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ERB APPROVES K608M ENERGY LICENCES

Energy Regulation Board (ERB) has approved 42 licences, five construction permits and several amendments to licences valued at K608 million, in a move aimed at strengthening energy service delivery and infrastructure development across Zambia...

Page 3

ZESCO RESTORES COPPERBELT POWER AFTER KITWE SUBSTATION FAULT

ZESCO Limited has restored power supply to affected parts of the Copperbelt following a technical fault at the Kitwe Substation that disrupted electricity supply on...

Page 3

ZAMBIA FLAGS RISE IN NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASES AT GLOBAL HEALTH ASSEMBLY

Zambia has raised concern over the growing burden of non-communicable diseases (NCDs), describing them as one of the country's leading emerging health challenges even as it records...

Page 4



ZAM CALLS FOR VALUE ADDITION TO DRIVE AGRICULTURE EXPORT GROWTH

Page 5

MANZIVALLEY[®] NATURAL MINERAL WATER

GOVT REAFFIRMS COMMITMENT TO SUSTAINABLE LUANGWA PROJECT

By Lucky Chama



Government has reaffirmed its commitment to the successful implementation of the Sustainable Luangwa Project, with a call for accelerated execution and stronger collaboration among stakeholders to safeguard the country's vital Luangwa landscape.

Ministry of Green Economy and Environment Permanent Secretary Dr. Douy Chibamba made the call yesterday when he officially opened the second National Steering Committee meeting for the project at the Provincial Administration offices in Chinsali, Muchinga Province.

The meeting brought together key stakeholders to review project progress, approve the 2026 work plan and budget, and provide

strategic guidance for the remaining implementation period.

Dr. Chibamba said the project remained critical to Zambia's national development agenda, particularly in advancing sustainable natural resource management, climate change adaptation and inclusive green growth.

"The mid-term review is a critical milestone as it provides an independent assessment of the project's performance, achievements, challenges, lessons learned, and recommendations for strengthening implementation during the remaining project period," Dr. Chibamba said.

He urged implementing partners to address challenges affecting progress, particularly low disbursement rates and delays in executing

planned activities.

Dr. Chibamba further called for enhanced coordination and improved financial and technical reporting to ensure the project delivers tangible environmental and socio-economic benefits to communities in Mafinga District.

Meanwhile, Muchinga Province Deputy Permanent Secretary Brian Sichande, speaking on behalf of Permanent Secretary and committee Co-Chairperson Dr. Tuesday Bwalya, described the Mafinga Hills ecosystem as one of Zambia's most critical natural assets.

"The Mafinga Hills serves as a critical water catchment area, a biodiversity hotspot, and a source of livelihood for many surrounding communities," Mr. Sichande said.

He noted that the province was already witnessing positive results from the project, including improved water quality, better river flow and increased community participation.

Mr. Sichande stressed the importance of placing local communities at the centre of implementation to guarantee the project's long-term sustainability.

The Sustainable Luangwa Project, officially known as Sustainable Luangwa: Securing Luangwa's Water Resources for Shared Socioeconomic and Environmental Benefits through Integrated Catchment Management, is aimed at enhancing rural livelihoods and promoting sustainable biodiversity management.

The project is supported by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF).

ZESCO RESTORES COPPERBELT POWER AFTER KITWE SUBSTATION FAULT

By Lucky Chama



Eng. Justin Loongo

ZESCO Limited has restored power supply to affected parts of the Copperbelt following a technical fault at the Kitwe Substation that disrupted electricity supply on Wednesday evening.

In a media statement, the power utility said the disturbance occurred on 20 May 2026 at 19:03 hours, affecting some customers across the region.

ZESCO Managing Director Eng. Justin Loongo said its System Control Centre and technical teams responded immediately to stabilize the network and restore supply. "The incident affected power supply to some customers in the region. ZESCO's System Control Centre and technical teams responded immediately, in line with established procedures, to stabilise the network and restore supply," Eng. Loongo said.

Eng. Loongo said the

affected equipment was successfully re-energised later that same evening, allowing normal load configuration to be progressively restored.

He apologised to customers, businesses and institutions affected by the outage, acknowledging the inconvenience caused by the disruption.

