Morning Note

Wednesday 16 September 2026

SWITZVIEW
WEALTH MANAGEMENT

SwitzView Morning View

Tuesday's public holiday left domestic price discovery one session behind external risks. The last completed local session remains 14 September: the ZSE All Share gained 0.25% to 454.38, while VFEX fell 0.68% to 264.96. Turnover contracted 52.32% on the ZSE and 93.48% on VFEX. Those figures describe Monday's trading, and the sharp fall in participation limits confidence in either index move.

External prices did not pause. Brent rose 2.53% to US$ 108.35 a barrel, gold eased 0.16% to US$ 4,292.32 an ounce and the official USD/ZAR reference increased 0.44% to 16.3166. The RBZ USD/ZiG average remained 26.7933 from 14 September. Fuel, freight and regional procurement exposures therefore changed while the domestic equity market was closed, creating a timing gap that the next local session may need to absorb.

The reopening is a liquidity test before it is a valuation signal. Holiday orders can move closing prices without broad participation, especially after a thin prior session. Breadth, order depth and turnover will show whether the response extends beyond a few counters. The Federal Reserve decision falls after this edition, so its published outcome should be assessed rather than assumed.

The strongest local developments concern costs, delivery and approvals. A reported tobacco gratuity direction may affect seasonal labour obligations, subject to governing terms. SAFIRE targets US$5m for restoration across 50,000 hectares. ZIDA's mining role highlights the path from interest to operating projects, while a court order halting construction on a Glen Lorne wetland site adds a project-specific planning risk.

The common question is when each development changes cash flow. Labour costs require enforceable terms; restoration needs committed funding; mining facilitation depends on permits, power and finance; and property development requires defensible approvals. Until those milestones are visible, balance-sheet capacity matters more than ambition. A reopening session can improve market evidence, but it cannot substitute for company execution.

At a Glance

ZSE All Share
+0.25% (14 Sep)

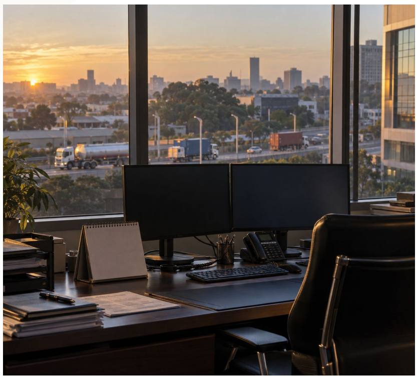
VFEX All Share
-0.68% (14 Sep)

ZSE turnover
ZiG 1.96m (14 Sep)

VFEX turnover
US$ 187.16k (14 Sep)

Gold
US$ 4,292.32/oz

Brent
US$ 108.35/bbl



Investors Lens

- Read the first post-holiday session through breadth, turnover and order depth. A closing index move on narrow activity would not confirm broad repricing.
- Map oil and rand changes to each company's invoice currency, inventory cycle and pricing power before estimating margins or working-capital needs.
- Treat labour directions, restoration targets and investment facilitation as contingent until governing terms, committed funding, permits and delivery milestones are visible.

Market Dashboard

Indicator	Latest Available	Movement
ZSE All Share Index	454.38 (14 Sep)	+0.25%
ZSE Top 10 Index	446.91 (14 Sep)	+0.02%
ZSE Top 15 Index	461.93 (14 Sep)	+0.25%
ZSE Medium Cap Index	517.16 (14 Sep)	+1.13%
VFEX All Share Index	264.96 (14 Sep)	-0.68%
ZSE equity turnover	ZiG 1.96m (14 Sep)	-52.32%
VFEX equity turnover	US$ 187.16k (14 Sep)	-93.48%
USD/ZiG	26.7933 (14 Sep)	+0.53%
USD/ZAR	16.3166	+0.44%
Gold	US$ 4,292.32/oz	-0.16%
Brent	US$ 108.35/bbl	+2.53%
RBZ policy rate	30.0%	Unchanged

ZSE Leading Risers

Counter	Movement
ZHL	+13.95%
CSAG ETF	+4.81%
Star Afr.	+4.17%
TN Cyber	+3.83%
Masimba	+2.01%

ZSE Leading Fallers

Counter	Movement
Willdale	-9.17%
Proplast	-7.14%
ZSE Hldgs	-3.95%
Tigere	-2.11%
Hippo	-0.93%

VFEX Leading Risers

Counter	Movement
Axia	+3.06%
Eagle	+1.31%

VFEX Leading Fallers

Counter	Movement
Kavango	-5.66%
First Cap	-3.61%

Key Local Developments

Seasonal labour obligations need governing terms

A 15 September report says the tobacco industry employment council directed companies to pay gratuity to seasonal workers. The report does not establish a uniform charge. Exposure depends on the agreement, eligible service, workforce mix and timetable. Earnings estimates need the governing terms and a company-level view of accrued benefits and cash settlement before the next reporting cycle.

