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NEWS CLIPPINGS –13-07-2018

RBI says fiscal position of states is under pressure again	Live Mint https://www.livemint.com/Politics/7Iyjw0k07OHezw1xNr6oaJ/Farm-loan-waivers-GST-weigh-on-states-fiscal-performance.html

States have budgeted a gross fiscal deficit (GFD) of 2.6% of gross domestic product (GDP) during FY19, with 11 states budgeting above 3%, RBI said

Pay revisions, interest payments and farm loan waivers are stressing state government finances yet again, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said in a report.

States have budgeted a gross fiscal deficit (GFD) of 2.6% of gross domestic product (GDP) during FY19, with 11 states budgeting above 3%, RBI said in its annual report titled State Finances: A Study of Budgets. The revised estimate for GFD-GDP for FY18 stood at 3.1%.

For FY19, states have projected a revenue surplus of 0.2% of GDP against a deficit of 0.4% as per the revised estimates of FY18. Total debt waivers were budgeted at 0.2% of GDP during FY19 compared with 0.32% of GDP in FY18 as per revised estimates.

"With states continuing announcements and roll-out of farm loan waivers, the budgeted GFD could be at risk, and the additional borrowing requirement could produce a concomitant impact on the already elevated borrowing yields," said the report.

The central bank also said fiscal risks are likely in 10 states going for elections during this year.

A possible fiscal slippage could result in higher market borrowing.

According to the report, the share of market borrowing by states in financing gross fiscal deficit is projected to increase to 91% during FY19 from 74.9% in FY18.

"Given debt sustainability concerns associated with rising market borrowings, improved efficiency of expenditures and fiscal marksmanship may be necessary to sustain growth while maintaining fiscal prudence."

Of the total gross fiscal deficit slippage of 35 basis points (bps) in FY18, an impact of 27 bps was felt on account of the revenue shortfall due to the implementation of the goods and services tax (GST).

"The decline in states' tax revenues is essentially associated with the pending accounting issues related to GST implementation," the report said.

However, RBI executive director Michael Patra, in his foreword, said that as GST stabilizes, it should boost states' revenue capacity and support fiscal consolidation.

Farm loan waivers contributed to one-third of the overall slippage worries, with a 0.05% slippage of the overall 0.13% on revenue expenditure, the report added.

Fiscal 2018 is the third consecutive year, wherein states have failed to meet their gross fiscal deficit (GFD) target, the central bank said, adding that this comes despite expectations of an improvement on higher devolution from the centre.

States slip on fiscal targets on farm loan waivers, GST: RBI	Economic Times https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/finance/states-slip-on-fiscal-targets-on-farm-loan-waivers-gst-rbi/articleshow/64963744.cms

MUMBAI Higher expenditure on salaries and farm loan waivers, coupled with a revenue shortfall on GST implementation, led to a slippage of 0.35 per cent in states' fiscal targets to 3.1 per cent in 2017-18, the RBI said today.

This is the third consecutive year where the states have failed to meet their gross fiscal deficit (GFD) target, the central bank said, adding this comes despite expectations of an improvement on higher devolution from the Centre.

For FY19, states are hoping for a 0.2 per cent revenue surplus as against a revenue deficit of 0.4 per cent as per the revised estimates, which will lead to an overall GFD of 2.6 per cent, against 3.1 per cent in FY18, it said. At a country-wide level, farm loan waivers alone contributed to a third of the overall slippage worries, with a 0.05 per cent slippage of the overall 0.13 per cent on revenue expenditure, the RBI said in its study on state finances based on state budgets.

The apex bank reiterated its concerns on the "moral hazard" farm loan waivers, saying their track record for improving productivity is "unproven".

Moreover, studies suggest that the debt waivers have also led to a shift to informal sources of finance, it said, adding that they also possess a risk to inflation.

Starting with Andhra Pradesh and Telangana in 2014, a slew of states including Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and now Karnataka have announced the sops.

In FY18, farm loan waivers touched 0.32 per cent of the GDP as against budget estimates of 0.27 per cent, it said, adding that more such moves are pending for the fiscals ahead.

States which have announced the waivers have also reported a decline in capital expenditure, it said, adding development has also been a casualty because of it.

"They (waivers) impact credit discipline, vitiate credit culture and dis-incentivise borrowers to repay loans, thus engendering moral hazard," the study said.