"We sincerely apologise to our customers, businesses, institutions, and the public for the inconvenience caused. While the protection systems operated as designed to safeguard equipment and prevent wider damage, we fully recognise the disruption that any unplanned outage causes to daily life and business operations," he said.

Eng. Loongo further disclosed that investigations are underway to establish the exact cause of the fault and determine corrective maintenance measures to prevent a recurrence.

"A detailed technical investigation is underway to establish the cause of the fault and guide any further corrective maintenance and reliability measures required," he stated.

Eng. Loongo reiterated the utility company's commitment to maintaining a safe, reliable and stable electricity supply through continued investment in preventive maintenance, asset monitoring and operational readiness.

Eng. Loongo thanked customers for their patience and assured the public that further updates would be provided where necessary.

"We regret the unplanned loss of supply and seek our customers' support and patience," he said.

The outage briefly affected business operations and households in parts of the Copperbelt, one of Zambia's key industrial regions.

ERB GREENLIGHTS 42 LICENSES WORTH K608 MILLION TO BOOST ZAMBIA'S ENERGY SECTOR

By Cecilia Chiluba



Energy Regulation Board (ERB) has approved 42 licences, five construction permits and several amendments to licences valued at K608 million, in a move aimed at strengthening energy service delivery and infrastructure development across Zambia.

The approvals that were granted during the ERB Licensing Committee meeting held on May 15, 2026, span the electricity, renewable energy and downstream petroleum subsectors, reflecting continued investor confidence in Zambia's energy sector.

ERB Manager-Public Relations Namukolo

Kasumpa said in a statement that the approvals signal broad-based expansion across Zambia's energy value chain.

Ms. Kasumpa revealed that regarding downstream petroleum infrastructure, the ERB authorized the construction of three new retail service stations and approved the commissioning of two additional service stations for operational use.

She added that the ERB licensed 49 petroleum transportation fuel tankers to strengthen the country's petroleum supply chain and enhance fuel distribution capacity.

"These developments expand compliant

petroleum infrastructure and improve nationwide access to petroleum products," she stated.

She further disclosed that the Board also approved 14 kiosks for the retailing of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG), a move expected to increase consumer access to the commodity.

In the renewable energy sub-sector, Ms. Kasumpa said the Board approved a licence for a 10-megawatt photovoltaic power generation plant by China Jiangsu International Green Energy Limited.

She explained that the project is expected to support Zambia's transition towards sustainable energy systems in line with national energy policy objectives.

"Additionally, the ERB approved 10 licences for the manufacture, supply, installation, and maintenance of renewable energy generating equipment," she said.

She stated that all licences and permits were issued under the Energy Regulation Act No. 12 of 2019 to ensure full regulatory compliance.

Ms. Kasumpa reaffirmed the Board's dedication to regulating the energy sector in the public interest.

"The ERB remains steadfast in its commitment to regulating the energy sector in the public interest, with a sustained focus on compliance, operational efficiency, consumer protection, and long-term sustainability," Ms. Kasumpa added.

LCC COMPLETES LUSAKA CENTRAL MINI CIVIC CENTRE

By Lucky Chama



The Lusaka City Council (LCC) has completed construction works on the Lusaka Central Constituency Mini Civic Centre, marking another milestone in the decentralisation of municipal services in the capital city.

The project, which is set to be commissioned soon, was undertaken with funding from the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development at a total cost of K3,379,027.91.

According to LCC Public Relations Manager Chola Mwamba, the new facility is part of the local authority's efforts to bring essential civic services closer to residents and improve efficiency in service delivery.

"The Lusaka Central Mini Civic Centre is one of four such facilities constructed within the city. The other completed Mini Civic Centres are

located in Kabwata, Kanyama and Matero constituencies," Ms Mwamba said.

She explained that the centres are designed to decentralise operations of the local authority, thereby reducing congestion and operational bottlenecks at the main Civic Centre while making services more accessible to communities.

"The establishment of these centres is expected to enhance efficiency, reduce delays and improve overall service delivery to the people of Lusaka," she said.

Ms Mwamba noted that the project aligns with Government's fiscal decentralisation policy, which seeks to implement community-driven infrastructure projects that directly respond to local needs.

"This initiative demonstrates Government's

commitment to promoting accessibility, efficiency and responsiveness in public service delivery. It is part of broader efforts to ensure that residents can access municipal services conveniently within their constituencies," she said.

