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# ZESCO, INDO ZAMBIA BANK INK K66.5M PACT FOR CHADIZA SOLAR POWER

By Cecilia Chiluba



ZESCO Limited has signed a landmark Stability and Resilience Facility (SRF) Agreement with Indo Zambia Bank (IZB), securing K66.5 million in green financing to fund the Chadiza Solar Project — a 2.5 megawatt solar power plant, with integrated battery storage.

The Chadiza Solar Project is expected to significantly improve energy access in Eastern Province and contribute to Zambia’s ambitions under its vision 2030 and renewable energy commitments.

What sets the project apart is the inclusion of battery energy storage- a feature designed to store excess solar power during the day for use during peak evening hours and cloudy periods, thereby enhancing grid stability and ensuring around-the-clock electricity availability.

The Bank has also committed funding in excess of US\$140 million in financing power generation projects of more than 800MW across the country, which are expected to come on board starting from the first quarter of 2026.

Speaking during the signing ceremony in Lusaka, ZESCO Managing Director, Eng. Justin Loongo hailed the agreement as a major step forward in the utility’s ongoing efforts to diversify Zambia’s energy mix and expand reliable electricity access to underserved regions.

Eng. Loongo said ZESCO has a package of 19 small Green Cities that have to be done, whose consumption is less than 5MW, with an implementation time-frame of three months.

“Through this partnership, we are securing K66.5 million in green financing for the Chadiza Solar Project, a 2.5MW solar power plant with integrated battery storage. This project is a vital step in ZESCO’s strategy to diversify its energy mix and strengthen grid reliability in underserved areas like Chadiza, bringing clean, stable electricity to more Zambians,” Eng. Loongo said.

He emphasized that this is a forward-looking solution, that ensures maximum benefits of renewable energy beyond sunlight hours, and commended the Bank for its leadership as well as commitment to sustainable development.

“Your support goes beyond funding, its a clear endorsement of ZESCO’s mission and Zambia’s path towards a low-carbon, energy-secure future. With the financing now in place, we are ready to move swiftly into implementation,” he added.

Construction of the solar facility will be undertaken by EPC contractor SFQ, with Eng. Loongo expressing confidence in the firm’s ability to execute the project swiftly and efficiently.

Speaking earlier, Indo Zambia Bank Managing Brajesh Singh, said once completed, the project will power schools, health facilities, businesses and households in Chadiza district, thereby unlocking new opportunities for enterprise and education while driving economic activity.

Mr. Singh noted that through progressive power purchase agreements and innovative projects such as the Chadiza Solar Plant, ZESCO is not only addressing the energy deficit but also advancing Zambia’s industrial and environmental agenda.

“The funds being extended to ZESCO are not merely a financial facility. This facility represents a deliberate investment in Zambia’s ongoing energy development efforts, building on work already underway and anchored in a vision of advancing community development. This support through the SRF facility will make a tangible difference in Chadiza through ZESCO’s city Greening innovation,” Mr. Singh said.

He applauded the Government and Bank of Zambia for their visionary policies such as the SRF and other green energy frameworks, which have provided predictability and confidence for investors as well as financial institutions.

Funded with K5 billion, the SRF was introduced by Bank of Zambia in December, 2024, to provide liquidity to eligible financial institutions to support businesses, particularly in the agriculture and energy sectors, affected by the 2023/24 drought.

# LIQUOR SELLER FINED K12,000 FOR ILLEGAL TRADING, OBSTRUCTION

By Money Daily Reporter



Lusaka Fast Track Court has fined a liquor seller K12, 000 or in default five months imprisonment with hard labour for trading without a licence and obstructing Council officers during an anti-vending operation in the Central Business District (CBD).

Godfrey Banda, was apprehended by Lusaka City Council Police on Monday, 22nd September 2025, after he was found selling liquor without a requisite license.

This was during anti-vending operations conducted in collaboration with the State Police in the Central Business District (CBD), along Freedom Way.

Council Public Relations Manager, Chola Mwamba said

during the apprehension, Mr. Banda became unruly and violent towards the officers, leading to his detention.

Ms. Mwamba said Mr. Banda appeared before the Fast Track Court yesterday, Tuesday, 23rd September 2025, facing two charges.

In the first count, the convict is charged for willfully obstructing an officer, employee or agent of the Local Authority, contrary to Section 69(1)(a) of the Local Government Act No. 2 of 2019.

“In count 2, he is charged for Trading in liquor without a license, contravening the Liquor Licensing Act No. 20 of 2011.

“The convict has since been remanded at Lusaka Central Prison and will be released once fine payment formalities are completed,” Ms. Mwamba stated.

She warned individuals that stern action will be taken against those who engage in illegal trading activities or obstruct Council officers in the course of their duty.

Ms. Mwamba also urged traders to comply with local regulations to avoid severe penalties.

“The Council reiterates its commitment to enforcing regulations governing trading activities in Lusaka, ensuring compliance with local laws for orderly business practices,” she added.

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GOVT URGES INVESTMENT IN RESILIENT WASH SYSTEMS, AS ZAMBIA LOSES BILLIONS TO CLIMATE DISASTERS IN 30 YEARS

By Cecilia Chiluba



Ministry of Water Development and Sanitation has observed that climate-related disasters have cost Zambia billions of US dollars over the past 30 years, straining public resources and slowing development.

Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Water Development and Sanitation, Eng. Romas Kamanga has since reaffirmed Government's commitment to tackling the escalating impacts of climate change on the country's water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) systems.

Eng. Kamanga highlighted how climate-induced hazards—such as extreme heat, flooding, and droughts—are

already disrupting water supply systems and damaging sanitation infrastructure.

“Southern, Western, and Eastern provinces are facing the most severe impacts, where climate pressures intersect with limited access to WASH services,” Eng. Kamanga noted.

Speaking through the Ministry's Director of Planning Melvin Sikazwe at a three-day workshop in Lusaka, Eng. Kamanga pointed to the drying of shallow wells in many communities, forcing women and children to walk long distances for water.

