

# ZRA SEIZES K3.7M IN KASEMPA MINING CRACKDOWN

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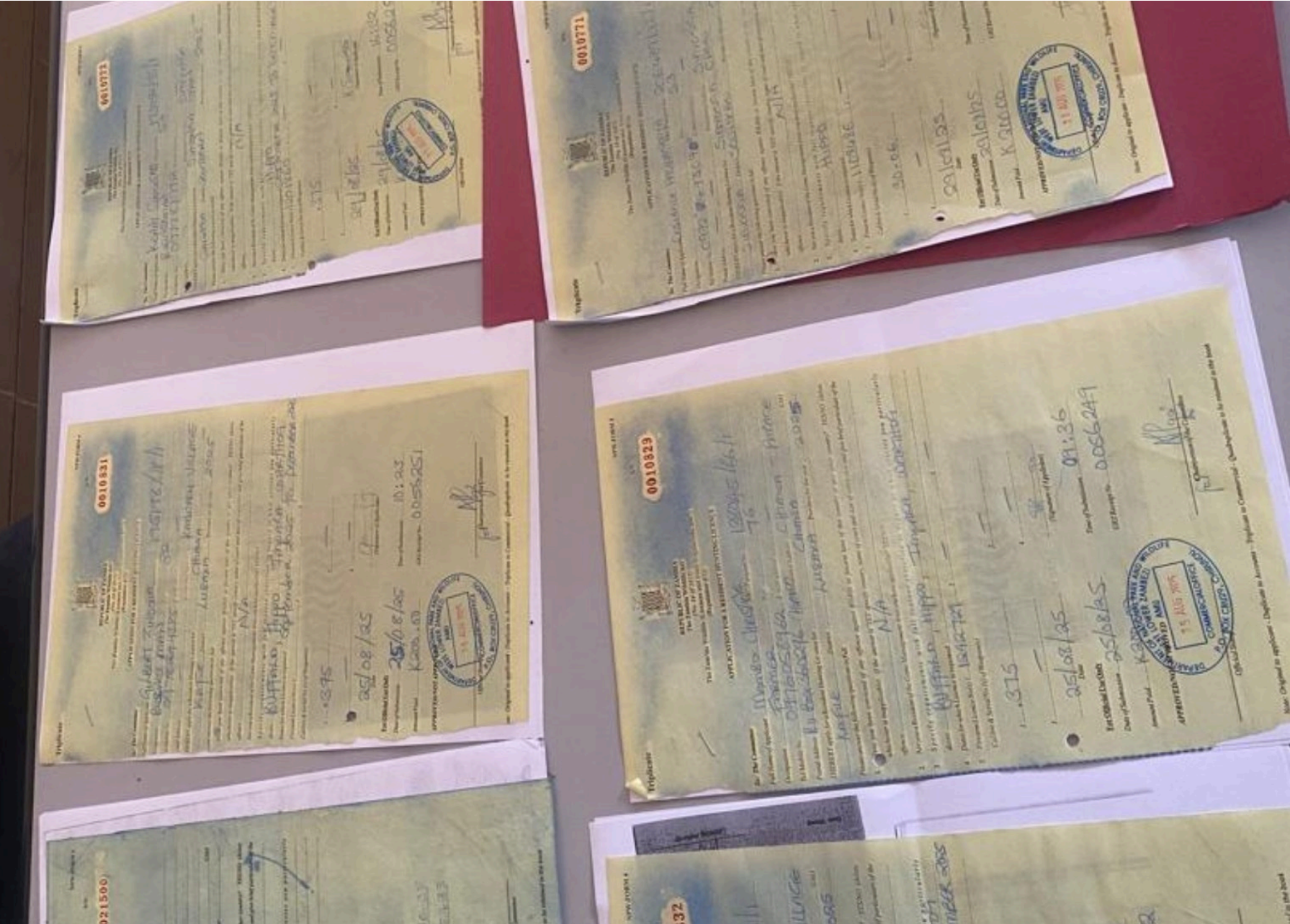
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GOVT SHORTLISTS OVER 3, 000 APPLICANTS FOR 2025 RESIDENT, BONAFIDE HUNTING SEASON

By Cecilia Chiluba



Ministry of Tourism has disclosed that 3,811 applicants have been shortlisted for the 2025 Citizens and Established Resident Hunting Season.

Following a public advert which ran from 18th to 31st August 2025, the Ministry, through the Department of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPW), received a total of 4,093 applications, with 3,811 shortlisted after a thorough evaluation.

In a statement, Ministry’s Principal Public Relations Officer, Nelly Banda thanked all applicants for their interest and commitment towards the sustainable utilization of wildlife in Zambia.

And Ms. Banda stated that the Ministry is putting in place measures to legitimize and regulate the sale of legal game

meat. She said this is part of the Government’s ongoing efforts to strengthen wildlife management and ensure that communities benefit from natural resources.

“This initiative is designed to curb poaching and unregulated trade, while simultaneously promoting food security, job creation and sustainable tourism,” Ms. Banda stated.

She highlighted some of the key measures which include licensing of Game Meat Traders, designated processing and distribution centres, quality and safety standards, Community Participation as well as awareness and enforcement.

Ms. Banda emphasized that only certified hunters and registered outlets will be authorized to sell game meat, in line with Section

101 of the Zambia Wildlife Act, 2015, which prohibits the sale of game animals or their meat without certification.

“Facilities will be established in partnership with the private sector to ensure hygienic handling, packaging, and distribution of game meat, consistent with Section 100 of the Wildlife Act, which provides for regulation of trade or movement of meat of game or protected animals.”

“Strict veterinary and public health inspections will be carried out to guarantee that all game meat sold on the market meets national health and safety standards,” she emphasized.

She stressed that part of the revenue generated from regulated game meat sales will be channeled to local communities through Community Resource

Boards (CRBs), thereby enhancing rural livelihoods and ensuring that communities directly benefit from conservation.

“The Ministry, together with law enforcement agencies, will run public awareness campaigns while ensuring strong penalties against illegal game meat trading. This aligns with Section 98 of the Wildlife Act, which explicitly prohibits illegal dealings in live wild animals, and Section 102,103 which prohibits importation/Exportation of wild animals or their meat without a permit.”

