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NHIMA EXPANDS HEALTHCARE COVERAGE FOR SCT RECIPIENTS

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GOVT TO CHAMPION TECHNOLOGIES THAT WILL MAKE ZAMBIA REGIONAL TRANSPORT HUB, AS BYD UNVEILS FIRST PHEV

By Cecilia Chiluba



Minister of Transport and Logistics says government will continue to create the right regulatory environment, engage stakeholders, and champion technologies that will make Zambia a regional transport hub.

Frank Tayali stressed the need to integrate smarter, cleaner, and more sustainable transport solutions, to ensure that Zambia keeps pace with global trends.

Mr. Tayali said his Ministry remains committed to supporting initiatives that advance innovation, sustainability and inclusivity.

He was speaking during the official launch of the country's first plug-in hybrid electric vehicle (PHEV) by BYD in partnership with FNB Zambia, under the theme: "Unleashing Innovation, Driving the Future."

BYD Shark 6, is a bold, plug-in hybrid electric vehicle, which combines the strength of a conventional engine with the efficiency of electric power, providing more environmentally

friendly and efficient transportation solutions.

Alongside other BYD models such as the Dolphin, Atto 3, and Seal, the vehicle offers a futuristic alternative to traditional fuel-powered vehicles.

The vehicle is powered by a 1.5-liter turbocharged engine paired with an advanced electric motor.

BYD Zambia, also known as Pilatus Electric Mobility Zambia Limited, officially entered the domestic market on 5th September, 2024, and the company has since invested over US\$3 million into the business.

Mr. Tayali said the arrival of BYD in Zambia as one of the world's most innovative electric and hybrid vehicle manufacturers and the launch of the BYD Shark 6, signify the private sector's confidence in the country's innovation ecosystem and policy direction.

"This is no doubt a testament to the Private Sector's confidence in

Zambia's innovation ecosystem and policy direction.

"What is even more exciting is that BYD is not just here to sell vehicles. It is here to push the sustainability agenda in line with President Hakainde Hichilema's vision for a greener Zambia. It is, therefore, true to say that BYD is not just introducing a vehicle, but is ushering in a new era of sustainable mobility," Mr. Tayali stated.

He noted that this aligns with the national vision to reduce carbon emissions and adapt to climate-smart transport solutions.

Speaking at the same event, FNB Chief Executive Officer, Kapumpe Chola reaffirmed the bank's commitment to supporting innovation that transforms lives while promoting environmental sustainability.

"We are excited to be part of this partnership with BYD where we are redefining modern driving experiences. We are proud to help in reducing carbon emissions in the auto industry and foster a greener future as more Zambians drive this vehicle."

"Our financing solutions ensure that the BYD Shark doesn't remain a dream for Zambians, it becomes a reality," Ms. Chola said. And BYD Zambia General Manager Namwinga Namusamba stated that as Zambia's first PHEV, the Shark 6 stands at the cutting edge of technology, ushering in a new era of driving.

Ms. Namusamba explained that the new vehicle drives innovation, efficiency, and forward-thinking, representing the future of mobility in Zambia.

"The vehicle's plug-in hybrid technology allows for seamless switching between fuel and electric power, providing unparalleled flexibility." "With a battery range of up to 80 kilometers on a single charge and an impressive engine range of over 700 kilometers, the Shark 6 is designed for both city commutes and long journeys," she explained.

Pilatus Electric Mobility Zambia Limited (BYD Zambia), unveiled a new electric vehicle, which provides more environmentally friendly and efficient transportation solutions.

PRESIDENT HICHILEMA HAILS HITACHI'S STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS IN ZAMBIA

By Money Daily



President Hakainde Hichilema has hailed Hitachi Construction Machine Zambia's strategic partnerships in the country, particularly with sectors like mining, agriculture, manufacturing, and construction.

President Hichilema noted that the company's involvement in the value chain has enabled government to finance free education, boost Constituency Development Fund (CDF) allocations, and provide medical supplies.

He said this is despite the ongoing drug theft, which government is determined to address.

The Head of State added that Hitachi's partnership with First Quantum Minerals (FQM) has enabled government to receive

dividends ranging from \$5 million to \$15 million, making it the single largest taxpayer and a significant contributor to the national treasury.

He was speaking during the commissioning of the USS\$40 million Phase III expansion of the Hitachi Factory and Warehouse Facility in Chongwe today.

The Head of State revealed that Toyota Japan has expressed interest in expanding copper production by First Quantum, its investment footprint in Zambia to its target of beyond one million tonnes of copper annually," he noted.

"Japanese officials have already made two visits as part of feasibility studies for a solar energy project aimed at reducing the country's reliance on hydropower and mitigating the effects of climate change."

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NHIMA REGISTERS OVER 20, 000 CITIZENS ENROLLED ON SCT, AS TOTAL MEMBERSHIP RISES TO 5.3 MILLION

By Cecilia Chiluba



National Health Insurance Management Authority (NHIMA), in collaboration with Ministry of Health, Ministry of Community Development & Social Services and the Global Fund, has registered over 20,000 citizens who are enrolled on the Social Cash Transfer (SCT) programme .

In 2024, Ministry of Health launched the National Health Insurance Scheme countrywide membership registration and card distribution, which intends to capture at least 50 percent of the population in a bid to increase uptake of the services.The 20, 000 citizens that have been added to the

Health Insurance Scheme have now increased the total number of NHIMA registered members to over 5.3 million, translating to 27.1 percent of the population, which is below the 50% target.

NHIMA Head-Public Relations, King Syacika said while the 50% target has not been met, the Authority will not relent and continues to onboard members, in line with its mandate to facilitate access for the poor and vulnerable people to insured health care services.

In response to a press query sent by Money News, Mr. Syacika expressed optimism that the high uptake of the Scheme will see the 50%

target exceeded and draw the Authority closer to Universal Health Coverage.

“Following the launch of the countrywide NHIMA membership registration and card distribution campaign in July 2024, the Authority has seen a rise in enrolment of members to the Scheme.”

“The Authority has continued to register members on a daily basis at the head office, each of the provincial offices and in NHIMA accredited public hospitals through our Member Service Assistants (MSAs) who are stationed at the facilities. We also offer card capturing services at each of our provincial offices and distribute them on a weekly basis all around the country,” he stated.