SAFIRE plan moves attention to funded delivery

SAFIRE announced a five-year programme targeting US$5m and restoration across 50,000 hectares. It may support land productivity, climate finance and environmental contractors, but the target is not evidence of committed funding or completed work. The next useful evidence is a financed schedule, transparent procurement and measured annual delivery.

Mining facilitation faces a conversion test

Mining Review Africa described ZIDA's role in facilitating mining investment. The investable question is conversion from enquiries to projects with approvals, power, land access, finance and construction capacity. Coordination can reduce delay, but the article does not establish a pipeline's value or probability. Named milestones, financing commitments and construction progress are needed before assigning cash-flow value.

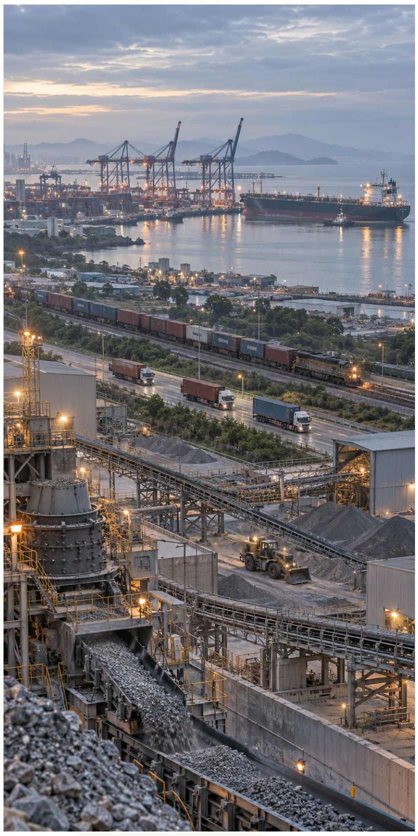
Wetland order raises project diligence risk

A court order reported on 15 September halted construction on a Glen Lorne wetland site. The case is project-specific, but shows how environmental, planning and judicial review can change timing after spending begins. Developers and financiers need to distinguish secured approvals from those open to challenge. Delay, redesign, legal cost and stranded expenditure should be tested at asset level.

SwitzView Interpretation

The local developments change the sequence of valuation evidence. A seasonal labour obligation may reach cash flow before a company can reprice, while restoration and mining opportunities create value only after finance, approvals and delivery align. The wetland order shows how a missing approval can turn early expenditure into delay or redesign. Milestone quality and contractual enforceability should therefore influence risk assessment before headline project scale does.

Regional & Global Developments



Oil and rand moves raise landed-cost sensitivity

Brent rose 2.53% to US$ 108.35, while the official USD/ZAR reference increased to 16.3166. Reuters linked rand weakness to higher oil, a firmer dollar and pressure on emerging markets. Zimbabwe's exposure runs through refined-fuel procurement, freight, regional supplier invoices and cross-border receipts. The effect will vary by invoice currency, inventory cover, hedging and regulated price decisions. Businesses with short repricing cycles or limited working-capital buffers face the earliest test.

Fed expectations keep funding costs in focus

Markets approached the Federal Reserve decision with a rate increase heavily expected and longer US yields elevated. The decision itself was outside this edition's information window and is not assumed. Even before the outcome, a stronger dollar and high yields can tighten refinancing conditions for frontier borrowers and raise the hurdle rate for long-duration projects. The local effect depends on debt tenor, currency, access to committed facilities and the capacity to pass higher finance costs into project economics.

DRC minerals push intensifies project competition

The Democratic Republic of Congo established a task force to advance its strategic-minerals partnership with the United States. The Zimbabwean relevance is comparative rather than direct. Copper, cobalt, lithium and related infrastructure compete for international capital, technical partners and offtake commitments. Projects with clear approvals, power solutions, contracted logistics and credible schedules are more likely to convert interest into operating assets. Policy clarity matters when investors can choose among jurisdictions.

Today’s Watchlist

- Local reopening: test breadth, turnover and order depth before treating the first post-holiday index move as broad confirmation; also separate Caledonia's published targets from funded Bilboes milestones.
- Federal Reserve and energy: use the published decision and guidance when available, then track verified supply-route developments that can alter landed fuel costs.
- Company execution: obtain the tobacco gratuity terms and SAFIRE funding schedule, and monitor the next USD/ZiG, USD/ZAR and gold observations under their separate source conventions.

SwitzView Takeaway

This edition supports a clear order of analysis. First establish whether local liquidity has returned after the holiday. Then test whether external cost and currency changes can be absorbed through inventory cover, contract terms and pricing power. Finally, value local initiatives only when their obligations, funding and approvals have become enforceable. That sequence avoids overreacting to a thin reopening print or capitalising preliminary plans too early. If participation broadens and company milestones become measurable, the evidence for durable repricing improves; if either remains weak, liquidity and balance-sheet resilience retain greater weight.

Selected public sources

Reuters; NewZimbabwe; Mining Review Africa; Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe; South African Reserve Bank