“These steps are intended to ensure that the harvesting of wildlife resources is done in a sustainable, transparent and beneficial manner, balancing conservation goals with the socio-economic needs of the people,” Ms. Banda added.

GOVT COMMITS TO STRENGTHENING CAPACITY IN POLITICAL, PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

By Money Daily Reporter



Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Relations has reaffirmed Government’s commitment to strengthening capacity in political and public diplomacy.

Permanent Secretary for International Relations and Cooperation, Etambuyu Anamela Gundersen, said this is aimed at enhancing Zambia’s contribution to peace, security, and democratic governance —both within the region and beyond.

Ms. Gundersen said this in a speech read on her behalf by Director of Development Cooperation and International Organizations, Lubasi Mungandi, during a Capacity Building Training on political and public diplomacy for officers from different departments of the Ministry, hosted in Livingstone by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, in partnership with the Southern African Institute of Policy and Research (SAIPAR).

She noted that the

programme was particularly timely, as the African continent grapples with complex challenges, including violent conflicts, threats to democratic governance, climate-induced insecurity, and cross-border crises.

“In addressing these realities, Zambia must continue to play a proactive role within the frameworks of SADC, COMESA, the African Union, and the United Nations,” Ms. Gundersen stated.

Ms. Gundersen expressed the Ministry’s appreciation to SAIPAR for its steadfast partnership, noting that the organization’s continued support in research, training, and policy engagement has been—and will remain —a valuable asset in strengthening institutional capacity for diplomacy.

She encouraged Ministry staff to fully engage with the programme and apply the knowledge gained in their professional undertakings.

“The skills acquired should enrich diplomatic practice

and further position Zambia as a credible voice for peace and stability across the continent and globally. Diplomacy is a dynamic enterprise, requiring constant adaptation, innovation, and foresight,” Ms. Gundersen added.

Ms. Gundersen stated that it is a collective responsibility to remain committed and forward-looking in the execution of Zambia’s foreign policy.

Meanwhile, SAIPAR Associate Executive Director, Caesar Cheelo stated that the organization was elated to co-host the event, describing it as the result of comprehensive planning.

Mr. Cheelo further expressed appreciation for the collaboration and the trust placed in the organization to implement the programme.

He acknowledged with gratitude the support from the Zambia Democratic Governance Project, with financial support from the Ford Foundation.

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# ZACA SLAMS HIGH MEALIE-MEAL PRICES AMID RECORD MAIZE HARVEST

By Cecilia Chiluba



Zambia Consumer Association (ZACA) has raised concerns over the continued high prices of mealie-meal despite the country's bumper maize harvest of 3.6 million tonnes.

Recently, the Ministry of Agriculture said despite Zambia recording a bumper maize harvest of 3.6 million tonnes, mealie-meal prices may not drop significantly because of other production costs in the value chain.

Responding to the Ministry's statement, ZACA argued that the prices are not fair to consumers, especially considering that mealie-meal is Zambia's staple food.

The Association stated that consumers expected the record harvest to translate into relief at household level, especially in a country where more than 60% of households spend a large share of their income on

food.

"Instead, the prices being maintained suggest that consumers are bearing a disproportionate burden. Therefore, ZACA believes that while some costs may justify part of the price, the current levels do not reflect the bumper harvest's benefit and thus cannot be considered fair from the consumer perspective," the Association stated.

ZACA said from a consumer standpoint, prices cannot be considered fair when there is a mismatch between abundant supply and persistently high retail prices.

It observed that the current pricing fails to reflect the benefits of increased supply and places an unfair burden on low-income households.

The Association pointed out that while production costs such as fuel, electricity, and transport

remain a factor, these do not fully justify the lack of price relief, charging that hidden mark-ups, structural inefficiencies, and possible market manipulation are undermining consumer welfare.

"Economic principles dictate that when production is high, prices should trend downwards due to increased availability. However, the current situation reveals structural inefficiencies and cost drivers within the maize-to-mealie-meal chain that undermine this basic logic," it said.

In a statement, ZACA called for greater transparency and accountability in the maize-to-mealie-meal value chain.

It recommended government-led cost audits, regulatory oversight by bodies like the Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (CCPC), and investment in efficient

transport and storage infrastructure.

"Agencies such as the Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (CCPC) must closely monitor millers and retailers to prevent collusion, price-fixing, or abuse of market dominance."

"Transport and logistics costs are often inflated due to inefficiencies. ZACA can push for investment in better storage and transport infrastructure so that consumers do not shoulder inefficiencies," it added.

It also urged the government to strengthen its market interventions through the Food Reserve Agency (FRA), explore tax incentives for millers, and reduce key input costs like electricity and fuel, further challenging the milling industry to adopt fair pricing practices and invest in cost-reducing technologies.

# ZRA SEIZES K3.7 MILLION, OVER US\$3,091 FROM NON- TAX COMPLIANT MINES IN KASEMPA

By Cecilia Chiluba



Zambia Revenue Authority (ZRA) has seized over K3.7 million and US\$3,091 in cash, suspected to be undeclared income and unpaid taxes, from four non-tax compliant mining sites in Kasempa District, North-Western Province.

The seizure follows a raid conducted by the Authority's Investigation Department on the four mining operations.

The affected companies have been identified as Katenge Resources Ltd, Ken Reliable, Sunion Investment, and Sino Octascene.

ZRA Corporate Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) Manager, Oliver Nzala for further investigation and operation is part of the Authority's broader efforts to combat tax evasion, promote compliance with tax laws, and safeguard government revenue.

"Further, one of the directors of Sino Octascene, Mr. Huang Qingyi was arrested on site after attempting to bribe a ZRA officer with K10,000 by stashing the same into the officer's pocket in an effort to obstruct the officer from carrying out his duties."

"The suspect was handed over to the

Mr. Nzala emphasized that the Authority will continue with such enforcement activities in a bid to protect national resources from illicit mining operations.