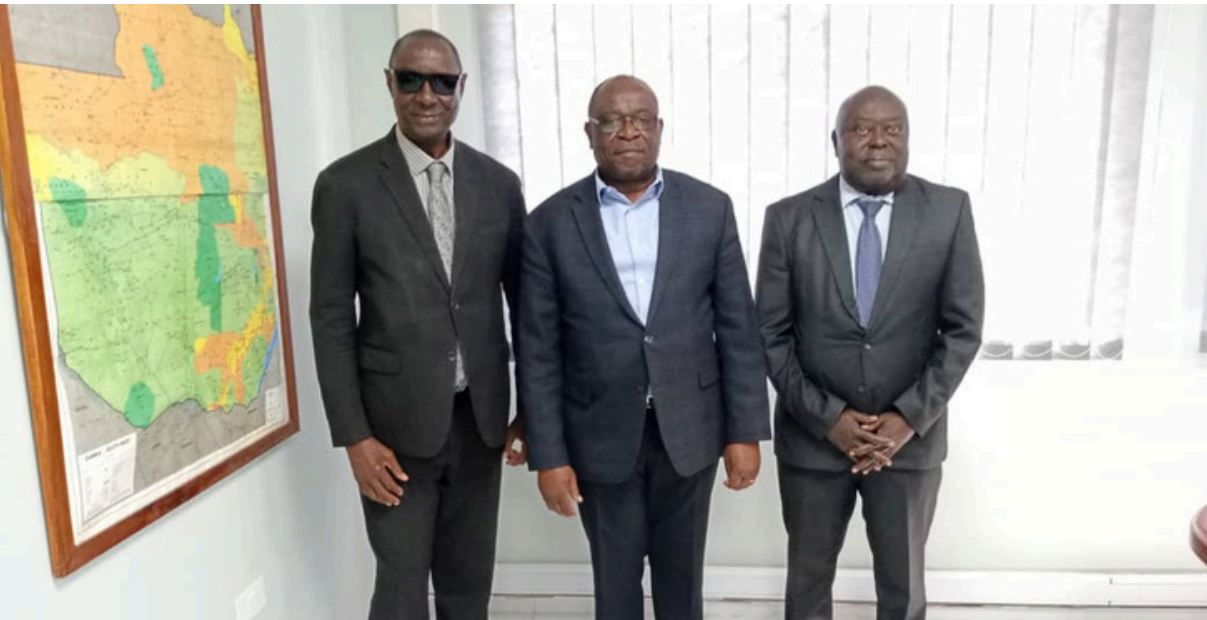
Meanwhile, Mr. Syacika disclosed that NHIMA paid out about 3.29 million claims in number in 2024, representing an increase of 15% from the previous year.

However said the biggest challenges with implementation of the Scheme include a generous benefit package compared to the contributions, a very open and vast Healthcare Provider (HCP) network and fraudulent behaviour by some accredited health institutions.

“We have therefore reviewed and updated our benefits package as we do every year, limited accreditation of healthcare providers to public facilities for the time being, and dis-accredited those that are found wanting,” he said.

AUDITOR GENERAL TOURS CDF PROJECTS IN WESTERN PROVINCE

By Cecilia Chiluba



Western Province Permanent Secretary has reaffirmed the provincial administration’s commitment to ensuring that Constituency Development Fund (CDF) projects translate into tangible development for communities. Simomo Akapelwa said this when Acting Auditor General, Dr. Ron Mwambwa, paid a courtesy call on him and Provincial Minister Hon. Kapelwa Mbangweta, as part of his official tour to assess the implementation and impact of CDF projects in the region.

Mr. Akapelwa stated that Dr. Mwambwa’s visit was timely and essential in ensuring accountability and transparency in the use of public resources. The visit is part of a fact-finding mission aimed at identifying both the achievements and challenges facing CDF-funded initiatives in the region.

“This visit by your office will help us assess what we are doing right and where we need to improve.” “It also reassures our partner people that public funds are being managed with integrity and oversight,” Mr. Akapela said.

And Mr. Mbangweta, acknowledged the importance of the Auditor General’s visit in propelling social and economic development in the province through CDF interventions. “The CDF has empowered our communities, but we cannot ignore the bottlenecks that affect delivery.”

“This engagement with the Auditor General’s Office provides an opportunity for us to identify gaps and work collaboratively to fix them. We are all striving toward the same goal of improving the lives of our people,” he said.

Meanwhile, Dr. Mwambwa

emphasized that the Office of the Auditor General (OAG) is not merely a fault-finding institution, but a partner in strengthening governance and service delivery. “Our objective is to see how public resources are being utilized, and how we can support government structures to enhance effectiveness and impact.”

“We are especially focused on the CDF because of its direct connection to communities,” Dr. Mwambwa emphasized. As the tour continues, the Office of the Auditor General is expected to compile its findings and provide recommendations that will inform both Provincial and National policy on the management and utilization of the CDF.

This is according to a statement issued by Western Province Principal Public Relations Officer, Mwakoi Njekwa.

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MQHZ CALLS FOR GOVT'S IMMEDIATE INTERVENTION IN RESIDENT DOCTOR'S WITHDRAWAL OF MEDICAL SERVICES

By Cecilia Chiluba



Medical for Quality Healthcare in Zambia (MQHZ) has implored President Hakainde Hichilema to urgently intervene in the Resident Doctor's withdrawal of medical services from public health facilities.

that their demands in which include the immediate employment of doctors and a transparent recruitment process, among others, did not receive the attention they deserve.

The Doctors are calling on Minister of Health Dr. Elijah Muchima MP to take personal responsibility and publicly address these concerns, as the failure of senior Ministry officials to provide solutions only deepens the crisis.

On Monday 2nd June 2025, Resident Doctors Association of Zambia (RDAZ) withdrew medical services in over 50% of public hospitals effective, citing the longstanding issue of unpaid labor.

Despite an MQHZ Director engagement with General Dr. Quince Mwabu told Money News that the withdrawal of resident doctors will strain the country's already overburdened health system, leading to reduced access to essential healthcare services, increased morbidity and mortality rates.

Dr. Mwabu stated that this will have far-reaching consequences for the health and well-being of the Zambian people.