Hikes in salaries, mainly as a higher proportion of states implement proposals in line with the seventh pay panel, resulted in 0.09 per cent slippage on the revenue expenditure.

There was a 0.27 per cent impact in the GFD on account of the revenue shortfall, and the study attributed the same to implementation of the goods and services tax (GST).

The decline in states' tax revenues is essentially associated with the pending accounting issues related to GST implementation," it said.

However, in his foreword, RBI's executive director Michael Patra said that as the GST stabilises, it should boost states' revenue capacity and support fiscal consolidation.

He, however, asked states to be more cognizant on the expenditure management in the future as "visible fiscal pressures" are emerging for several states on pay revisions, interest payments and farm loan waivers

"Given debt sustainability concerns associated with rising market borrowings, improved efficiency of expenditures and fiscal marksmanship may be necessary to sustain growth while maintaining fiscal prudence," he said.

India can't have single rate GST, 3-slab structure possible, says CEA Arvind Subramanian	**First Post** https://www.firstpost.com/business/india-cant-have-single-rate-gst-3-slab-structure-possible-says-cea-arvind-subramanian-4721191.html

Ruling out a single rate Goods and Services Tax (GST), Chief Economic Advisor Arvind Subramanian on Wednesday pitched for a three-rate structure going forward as revenues stabilise.

He said GST is a "work in progress" and there is a need for further simplification of rates with fewer exemptions and simpler policies.

"In India, we can never have one rate. I had recommended a standard rate and one for demerit good, one for a low rate. I think, in India, the debate should be about 'why can't we have three', rather than 'why not one'," Subramanian said at an NCAER event here.

Under the GST regime, there are four rates -- 5 percent, 12 percent, 18 percent and 28 percent. Luxury and demerit goods are subject to cess on top of the highest slab.

The single rate GST structure was advocated by Congress President Rahul Gandhi.

Subramanian said since GST is a regressive tax, it won't be "fair" to have a single rate structure unless there are instruments to protect the poor who get hurt by rising costs.

"...I think over time we will see simplification. For example, once the revenue stabilises, 28 percent can (be rationalised).... but the broader point I want to make is that why can't we have three (tax slabs). That's what we should ask for," said Subramanian.

Union Minister Arun Jaitley too had dismissed the idea of a single rate GST as "flawed" saying that it can only work in a country where the entire population has 'similar and high' capacity to spend.

Subramanian said that GST implementation "has not been too bad" in the first year of difficult implementation.

"My own view is the more you rely on a carrot, and less you rely on sticks, you facilitate formalisation of the economy. That's what I like about GST. It is not heavy-handed. Its a kind of self-policing," he said.

GST, which subsumed over a dozen local taxes, was rolled out on 1 July 2017.

The CEA headed panel had in its report way back in 2015 had recommended a range for revenue-neutral rate (RNR) of 15-15.5 percent for the proposed GST, with a preference for the lower one.

It also suggested a range of standard' tax rate of 17-18 percent for the bulk of goods and services, while recommending 12 percent for low rate goods' and 40 percent for demerit goods like the luxury car, aerated beverages, pan masala, and tobacco. For precious metal, it recommended a range of 2-6 percent.

Besides, Subramanian also said that India needs an independent fiscal council which brings out independent views on how government does accounting for public finances.

"One of the things we all were unanimously in favour of was a fiscal council. I think we need to get more independent people doing this (government accounting) with better access to data...People should have trust that everything is properly accounted for, he said.

Why India needs to ally with China in the global trade war	**Live Mint** https://www.livemint.com/Politics/XuWnU4jgJfKkbTZK1oVi6M/Why-India-needs-to-ally-with-China-in-the-global-trade-war.html

India needs to stand firmly against Donald Trump’s US trade policy by making wise and sensible alliances

India needs to tread carefully without losing sight of its core trade-related priorities. Given the dark protectionist clouds arising from the trade war, India faces several challenges in agriculture, industrial goods, and services. Its main adversary in global farm trade remains the US which has repeatedly undermined New Delhi’s developmental initiatives for reforming rules governing global farm trade.

Washington has repeatedly blocked multilateral instruments such as the special safeguard mechanism and the permanent solution for public stockholding programmes for food security. Recently, the US, at the behest of its powerful farm trade lobbies, alleged that India’s farm support programmes for rice and wheat breached its World Trade Organization commitments.