"ZRA reiterates its zero-tolerance stance towards corruption and remains steadfast in enforcing tax compliance across all sectors of the economy, including the mining industry," he said.

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# EDUCATION MINISTER REPORTS 85% PASS RATE FOR 2025 GCE EXAMS

By Cecilia Chiluba



Minister of Education Douglas Syakalima has announced that the 2025 General Certificate of Education (GCE) examination has recorded an 85 percent pass rate.

Douglas Syakalima also disclosed that a total of 130,615 candidates sat for the Grade 9 External Exams, with a pass rate of 78.29% in at least one subject.

Announcing the release of the 2025 Grade 9 Junior Secondary and GCE exams, results at a media briefing in Lusaka today, Mr. Syakalima revealed that of those who sat for six or more subjects, 23.72% obtained full certificates.

“Out of the 136,455 candidates that sat the GCE examination, 117, 301 representing 85.96 percent passed in at least one subject, while 14.04% failed the examination, after not passing all the subjects they sat. Compared to 2024, the pass rate decreased by 1.42 percentage points.”

“Out of the 15, 331 candidates that sat for five or more subjects, 3, 990 candidates representing 26.03 percent obtained the General Certificate of Education, which is equivalent to a School Certificate. A total of 10, 431, representing 68.04 percent, obtained Statements, while 910, representing 5.94 percent, failed the examination,” Mr. Syakalima said.

He also revealed that no exam paper leakages were recorded this year, though 17 malpractice cases were reported in the Grade 9 exams and 479 cases in the GCE, adding that the affected candidates’ results have since been withheld pending investigation.

“I wish to reiterate that the Government of the Republic of Zambia will not tolerate any form of examination malpractice and erring individuals shall be dealt with in accordance with the law,” he warned.

Mr. Syakalima reiterated that the 2025 Grade 9 External Examination will be the last, following the roll-out of the new education curriculum.

“Further, I wish to reiterate the point that the GCE examination continues to exist and candidates will be able to enter and sit the examination in future,” Mr. Syakalima said.

# WARMA STEPS UP COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENTS AMID LAKE TANGANYIKA’S RISING WATER LEVELS

By Cecilia Chiluba



Water Resources Management Authority (WARMA) has stepped up community engagement efforts in areas severely affected by rising water levels along Lake Tanganyika, warning of increased risk as the rainy season approaches.

In Chipwa village, near the confluence of the Kalambo River and Lake Tanganyika on the border with Tanzania, key public infrastructure including a primary school has already been submerged.

WARMA also reached Myamba, a remote lakeshore village accessible only by boat, where residents face similar threats from the encroaching waters.

According to the Authority, the limited access to both communities underscores the urgency of proactive measures to safeguard lives and property.

During the community engagements, the Authority urged residents to relocate to higher ground, emphasizing the critical need for early action to prevent loss of life and damage to property.

WARMA stated that the engagements form part of its wider strategic focus on stakeholder collaboration and public awareness, as outlined in its 2022–2026 Strategic Plan, which promotes sustainable water resource management in support of Zambia’s long-term development goals.

“These community engagements align with WARMA’s strategic pillars on Stakeholder Engagement, which focuses on building strong relationships with key partners to enhance communication, information sharing, and integrated water resources management, and Public Awareness and Visibility, aimed at increasing the public’s understanding of water resource issues and the Authority’s presence in communities,” it said.

As outlined in its 2022–2026 Strategic Plan, WARMA seeks to support Zambia’s economic growth through effective water resources governance and management.

The plan’s strategic direction prioritizes sustainable water management and the protection of vital water resources for current and future generations.

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# FQM INVESTS IN ZAMBIA’S ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE TO SUPPORT COPPER PRODUCTION TARGETS

By Cecilia Chiluba



First Quantum Minerals (FQM) has reaffirmed its commitment to supporting Zambia’s ambitious target of producing 3 million tonnes of copper annually by investing in the country’s energy infrastructure.

FQM’s Infrastructure Lead for Zambia, Jed Goldstein, emphasized that expanding generation capacity and modernizing transmission systems are essential not only for mining growth but also for powering Zambia’s broader economic development and supplying critical minerals for the global energy transition.

Speaking at the 2025 Energy Forum for Africa, Mr. Goldstein outlined the company’s dual strategy: securing reliable energy for its operations while advancing strategic grid-strengthening initiatives across the country.

He explained that FQM was actively addressing the power deficit by sourcing about 65 percent of its energy needs from the region at emergency rates.

“At the same time, we are advancing off-take agreements with new Independent Power Producer (IPP) projects, including a 430-megawatt solar and wind facility with TotalEnergies,” Mr. Goldstein said.

Mr. Goldstein pointed out that grid modernization is particularly critical in Zambia’s North-Western Province, where FQM’s mines are located and where long-distance power has historically caused operational challenges.

“Most of Zambia’s domestic generation is located over 600 kilometers from the Copperbelt and the NorthWestern province, where demand is concentrated. This distance creates voltage fluctuations that affect mine operations and surrounding communities. Working with ZESCO and Barrick on grid modernization work-streams, FQM is installing advanced STATCOM equipment at key substations to stabilize power flows and enable greater integration of new renewable power generation.”

He also highlighted the broader national benefits of mining investment in infrastructure.

“Mining companies are catalysts for national development. Working with ZESCO to strengthen the grid and bring more renewable generation online, not only enables mine expansion but also improves reliability for households and businesses already connected. Zambia’s copper endowment can underpin both industrial growth and greater energy access across the country,” he added.

Mr. Goldstein, stressed the importance of partnerships between mining companies, energy producers, and government in building a resilient and sustainable energy system that can power Zambia’s economic growth.

At the same event, Africa GreenCo, Head of Strategy Dr. Pius Kasolo, emphasized the role of renewable energy in accelerating Zambia’s production goals.

“Renewable energy projects can be deployed rapidly and de-risked through mechanisms like credit guarantees. For example, the 100-megawatt solar project developed with ZESCO secured nearly \$100 million in funding,” Dr Kasolo stated.

He however, noted that reaching 3 million tonnes of copper annually would require a significant increase in energy generation.