"MQHZ is deeply concerned about the recent decision by resident doctors to withdraw their voluntary medical services in public health facilities."

"This development poses a significant threat to the quality of healthcare services in Zambia, particularly for the most vulnerable populations," Dr. Mwabu noted.

He emphasized the need for President Hakainde Hichilema to intervene in the matter and direct the Ministry of Health to prioritize services, increased the welfare of healthcare workers and the patients they serve.

"We urge the President to take immediate action to resolve this crisis and ensure that our healthcare system continues to provide essential services to those who need them most," he added.

Dr. Mwabu stated that the Organization believes that every Zambian deserves access to quality healthcare, regardless of their socio-economic status.

"We will continue to advocate for policies and practices that prioritize the health and well-being of our people," Dr. Mwabu added.

HEA NAMES FOUR HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS ILLEGALLY OPERATING IN ZAMBIA

By Cecilia Chiluba



Higher Education Authority (HEA) has disclosed that four institutions are illegally operating as Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in the country.

The Authority has since warned the public against enrolling in Chankando University, Oasis Medical University College, Yesbud University, and ZIDS College, as the four institutions are not registered under the Higher Education Act, 2013.

Authority Corporate Communications Officer Birbal Musoba revealed that recent surveillance inspections conducted in Lusaka, Central and Copperbelt Provinces, through the HEA's Inspectorate Unit found that the named institutions are offering higher education services without registration.

Mr. Musoba said this is in contravention of Part IV, Section 15 (1) of the Act, which clearly states that a person shall not operate a private Higher Education Institution (HEI) unless the private Higher Education Institution is registered under this Act.

"Operating outside of this legal framework is a serious offence. In accordance with Section 15 (2) of the Act, violators are liable, upon conviction, to a fine not exceeding one million penalty units or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding three years, or to both."

"The illegally operating institutions and their locations include Chankando University and Yesbud University in Lusaka, as well as Oasis Medical University College and ZIDS College in Kapiri Mposhi district, Central Province," Mr. Musoba stated.

He advised the public not to enrol in the four institutions or any other unregistered private institutions.

Mr. Musoba emphasized that qualifications obtained from unregistered institutions and unaccredited learning programmes will not be recognized in Zambia, thereby affecting graduates' eligibility for employment and further studies.

"The Inspectorate Unit of the Authority was established under Section 10 of the Act to enforce compliance and ensure quality in higher education. This unit is empowered to carry out inspections without prior notice on any premises suspected of hosting unregistered institutions, as stipulated in Section 5 of the Act."

"The Higher Education Authority remains unwavering in its commitment to ensuring quality in Higher Education and remains committed to protecting students and ensuring that higher education in Zambia meets the highest standards of legality and quality," he said.

Mr. Musoba warned that institutions that violate the law will be held accountable, and appropriate enforcement measures will be applied without hesitation.

"The Higher Education Authority will take decisive action against any institution that undermines the standards and credibility of Zambia's higher education sector. Non-compliance will not be tolerated," Mr. Musoba said.

This is according to a statement issued to the media today.

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ZDA ENCOURAGES LOCAL BUSINESSES, ENTREPRENEURS TO TAKE PART IN IATF 2025

By Cecilia Chiluba

Zambia Development Agency (ZDA) says the country is set to showcase its economic prospects at the upcoming Intra-Africa Trade Fair (IATF) 2025, in Algiers, Algeria.

The Intra-Africa Trade Fair is scheduled to take place from 4th to 10th September 2025.

The IATF is organized by Afreximbank, in collaboration with the African Union and the AfCFTA Secretariat.

This will mark Zambia's fourth appearance at the prestigious trade event, following successful participation in 2018, 2021 and 2023.

ZDA Director General Albert Halwampa, said the 2023 edition of the IATF Trade Fair saw 25 Zambian companies from key sectors such as Agriculture, Agro-processing, Manufacturing, Energy, Finance, Health, Education, Tourism and Mining participate.

"The efforts yielded remarkable results, including export leads worth over US\$58.9 million and investment leads of US\$3.5 million."



"Building on this momentum, ZDA aims to double these figures in 2025, offering Zambian businesses the opportunity to tap into continental markets, forge new partnerships, and attract strategic investments," Mr. Halwampa said.

In his role as IATF 2025 Ambassador for Zambia, Mr. Halwampa encouraged local businesses, industry leaders and entrepreneurs to take part in the transformative platform.

He said benefits of participating in IATF 2025 include discovering new

business and market opportunities, enhancing prospects for exports and investment within Africa, access to financial institutions, trade facilitation solutions and market intelligence, and participating in high-level forums, including B2B and B2G meetings, Trade and Investment Forums and exhibitions.

"This is Zambia's moment to shine. Let us go to IATF 2025 united, bold, and ready to do business."

"Whether you're a large corporation, SME, or cooperative, your presence is crucial in telling

Zambia's story on the African stage," Mr. Halwampa emphasized.

Mr. Halwampa further encouraged businesses interested in participating to contact the Agency for registration details and support.

his year's event is expected to attract over 1,600 exhibitors and more than 35,000 participants from across the continent.

This is contained in a statement issued by ZDA Head Communications and Public Relations, Kwali Mfuni.

PARLIAMENTARIANS IMPLORE BUSINESSES TO REDESIGN THEIR PACKAGING, INVEST IN RECYCLING

Zambian Parliamentary Caucus on Environment and Climate Change, has called on businesses to redesign their packaging, take responsibility for plastic waste, and invest in recycling and waste reduction efforts.

Caucus Co-Chairperson Twaambo Mutinta emphasized the need to support entrepreneurs creating eco-friendly alternatives to plastic.

Mr. Mutinta, who is also Itenzi-Tezhi Member of Parliament, further called for stronger enforcement

of existing regulations and development of new incentives for alternatives to plastic.

"Zambia has taken several important steps, including the enforcement of the Environmental Management (Extended Producer Responsibility) Regulations of 2018, which seek to hold producers and importers accountable for the life-cycle of plastic products," Mr. Mutinta said.

He however observed that enforcement must go hand in hand with community awareness,

innovation, and stakeholder collaboration.

