking institutions will face legal action if they act recklessly or negligently, new amendments to the Banking Act have shown. If their bank or company is placed under curatorship or wound up and its business has not been carried on prudently, "they will be liable for its debts unless they establish that they were not responsible". The Registrar of Banks and the Deposit Protection Corporation (DPC) may take legal action against them on behalf of depositors and creditors who suffer loss if directors and executives act recklessly, negligently or fraudulently. Directors have to attend at least three-quarters of the board meetings convened. Any director who fails to do so "shall be regarded as not having exercised the degree of diligence required of him or her". A new section, 20B, will be inserted to compel directors of banking institutions and controlling companies to disclose their assets and business activities on an annual basis. If they fail to do so, they will not be allowed to carry out any valid act as directors.

Poor yields affect oilseed processors (*Herald*, Wednesday September 16, Pg B2)

Oilseed processors in Zimbabwe are bracing for a serious shortage of raw materials following poor yields in cotton and soya beans, an official said yesterday. Only 40k tonnes of soya beans and 50k tonnes of cotton seed are expected, against the processors' annual requirement of 350k tonnes, Zimbabwe Oil Expressers Association secretary Busisa Moyo said. In 2014 /15 season, cotton production declined to its lowest level in three seasons due to a reduction in inputs support to farmers resulting from speculation of poor industry compliance on side marketing. Output fell 7% to 135k tonnes from 145k tonnes in the proceeding season. Besides low input support, production was negatively affected by changes in the rainfall patterns while many farmers also shifted from cotton to tobacco. Similarly, initial indications were that soya beans production might register a 42% drop this year following the decline in financial support to farmers

and the late rains. Output is expected at 40k tonnes of soya beans, down from 70k tonnes produced last year.

Kwekwe roasting plant to reawaken (*Herald*, Wednesday September 16, Pg B4)

Government has received 19 bids for its wholly owned Kwekwe gold refractory plant as efforts to revive the asset, which has been idle since 2000, gathers pace. Mines and Mining Development permanent secretary Francis Gudyanga yesterday said investors that expressed interest in the refractory plant are expected to make presentations in the next two weeks.

Edgars records US\$1.2m profit (*Herald*, Wednesday September 16, Pg B2, also in *NewsDay*, Pg 14)

Clothing retailer, Edgars Stores recorded a US\$1.2m net profit for the half-year ending July 11 this year but bemoaned the drop in consumer spending power driven by economic challenges the country is facing. The group, which also encompasses Jet Stores and Carousel, registered a minor increase in revenue to US\$30m from US\$29.9m as it lamented a period of job losses following the landmark July 17 Supreme Court Judgement that saw over 25k workers being fired after employers were allowed to dismiss workers on three months' notice. Heightened job insecurities among other forces saw the group recording a 1% drop in merchandise sales to US\$29.3m. "Fast declining economic fundamentals, combined with low disposable incomes and heightening job insecurity have undermined consumer confidence and demand," Edgars Stores chairman Themba Sibanda said.

Astra re-opens Chiredzi distillery (*Herald*, Wednesday September 16, Pg B2)

Paint manufacturer Astra Industries has re-opened its Chiredzi distillery, NCP Distillers, but the project faces challenges as competition from imports continues to escalate. Astra Industries managing director Mackenzie Mazimbe said the distillery is now functional but is operating at a subdued capacity due to stiff competition for the market by imports. "I can confirm that the distillery is now functional but since re-opening we have faced a lot of challenges. Most of the local customers are currently importing portable alcohol from South Africa and this is affecting our market. We are unable to compete against the prices. I think we should lobby Government to ban imports in this industry just like what they did with the cooking oil industry so that local industries can be revived," said Mazimbe. Astra controls 51% of NCP Distillers, an alcohol joint venture with Hippo Valley Estates.

Regards

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