“Over 1.5 gigawatts of renewable energy projects are currently in the pipeline. Accelerating their delivery is critical if Zambia is to achieve its production and development goals,” he added.

# SOYA BEAN SECTOR FACES RECOVERY SETBACK

By Cecilia Chiluba



Crushers and Edible Oil Refiners Association in Zambia, (CEDORA) says it has recorded about 220,000 tons so far this season.

Speaking in an interview with Money News, Association Director, Dr. Aubrey Chibumba, said this is out of the the total crop size of approximately 270,000 tons.

According to Dr. Chibumba, it is estimated that less than 50,000 tons of soya beans are likely remaining in the market, potentially held by traders, which the Association would aim to purchase if it becomes available.

He said 2025 is not going to be a recovery year for the soya bean sector, highlighting that the current processing volumes are nowhere near what they should be.

“Well the 270, 000 is not a target, its way below our target. Our target would have been somewhere around 560,000 tons, but the crop size is not that big. So, this year is not going to be a recovery year for us,” Dr. Chibumba said.

Dr. Chibumba observed that currently, the sector is not facing challenges in purchasing soya beans, primarily because the demand for soya cake has not significantly picked up.

He noted that consumption levels are not at the same rates as previous years, such as 2020 or 2021.

Dr. Chibumba attributed the reduced demand largely to a significant downsizing of the poultry industry, which is reportedly consuming about 50% of the soya cake that they would normally consume.

“We are not facing any challenges at the moment because the demand for soya cake has not really picked up. We are not at the same consumption levels that we were years like 2020 and 2021.”

“This has a lot to do with the fact that the poultry industry in particular has significantly down sized. I would say that probably the poultry industry is consuming maybe only 50% of the normal cake that they would normally consume and that has a lot to do with electricity availability,” he noted.





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# ZAMBIA LAUNCHES SECOND PHASE OF US\$10.8 MILLION STOSAR II PROJECT

By Cecilia Chiluba



Zambia has launched the second phase of the Support Towards Operationalization of the SADC Regional Agricultural Policy (STOSAR II) Project, marking a significant step forward in regional agricultural cooperation and national food security efforts.

STOSAR II is a US\$10.8 million regional initiative to be implemented across all the 15 SADC Member States over a four-year period from 2025 to 2028.

The project seeks to build on the achievements of the previous project, STOSAR I, implemented between 2018 and 2024, with generous support of EUR 9 million from the European Union.

Officiating at the launch, Ministry of Agriculture Permanent Secretary for Technical Service, John Mulongoti highlighted key successes from STOSAR I, including advancements in plant and animal health, capacity building in laboratory diagnostics, and the rollout of the SADC Agricultural Information Management System and challenging weather(AIMS).

He noted that through pest risk analysis and other capacity-building activities, Zambia gained market access for new crops such as blueberries and soya beans.

“In terms of Plant Health, the STOSAR I supported the Ministry of Agriculture in the development of three national plant health strategy: documents for Maize Lethal Necrosis, Tuta absoluta and Banana Fusarium Wilt. Through Pest Risk Analysis capacity-building, our Plant Quarantine and Phytosanitary Services developed pest lists for Blueberries, Soya beans, and Stevia - enabling Zambia to access new export markets for blueberries and soya beans.”

“Over 50 animal health laboratory personnel under the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock were trained, and diagnostic equipment, reagents, and consumables for the Centre for Veterinary Research Institute (CVRI) were procured and handed over. The support greatly improved national capacities for detection and management of livestock diseases such as Foot and Mouth. Disease, PPR, and Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza,” he noted.

Mr. Mulongoti, who was represented by Plant Quarantine and Phytosanitary Service (PQPS) Director Dr. Kenneth Msiska, STOSAR II will focus on strengthening agricultural information systems, improving plant and animal health services, enhancing food and nutrition security monitoring, and promoting inclusive value chains, particularly those that empower women and youth.

“This is of great significance, as it directly supports the Government's aspirations to make agriculture a driver of economic diversification, food and nutrition security, job creation, and increased export revenue earnings,” he said.

He further stated that by strengthening data systems and fostering evidence-based policy-making, the project aims to enable Zambia and the SADC region to make informed investment decisions and boost agricultural resilience in the face of climate change and global market uncertainties.

Meanwhile, United Nations’ Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Representative in

Zambia, Suze Percy-Filippini, expressed gratitude to the EU and SADC Secretariat for their unwavering partnership and for believing in Zambia’s agricultural potential.

“The progress achieved under STOSAR I is clear evidence that your support is making a tangible difference. Building on the success of STOSAR I, STOSAR II will now drive forward a more climate-relevant, productive, and inclusive transformation of agriculture and food systems. Following this launch, we will engage in discussions to define national priorities for Zambia, including national priorities and comprehensive work plans.”

“These deliberations will be critical in ensuring that STOSAR II delivers meaningful results that directly respond to the needs of Zambia’s farmers, agribusinesses and communities. But success will not come from plans alone. It will come from the collective action of everyone here today – government, farmers, private sector, development partners, and civil society,” she emphasized.

# CHIRUNDU COUNCIL BOOSTS REVENUE STREAM WITH INVESTMENT OF K1.2 MILLION IN OFFICE BLOCK

By Money Daily Reporter



Chirundu Town Council says it has finalized the construction of its office block which is expected to generate over K40,000 in monthly rental income.

The Council recently invested over K1.2 million in the construction of a modern office block in order to strategically enhance its revenue base and improve service delivery.

The project is aimed at generating sustainable income for the Local Authority, help reduce dependence on central government funding, thereby making the Council self reliant.

Council Chairperson

Nevers Muchindu, said the office block will position the Local Authority to meet its developmental and operational obligations.

Mr. Muchindu noted that the Council’s investment in the office block will translate into direct returns on investment, allowing the Local Authority to independently fulfil its service delivery mandate.

“The consistent income stream from the rentals will empower the Council to address key issues affecting the district.”

“These include improving infrastructure,

enhancing public services, and creating a cleaner and more organized environment for residents,” Mr. Muchindu noted.