She reaffirmed the City Council's commitment to delivering infrastructure that supports effective governance and improved public service delivery across Lusaka.

"The City Council remains committed to developing infrastructure that improves the quality of life for residents and ensures services are delivered efficiently at community level," Ms Mwamba added.

LCC said the official commissioning date for the Lusaka Central Mini Civic Centre will be announced in due course.

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ZAMBIA FLAGS RISE IN NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASES AT GLOBAL HEALTH ASSEMBLY

By Lucky Chama



Dr Kennedy Lishimpi

Zambia has raised concern over the growing burden of non-communicable diseases (NCDs), describing them as one of the country's leading emerging health challenges even as it records notable progress in tackling maternal mortality, HIV, malaria and tuberculosis.

Speaking at the 79th World Health Assembly in Geneva, Zambia's Head of Delegation and Ministry of Health Permanent Secretary for Technical Services, Dr Kennedy Lishimpi, said non-communicable diseases were increasingly becoming a major public health threat requiring urgent attention alongside climate-related health emergencies and supply chain constraints.

"Zambia is now facing an increase in non-communicable diseases, recurrent public health emergencies related to climate change, health

workforce gaps and supply chain constraints," Dr Lishimpi told delegates.

He said government had responded by accelerating investment in health infrastructure, including solarisation of health facilities, internet connectivity and digitisation of health services to build climate-resilient and smart health systems.

"We are embracing new technologies, including artificial intelligence, to ensure climate-resilient, sustainable and smart health systems," he said.

Dr Lishimpi noted that despite these challenges, Zambia continues to make measurable progress in strengthening its health sector through strong leadership, strategic partnerships and targeted investment.

He said the country was on course to meeting the Sustainable Development Goal target on maternal

mortality due to expanded access to reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health services.

On HIV, he said Zambia had surpassed the UNAIDS 95-95-95 targets, recording 98-98-97, which he described as "a testament to sustained community engagement, innovative service delivery and strong national ownership."

Dr Lishimpi also reported declining malaria-related deaths, improved tuberculosis case detection and treatment success rates, and stronger disease surveillance systems following the upgrading of the regional reference polio laboratory and establishment of the Public Health Emergency Operations Centre.

He further announced that Zambia had introduced the Tobacco Control Bill in Parliament and was awaiting assent.

On financing, Dr Lishimpi said government's health sector budget allocation had increased from 8.1 percent in 2021 to 10.3 percent in 2026, moving closer to the Abuja Declaration target of 15 percent.

He added that 23,560 health workers had been recruited since 2021, significantly improving access to primary healthcare services, particularly in rural and underserved communities.

"Redefining global health means building systems that are resilient, equitable and owned by the communities they serve. It means investing in people, not just programmes," Dr Lishimpi said.

He reaffirmed Zambia's commitment to working with the World Health Organization and global partners to strengthen health systems and deliver quality healthcare for all citizens.

ZAMBIA CHAMPIONS GLOBAL AI DRIVE FOR BETTER HEALTHCARE DELIVERY

By Money Daily Reporter



Zambia has taken a leading role in shaping global conversations on the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) to strengthen healthcare systems and improve service delivery, particularly at frontline health facilities.

On the sidelines of the 79th World Health Assembly (WHA79) in Geneva, Zambia co-hosted a high-level side event titled "Frontline First: Investing in and Designing AI for Real-World Care," alongside the Republic of Mozambique, Jhpiego and Viamo.

Zambia was represented at the event by Zambia National Public Health Institute Director-General Prof. Roma Chilengi, who joined global policymakers, senior government officials, representatives from the World Health Organization, AI innovators and development partners in examining how emerging technologies can support stronger and more equitable health systems.

Discussions centred on the growing role of AI in transforming healthcare delivery, especially in low- and middle-income countries where digital innovations are increasingly being viewed as tools for closing long-standing

gaps in access to quality care.

Delegates described AI as a potential "great equaliser" capable of extending quality healthcare services to remote and underserved communities, while improving responsiveness across health systems.

Participants stressed that countries must position themselves strategically to harness rapidly evolving technologies in ways that directly improve patient outcomes and support frontline health workers.

The meeting also highlighted the urgent need for strong legal, ethical and regulatory frameworks to guide the safe and responsible deployment of AI in healthcare.