He also cited Zambia's worst cholera outbreak in two decades, with over

20,000 cases in two weeks, as evidence of the fragility of current systems, and called for strong governance, sustained investment, and inclusive collaboration to protect Zambia's future, especially for its children.

Eng. Kamanga outlined the Government's collaboration with UNICEF and the Swedish Environmental Research Institute, emphasizing the urgency of climate action in the WASH sector.

He described the workshop as a key milestone in developing a climate-resilient roadmap for WASH, integrating climate science with service delivery.

Earlier, UNICEF Zambia Deputy Country

Representative, Kenanao Keemenao Motlhoiwa, highlighted the need to establish partnerships that are guided by community needs and inclusive values.

“Climate action should be woven into all WASH sector discussions, especially those involving youth and children,” Ms. Motlhoiwa noted.

She called for genuine representation of children, youth, women, and persons with disabilities, stressing the importance of measurable commitments to inclusion, ensuring that no group is left behind.

This is according to a statement issued by Zambia NGO WASH Forum Communications Officer, Bangwe Naviley.

MUFULIRA MAN JAILED TWO YEARS FOR STEALING POWER CABLES WORTH K5,000

By Money Daily Reporter



A 28-year-old man of Mufulira, on the Copperbelt has been sentenced to two years and nine months imprisonment with hard labour for stealing power cables valued at K5,925, belonging to Mulonga Water Supply and Sanitation Company (MWSC).

The incident occurred on 14th September, 2025 at the Mopani Copper Mines Treatment Plant in Mufulira, where Brian Wotela , stole 22 kilograms of power cables.

The convict was apprehended following a report made to the Mopani Anti-Copper Theft Unit and later handed over to the police.

He appeared before Magistrate Sharon Mangani, on 17th September 2025, and

pleaded guilty to the charge, and was sentenced accordingly.

Minister of Water Development and Sanitation, Collins Nzovu has welcomed Brian's conviction and sentencing.

Eng. Nzovu said the conviction marks a significant step in the ongoing fight against vandalism and theft, which continue to undermine service delivery in the water and sanitation sector. He implored citizens to collaborate with Water Utilities, law enforcement agencies, and other stakeholders in protecting water and sanitation infrastructure.

He directed all Water Utilities to intensify the prosecution of such cases to deter would-be offenders and safeguard critical infrastructure.

“The Government strongly condemns all acts of vandalism and theft, which result in service disruptions, financial losses, and

unnecessary hardship for members of the public.”

“Such criminal activities not only damage vital infrastructure but also hinder community development and compromise public safety,” Eng. Nzovu stated.

He implored citizens to collaborate with Water Utilities, law enforcement agencies, and other stakeholders in protecting water and sanitation infrastructure.

“Public cooperation is vital in ensuring reliable and sustainable service delivery. The Ministry reaffirms its commitment to safeguarding public resources and ensuring that essential services are provided to communities without disruption,” he added.

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ZAMBIA NODS APPOINTMENT OF FORMER WORLD BANK VICE PRESIDENT AS NEW IGC COUNTRY DIRECTOR

By Cecilia Chiluba



Former World Bank Vice President for East and Southern Africa, Dr. Victoria Kwakwa, has been appointed as the Country Director of the International Growth Centre (IGC) Zambia, effective 1st October 2025.

The appointment was officially communicated to Minister of Finance and National Planning, Dr. Situmbeko Musokotwane, by IGC Executive Director, Jonathan Leape.

Dr. Kwakwa, a Ghanaian national, brings over three decades of experience from the World Bank, where she held several senior leadership roles, including Vice President for East and Southern Africa, Vice President for East Asia and the Pacific, and Vice President for Corporate Strategic Initiatives. Her work has spanned macroeconomic resilience, fiscal decentralization, infrastructure, and human capital development.

In welcoming the appointment, Dr. Musokotwane described it as a strong signal of confidence in Zambia's reform path.

"On behalf of the Government and the people of Zambia, I warmly congratulate Dr. Kwakwa on her new role. Her extensive international experience and deep knowledge of economic policy will be instrumental in advancing Zambia's growth-oriented focus. We look forward to the IGC providing research and policy guidance that supports our development priorities, under her leadership," Dr. Musokotwane said.

And IGC's Executive Director, Jonathan Leape, said Dr. Kwakwa's appointment reflects the centers' commitment to Zambia.

"Dr. Kwakwa's extraordinary leadership experience and global expertise will allow us to strengthen our partnerships in Zambia and deliver the evidence needed to support growth and development," he stated.

In Lusaka, Dr. Kwakwa will lead the IGC's resident team of economists and oversee a portfolio of more than 20 active projects, ranging from mining-sector linkages to agricultural productivity, all aligned with Zambia's long-term development agenda. She takes over from Shahrukh Wani, who has led the programme since 2022. Under her leadership, the IGC is expected to expand its reach in Zambia, sharpen its research capacity, and broaden engagement with the Government and private-sector stakeholders.

The IGC, a research organization backed by the London School of Economics and Oxford University, has positioned itself as a policy partner to governments in emerging markets.

Since late 2022, the IGC collaborated with the Zambian Government in several projects including piloting reforms to the Constituency Development Fund (CDF), which led to cutting delays in project approvals.

According to a statement issued by the Office of the Secretary to the Treasury, the Organization provided studies on copper demand and supply chains, thereby helping to inform efforts to expand local content in mining, and conducted research on climate and productivity risks in agriculture, shaping policy aimed at raising farmer incomes. It also delivered insights on rural electrification, showing where grid expansion succeeds when paired with productive local uses; and, partnered with the Ministry of Finance and National Planning to establish the Zambia Evidence Lab, embedding data and AI into public-sector decision making.

CSPR WANTS 2026 BUDGET TO PRIORITIZE INVESTMENT IN ENERGY DIVERSIFICATION, SOCIAL SECTOR

By Cecilia Chiluba



Civil Society for Poverty Reduction (CSPR) says it expects the 2026 national budget to focus heavily on continued investment in social sector, sustainable energy diversification and industrial processing.