And Chirundu Central Ward Councillor, Norman Nalube, noted that the new building has enhanced the town’s skyline and will also diversify the Council’s revenue sources.

“The increased funds will support essential services such as garbage collection and drainage maintenance, directly improving the quality of life for the people of Chirundu,” he added.



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ECONOMIST HAILS SOCIAL REFORMS

By Cecilia Chiluba



An Economist has hailed the government’s economic and social reforms, as recently outlined by President Hakainde Hichilema, during his opening address to the Fifth Session of the Thirteenth National Assembly.

According to President Hichilema, the country has witnessed robust economic growth, a successful external debt restructuring, and a rebound in key agricultural sectors, signaling a positive outlook for its citizens and the business community.

A major achievement highlighted by the Head of State was the successful restructuring of over 92% of Zambia’s external debt, totaling approximately \$12.4 billion.

Reacting to the speech, Dr. Lubinda Haabazooka described it as a sober but powerful affirmation that

Zambia’s economy is stabilizing, with key indicators pointing in the right direction.

“The President reported average growth of over 5 percent in the past three years, compared to just 1.5 percent before 2021. That is not a small achievement, it means businesses can plan, investors can trust our policies, and households feel less pressure from runaway prices.”

“Debt restructuring covering 92 percent of our external liabilities is a big win—freeing space for development spending rather than endless repayments. Inflation is cooling, and the Kwacha is more stable. This is the bedrock on which all other reforms rest,” Dr. Lubinda stated.

Highlighting achievements across sectors, Dr. Lubinda pointed to record maize production, rising fish and livestock output, renewed mining investments, and a tourism boom that saw arrivals top 2.2 million in

2024.

He noted that from agriculture to ICT and education, there is a pattern—clear reforms, deliberate investment, and visible impact.

“A historic maize harvest of 3.7 million tonnes has turned Zambia from deficit fears into a surplus economy. The government’s reforms in the Farmer Input Support Programme—migrating farmers to a digital voucher, removing ghost beneficiaries, and involving the private sector—are paying off. With irrigation schemes and mechanization centres spreading nationwide, Zambia can reach the President’s ambitious 10 million tonnes maize target by 2030,” he noted.

He also supported increased funding for Micro, small, and medium enterprises, improved healthcare and education, as well as stronger governance frameworks, describing them as

investments in people, not just policies.

“The President’s address shows that Zambia is no longer in survival mode; we are in growth mode. Agriculture is booming, mining is reviving, tourism is flourishing, energy reforms are underway, ICT is exploding, and human capital is being built. The macro foundations are stronger, and governance is improving,” Dr. Lubinda said.

While acknowledging ongoing challenges—especially energy and the need for consistent execution, he noted that the direction is right, and the gains are real.

“For Zambia’s economy, this speech was not rhetoric, it was evidence. Evidence that when reforms are consistent, discipline is maintained, and inclusion is prioritized, the numbers start to reflect in people’s lives,” he added.

GOVERNMENT’S ECONOMIC,

ITEZHI-TEZHI CDF COMMITTEE HAILS K4.4 MILLION INVESTMENT IN BRAND-NEW ROLLER COMPACTOR, WATER BOWSER

By Money Daily Reporter



Itezhi tezhi Constituency Development Fund (CDF) Committee has described the recent K4.4 million investment in a roller

instrumental in various development projects. commitment to community development.

Mr. Kapansa cited “Mutinta”s consistent presence and performance in the Constituency have set a high standard, making him a model of service worth emulating,” he said.

Mr. Kapansa highlighted the importance of delivering on campaign promises, showcasing Mutinta’s dedication to his constituents.

The roller compactor, procured at approximately K2.5 million, and water bowser, costing K1.9 million, are expected to accelerate road works across the constituency.

He commended area Member of Parliament, Twambo Mutinta, for his effective representation and



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Foreign policy, at its core, is not a ceremonial display of handshakes, flags, and protocol. It is the engine room of a nation's long-term survival and prosperity. For a country like Zambia, landlocked and economically fragile, diplomacy is not a luxury but a lifeline. It determines whether capital flows in or out, whether neighbors become allies or adversaries, and whether external powers treat us as equals or pawns.

For decades, Zambia had the reputation of being a principled, neutral actor within the global system. As a proud member of the Non-Aligned Movement, it positioned itself as a promoter of dialogue, peace, and neighborliness, navigating Cold War rivalries with wisdom and restraint. That policy won Zambia respect, security, and crucially, room to maneuver. Yet, under the current UPND administration, this clarity of purpose has been muddled by missteps, inconsistencies, and at times, outright diplomatic blunders.

The first major shift came with the handling of the United States' military footprint. By allowing the AFRICOM presence within the US Embassy in Lusaka, Zambia broke with a long-standing consensus among its neighbors who had consistently resisted such proposals for fear of militarization and external control. Presidents before had wisely refused, calculating that the risks to regional harmony outweighed the immediate gains. Yet, this administration, in its eagerness to "warm up" to Washington, overlooked the broader geopolitical consequences.

Neighboring states—particularly in SADC—viewed Zambia's acceptance as a betrayal of regional solidarity. It sent an alarming signal: that Zambia, once the champion of independence and sovereignty, had opened itself to being a vessel of

# HOSTILITY FROM THE USA: ZAMBIA'S FOREIGN POLICY GAMBLE

Western strategic interests. This single miscalculation strained regional trust and planted seeds of suspicion that still bear bitter fruit.

If the relationship with the US began with overexposure, relations with China suffered from neglect. The symbolism of delaying engagement with Beijing cannot be overstated. China is not merely another partner; it is the single largest bilateral lender and an infrastructural lifeline for Zambia. When the administration chose to "wait for the right time" before visiting Beijing, the Chinese interpreted it as a deliberate cold shoulder. The response from Beijing was nuanced but decisive: while trade and private investment could continue, official flows of concessional loans and large-scale infrastructure financing were quietly frozen.