Speakers emphasised that governance, transparency and accountability must remain central as countries integrate digital health solutions into public systems.

Delegates further called for sustained investment in AI-driven health innovations that address real-world challenges faced by healthcare workers and communities.

They noted that such investments should not

focus solely on technology, but also on infrastructure development, capacity building and systems strengthening to ensure effective implementation.

A strong consensus also emerged that AI should complement, rather than replace, healthcare workers.

Participants said AI can improve efficiency, strengthen clinical decision-making, enhance disease surveillance and reduce administrative burdens, allowing health workers to dedicate more time to patient care.

As Zambia advances its digital transformation agenda in the health sector, the country reaffirmed its commitment to leveraging innovation to strengthen public health systems and improve access to quality healthcare for all citizens.

The discussions at WHA79 reflected growing global recognition that responsibly designed and implemented technology will play a critical role in building resilient, people-centred healthcare systems for the future.



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THINK BUSINESS



ZAMBIA OPENS DOOR TO NEW INVESTORS

By Money Daily Reporter



Zambia's economic transformation agenda received a major boost on Wednesday as the 2026 Copperbelt Agricultural, Mining, Industrial and Networking Expo (CAMINEX) officially opened in Kitwe, with Government reaffirming its commitment to creating a stable investment climate to drive growth in mining, agriculture and industry.

Representing President Hakainde Hichilema, Bank of Zambia Governor Dr Denny Kalyalya said the country's macroeconomic environment remained stable and supportive of business expansion, investment and increased productivity.

Speaking during the official opening of the three-day expo, Dr Kalyalya said Zambia's economic future depended on stronger collaboration between Government, investors and industry players.

"The theme Collaboration for

Growth: Developing Talent, Trust and Trade is timely because agriculture and mining remain the backbone of Zambia's economy. Any shock to these sectors has far-reaching negative effects on the overall economy," Dr Kalyalya said.

He said Government had introduced policy reforms to improve investor confidence, promote transparency and accelerate exploration and production activities.

"As a result, copper production increased from approximately 825,000 metric tonnes in 2024 to over 890,000 metric tonnes in 2025, representing growth of eight percent. This was driven by improved output from key operations including Konkola Copper Mines, Mopani Copper Mines, Kansanshi Mine and Lubambe Copper Mine," he said.

Dr Kalyalya noted that Government was also undertaking a countrywide high-resolution aerial geophysical survey to

unlock Zambia's mineral exploration potential and support investment decisions.

"This project will significantly de-risk the mining sector and open up new opportunities for investment across the country," he said.

The Bank of Zambia Governor said Government was also focused on ensuring Zambians benefited directly from increased mining output through local participation in the value chain.

"Government enacted Statutory Instrument No. 68 to increase local participation in the mining supply chain, enhance value addition and foster inclusive economic growth," he said.

Dr Kalyalya stressed that reliable energy supply remained critical to industrial growth and competitiveness.

"Government continues to support investments in energy generation and infrastructure development, while diversifying the energy mix through solar and other

renewable sources to enhance resilience," he said.

He further challenged investors to focus on value addition and manufacturing rather than exporting raw materials.

"By adding value and exporting finished goods, Zambia will derive maximum benefit from its natural resources and create more jobs for its people," he said.

Dr Kalyalya reiterated Government's commitment to maintaining a productive, transparent and sustainable business environment.

"The road to Zambia's economic transformation requires collaboration, innovation and responsible investment. Together, we can unlock Zambia's vast potential and position our country as one of Africa's leading investment destinations," he said.

CAMINEX 2026 closed today and was held under the theme Collaboration for Growth: Developing Talent, Trust and Trade.

ZAM CALLS FOR VALUE ADDITION TO DRIVE AGRICULTURE EXPORT GROWTH

By Money Daily Reporter



Mohammed Umar

Zambia Association of Manufacturers (ZAM) president Mohammed Umar has called for increased investment in value addition, saying Zambia must shift from exporting raw materials to processing and manufacturing finished products if agriculture is to become a major foreign exchange earner.

Speaking during a panel discussion at the ongoing Copperbelt Agricultural, Mining, Industrial and Networking Expo (CAMINEX) under the theme "Positioning Agriculture as the Next Forex Exporter," Mr Umar said value addition was critical to Zambia's economic growth and export competitiveness.