Consequently, India needs to build a strong alliance with China and other developing countries facing similar threats to their agriculture from the fat-cat farmers in the US.

Besides, Indian farm exporters can export soybean and dairy products among others out of opportunities arising from the trade war.

As for industrial goods, India faces a rough trading environment for exports of textiles and clothing goods, steel and aluminium, and generic drugs among others. The US is insisting that India must provide reciprocal market access in return for realizing the generalized system of preferences (GSP) which under the multilateral rules is a non-reciprocal programme.

The US wants substantial market access for dairy products and medical devices.

Such egregious demands from the US will impinge adversely on the millions of small dairy producers and result in exorbitant prices for medical devices which India's disease-burdened population can hardly afford. In services, where India has a clear comparative advantage, Trump's America First trade policies have led to numerous barriers for short-term services providers, particularly India's vast IT professionals.

Therefore, India needs to stand firmly against Trumpian trade policies by making wise and sensible alliances with countries based on its core trade interests. For a country like India, there are no real friends, nor enemies, in global trade.

The biggest folly that the Modi government must avoid at all costs is to enter into a free trade agreement with its principal trade adversary given the historical record of extortionist demands and unmet promises.

Coimbatore's Noyyal river transforms into frothing disaster	**India Today** https://www.indiatoday.in/india/story/coimbatore-s-noyyal-river-transforms-into-frothing-disaster-1283554-2018-07-12

Cotton-like froth rising in the air from Tamil Nadu's Noyyal river in Coimbatore does not look any less of a snow to children.

But, this lethal form of foam is nothing but a poisonous contamination of pollutants degrading not only the groundwater but also causing skin allergies and respiratory ailments.

The Noyyal river rises from the Vellingiri hills in the Western Ghats in Tamil Nadu and enters Coimbatore through the Chithirai Chavadi dam before finally draining into the Kaveri River at Noyyal, in Karur district.

This is not the first time people have taken a note of the froth rising from the river. But to someone's concern, no one has yet done or said anything about it yet, leading to this river to deteriorate further.

The river is surrounded by many fabric dyeing units. The effluents from these units are released into the river causing much pollution.

In the recent days, Coimbatore has received heavy rainfall leading to rapid increase in water levels of the river. This has resulted in much frothing of the river.

Repeated complaints

The residents of this area have filed repeated complaints with the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB), but no effective measures have been put in place yet.

In 2011, the High Court had ordered the shut down of nearly 700 dyeing units but no data has been provided on that front either.

Again in 2017, when the situation of the frothing of this lake was highlighted, the then Environment Minister KC Karuppannan had passed a statement claiming that the froth in the river was caused due to the soaps used by people while bathing.

Iran says will strive to ensure security of oil supply to India	**Business Standard** https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/iran-says-will-strive-to-ensure-security-of-oil-supply-to-india-118071300037_1.html

Iran is the third-biggest oil supplier to India and has offered refiners incentives including almost-free shipping and an enhanced credit period on oil sales

Iran will do its best to ensure security of oil supply to India by offering "flexible measures" to boost bilateral trade, a statement from Tehran's embassy in New Delhi said.

Iran is the third-biggest oil supplier to India and has offered refiners incentives including almost-free shipping and an enhanced credit period on oil sales.

Imports from Iran could take a hit as the United States reintroduces sanctions on Tehran after withdrawing from a nuclear deal with world powers.

India, Iran's top oil client after China, asked refiners last month to prepare for drastic reductions or even zero Iranian oil imports.

"Iran understands the difficulties of India in dealing with (an) unstable energy market and it has done and will do its best to ensure security of oil supply to India," the statement said.

India's oil imports from Iran fell about 16 percent in June compared to May, tanker arrival data showed.

"Iran has always been a reliable energy partner for India and others, seeking a balanced oil market and regional prices of oil which ensure the interest of both countries as consumer and supplier," the statement said.

India was one of the few countries that continued to deal with Iran during previous sanctions although it had to cut imports from Tehran as banking, insurance and shipping channels were choked.

Arun Jaitley calls for more Centre-state cooperation in farm sector	Free Press Journal http://www.freepressjournal.in/business/arun-jaitley-calls-for-more-centre-state-cooperation-in-farm-sector/1314810

Union minister Arun Jaitley today suggested a uniform set of policies for the agriculture sector across the country so that farmers benefit the most and their income doubles.