When China later offered Zambia a comprehensive diplomatic framework, it was effectively extending an olive branch, signaling a willingness to deepen the partnership. Yet, Lusaka failed to recognize this overture as an opportunity for strategic elevation. Instead, through mismanagement and lukewarm reciprocity, Zambia squandered what could have been a golden diplomatic pivot. The result is a stalemate: the Chinese market remains open, but their state-backed capital is unlikely to return to Zambia's government projects any time soon.

To make matters worse, Lusaka committed an unforced error in its dealings with Washington. When a former US Vice President visited, Zambia's leadership openly disparaged Donald Trump, labeling him as

undemocratic and unworthy of power. This was a catastrophic breach of diplomatic prudence. Whatever one's private opinions about foreign leaders, diplomacy requires restraint and balance.

Trump, known for his unforgiving memory and transactional approach, was guaranteed to take note. Now, with his resurgence on the global stage, Zambia finds itself in the crosshairs of a vindictive administration that

interprets slights as betrayal. That single statement has cast a long shadow over Zambia-US relations, complicating access to aid, trade, and political goodwill from Washington.

Regionally, relations with Zimbabwe represent another sore spot. What was once an unshakable bond, forged in liberation solidarity, has deteriorated into icy suspicion. Harsh rhetoric and perceived hostility toward Harare have alienated Lusaka from its closest neighbor. But more dangerously, this tension has bled into Zambia's standing within SADC. Zimbabwe is not diplomatically isolated in the region as some might think; rather, it wields quiet influence in shaping perceptions within the bloc. In closed-door meetings, Zambia is increasingly portrayed as a facilitator of Western interests, an "imperialist outpost" in the heart of Southern Africa.

The consequences are not abstract. They were visible when Zambia's candidate for the African Development Bank presidency—once considered a frontrunner—was

abandoned by supposed allies, most notably South Africa, whose refusal to rally behind Lusaka doomed the bid. Foreign policy mistakes thus translate into concrete economic and political losses.

Zambia's positioning on broader global conflicts has also been erratic. During the Russia-Ukraine war, Lusaka adopted a stance that appeared inconsistent with its historical non-alignment. Instead of positioning itself as a mediator or maintaining

neutrality, Zambia's actions suggested alignment with Western narratives, alienating Russia and its allies. Similarly, when the question of Palestinian statehood arose, Zambia abstained rather than voting in line with its long tradition of supporting self-determination. Abstention may seem like harmless caution, but in diplomacy, silence can be more damaging than speech. It left Zambia looking indecisive, unsure of what it stands for, and unreliable as a partner.

The cumulative effect of these missteps is not just diplomatic embarrassment. They strike at the heart of Zambia's economic development prospects. Foreign policy, when clear and consistent, is a magnet for investment and a shield against isolation. Countries align their aid, credit, and trade flows with those whose diplomatic postures they trust. Investors look for political predictability as much as they do for mineral wealth or labor costs. By appearing scattered, Zambia undermines its credibility and makes itself

vulnerable to being sidelined in global decision-making.

Here lies the sharpest contrast with the past. Kenneth Kaunda, Zambia's founding president, operated in an era of even greater global polarization—the Cold War. Yet his foreign policy was deliberate, consistent, and anchored in principle. KK managed to host liberation movements from Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Namibia, and South Africa, providing sanctuary to fighters of freedom, all while keeping dialogue open with Western capitals that saw these movements as threats. He spoke with moral authority on global stages, advocating for peace and justice, yet never allowed Zambia to be a pawn.

Even when under pressure to choose between Moscow and Washington, Kaunda maintained a strategic balancing act: welcoming Western aid for infrastructure while simultaneously cultivating ties with China and the Soviet bloc. The construction of TAZARA railway, financed and built by China, remains a monument to that era's diplomacy—leveraging competing powers for Zambia's benefit without surrendering sovereignty.

That historical example shows that non-alignment was never passive neutrality. It was an active strategy of maximizing opportunity while minimizing risk. It ensured that Zambia, despite being a small landlocked country, was respected as a moral and political force on the continent. Today, the absence of such clarity

leaves us exposed. Unlike Kaunda's Zambia, which was courted by both East and West, today's Zambia risks being shunned by both, trapped in a no-man's land of broken trust and suspicion.

The way forward requires an urgent recalibration. Zambia must return to the clarity of purpose that defined its foreign policy during the Non-Aligned Movement years: principled neutrality, respect for neighbors, and consistency in global fora. This does not mean rejecting strategic partnerships with either the US, China, or others. Rather, it means engaging them with balance, avoiding entanglement in their rivalries, and leveraging their competing interests to secure maximum benefit for Zambia. At the regional level, bridges with Zimbabwe, South Africa, and the wider SADC must be rebuilt, for without regional solidarity, Zambia will find itself increasingly isolated and vulnerable.

Foreign policy is the skeleton that supports the body of national development. Without a clear diplomatic strategy, economic policies collapse under the weight of mistrust and suspicion. Zambia cannot afford to stumble in this domain. The lesson from both our history and our recent missteps is clear: in the arena of global diplomacy, carelessness is costly, neutrality is powerful, and consistency is wealth. If Zambia is to prosper, it must learn again to speak with one voice to the world—a voice that is principled, deliberate, and unmistakably clear.

## MONEY EDITORIAL

"Think Business"



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THINK BUSINESS



US SAYS 'FRAMEWORK' FOR TIKTOK OWNERSHIP DEAL AGREED WITH CHINA

By BBC Business



The US treasury secretary has said Washington has reached a "framework" deal with China on the ownership of TikTok's American operations.

Scott Bessent said the framework was set in trade talks in Madrid to pave the way for US ownership. He added that US President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping would "complete" the deal on Friday. China has not commented.

Trump said on Truth Social that talks in Madrid had "gone very well", with a deal reached "on a certain

company that young people in our country very much wanted to save".

A deadline is looming for the Chinese owner of TikTok to find a buyer for its American operations or face a ban in the US.

In January, the US Supreme Court upheld a law passed in April 2024, banning the video-sharing app unless its parent company ByteDance sold its US division.

The US Justice Department has said that TikTok's access to data on American users poses "a national-security

threat of immense depth and scale".