Mr Umar said Zambia could no longer afford to rely on exporting unprocessed agricultural commodities if it was to maximise earnings and create sustainable jobs.

"Zambia must move beyond exporting raw materials and focus on

processing, manufacturing and adding value to local products in order to create jobs, increase revenue generation and strengthen local industries," he said.

He noted that building a strong value-added sector would not only increase export earnings but also stimulate industrial growth and strengthen local supply chains.

Mr Umar, however, said the cost of capital remained a major barrier to industrial expansion and called for financial reforms to support local manufacturers.

"For value addition to thrive, the cost of capital must be realigned to support local manufacturers and businesses. Affordable financing is essential if industries are to grow and invest in production," he said.

He also urged Government to simplify and reduce licensing requirements, saying cumbersome regulatory processes

continued to hinder investment and business growth.

"Reducing and streamlining licensing requirements is essential in creating a more enabling environment for industries to grow and invest in production," he said.

Mr Umar said Zambia had vast agricultural potential that could be harnessed to generate significant forex if the country invested in processing and manufacturing capacity.

"By supporting value addition, Zambia has the opportunity to build stronger local supply chains, promote industrialisation and position agriculture as a major contributor to forex earnings and national development," he said.

In closing, Mr Umar challenged stakeholders to act decisively.

"It is time to build, process and prosper in Zambia," he said.



INDUSTRY PLAYERS HONOURED FOR METROLOGY EXCELLENCE

By Lucky Chama



The Zambia Metrology Agency (ZMA) has recognised outstanding industry players for excellence in measurement compliance, innovation and integrity during this year's World Metrology Day commemorations held at the Mulungushi International Conference Centre in Lusaka.

The awards ceremony formed part of celebrations held under the global theme, "Metrology: Building Trust in Policy Making," highlighting the critical role accurate measurements play in consumer protection, fair trade, industrial development and economic growth.

The event was officiated by Special Assistant to the President for Finance and Investment, Jito Kayumba, who

represented the Secretary to the Cabinet.

Other notable dignitaries in attendance included Director of Public Prosecutions Gilbert A. Phiri, Permanent Secretary for Special Duties at Cabinet Office Hilton Chibeleka and International Organization of Legal Metrology Deputy Director Ian Dunmill.

Speaking during the event, ZMA officials stressed that accurate and reliable measurement systems remain essential in promoting confidence in trade and ensuring consumer rights are protected.

Among the award recipients, Northwold Investments Limited received the Excellence in Innovation (Metrology) Award in the national and

multi-regional category for delivering innovative metrology solutions that have improved industrial operations and technical capacity building.

Succulent Brands won the small and medium enterprise innovation award for its advanced packaging and labelling systems, precise extraction methods and effective use of accurate measuring instruments to improve product quality and consumer confidence.

Corteva Agriscience was recognised with the Outstanding Performance Award in the national and multi-regional organisations category for consistently maintaining high compliance standards and strong quality assurance systems.

In the SME category,

Elacan Butchery was honoured for demonstrating consistent compliance with weighing scale verification requirements and promoting accountability in trade practices.

The ZMA also presented Executive Director Recognition Awards to Spruceland Technologies and Weighgrid for their continued participation in stakeholder engagement and awareness campaigns promoting measurement accuracy.

The ceremony underscored the growing importance of metrology in strengthening Zambia's national quality infrastructure and building trust in commercial measurement systems.

CDF-FUNDED GIRLS' DORMITORY AT SIAVONGA STEM SCHOOL REACHES 40% COMPLETION

By Money Daily Reporter



Construction of a girls' dormitory at Siavonga Provincial STEM School, being financed through the Constituency Development Fund (CDF), has reached 40 percent completion, with the project expected to be delivered within the next three months.

The K1.7 million project, funded under the 2025 CDF allocation, includes construction of a 48-bed dormitory and an industrial borehole aimed at improving boarding facilities and expanding access to quality science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education for girls in the district.

The progress was confirmed during a joint site inspection conducted by Siavonga District Commissioner Geoffrey Jakopo and

Siavonga Town Council Secretary Kennedy Shombo, who expressed satisfaction with the pace and quality of works.

Mr Jakopo described the project as a strategic investment in education and gender inclusion.

"This facility will play a critical role in improving the retention and academic performance of girls in STEM subjects once completed. It is an important step towards empowering more young women through education," he said.