Minister of Finance and National Planning, Dr. Situmbeko Musokotwane is expected to present the 2026 national budget on Friday, 26th September, 2025.

CSPR's expectations outline a need for continued and more investment in the social sector, specifically prioritizing agriculture, health, and education.

Speaking in an interview with Money News, Organization Board Chairperson Partner Siabutuba said CSPR wants to see a lot of budget support towards energy, for the country to actualize the attainment of sustainable energy options.

Mr. Siabutuba noted that this is vital for diversifying away from the current energy crisis that is heavily dependent on hydro.

"We are still expecting continued and more investment in the social sector, agriculture, health and education. But more-so we want to see a lot of support towards energy to actualize the attainment of sustainable energy options, diversifying away from the crisis we have that is dependent on hydro."

"So we are hoping that we will see meaningful support arrangement through the budget to ensure that his vision to attain a mixture of energy sources is achieved," Mr. Siabutuba stated.

He added that attaining this diversification is necessary not only to keep the economy running but also to sustain the vision for increased production and industrialization.

Mr. Siabutuba said with regards to furthering the industrialization agenda, CSPR expects investments in the area of processing.

He pointed out that this processing infrastructure is intended to establish an industrial base that is going to consume the agriculture products that are being unleashed in the economy.

"So we are hoping that there will also be investments in the area of processing so that as we are increasing products in agriculture, we also want to see industrial base that is going to consume the agriculture products that are being unleashed in the economy."

"So we are hoping that we are increasing products in agriculture, we also want to see industrial base that is going to consume the agriculture products that we are unleashing in our economy to ensure that we can value add and create employment and business opportunities for our people," he stressed.



# ZAMBIA PARTNERS WITH LITHUANIA TO ESTABLISH BILATERAL COOPERATION IN AREAS OF MUTUAL INTEREST

By Money Daily Reporter



Zambia has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Lithuania aimed at establishing a framework for policy dialogue between the two countries.

The framework will further create a viable platform for Zambia and Lithuania to consolidate bilateral cooperation in areas of mutual interest.

Areas of cooperation

include energy, infrastructure development, technology transfer, military cooperation.

Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Mulambo Haimbe, and Lithuania's acting Minister of Foreign Affairs, Kęstutis Budrys, signed the Memorandum of Understanding, on the margins of the 80th Session of the United Nations General Assembly in New

York. During the ceremony, Mr. Haimbe commended the Government of Lithuania for the genuine friendship with Zambia, which has translated into various benefits for both countries.

He reiterated Zambia's commitment to broadening the longstanding friendship through increased people to people exchanges and high-level visits.

"The establishment of a framework for policy dialogue will further create a viable platform for Zambia and Lithuania to consolidate bilateral cooperation in areas of mutual interest," Mr. Haimbe stated.

This is contained in a statement issued by First Secretary for Press and Public Relations, Zambia's Permanent Mission to the United Nations, Namatama Njekwa.

# INVEST IN SOUTHERN PROVINCE AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIST TELLS INVESTORS

By Cecilia Chiluba



An Agriculture Economist has urged both local and international investors to seize opportunities presented by Southern province's rich natural resources and ideal climate to invest in the agriculture sector.

Jerevas Tembo said the region's vast swamps and natural pastures have positioned it as an ideal location for livestock farming, including cattle rearing and dairy production.

Mr. Tembo told Money News in an interview that the availability of water and grazing land ensures sustainable livestock development, helping supply Zambia's growing demand for meat and milk, while also opening doors for beef and dairy exports.

"Southern Province in Zambia offers numerous investment opportunities in the agricultural sector driven by government's focus on enhancing agricultural development and ensuring food security because of its climatic conditions and

geographical position."

"Southern Province has various major natural resources like rivers, dam, swamps and coal minerals that draw market when products from crops and livestock are being realized. The major rivers and a dam namely: Zambezi and Kafue and Kariba Dam can offer investment opportunities to venture into crop and livestock farming away from mining industry," Mr. Tembo noted.

He further observed that the Province is ripe for agro-processing investment, particularly in maize milling, oil-seed processing, dairy, and meat production.

"Because of its geographic position and availability of raw materials, industries are enticed to go into Agro-processing of maize milling, oil-seed, milk and beef production. The rivers have connection in supplying water to the industries when processing the products."

"The province can

easily access both domestic and international marketing because it is found close to the neighboring countries like Namibia, Angola, Zimbabwe, Botswana and South Africa where excess processed products can be exported to these neighboring countries," he added.

Mr. Tembo added that the region's natural beauty and rich agricultural traditions present a unique opportunity for the growth of agro-tourism.

He said this emerging sector is poised to attract foreign visitors interested in experiencing rural life, farm tours, and sustainable farming practices, thereby generating additional foreign exchange revenue and tax income for the country.

"Southern Province's natural beauty and agricultural potential make it an attractive destination for agro-tourism which brings foreign exchange to Zambian economy by generating more revenues through tax. This can improve the Gross Domestic Product for the country through income generation and job creation," Mr. Tembo said.

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# ERB GREENLIGHTS K5.1 BILLION ENERGY PROJECTS WITH 32 LICENSES, 11 CONSTRUCTION PERMITS

By Cecilia Chiluba



Energy Regulation Board (ERB) has approved 32 licences and 11 construction permits with a combined investment commitment of K5.1 billion.

The approvals, made at the Board's Licensing Committee meeting held on 16th September 2025, span the petroleum, electricity, and renewable energy sub sectors.

The approved licences cover renewable energy generating equipment, the road transportation of petroleum products, the distribution, import

and export of petroleum products, and the blending and distribution of lubricants.

The construction permits include seven new service stations, notably in rural districts such as Chadiza, Nakonde, and Mpika.

Board Manager-Public Relations Namukolo Kasumpa, said other projects include a 32MW solar plant by Ilute Solar Limited in Sesheke, a Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) storage facility in Chongwe, as well as transmission and distribution lines by ZESCO

Limited.