The agriculture sector is an area that bothers both the Centre and the states with both the governments making policies for the sector, Jaitley said while addressing the 37th foundation day of farm-focused lender Nabard through a video link, and added the same approach that helped roll out GST can be adopted in the case of farm policies as well.

"If there is any area in the economy where we can give an example to the world and to ourselves of co-operative federalism, it's the agriculture sector. It can benefit the people more than what GST has done," said Jaitley.

He also said GST is the first example of the Centre and the states coming together to run a new tax regime on the basis of federal structure.

If the states and the Centre support each other on the basis of this federal model, the farm sector will reap the maximum benefits, which Jaitley said will uplift the farmers and help in achieving the target of increasing their income by two times.

He pointed out that states which focused on the agriculture sector by increasing farmers income have been re-elected and those who neglected the priorities of this sector, have paid the price.

Earlier, after addressing the Nabard celebrations, junior finance minister SP Shukla said the government has finalised eight names for the post of managing directors and chief executive officers of state-run banks, but did not say when the announcements will be made public.

Earlier this month, the Banks Board Bureau (BBB) recommended names of 14 senior officials for these posts for various public sector banks.

It has also suggested appointing State Bank of India's chief financial officer Anshula Kant as a managing director of the nation's largest lender.

Telangana To Weed Out Pest Hampering Cotton Crops	English.Sakshi http://english.sakshi.com/telangana/2018/07/12/telangana-to-weed-out-pest-hampering-cotton-crops

Hyderabad: The Telangana government has fast-tracked efforts to stamp out the bollworm pest which has been ravaging cotton crops in Telangana. Principal Secretary Agriculture, Parthasarathi has stressed upon this aspect while addressing district collectors here today.

The senior bureaucrat pointed out that cotton crop was going to be cultivated over about 18 lakh hectares this Kharif season. He observed that BT variety of cotton was most affected by this pest in central and south Indian states. This has been a recurring pattern over the past three years, he said.

The Telangana government has intensified efforts to tackle this menace which is proving to be a serious threat to cotton crops in Maharashtra, AP and Telangana, he said. He also advised officials of the agriculture department to create awareness among farmers with regard to the bollworm pest.

Caustic soda export to India comes to a halt	**The Daily Star** https://www.thedailystar.net/business/export/caustic-soda-export-india-comes-halt-1604374

The export of caustic soda to India has remained suspended for the last three months after New Delhi ruled the chemical will not be allowed to enter the country without the certification from its standards authority.

Three local companies have been exporting the chemical, used mainly in textile, water treatment, pharmaceuticals and food processing industries, to India and other South Asian counties for the last several years.

The exports to India came to a halt on April 3 when the country's Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers ordered that caustic soda should conform to the standards set by the Bureau of Indian Standard (BIS).

The chemical should bear the standard mark under a licence from the BIS, said the order.

“Our shipment to India has remained halted since then and we had to slash production,” said Md Manirul Islam, deputy general manager for sales and marketing of Tasnim Chemical Complex Ltd, a concern of Meghna Group of Industries.

“Our production is now on the brink of suspension because of the build-up of stocks.”

Tasnim Chemical Complex had orders for shipping 4,000 tonnes of the chemical worth $27.60 lakh. The company had also received $5.11 lakh in advance payment but it had to return the money to importers since it could not export the product.

“We have the certification from the Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution (BSTI) and we had been exporting using the certification,” said Islam.

Tasnim Chemical Complex produces 330 tonnes of caustic soda every year to cater domestic consumers.

Bangladesh consumes 1.60 lakh tonnes of caustic soda annually against the production of 1.90 lakh tonnes. The textile industry is the main consumer of the chemical.

Caustic soda is exported mainly to India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Nepal, with India accounting for half of the export earnings from the chemical.

“Our exports to India were rising gradually and we took an initiative to ramp up our production capacity in line with the export growth,” said Mohammad Akramuzzaman, chief financial officer of Samuda Chemical Complex Ltd, a concern of Chittagong-based TK Group. Samuda Chemical Complex had to cancel an order for shipping 500 tonnes of caustic soda from Indian buyers. Both Tasnim and Samuda have applied to the BIS seeking the licence for standard mark for their caustic soda. “We are hopeful to get the licence from the BIS,” said Islam, citing that a team is expected to visit Tasnim factory on July 24.