"We cannot legislate change from Parliament alone. We need action from every household, every school, every market stall, every farm," Mr. Mutinta said.

Mr. Mutinta said beating plastic pollution is not a one-day event, but a long-term commitment.

He emphasized the need to integrate environmental literacy into school curricula from primary to tertiary levels.

"There is need for investment in local recycling facilities and circular economy hubs across the country. Each of us must reduce our plastic footprint, refuse, reuse, and recycle."

"The fight against plastic pollution is not just about removing waste. It is about restoring dignity to our communities, preserving the beauty of our country, and creating green jobs for the future. It is about equity, sustainability, and responsibility," he emphasized.

ZEHEST CALLS FOR UNIFIED EFFORT TO COMBAT PLASTIC POLLUTION

By Cecilia Chiluba



Zambian Environment Day, we reduce plastic use, increase recycling, and urge all Zambians to join us in the fight against plastic pollution. Let us work together to create a cleaner, healthier, and more sustainable environment for future generations," he urged.

Mr. Muzyamba emphasized the need for the country to reduce the usage of single-use plastics, recycle and properly dispose of plastic waste, support businesses and initiatives that promote sustainability, as well as advocate for policies that protect the environment.

World Environment Day (WED) is celebrated annually on 5 June and encourages awareness and action for the protection of the environment.

Zambia has today joined the global community in commemorating World Environment Day under the theme: "Ending Plastic Pollution."

ZEHEST is committed to playing its part in the fight against plastic pollution," Mr. Muzyamba said.

He stated that the organization will continue to promote environmental sustainability, support initiatives that reduce plastic use, and advocate for policies that protect our environment.

ZEHEST Executive Director Clarence Muzyamba told Money News, ending plastic pollution requires a multi-faceted approach that involves government, civil society, and individuals working together.

Mr. Muzyamba stressed the need for adoption of sustainable practices, "On this World

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ACC NABS FIVE RTSA OFFICERS FOR CORRUPTION

By Money Daily Reporter



Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) has arrested five Road Transport and Safety Agency (RTSA) officers for corrupt practices.

The five officials have been identified as Janet Chisha, a Registry Clerk, Joel Banda, an Examiner, Rhoda Chiyesu, a Road Traffic Inspector, Constance Masupelo, a Road Traffic Inspector and Liya Kunda, a cashier.

Commission Public Director General Daphne Chabu revealed that the officers were arrested following investigations on allegations of soliciting and accepting bribes from motorists or overlooking traffic offences.

Mrs. Chabu said the officers were also allegedly issuing test certificates without physical inspections,

issuing licenses and providing other favours contrary to the Road Traffic Act Chapter 464 of the Laws of Zambia.

“Officials who engage in vices such as Traffic Corruption have no regard to the consequences of their behavior.”

“If you license vehicles which are not road worthy for instance, what happens? It means road traffic accidents escalates which lead to serious damage and unnecessary loss of lives. Likewise, if test certificates are issued without physical tests the consequences are that you have incompetent people masquerading as competent drivers, again, lives are put at risk,” Mrs. Chabu said.

She warned officials against exploiting their positions and public trust to engage in corrupt

practices.

Ms. Chabu said Corruption does not pay as it impedes development because money or resources that should be used on legitimate causes is diverted and ends up as bribes in the pockets of few corrupt individuals, thereby depriving the nation at large from much needed resources.

“In fighting corruption, it is inevitable that in an investigation we have to collaborate with other institutions. I must mention that in this case we collaborated closely with RTSA.”

“Similarly, in the course of an investigation, we often require access to records, we have noticed that sometimes institutions refuse to cooperate with our request, in the required time or just outrightly

refuse to cooperate,” she said.

She explained that requests are made in accordance with the Law and are essential to the success of our investigations, therefore, failure to comply with the requests may hinder ACC’s ability to investigate and prosecute cases all of which have serious consequences for the country.

“I wish to emphasize that fighting corruption is a shared goal, it is important therefore that we work together rather than force the Anti-Corruption Commission to resort to coercive measures to obtain information.”

“We are resolved in our fight against corruption, whether it be past, present or future, we remain steadfast our mission to promote Integrity and restore public trust,” Mrs. Chabu added.

ZAMBIA, NAMIBIA RENEW COMMITMENT TO ACCELERATE KATIMA MULILO ONE-STOP BORDER POST

By Money Daily Reporter



Zambia and Namibia have renewed their commitment to accelerate the establishment of the one-stop border post (OSBP) at Katima Mulilo.

The strategic regional trade initiative is aimed at enhancing trade facilitation and reducing border delays.

According to a statement issued by the Namibia Revenue Agency (Namra), a joint steering committee meeting comprising key stakeholders from both countries commenced today in Livingstone, Zambia, with the primary agenda of discussing the implementation roadmap and adopting the recommendations of the joint technical team.

Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry Permanent Secretary, Lillian Bwalya, underscored the urgency of concluding the implementation plan. Ms. Bwalya called on the joint technical team to maintain momentum and deliver concrete outcomes.

And Namra commissioner Sam Shivute emphasized the long standing nature of the discussions and urged both parties to redouble their efforts to ensure the project is completed within the next 18 months. “Zambia brings valuable experience to this project, having successfully implemented the OSBP at the Kazungula Bridge.”

“Namibia remains optimistic that, with our joint commitment, the Katima Mulilo OSBP will be implemented efficiently and effectively,” Mr. Shivute said. Key priorities identified include the mobilization of financial and technical resources, the finalization of border demarcation confirmations, as well as the clearing (debushing) and demining of the designated area. Once completed, the OSBP is expected to significantly ease customs clearance procedures and reduce commercial traffic congestion at the Katima Mulilo border post, thereby enhancing trade and economic integration between the two nations.



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A TRIBUTE TO ZAMBIA'S SIXTH PRESIDENT: EDGAR CHAGWA LUNGU (1956–2025)

Zambia stands in solemn mourning today as it reflects on the passing of its sixth Republican President, Edgar Chagwa Lungu, who died this morning at the age of 68 in Pretoria, South Africa, where he had been receiving specialized medical treatment. His death marks the end of a politically consequential era and evokes mixed emotions across the nation—grief, nostalgia, admiration, and reflection. In his six years as Head of State, President Lungu made an indelible mark on Zambia's landscape—physically through his signature infrastructure drive, and politically through his complex leadership that steered the country through challenging times. While his presidency had its fair share of criticisms and controversies, it would be disingenuous to deny that he helped to transform Zambia in ways that will continue to shape the nation for generations to come.