Mrs. Kasumpa stated that this highlights a sustained investor interest in Zambia's energy industry and reaffirm the ERB's role in providing a transparent and enabling regulatory environment.

“Additional approvals were also granted for 64 road tank vehicles, the authorization for an LPG storage facility in Kasumbalesa to commence operations, and an amendment to increase capacity for Solar Century One Power Limited's solar plant from 25MWp to

34.5MWp.”

“These developments are critical to broadening energy access, particularly in underserved rural areas, while strengthening operational efficiency and supporting the roll-out of safe and modern energy solutions nationwide,” Mrs. Kasumpa stated.

She reaffirmed the Board's dedication to upholding a stable and efficient regulatory framework that attracts sustainable investment in line with the country's national energy policy.

# COUNCIL SEIZES KACHASU, TUJILIJILI IN INDUSTRIAL AREA

By Money Daily Reporter



Lusaka City Council (LCC) has cracked down on illicit locally brewed alcohol in the Industrial Area.

The alcohol which includes Kachasu and Tujilijili, was seized during a joint operation conducted by Council and State Police.

Council Public Relations Manager, Chola Mwamba said the alcohol was found being sold illegally in the area, contravening the Liquor Licensing Act No. 20 of 2011.

“Upon noticing the presence of the enforcement officers,

suspects involved in the illegal alcohol trade fled in different directions to avoid apprehension. The Council wishes to sternly warn individuals

involved in such illegal activities to desist, as the law will soon catch up with them,” Ms. Mwamba said.

She stated that the Local Authority will continue with massive inspections to ensure a conducive and well-regulated liquor industry.

Ms. Mwamba added that the Council will intensify sensitization campaigns on the dangers of selling,

distribution, consuming illicit alcohol and the legal implications of involvement in its trade.

“The operation underscores the Council's commitment to enforcing laws governing the sale and distribution of alcoholic beverages and protect public health and safety as unregulated brews can pose serious health risks to consumers,” she stated.

She implored the public to cooperate in these endeavors to create a safer environment.

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# HOW CIRCULAR ECONOMY CAN HELP ZAMBIA MEET SDGS

By Dr. Bupe Getrude Mutono-Mwanza - PhD



In its quest for sustainable development, Zambia is at a turning point. Communities and ecosystems are at serious risk from rising urbanization, waste production, and the effects of climate change. At the same time, the country has pledged to meet challenging goals under the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It will take innovative strategies that are resilient and inclusive to meet these goals. The circular economy, which substitutes reuse, repair, recycling, and regeneration for the conventional "take, make, dispose" paradigm of resource usage, is one promising avenue.

The circular economy is a force for social inclusion, economic development, and climatic resilience; it is not just about protecting the environment. In Zambia, using circular practices will accelerate progress toward the SDGs and open doors to achieving national targets outlined in the 8th National Development Plan. Zambia produces thousands of tons of solid waste per day, a large portion of it is electronic, organic, and plastic. The majority wind up in illegal dumpsites or landfills. This garbage can be recycled into new materials by means of the circular economy. Ewaste can be turned into reconditioned goods, plastics into building materials, and organics into compost or biofertilizers. Zambia can lessen its reliance on imports and conserve raw materials by completing resource loops.

Circular companies are a great way to create jobs. Waste-to-energy initiatives, repair

workshops, and recycling cooperatives can empower women and young people, many of whom have few options in the official labor market. In addition to improving livelihoods, integrating informal waste pickers into formal value chains helps guarantee safer and more equitable working conditions. Additionally, waste, especially methane from organic stuff in dumpsites—contributes covertly to greenhouse gas emissions. Zambia can produce inexpensive electricity and organic fertilizers while lowering emissions by increasing the production of biogas and composting. Agricultural circular methods, such turning agricultural waste into biochar, enhance soil health and reduce dependency on chemical inputs.

Poor waste management causes flooding, clogs drainage systems, and endangers public health in Lusaka, Kitwe, and Ndola. Cities may become cleaner, healthier, and more resilient by using circular solutions including waste separation at the source, community recycling centers, and circular construction models. The recycling movement in Zambia already heavily relies on women. With the help of Zambian Breweries, the Manja Pamodzi program has enabled more than 850 collectors—70% of whom are women—to recover PET bottles and cartons from local communities. These initiatives demonstrate how women are empowered by the circular economy to become green entrepreneurs and advocates

for community resilience.

Zambia cannot become circular on its own. When it comes to filling in technical, financial, and ability shortfalls, the international community and NGOs are essential partners. Zambia's experimental circular economy projects can be expanded into national programs with the support of international funds like the Global Environment Facility and the Green Climate Fund. For SMEs pursuing recycling and renewable energy, NGOs and development partners can reduce the risk of their investments. Proven concepts might also be introduced to Zambia through international collaborations. Zambia can adopt technology and tactics shared by the African Circular Economy Network and EU circular platforms, for instance. NGOs like Practical Action and WWF already collaborate with communities to support sustainable agriculture and waste management; by extending their reach to include training waste pickers, local councils, and business owners in circular practices, they may hasten adoption. To guarantee that circular ideas are completely included into Zambia's 8th National Development Plan and to reinforce the country's Extended Producer Responsibility framework, outside players can also offer technical assistance. Together, the government, NGOs, and international community can establish a supportive atmosphere that will encourage circular investments to Zambia and provide social and environmental advantages. The circular economy speeds up the fulfillment of the SDGs, as demonstrated by developed nations. Through its Circular Economy Action Plan

(2015–2020, revised in 2020), the European Union has substantially reduced emissions from resource exploitation, generated over 4 million green jobs, and achieved recycling rates of over 65% for packaging waste. SDGs 8 on economic growth, SDG 13 on climate action, and SDG 12 on responsible production are all directly impacted by these initiatives. Another example is Japan. Due to the scarcity of natural resources, it passed legislation mandating that manufacturers design automobiles and gadgets for simple recycling and disassembly. This has advanced SDG 9 on industry, innovation, and infrastructure in addition to climate goals by conserving resources, lowering waste production, and fostering innovation. These illustrations show that policy-driven circularity yields quantifiable outcomes when supported by robust enforcement and incentives. By implementing these principles, Zambia may develop its domestic industry, stop the loss of its resources, and improve its competitiveness in international markets.