The chemical producers also applied to the commerce ministry of Bangladesh for taking an initiative so that Indian authorities give clearance to locally made caustic soda and hydrogen peroxide based on certification from the BSTI.

Bangladesh's chemical exports increased 40 percent to $28.17 million in 2017-18 from $20.01 million a year ago, according to the Export Promotion Bureau. Caustic soda exports rose nearly four times to $4.67 million.

Bengal relief for e-way bill	**Telegraphindia** https://www.telegraphindia.com/business/bengal-relieffor-e-way-bill-244537?ref=business-hmstory-stry-dtl

Job workers in Bengal have got relief from generating e-way bills on the intra-state movement of goods.

State finance minister Amit Mitra on Thursday said the government has agreed to an industry demand and, through a notification, allowed the exemption that will benefit small businesses and job workers across the product chain.

The e-way bill is a documentary evidence containing details such as the name of a consigner and a consignee, their GST numbers, the description and value of goods in the consignment as well as transport details. The transporters need to carry them along with invoices during the movement of goods.

The generation of e-way bill under the West Bengal Goods and Service Tax Rules, 2017 for an intra-state movement of goods is exempted where such goods are being sent to a job worker for a job work...or from one job worker to another job worker or are being returned to the principal after such job work, and where transportation is not final delivery of finished goods," the notification, which came into effect on Thursday, said.

The notification was issued after consultation with the chief commissioner of central tax, Calcutta zone.

"This will help the textile industry in a major way," Mitra said on the sidelines of a garment expo in the city.

The minister added the state government already extended the threshold for e-way bills.

A notification issued last month says e-way bills in respect of the movement of goods originating and terminating within the state shall be required where the consignment value exceeds Rs 1 lakh.

"If any good is transported within the state, e-way bill is required. If goods worth more than Rs 50,000 is carried, you need e-way bill. We have extended it to Rs 1 lakh," said Mitra.

He told the garment industry representatives at the expo that he would take up an industry demand to raise the GST threshold to above Rs 20 lakh at a GST Council meeting once the new tax regime stabilises.

Bengal hikes threshold limit for intra-state e-way bill to up to Rs 1 lakh	Business Standard https://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ians/bengal-hikes-threshold-limit-for-intra-state-e-way-bill-to-up-to-rs-1-lakh-118071200771_1.html

The West Bengal government on Thursday increased, up to Rs 1 lakh, the threshold limit for the electronic-way or e-way bill in case of movement of goods within the state from existing limit of up to Rs 50,000.

The generation of e-way bill for an intra-state movement of goods was also exempted where such goods were being sent to job workers, said state Finance Minister Amit Mitra.

"The e-way bill in respect of movement of goods originating and terminating within the state (intra-state movement but without passing through any other state) would be required where the consignment value exceeds Rs 1 lakh. Such limit was up to Rs 50,000. In this regard, a notification was issued today (Thursday)," he said.

Usually, e-way bill would be required when the value of taxable consignment, along with the tax value, is more than Rs 50,000. The Central government had launched the e-way bill system from April 1 for moving goods worth over Rs 50,000 from one state to another and the same for intra or within the state movement was rolled out from April 15 in a phased manner.

Quoting the notification, Mitra also said: "Generation of e-way bill for an intra state movement of goods is exempted where such goods are being sent to a job worker for job work or are being sent from one job worker to another or are being returned to the principal after such job work and where such transportation is not for final delivery of the finished goods."

Addressing a programme of Bengal Readymade Garments Manufacturers and Traders Welfare Association, he said a nine lakh sq ft textile hub was being set up at Nangi in South 24 Parganas for facilitating garments' manufacturers and traders and a common facility centre would also be set up.

According to him, about 25,000-30,000 artisans and entrepreneurs including organised and unorganised have been working in the Metiabruz, a hub of garments and apparel manufacturing in the state and generating over 5 lakh jobs.

"In Metiabruz, 90 per cent small entrepreneurs and artisans are unorganised. We want to bring them in an organised set up so that they can fetch better margin and manufacture more exportable products. The common facility centre will house design, laboratory and other facilities so that manufacturers can avail that," Mitra added.

According to him, bank lending to MSMEs in the last year was Rs 44,000 crore, exceeding the target of Rs 38,000 crore in the state. "This year, the target has been set at Rs 50,000 crore," he added.