Edgar Chagwa Lungu assumed the presidency in January 2015 under extraordinary circumstances. Following the sudden death of President Michael Sata, Lungu, who had served as Minister of Justice and Defence, was elected in a tightly contested special election. He would go on to secure a full five-year term in the 2016 general elections. His presidency began at a time of significant national and global challenges: Zambia's economy was under pressure from falling copper prices, the national currency was weakening, and the demands of a youthful and increasingly urban population were mounting. Amid these pressures, Lungu envisioned a pathway forward rooted in tangible development—what he would call "taking development to the people."

One of the hallmarks of Edgar Lungu's leadership was his resolute focus on infrastructure development. For him, infrastructure was more than roads, bridges, and buildings; it was the backbone of national transformation. It was a platform upon which economic growth, job creation, social cohesion, and regional integration could be built. The Lungu administration undertook an ambitious infrastructure agenda, characterized by a surge in capital projects that reached all ten provinces of Zambia. These projects sought to correct historical imbalances in development and connect the remotest parts of the country to the mainstream economy.

Among the most prominent achievements of his presidency was the construction of the Kazungula Bridge—a 923-meter marvel connecting Zambia and Botswana over the Zambezi River. This bridge, which had been on the drawing board for decades, was completed and commissioned under Lungu's leadership. It dramatically reduced transit times for goods and services between the Southern African countries and cemented Zambia's role as a critical node in regional trade corridors.

Similarly, Lungu championed the modernization of Zambia's aviation infrastructure. The new Simon Mwansa Kapwepwe International Airport in Ndola and the upgrade of Kenneth Kaunda International Airport in Lusaka were completed during his tenure. These world-class facilities boosted Zambia's tourism and trade potential, expanded its global connectivity, and brought

modern air travel to the heart of the nation. Equally transformative was his investment in energy infrastructure. Lungu understood that power shortages were not just an inconvenience but a major barrier to economic development.

Under his watch, the Kafue Lower Gorge Hydropower Project, with a generation capacity of 750 megawatts, was started. This has significantly boosted Zambia's electricity

generation and helped reduce the country's dependency on older hydropower plants that had been affected by droughts and climate change. Through rural electrification initiatives, his government connected hundreds of thousands of households to the national grid, expanding access to electricity and promoting small-scale enterprises in previously neglected regions.

In the health and education sectors, Lungu's administration built and upgraded hospitals, clinics, and schools. From district hospitals in far-flung areas to specialized referral hospitals in major cities, the footprint of his presidency remains evident. He also invested in teacher training colleges and aimed to make quality education more accessible to the Zambian child. The Lusaka Decongestion Project—an ambitious road network modernization program—reduced traffic congestion and gave Zambia's capital city a more modern appearance.

While many of these infrastructure projects were financed through external debt—something that would later become a point of contention and criticism—there is no denying that Lungu delivered visible and widespread development. He popularized the mantra "leaving no one behind," and there are countless Zambians in rural and peri-urban areas who, for the first time, experienced the presence of a functioning road, a reliable clinic, or a power line

during his administration. For these citizens, President Lungu was not just a politician; he was a builder—a transformer of everyday life.

Yet, no legacy is without blemish. Lungu's presidency was not free of controversy. As the debt burden rose due to the large-scale borrowing required to fund infrastructure, critics questioned the sustainability of his model. There were also allegations of shrinking democratic space, politicization of state institutions, and high-profile corruption scandals involving public procurement. The economic landscape under Lungu's leadership was turbulent. The kwacha depreciated sharply, unemployment remained high, and inflation eroded the livelihoods of many Zambians. These factors contributed to his overwhelming loss in the 2021 general election to Hakainde Hichilema, in which he was defeated by nearly a million votes.

After his defeat, Lungu with the initially retired from active politics and was rarely seen in public. However, as discontent new administration grew in certain quarters, he returned to the political stage in 2023 with renewed energy and declared his willingness to "defend democracy from the front." Though he harbored intentions to run again for president, the Constitutional Court ruled in 2024 that he had already served two full terms and was thus constitutionally barred from contesting the presidency. It was a ruling that effectively marked the end of his political ambitions.

Despite the highs and lows of his time in office, Edgar Lungu will be remembered as a leader who believed in tangible development. His approach may not have satisfied every Zambian, and his tenure was not without shortcomings, but he leaves behind a country transformed in many visible ways. The roads he built continue to carry farmers to markets, children to schools, and patients to hospitals. The bridges he commissioned have shortened distances and connected economies. The hospitals and schools he inaugurated continue to serve the most vulnerable members of society.

His political style was calm and measured. Unlike some of his contemporaries in the region, Lungu rarely raised his voice in public addresses and often appealed to national unity and peace. "One Zambia, One Nation" was more than a slogan for him; it was a principle he often cited in his speeches and public engagements.

His daughter, Tasila Lungu, in her touching announcement of his passing, invoked that same spirit—reminding Zambians that even in grief, unity remains a national imperative.

As the nation prepares to lay him to rest, we reflect not just on the man, but on the path he charted for the country. He came to power in a time of uncertainty, governed in times of economic and political upheaval, and left behind infrastructure that may yet serve as a foundation for future growth. The debates about debt, democracy, and development will continue, but they will do so with Edgar Chagwa Lungu's name permanently etched in Zambia's political and developmental history.

We may not have agreed with President Lungu on many fronts but we will remember Edgar Lungu as a leader who believed that the state had a role to play in delivering development directly to the people. We will remember his passion for road construction, his commitment to energy access, and his belief in regional integration. We will remember the bridges, the airports, the power lines, and the school buildings. We will remember his presidency as one that sought to leave a mark—not just on paper, but on the very surface of the nation.

Rest in peace, President Edgar Chagwa Lungu. You built. You served. You are remembered.

"Think Business"



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THINK BUSINESS

FARMERS MISS OUT ON PIGEON PEAS MARKET

By The Nation



Malawi's pigeon peas farmers have failed to utilise the India market and have called on government to step in to elevate the crop's status within national agricultural strategies.