ByteDance has repeatedly insisted that its US operations are fully independent and no data has been shared with the Chinese government. The company argued that the ban would violate free speech protections for its 170 million US users.

TikTok went dark for a day in January after the law came into effect, before Trump intervened and issued a 75-day postponement.

RBM OUTLINES PLAN TO SUSTAIN FOREX GAINS

By Nation

The Reserve Bank of Malawi (RBM) says it will devise a multi-pronged strategy to protect foreign exchange reserves and stabilise the kwacha as the tobacco marketing season draws to a close.

RBM spokesperson Boston Maliket Banda was responding to questions on what the central bank will do to sustain foreign exchange gains from tobacco, which has earned the country \$525.4 million (about K921.5 billion) in 24 weeks.

He said the measures are aimed at sustaining July's improved external position, when the country's trade deficit narrowed to \$173 million (about K303 billion), the lowest in months, and

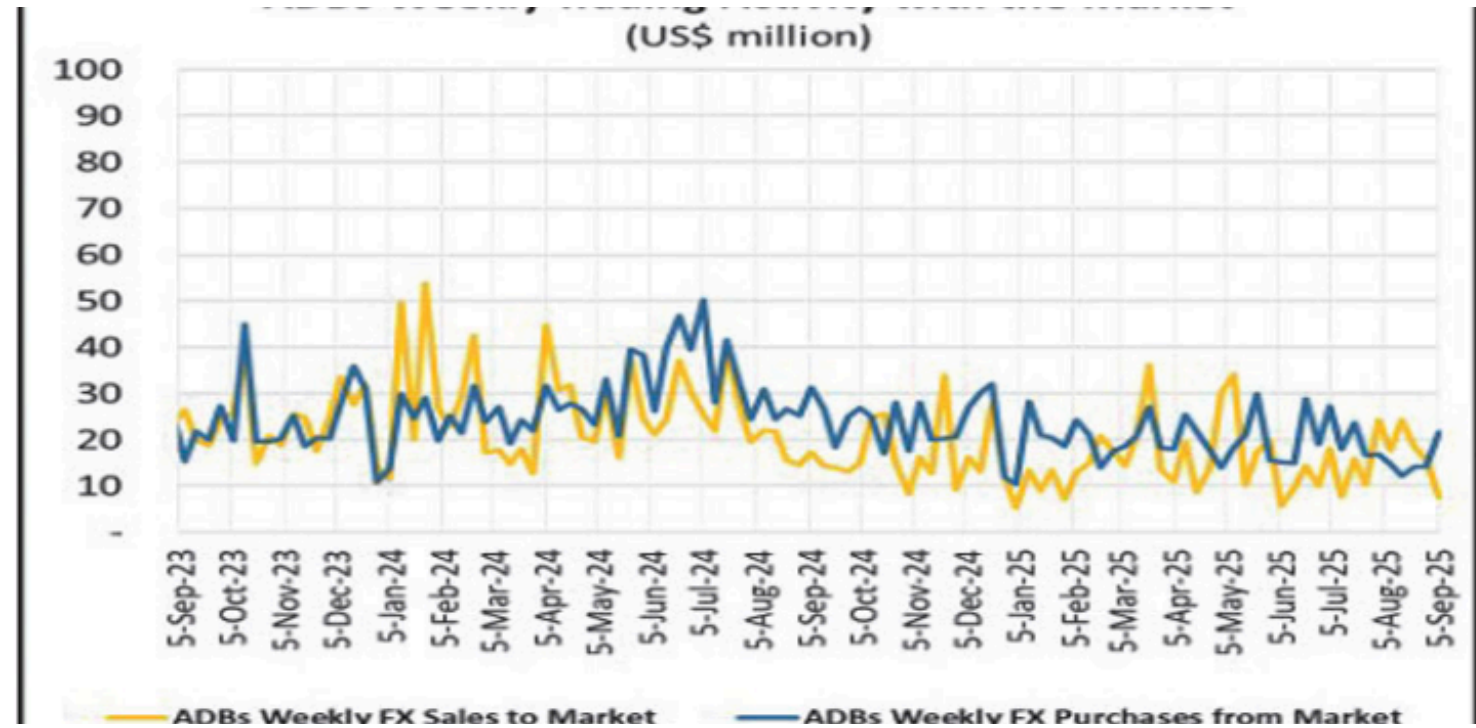
total foreign exchange reserves climbed to \$607.7 million (about K1 trillion), equivalent to 2.4 months of import cover.

Said: Maliket Banda: "Our approach is focused on structural reforms and enhanced market integrity. We have reduced the mandatory export surrender requirement from 30 percent to 25 percent to incentivise production, introduced an electronic foreign exchange tracking system to curb illicit trading and strengthened compliance oversight for authorised dealer banks."

He said the central bank is also formalising mineral revenue streams and linking private sector to finance export-oriented production. Maliket Banda said the measures are designed to shift Malawi's foreign exchange management from dependence on seasonal inflows to a more durable foundation.

"While we remain vigilant to global and seasonal pressures, we expect these deliberate policies to continue supporting a stable exchange rate and a gradual strengthening of our import cover position," said Maliket Banda.

The interventions come at a time Malawi continues to grapple with a widening trade deficit.