Environmental preservation and sustainable production are already prioritized in Zambia's Green Growth Strategy and climate pledges. However, if the nation is to fulfill SDG targets by 2030, the pace of implementation must quicken. In addition to lowering amounts of unmanaged waste, the circular economy offers SMEs and cooperatives new sources of income, boosts Zambia's competitiveness in global value chains, increases resilience to resource and climate shocks, and enhances public health and quality of life in both urban and rural areas.

The circular economy is a workable, instantaneous answer to Zambia's developmental problems rather than a theoretical idea. Zambia can accomplish several SDGs at once, reduce emissions, empower women, and create green jobs by adopting circular processes. But teamwork is necessary for success. Communities must adopt circular practices; the private sector must innovate; academics must produce research and skills; NGOs and foreign partners must finance, train, and promote circular solutions; and the government must supply the policy framework. Zambia's capacity to use the circular economy will define its progress toward the SDGs and its position as a leader in Africa's green transition as the year 2030 draws near. Zambia can demonstrate that circularity is not only feasible but also necessary for a sustainable future through international cooperation and indigenous creativity.

#### ABOUT AUTHOR:

**Dr. Bupe Getrude Mutono-Mwanza is a Senior Lecturer and Associate Director at the Graduate School of Business, University of Zambia, and serves as Professor Extraordinarius at the University of South Africa. She has over ten years of experience in academic leadership, teaching, and research. Her areas of expertise include production and operations management, sustainable supply chains, and the circular economy. She has supervised and examined over 100 postgraduate theses, contributed to major international sustainability projects, published extensively, and serves on editorial boards, professional associations, and university governance committees.**

# UNPACKING THE MINERAL REGULATION COMMISSIONS' POTENTIAL TO TRANSFORMING ARTISANAL AND SMALL- SECTOR MINING SECTOR IN ZAMBIA

By Zondwayo Duma



Artisanal and small-scale Mining (ASM) has long sustained rural livelihoods, supporting an estimated 500,000 people. However, the sector has remained largely informal, leading to revenue losses, environmental degradation and unsafe working. Hence, in Zambia, the Government enacted the Mineral Regulation Commission Act (MRCA) that seeks to change this trajectory by creating a unified regulatory authority, formalising artisanal operations and aligning mineral trading systems with Zambia's development priorities.

A defining feature of the Act is its emphasis on formalisation. The new framework requires artisanal miners and mineral traders to obtain licenses and be registered. This allows for the state to track operations, and enforce compliance. For the Government, it means curtailing fiscal leakages from unregulated trade. For miners, it provides legal recognition, access to regulated markets, and protection from exploitative middlemen. This approach reflects the Africa Mining Vision, which calls for the integration of ASM into formal economies to promote inclusive growth.

The timing of this reform is

strategic. Demand for critical minerals such as cobalt, lithium, and manganese is surging due to the global energy transition. Zambia is well-positioned, with significant reserves of these resources. If ASM production is formalised and linked to national industrialisation strategies, it could contribute not only to revenue mobilisation but also to downstream value addition. In this way, the MRCA is more of a regulatory measure aimed at positioning Zambia within global value chains.

Despite the ambitions, the Act faces clear weaknesses. The most pressing challenge is institutional capacity. The Minerals Regulations Commission will need highly trained personnel, modern digital systems, and logical resources to regulate ASM across remote areas. Without adequate investment, enforcement risks are uneven or undermined by vested interests. Weak institutional performance has derailed similar reforms elsewhere in the region.

Barriers to compliance also present risks. For instance, if licensing fees, trading permits, or environmental requirements are too costly or complex, miners may avoid the formal system. Ghana and Tanzania show that burdensome compliance frameworks push miners back into informality. However, the risk is higher in

Zambia, where many miners operate at a subsistence level. Further, the designation of artisanal mining zones threatens the occupation of ASM, especially if the mining zones are not underpinned by credible geological data. Furthermore, centralisation, while efficient, could also create new bureaucratic bottlenecks, slowing down licensing and discouraging participation.

ASM has long been associated with deforestation, land degradation, and mercury use in gold processing. While the MRCA mandates environmental compliance, many artisanal miners lack access to safer technologies or the finances to adopt them. Without targeted support such as mercury-free processing technologies, training, and access to credit, efforts to enhance environmental sustainability.

Similarly, minerals such as gold and manganese are subject to cross-border smuggling. Unless the reforms are complemented by regional harmonisation and stronger border controls, much of Zambia's mineral wealth will continue to leak to neighbouring markets. Tanzania's mineral trading centres and Ghana's community-based monitoring offer lessons for Zambia on how to strengthen traceability and minimise smuggling.

To maximise the implementation of the MRCA, institutional strengthening is essential. The Commission must be staffed with qualified professionals and supported with modern systems for monitoring and data collection. However, the Ministry of Mines and Minerals Development remain largely underfunded. Limited funding has been a hindrance to the staffing of mining bureaus in the various provinces, thereby affecting the government's efforts to monitor artisanal mining activities.

Similarly, licensing processes should be simplified, costs reduced, and mobile registration centres deployed in mining areas. This would encourage miners to transition into the formal systems. Further, miners must be trained on environmental sustainability, provided with affordable financing and supported with the acquisition of environmentally friendly equipment. Furthermore, artisanal mining zones must be designated transparently and based on credible geological surveys. This ensures miners are allocated viable areas and potentially reduces the risk of disputes with large players.

Finally, the Mining Regulations Act 2024 represents an opportunity to transform ASM from an informal and risky sector into a legitimate driver of development. However, the

success of the MRCA will depend on strong institutions, practical compliance measures, and deliberate engagement with miners themselves. If effectively implemented, the Act could secure fiscal revenues, create safer jobs, and position Zambia as a competitive player in the critical minerals supply chains.