The sentiments by Farmers Union of Malawi (FUM) follow published data from India High Commission in Malawi showing that Malawi exported \$9.62 million (about K16 billion) worth of pigeon peas (nandolo) in the first quarter of 2024.

This is a decline from the 52 000MT exported in 2022 valued at \$13.65 million (about K23 billion) and the \$49.29 million (about K86 billion) exported in 2023.

FUM president Manes Nkhata in an interview on Monday observed that despite its potential as a key export crop, pigeon pea production has historically received limited attention in Malawi's national agricultural policies and investment plans.

Compared to crops such as maize or tobacco, she said pigeon peas has not benefitted from targeted subsidy programmes, research investments or promotional campaigns.

Said Nkhata: "This lack of institutional support has hindered efforts to scale up production and improve competitiveness.

"Government-backed export promotion initiatives can help position Malawian pigeon peas more effectively in global markets."

In January 2024, the Indian Government extended Malawi's pigeon peas export quota for the 2024/25 marketing season, a development that presented an opportunity for farmers and the country to boost foreign exchange earnings.

The extension follows the removal of waiver of a 50 000 metric tonnes (MT) export quota imposed on Malawi by the Indian Government in 2022.

SPOTIFY RAISES PREMIUM PRICES IN FRANCE FOR SECOND TIME IN 13 MONTHS

By MBW

Spotify increased subscription prices across France on Monday (June 2), marking the second price adjustment in the country within 13 months.

A company spokesperson reportedly confirmed to Billboard that individual Premium prices in France rose 9.2% to €12.14 (\$13.81 at the current exchange rate) from €11.12 (\$12.65)

Spotify France's website already reflected the change. France last saw a price rise from Spotify in May 2024 following the country's implementation of a streaming tax

requiring platforms with annual revenue exceeding €20 million (\$22.9 million) to pay an additional 1.2% music streaming tax.

Family plans also climbed to €21.24 (\$24.15), while duo subscriptions increased to €17.20 (\$19.56) and student rates reached €7.07 (\$8.04).

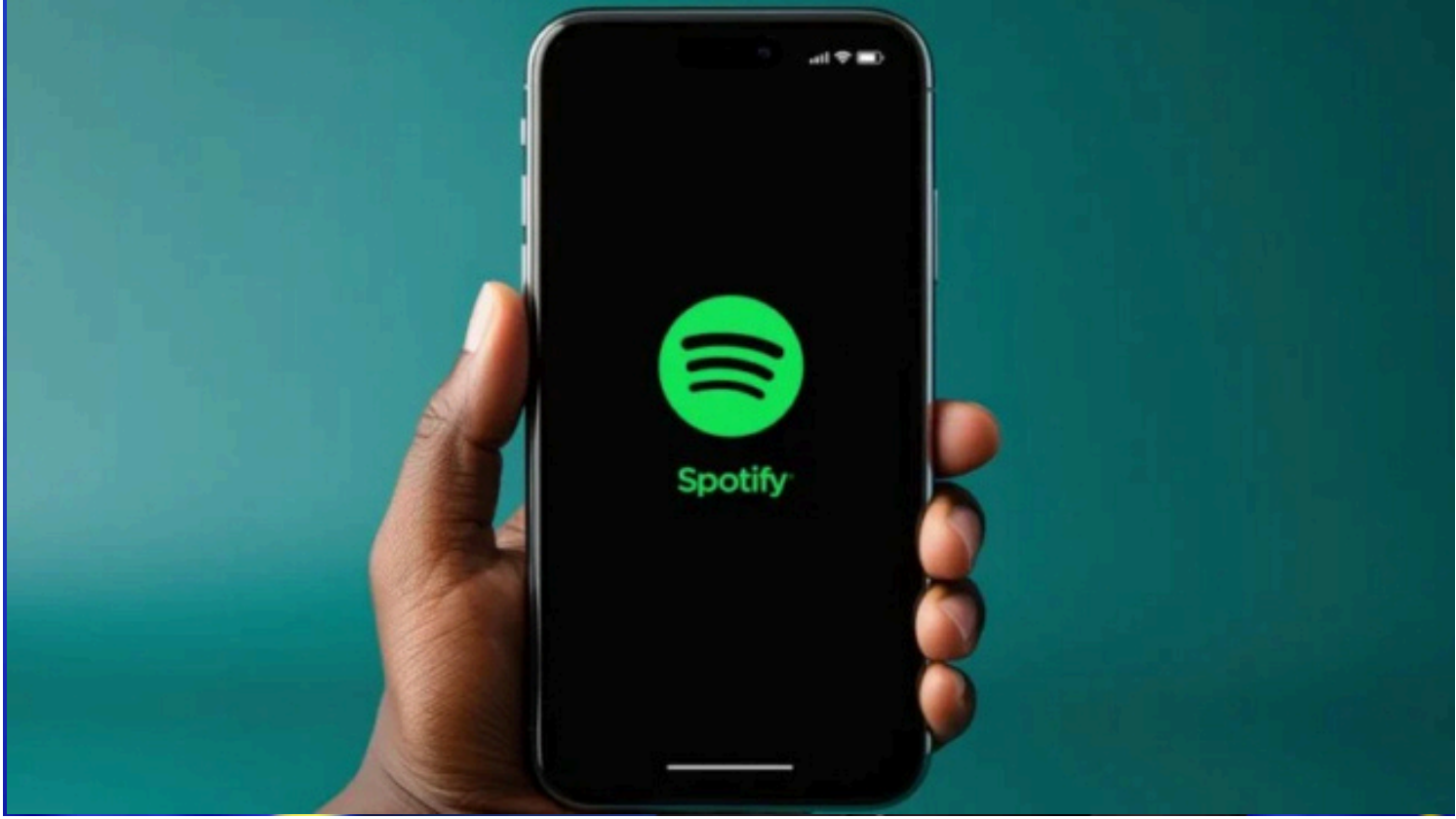
France is the world's sixth-largest music market, according to IFPI's 2025 Global Music Report.

The adjustment follows price hikes in neighboring European countries. In April, Spotify quietly raised prices in Belgium. Individual plans there rose 9% to €11.99

(\$13.70) per month from €10.99 (\$12.55).