EXCHANGE RATES

Daily Commercial Banks Exchange Rates

15-09-2025	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	23.6500	23.7000	23.6500	24.0000	23.7600	23.8100	23.7600	24.0000	23.7600	23.8100	23.7600	24.0000
BANK OF CHINA (ZAMBIA)	23.7500	23.8000	23.7300	24.1055	23.7000	23.7500	23.6800	24.0555	23.7000	23.7500	23.6800	24.0555
ABSA BANK ZAMBIA	23.6500	23.7000	23.6075	24.0398	23.6500	23.7000	23.6075	24.0398	23.6100	23.6600	23.6075	24.0398
CITIBANK ZAMBIA	23.8000	23.8500	23.7520	24.1030	23.8000	23.8500	23.6530	24.0020	23.8000	23.8500	23.6030	23.9500
ECOBANK ZAMBIA	23.7500	23.8000	23.5500	23.9500	23.7000	23.7500	23.5500	23.9000	23.6500	23.7000	23.5500	23.9000
FIRST ALLIANCE BANK ZAMBIA	23.8000	23.8500	23.7500	23.9000	23.8000	23.8500	23.8000	23.9000	23.8000	23.8500	23.8000	23.9000
FIRST CAPITAL BANK ZAMBIA	23.8000	23.8500	23.7500	24.0000	23.8000	23.8500	23.7700	23.9000	23.8000	23.8500	23.7700	23.9000
FIRST NATIONAL BANK ZAMBIA	23.6500	23.7000	23.6500	23.9060	23.6000	23.6500	23.6000	23.8550	23.6000	23.6500	23.6000	23.8550
INDO-ZAMBIA BANK	23.7500	23.8000	23.7200	24.0600	23.7000	23.7500	23.7000	24.0600	23.7000	23.7500	23.7000	24.0600
STANBIC BANK ZAMBIA	23.7500	23.8000	23.5610	23.9500	23.7700	23.8200	23.7500	23.9500	23.8350	23.8850	23.8000	24.0400
STANDARD CHARTERED BANK	23.8000	23.8500	23.7750	24.0900	23.7750	23.8250	23.7500	24.0500	23.8000	23.8500	23.7500	24.0500
UNITED BANK FOR AFRICA ZAMBIA	23.8000	23.8500	23.7200	24.0600	23.8000	23.8500	23.7665	24.0400	23.8000	23.8500	23.7665	24.0400
ZAMBIA INDUSTRIAL COMMERCIAL BANK	23.7500	23.8000	23.5280	23.9890	23.7500	23.8000	23.5280	23.9000	23.7500	23.8000	23.5280	23.9000
ZAMBIA NATIONAL COMMERCIAL BANK	23.7500	23.8000	23.7500	24.1538	23.7500	23.8000	23.7500	24.1538	23.7500	23.8000	23.7500	24.1538
Market Average	23.7464	23.7964	23.6781	24.0219	23.7396	23.7896	23.6904	23.9862	23.7396	23.7896	23.6904	23.9889





# NKANA DOCKED POINTS FOR FIELDING INELIGIBLE PLAYER

By Lucky Chama

The Zambia Premier League (ZPL) has confirmed a disciplinary ruling overturning Nkana Football Club's Week Three MTN Super League victory against Green Buffaloes after the Kitwe giants were found to have fielded an ineligible player.

In a statement issued by ZPL Head of Communications Christina Zulu, the Football Association of Zambia (FAZ) Player Status Committee awarded the August 30 fixture as a 3-0 victory to Green Buffaloes. Additionally, Nkana has been fined K10,000, payable within seven days.

The club retains the right to appeal the decision to the FAZ Appeals Committee. The ruling follows a complaint lodged by Green Buffaloes regarding the eligibility of Nkana player Nduna Zulu, who featured in the match Nkana had initially won 1-0 at Nkana Stadium.

Nkana quickly responded, expressing disappointment with the decision and vowing to appeal.

"While we respect the process, we firmly believe that this outcome does not reflect the diligence and professionalism with which our club operates," the club said in a statement. "We fulfilled all our responsibilities in registering all our players. The issue regarding Nduna Zulu's registration occurred due to a system glitch in the FAZ registration process, and we are committed to seeking justice."

The 13-time Zambian champions urged their fans to stay calm and united during the appeal process. "We trust in the integrity of the process and are optimistic about having this decision overturned," the statement read.

"Your support means the world to us, and together, we will overcome this challenge and continue to strive for excellence on and off the pitch."

The appeal is expected to be lodged with the FAZ Appeals Committee in the coming days.

# FAZ FINALISES APPOINTMENTS TO FIVE MORE STANDING COMMITTEES

By Lucky Chama



The Football Association of Zambia (FAZ) has confirmed the appointment of members to five additional standing committees, bringing together experienced professionals to strengthen the administration and development of Zambian football.

Among the newly filled committees are the Women's Football, Finance, and Youth Football groups, chaired by Colonel Priscilla Katoba, Jordan Maliti, and Brian Sakulen'ga, respectively. FAZ president Keith Mweemba will lead the Emergency Committee, while Samuel Mwape takes charge of the Infrastructure Committee.

FAZ general secretary Machacha Shepande said the move reflects the association's commitment to inclusive and professional management.

"As FAZ, we are pleased to announce additional appointments of members to various committees following extensive consultations with different stakeholders," Shepande said. "These appointments reflect the FAZ executive's commitment to including everyone who can contribute positively to our sport."

He congratulated the appointees but reminded them of the significant tasks ahead.

"There is a lot of work to elevate our game to the next level," he emphasized. "The candidates underwent a thorough evaluation and were deemed most suitable for their designated roles. As an executive, we will provide them with maximum support in their endeavors."

These appointments follow earlier selections to the National Team Technical Sub-Committee, Referees Committee, Football Development Committee, Competitions Committee, Futsal and Beach Football Committee, and the Player Status and Transfer



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THINK BUSINESS



# KUNDANANJI BECOMES BAY FC'S ALL-TIME TOP SCORER IN NWSL

By Lucky Chama



Zambian striker Rachel Kundananji has etched her name into Bay Football Club's history books, becoming the club's all-time top scorer in the National Women's Soccer League (NWSL).

The Copper Queens forward achieved the milestone last weekend when she scored in Bay FC's 1-1 draw against Orlando Pride, surpassing Nigerian star Asisat Oshoala's previous record of seven goals. Oshoala netted her tally last season, while Kundananji has now taken her total beyond that mark across two seasons.

Kundananji was already Bay FC's leading playmaker, and she continues to top the club's assist charts with seven assists—four from 21 matches last season and three from 20 appearances this season. In the current campaign, she has been directly involved in six goals, scoring three and providing three assists, underlining her importance in Bay FC's attack.

Kundananji was a key figure for Zambia during the Women's Africa Cup of Nations (WAFCON), where she scored four goals and registered one assist, helping the Copper Queens to reach the quarterfinal, before losing to Nigeria.

30<sup>th</sup> AUG 2025

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