**About author:**

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## THINK BUSINESS

# DIVERSIFYING THE ENERGY PORTFOLIO SHOULD PRIORITIZE BASE LOAD POWER

As Zambia prepares for the 2026 National Budget presentation this week, one theme is once again unavoidable: energy. The Civil Society for Poverty Reduction (CSPR) is right to emphasize diversification, but the conversation must go deeper. It is not enough to simply talk about “mixtures of energy sources.” The country’s future hinges on whether this diversification prioritizes base load power—the constant and reliable electricity supply without which no serious industrialization or economic transformation can take place.

For far too long, Zambia’s energy strategy has been held hostage by overdependence on hydro. While hydropower has historically been the backbone of our electricity generation, the mounting climate shocks—erratic rainfall, prolonged droughts, and reduced water levels in our reservoirs—have exposed this dependency as a structural weakness. Each drought season brings familiar headlines: “load shedding returns,” “Kariba Dam at record low levels,” “industries cut back production.” This cycle has become not only predictable but also economically destructive.

The danger now is that in

our push for “diversification,” we risk mistaking variety for security. Solar farms, mini-grids, and small renewable projects are often celebrated as symbols of progress—and indeed, they have their role in rural electrification and reducing carbon footprints. But we must confront a fundamental truth: solar and wind are intermittent. They cannot anchor an industrial economy that seeks to expand processing plants, manufacturing zones, and a 24-hour economy. They are supplementary, not foundational.

True diversification must therefore be guided by the principle of base load security. This means serious, unapologetic investment in energy sources that guarantee round-the-clock supply regardless of whether it rains or the sun shines. Zambia cannot industrialize on hope; it must industrialize on steady power.

What are the options? Natural gas and coal—when paired with modern clean technologies—can provide reliable base load while the country gradually transitions to greener options. Equally, nuclear power, often dismissed in local debates as futuristic, should be part of the conversation. Even small modular reactors (SMRs) are

becoming increasingly viable for nations with Zambia’s energy profile. Meanwhile, geothermal energy, largely untapped in our region, offers another steady alternative. The reluctance to explore these sources is less about feasibility and more about political will and policy imagination.

The budget, therefore, must not scatter resources into politically attractive but strategically shallow energy projects. Instead, it should lay

can achieve sustained development when its citizens live under the constant anxiety of load shedding.

The message is clear: diversification without base load is a slogan, not a solution. Zambia must move beyond the illusion that sprinkling solar panels across the country will deliver industrial power security. The challenge before Dr. Musokotwane is not merely to allocate funds but to steer the

## MONEY EDITORIAL

the foundation for a balanced portfolio: base load anchors supplemented by renewables. Only then can Zambia secure the uninterrupted power needed for industrial parks, mining operations, data centers, and the processing industries CSPR is rightly pushing for.

The link between energy and industrialization is not abstract. Without stable base load power, the push to value-add in agriculture will collapse under the weight of power outages. No investor will risk capital in factories where production halts at the whim of the weather. And no society

can achieve sustained development when its citizens live under the constant anxiety of load shedding.

If the 2026 budget misses this point, Zambia risks yet another cycle of power crises that will rob our industrial dream of its foundation. The country cannot afford another lost decade. The time to prioritize base load is now.

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THINK BUSINESS

PORSCHE SHARES PLUNGE AFTER ANNOUNCING EV ROLLOUT DELAY

By BBC Business



Porsche's stock tumbled by more than 7% on Monday after warning last week that delays in its electric vehicle (EV) rollout will dent the carmaker's 2025 earnings.

Caught between electrification and its iconic petrol-powered sports cars, the German firm said it will slow its push for EVs as demand weakens.

Shares of its parent Volkswagen also fell by more than 7% on the same day after saying it will spend billions to overhaul Porsche's line-up of vehicles.

The companies' struggles reflect the challenges for

European manufacturers, who are faced with intense competition from Chinese rivals and a slowing economy that's dampening demand for luxury cars.

Porsche said in a statement on Friday that it has reduced its projected profit margin from up to 7% to 2% or less.

It cited the "US import tariffs, the decline in the Chinese luxury market, and the slowdown in the ramp-up of electric mobility" among its challenges.

The company also said it would delay the launch of its newest EVs and that it will extend production of

combustion engine models, even as the European market faces a 2035 deadline to ban the sale of new petrol and diesel cars.

Manufacturers have put pressure on European authorities to lower emission targets, arguing that they were not feasible.

In a strategic shift, Porsche said an upcoming line of sport utility vehicles, originally planned as fully electric, will now launch exclusively with combustion engines and plug-in hybrid options. Luxury carmakers BMW and Mercedes-Benz have also been slashing costs to keep up with rivals.

ONLINE PAYMENT SUSPENSION DISRUPTS BUSINESSES – FIRMS

By Nation

Some commercial banks have reportedly suspended debit card payments for online foreign exchange transactions, sending shockwaves through the business community and sparking worries about the potential long-term fallout.

The measure, intended to preserve scarce foreign currency and redirect them towards essential imports such as fuel and medical drugs, has disrupted e-commerce and online trade, leaving businesses scrambling for alternative payment solutions.

Some commercial banks are notifying their customers of the suspension.

In an email seen by Business News, Standard Bank plc informed a customer that it had rejected their card activation request due to the "temporary suspension of card activation services because of the prevailing foreign exchange scarcity".

The Malawi Stock Exchange-listed bank apologised to the customer for the inconvenience, promising services would resume "as soon as conditions allow".