In the Netherlands and Luxembourg, an individual subscription now costs €12.99 (\$14.84), up 18% from €10.99.

The price hikes in France follow a report by the Financial Times in April about Spotify's plans to implement price hikes equivalent to about **€1** (\$1.14) on monthly individual subscriptions throughout Europe and Latin America as early as June.



EXCHANGE RATES

Daily Commercial Banks Exchange Rates

📅 04-08-2025	09:30				12:30				15:30			
Bank Name	Interbank Rates		Retail Rates		Interbank Rates		Retail Rates		Interbank Rates		Retail Rates	
	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell
ACCESS BANK ZAMBIA	26.6500	26.7000	26.4000	26.9000	25.9000	25.9500	25.8000	26.1500	25.9900	26.0400	25.7000	26.1000
BANK OF CHINA (ZAMBIA)	26.7200	26.7700	26.3925	26.8755	25.9000	25.9500	25.6225	26.1055	25.9500	26.0000	25.6725	26.1555
ABSA BANK ZAMBIA	26.6000	26.6500	26.4864	26.9414	25.9000	25.9500	25.7920	26.1300	26.0000	26.0500	25.7920	26.2080
CITIBANK ZAMBIA	26.6500	26.7000	26.6100	27.0000	25.9500	26.0000	25.7070	26.0990	25.9500	26.0000	25.7070	26.1800
ECOBANK ZAMBIA	26.8000	26.8500	26.6001	27.0200	25.9000	25.9500	25.7501	26.2500	25.9500	26.0000	25.5915	26.1000
FIRST ALLIANCE BANK ZAMBIA	26.7500	26.8000	26.7500	27.0500	25.9500	26.0000	25.9500	26.2500	25.9500	26.0000	25.9000	26.2000
FIRST CAPITAL BANK ZAMBIA	26.7000	26.7500	26.6010	27.1050	25.9000	25.9500	25.8560	26.3050	26.0500	26.1000	25.8560	26.3050
FIRST NATIONAL BANK ZAMBIA	26.6500	26.7000	26.6440	26.9420	25.9000	25.9500	25.8950	26.1840	25.9000	25.9500	25.7950	25.9670
INDO-ZAMBIA BANK	26.7500	26.8000	26.6000	26.9600	25.9000	25.9500	25.6500	26.0800	26.0000	26.0500	25.8000	26.1800
STANBIC BANK ZAMBIA	26.7500	26.8000	26.4540	26.9800	26.0000	26.0500	25.8350	26.3500	25.9500	26.0000	25.7690	26.2810
STANDARD CHARTERED BANK	26.7000	26.7500	26.5750	27.0000	25.9500	26.0000	25.8250	26.3350	25.9250	25.9750	25.5950	26.1000
UNITED BANK FOR AFRICA ZAMBIA	26.6500	26.7000	26.6124	27.0144	26.0000	26.0500	25.9016	26.4115	25.6000	25.6500	25.3568	25.8560
ZAMBIA INDUSTRIAL COMMERCIAL BANK	26.7500	26.8000	26.5876	26.9892	25.9000	25.9500	25.7672	26.2088	25.9000	25.9500	25.7672	26.2088
ZAMBIA NATIONAL COMMERCIAL BANK	26.7000	26.7500	26.6500	27.0524	26.0000	26.0500	26.0000	26.4420	25.8500	25.9000	25.6158	26.0000
Market Average	26.7014	26.7514	26.5688	26.9879	25.9321	25.9821	25.8108	26.2358	25.9261	25.9761	25.7084	26.1315



DAILY MARKET NEWS

European markets rise ahead of German debt reform vote; QinetiQ down 20% – CNBC EU mulling duties on European scrap steel exports – Reuters U.S. stocks slightly higher - Reuters European currencies rise

European stocks started the new trading week in positive territory, although investors will be looking to see if global market volatility continues.

The pan-European Stoxx 600 index was up 0.75% by 3:15 p.m. London time, with most sectors moving higher.

British defense firm QinetiQ shed 20%, tumbling to the bottom of the Stoxx 600, after the company made a downward revision to its revenue outlook for the year.

European markets ended the week higher Friday after German lawmakers reportedly came closer to agreeing on reforming the country's so-called debt brake rule. Media reports said Germany's likely next chancellor Friedrich Merz had won support from the Greens party to hike public borrowing to allow an increase in defense spending.

The European Commission is considering proposing levies on scrap steel and metals exports, Reuters reported Monday, citing a draft plan.

CNBC has contacted the European Commission for comment.

The institution earlier this month launched a strategic dialogue on steel, seeking to support an industry which has been hit hard by higher energy costs, challenging raw materials access and — as of last week — U.S. import tariffs of 25%.

The EU will also investigate possible safeguard measures to counter the U.S. duties, which also target aluminum, Reuters reported.

The S&P 500 rose on Monday as the benchmark tries to continue its comeback from correction territory following a four-week rout on Wall Street exacerbated by President Donald Trump's chaotic tariff policy rollout and falling consumer confidence.

The broad market index gained 0.4%, while the Nasdaq Composite rose 0.2%. The Dow Jones Industrial Average advanced 163 points, or 0.4%

Europe's major currencies rose against the dollar on Monday, as jitters around the state of the American economy and U.S. President Donald Trump's tariffs regime persisted.

The euro gained around 0.26% against the greenback by 10:47 a.m. in London, while the British pound was up by roughly 0.29% against the U.S. currency. The Swiss franc, widely seen as a safe haven in times of economic or geopolitical uncertainty, added 0.3% against the dollar.



ZAMBIAN AMBASSADOR VISITS COPPER QUEENS STAR OCHUMBA LUBANJI POST-SURGERY

By Lucky Chama

Zambia's Ambassador to the People's Republic of China, Ivan Zyuulu, has visited Copper Queens striker Ochumba Oseke Lubandji at Jishuitan Medical Hospital in China, where she is recovering from a successful Anterior Cruciate Ligament (ACL) surgery.

Lubandji underwent the

procedure on May 30th, 2025, following an injury sustained during Zambia's match against Uzbekistan in the recent Four Nations Tournament held in China.