NCTO supports efforts to address China's unfair trade practices	Knitting Industry https://www.knittingindustry.com/ncto-supports-efforts-to-address-chinas-unfair-trade-practices/

The National Council of Textile Organization (NCTO) applauds the Trump administration for its continued effort to resolve longstanding trade inequities with China, noting the 10 July announcement proposing US$ 200 billion in Chinese goods for an added 10% tariff.

The latest US action follows China's retaliation against US imports after the United States placed Section 301 tariffs on Chinese goods in response to that country's unfair trade practices related to the forced transfer of American technology and intellectual property.

NCTO also called on the Trump administration to include finished textile and apparel products on any future lists of imports from China to be made subject to Section 301 tariffs. "The Trump administration is right to confront China's unfair trade practices. Section 301 tariffs show the world that countries who cheat the United States on trade will be held accountable," said Auggie Tantillo, NCTO President and CEO.

That said, NCTO says it will be thoroughly vetting the new retaliation list. "With the inclusion of virtually all fibre, yarn and fabric tariff lines, NCTO's response will be on a line-by-line basis, with support or opposition to individual lines dependent on the how the competitiveness of the US textile industry is impacted," continued Tantillo.

"NCTO is convinced that the Trump administration's Section 301 tariffs would be far more effective if Chinese apparel and sewn non-apparel end products were included in the 301 list because that would benefit the entire U.S. textile and apparel supply chain," said Tantillo, as he referred to NCTO's China 301 public comments filed on 11 May and noted that no apparel and sewn non-apparel end products were included on the US government's latest proposed tariff list.

"If properly targeted, Section 301 tariffs would not only address the underlying illegal activity on the part of China, but also help reshore American jobs and boost U.S. exports to the NAFTA and CAFTA regions. That's why NCTO will continue to engage the Trump administration on ways to maximize the benefit of Section 301 tariffs to American industry and workers," concluded Tantillo.

China Textile and Apparel Council Concerned About Escalating Trade Friction With U.S	Money Usnews https://money.usnews.com/investing/news/articles/2018-07-12/china-textile-and-apparel-council-concerned-about-escalating-trade-friction-with-us

BEIJING (Reuters) - China National Textile and Apparel Council said on Friday it was deeply concerned about the escalating trade friction between the United States and China.

The council also said it resolutely opposes additional U.S. tariffs on China's textile and textile equipment exports, according to a statement on its website. Washington last week imposed 25 percent tariffs on $34 billion of Chinese imports, drawing rapid retaliatory duties by Beijing on the same amount of U.S. exports to China.

Firms urged to open cotton processing plants	The Herald https://www.herald.co.zw/firms-urged-to-open-cotton-processing-plants/

Zanu-PF House of Assembly candidate for Zaka Central constituency Cde Davison Svuure has implored private firms to set up a ginnery in the district that is now one of the major cotton producers in Masvingo province.

Cde Svuure said the ginnery will also create employment for hundreds of youths in the district while also stimulating economic growth.

Addressing thousands of Zanu-PF supporters during a campaign rally here recently, Cde Svuure said Zaka has potential to be a cotton producing hub owing to rising output of the crop.

He said it was ideal for cotton processing companies to set up shop close to the source of raw materials with Zaka now a major player in the cotton industry in southern Masvingo.

"Under the new dispensation, which is spearheaded by President Mnangagwa, we do not expect to have a situation where cotton farmers travel long distances to sell their product and again we do not want our farmers to remain underdeveloped while they are producing the white gold.

"We are going to engage cotton companies like Cottco and others to come and establish processing plants in our region so that we create employment. Zaka cotton farmers should benefit from their crop and not just enrich others," he said.

Cde Svuure said youths would get jobs if cotton processing plants were opened in the district.

"We do not want to see a situation where our youths rely on politicians to buy beer and drinks for them. They should be able to sustain themselves."

He urged Zaka farmers to rally behind President Mnangagwa whom he said has a vision of creating a prosperous Zimbabwe.

"Let us all vote for President Mnangagwa on July 30. His vision of seeing an economically transformed Zimbabwe is unquestionable and one does not need spectacles to see that.

"The Presidential Inputs Support Scheme together with the Command Agriculture programme shows that President Mnangagwa is committed to deliver a prosperous nation where citizens are freed from the shackles of poverty," said Cde Svuure