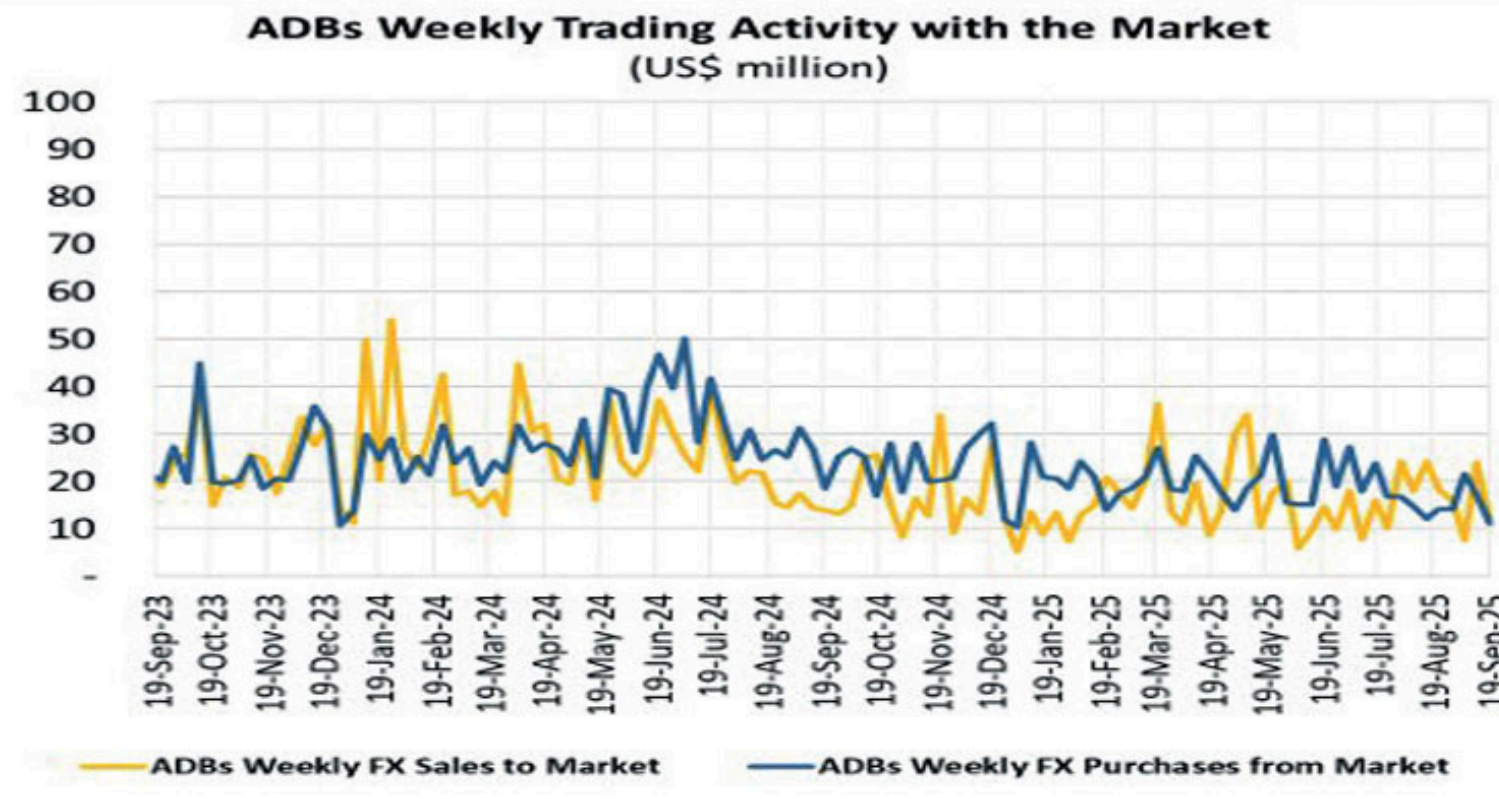
Customers from other commercial banks reported failing to pay for services such as Netflix, Spotify and Showmax, all of which cost less than \$15 dollars (about

K27 000), indicating that the ban is widespread in all commercial banks.

The freeze comes at a time when Malawi's total foreign exchange reserves stand at \$607.7 million (about K1 trillion), equivalent to 2.4 months of import cover.

This falls short of the 3.9 months threshold recommended by international financial institutions for credit-constrained economies such as Malawi.

For creative professionals, the impact is already being felt.