The Embassy of Zambia in Beijing has been closely monitoring the athlete's progress since her arrival in Beijing on May 28th, 2025. Embassy officials warmly

welcomed her upon arrival and have remained committed to ensuring her well-being throughout her stay. Medical professionals overseeing her case have confirmed that the surgery proceeded as planned and that the player is now focused on post-surgical recovery. She is expected

to commence rehabilitation once her leg shows sufficient improvement, with a structured recovery plan designed to restore her strength and mobility. Ambassador Zyuulu found the player in high spirits during his visit.

"We wish you a quick recovery and encourage you to stay strong

throughout your healing journey, we look forward to seeing you back on the field as soon as possible as you keep raising the Zambian flag high," Zyuulu conveyed to the striker.

The Embassy of the Republic of Zambia in Beijing reaffirms its commitment to Ochumba Lubandji's welfare.

LIVERPOOL TELL BARCELONA DIAZ IS NOT FOR SALE

By BBC Sport



Liverpool have rejected an approach from Barcelona to speak to forward Luis Diaz.

Club sources told BBC Sport that Colombia international Diaz, one of Liverpool's key players in winning the Premier League title last season, is not for sale.

The 28-year-old joined Liverpool from Porto in January 2022 and has a contract with the club until 2027.

He scored 13 goals and made seven assists in the league as Liverpool won the title by 10 points.

Diaz attracted interest

from Manchester City last summer and also has admirers in Saudi Arabia.

"I'm very happy at Liverpool - I've always said so," said Diaz, who is on international duty for his country's games against Peru and Argentina. "They've welcomed me very well.

"The transfer market is opening, and we're trying to arrange what's best for us. I'm waiting to see what happens.

"If Liverpool gives us a good extension or I have to see out my two-year contract, I'll be happy. It all depends on them. I'm here to decide and see what's best for us and the future."



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THINK BUSINESS



SABALENKA TAKES OUT SWIATEK TO REACH FRENCH OPEN FINAL

By BBC Sports

World number one Aryna Sabalenka moved a step closer to a maiden French Open title by taking out four-time champion Iga Swiatek in a blockbuster semi-final.

Belarus' Sabalenka earned a 7-6 (7-1) 4-6 6-0 victory to end fifth seed Swiatek's 26-match winning run at the tournament.

After a slow start on the Roland Garros clay, Poland's Swiatek fought back to level but Sabalenka dominated a 24-minute deciding set.

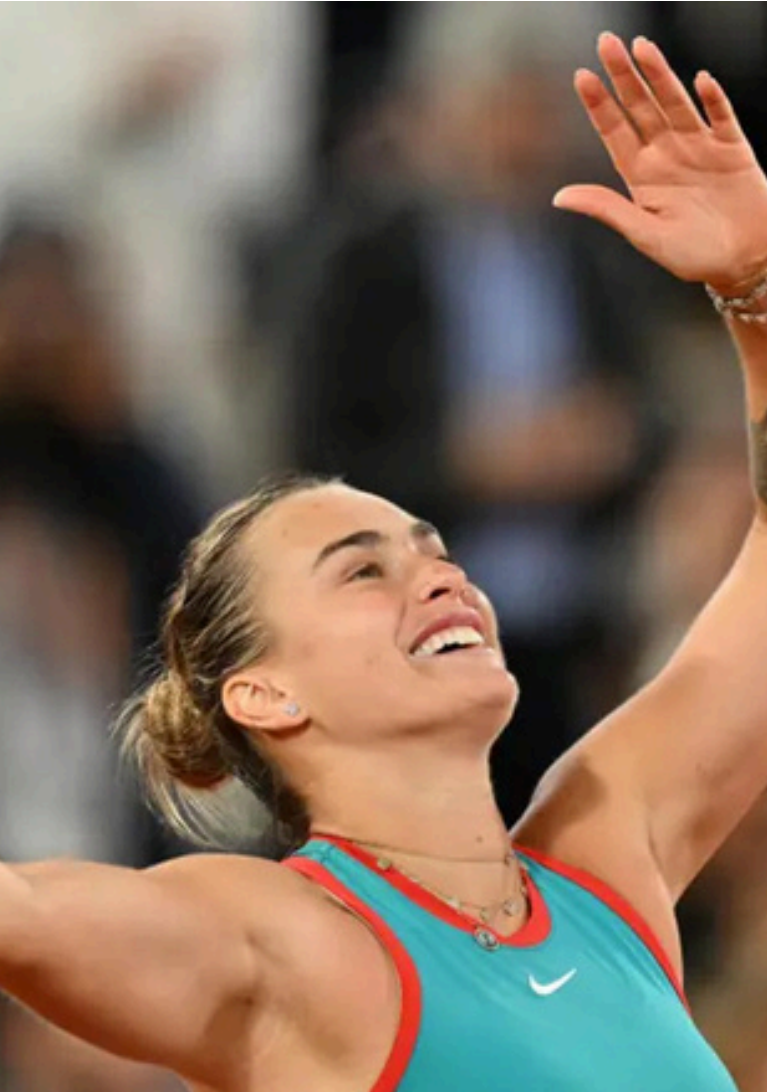
Sabalenka, whose three Grand Slam titles have all come on hard courts, has never reached the Paris final before.

"It feels incredible but the job is not done yet. I'm thrilled with my performance," the 27-year-old said.

"Iga is the toughest opponent, especially at Roland Garros, I'm proud I managed to get this win."

Top seed Sabalenka will face either American second seed Coco Gauff or French wildcard Lois Boisson in Saturday's final.

Gauff, a finalist in 2022, is the heavy favourite against Boisson, who began the event ranked 361st in the world and is appearing in her first Grand Slam main draw.



UNITY SPIN OUT

Unity spin out for Mwila Kakana aka Goli Fingers

VENUE: MIKES CAR WASH

DATE: SATURDAY 24TH MAY 2025
CHARGES: K50 BEFORE 2PM AND K100 AFTER 2PM
TIME: 12-18HRS

SPINNERS
KING JAMES, SALIM, PICE, CHILE 24, PANDE, DALITSO, GODWIN, KONDWANI, BEN TEN, DIDI, GERALD, JERICO, POACHER, PETHIAS, SIMON SANTOS, MINJOSKY, MAD CHIZO AND MANY MORE

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