EXCHANGE RATES

Daily Commercial Banks Exchange Rates

| 📅 24-09-2025                      | 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                | 23.7100         | 23.7600 | 23.7100      | 24.1750 | 23.6250         | 23.6750 | 23.6000      | 24.0500 | 23.6000         | 23.6500 | 23.6000      | 24.0500 |
| BANK OF CHINA (ZAMBIA)            | 23.5000         | 23.5500 | 23.3500      | 23.7455 | 23.5000         | 23.5500 | 23.3600      | 23.7555 | 23.5500         | 23.6000 | 23.4100      | 23.8055 |
| ABSA BANK ZAMBIA                  | 23.5000         | 23.5500 | 23.4961      | 23.8727 | 23.4500         | 23.5000 | 23.4500      | 23.8232 | 23.5000         | 23.5500 | 23.5000      | 23.8879 |
| CITIBANK ZAMBIA                   | 23.7000         | 23.7500 | 23.5500      | 23.9490 | 23.7000         | 23.7500 | 23.5500      | 23.9490 | 23.8000         | 23.8500 | 23.5010      | 23.8990 |
| ECOBANK ZAMBIA                    | 23.7000         | 23.7500 | 23.4000      | 23.8000 | 23.6850         | 23.7350 | 23.4000      | 23.8000 | 23.7000         | 23.7500 | 23.4502      | 23.9002 |
| FIRST ALLIANCE BANK ZAMBIA        | 23.6500         | 23.7000 | 23.6500      | 23.9000 | 23.7000         | 23.7500 | 23.7000      | 23.9000 | 23.7250         | 23.7750 | 23.7250      | 23.9750 |
| FIRST CAPITAL BANK ZAMBIA         | 23.6500         | 23.7000 | 23.5260      | 23.9750 | 23.8000         | 23.8500 | 23.8000      | 24.0000 | 23.8000         | 23.8500 | 23.8000      | 24.0000 |
| FIRST NATIONAL BANK ZAMBIA        | 23.5500         | 23.6000 | 23.5500      | 23.8050 | 23.6500         | 23.7000 | 23.5500      | 23.8050 | 23.6500         | 23.7000 | 23.6500      | 23.9060 |
| INDO-ZAMBIA BANK                  | 23.6000         | 23.6500 | 23.6000      | 23.9800 | 23.6000         | 23.6500 | 23.6000      | 23.9800 | 23.7500         | 23.8000 | 23.7500      | 23.9800 |
| STANBIC BANK ZAMBIA               | 23.7500         | 23.8000 | 23.3650      | 23.8300 | 23.7500         | 23.8000 | 23.7400      | 23.9770 | 23.7500         | 23.8000 | 23.7400      | 23.9770 |
| STANDARD CHARTERED BANK           | 23.6500         | 23.7000 | 23.4500      | 23.8500 | 23.7000         | 23.7500 | 23.6750      | 23.9600 | 23.7000         | 23.7500 | 23.5250      | 23.9000 |
| UNITED BANK FOR AFRICA ZAMBIA     | 23.6300         | 23.6800 | 23.6200      | 23.9500 | 23.6300         | 23.6800 | 23.6200      | 23.9500 | 23.6500         | 23.7000 | 23.6200      | 23.9500 |
| ZAMBIA INDUSTRIAL COMMERCIAL BANK | 23.5500         | 23.6000 | 23.5500      | 23.9500 | 23.7600         | 23.8100 | 23.7600      | 23.9950 | 23.7000         | 23.7500 | 23.7000      | 23.9500 |
| ZAMBIA NATIONAL COMMERCIAL BANK   | 23.5000         | 23.5500 | 23.5000      | 23.8526 | 23.6000         | 23.6500 | 23.5000      | 23.8526 | 23.5500         | 23.6000 | 23.5000      | 23.8526 |
| Market Average                    | 23.6171         | 23.6671 | 23.5227      | 23.9025 | 23.6536         | 23.7036 | 23.5932      | 23.9141 | 23.6732         | 23.7232 | 23.6051      | 23.9309 |



NOCZ HAILS NIF FOR SUCCESSFUL PARTNERS’ MEETING ON SPORTS DEVELOPMENT

By Lucky Chama

The National Olympic Committee of Zambia (NOCZ) has praised the Norwegian Olympic and Paralympic Confederation of Sports (NIF) for hosting a productive two-day partners’ meeting in Lusaka, aimed at strengthening collaboration and reviewing progress on sports development initiatives.

The meeting, held from 22 to 23 September 2025, brought together eleven NIF partners to share ideas, exchange updates, and evaluate the implementation of NIF programmes. Each organisation was represented by two delegates, with participants including the NOCZ, Judo Association of Zambia, African Union Sports Council (AUSC) Region 5, NOWSPAR, Response Network, Sport in Action, the National Olympic Committees of Malawi and Zimbabwe, Judo Malawi, Judo Zimbabwe, and Zimbabwe Volleyball.

NOCZ Secretary General Boniface Kambikambi commended NIF for creating a platform that encourages evaluation and knowledge sharing.

“It is through such meetings that NIF partners get to evaluate progress, exchange knowledge, and identify new opportunities for collaboration that drive sustainable sports development,” Kambikambi said.

The sessions focused on key partnership outcomes and strategies to enhance programme delivery and impact across the region.

NIF Senior Program Advisor, Susanne Hvidsten, said the discussions underlined the value of unity and collaboration among stakeholders.

“We have reaffirmed NIF’s commitment to fostering strong and long-lasting partnerships,” Hvidsten noted. “Continued collaboration with our partners will further strengthen programme delivery, ensuring that sports development initiatives reach and benefit more communities.”

CIFUENTES PROMISES DAKA, TEAMMATES MORE GAME TIME AS LEICESTER’S SEASON PROGRESSES

By Lucky Chama



Leicester City manager Martí Cifuentes has reassured Zambian striker Patson Daka and his teammates that opportunities for game time will increase as the season unfolds.

Daka, who has featured in six SkyBet Championship matches totaling 221 minutes, has struggled for extended playing time, with his most recent league appearance amounting to just two minutes against Coventry City. His longest outing so far this campaign came in the EFL Cup, where he played 82 minutes against Huddersfield Town.

Speaking after Leicester’s latest fixture, Cifuentes emphasized that all players remain integral to the club’s ambitions over a long and demanding season.

“It’s great news for the whole team and for me as a manager it creates a little bit of a headache, but that’s a luxury problem,” Cifuentes said. “The strength and the power we have from the bench is very important. Hopefully, the players understand that during the season everyone will be very important.”

The Foxes boss welcomed Ricardo Pereira back to the starting XI after injury, handed Jordan James his full debut, and introduced Julián Carranza for his first Leicester appearance — options that, he said, will be crucial for squad rotation.

Cifuentes admitted that tough selection decisions have been necessary but insisted patience will pay off. “It has not been easy to take decisions. Some players who have been doing really well couldn’t play today,” he noted.

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THINK BUSINESS

BARCELONA'S GAVI OUT FOR UP TO FIVE MONTHS

By BBC Sports



Barcelona midfielder Gavi could miss the next five months after having knee surgery.

The 21-year-old featured in Barcelona's opening two matches of the season before injuring his right knee during a training session in August. There were fears the Spain international had suffered a recurrence of the anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) tear he sustained in 2023.

Although scan results revealed Gavi had avoided an ACL tear, he has had an operation to repair damaged cartilage.

"Gavi has had an arthroscopy to resolve a medial meniscus injury, which was sutured to preserve the meniscus," a Barcelona statement read. "Recovery time is estimated at around four to five months."

"He's a player with a big heart and a lot of emotion," Barcelona manager Hansi Flick said. "It's not easy for this team, because he has a huge quality for us, but every one of us will support him and will help him to reach his level again."

Gavi became the fourth youngest debutant in Barcelona history when he made his debut in 2021.

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