He urged the contractor to maintain high construction standards and ensure the project is completed within the stipulated timeframe.

Mr Shombo said the council remained committed to ensuring CDF-funded projects

deliver tangible benefits to communities.

"This project demonstrates government's continued efforts to bridge infrastructure gaps in learning institutions and improve access to quality education. We expect timely completion in line with set expectations," he said.

The contractor assured the visiting delegation that works were progressing according to schedule, noting that key structural components had already been completed.

Siavonga Provincial STEM School headteacher Miyoba Njoomona welcomed the development, saying the new dormitory would ease accommodation challenges currently faced by learners.

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POLICY VS PRACTICE: WHY GOOD CIRCULAR ECONOMY POLICIES FAIL

By Prof Bupe Getrude Mutono-Mwanza



Around the world, governments are increasingly adopting circular economy (CE) policies to reduce waste, improve resource efficiency, promote recycling, and create sustainable economic systems. Many of these policies are ambitious and well-designed on paper. However, despite the growing number of CE frameworks, strategies, and regulations, implementation often remains weak. The challenge facing many countries today is not the absence of policies, but the gap between policy intentions and practical execution.

One of the major reasons circular economy policies fails is weak implementation systems. Governments may introduce progressive regulations, but without clear action plans, financing mechanisms, monitoring frameworks, and enforcement capacity, these policies remain largely symbolic. In many developing economies, limited infrastructure such as recycling facilities, waste collection systems, and material recovery centers further constrain implementation.

Institutional fragmentation also plays a significant role. Circular economy initiatives often involve several ministries, local authorities, private companies, and environmental agencies. Without proper coordination, responsibilities become unclear and accountability weakens. As a result, policies that require integrated action across sectors struggle to achieve measurable outcomes.

Another critical challenge is the lack of sustainable financing. Transitioning to a circular economy requires investment in infrastructure, innovation, research, technology, and public awareness campaigns. Yet many policies are introduced without long-term financial support. Small enterprises and informal sector actors, who are essential contributors to recycling and waste recovery systems, are frequently excluded from financial incentives and technical assistance.

The informal sector remains one of the most overlooked dimensions of CE

implementation. In many African countries, waste pickers and community recyclers already provide valuable material recovery services. However, policies are often designed around formal systems while ignoring the realities of informal livelihoods. Excluding these actors weakens existing recovery networks and reduces overall recycling efficiency.

Public participation is equally important. Circular economy systems depend on responsible consumer behavior such as waste separation, reuse, recycling, and sustainable consumption. However, low public awareness and limited environmental education reduce citizen participation in CE programs. At the same time, weak data systems limit governments' ability to track waste flows, monitor recycling rates, and evaluate policy effectiveness.

In summary, the failure of circular economy policies is commonly linked to weak implementation mechanisms, poor institutional coordination, inadequate infrastructure, financing constraints, low public awareness, exclusion of informal actors, weak enforcement systems, and insufficient data for evidence-based planning. Additionally, many countries adopt policies modeled from developed economies without adapting them to local economic and social realities.

Despite these challenges, the circular economy remains a critical pathway toward sustainable development. The solution lies not only in drafting strong policies, but in building practical systems capable of translating policy into action. This requires investment in infrastructure, inclusive stakeholder engagement, reliable data systems, stronger institutions, public education, and long-term political commitment.

Ultimately, successful circular economy transitions will depend on how effectively countries bridge the gap between policy and practice. Good policies alone are not enough; implementation is what determines impact.

Why Good Circular Economy Policies Fail

Key Challenge	Summary of the Problem	Impact on CE Implementation
Weak Implementation Systems	Policies exist without clear action plans or enforcement mechanisms.	Policies remain ineffective and poorly executed.
Poor Institutional Coordination	Ministries and agencies operate independently.	Delays, duplication, and weak accountability emerge.
Inadequate Infrastructure	Limited recycling and waste management facilities.	Increased waste leakage and low recycling efficiency.
Financing Constraints	Insufficient funding for CE projects and technologies.	Slow adoption of circular systems and innovation.
Exclusion of Informal Sector	Waste pickers and informal recyclers are overlooked.	Existing recovery systems have become weakened.
Low Public Awareness	Limited understanding of recycling and sustainable consumption.	Poor public participation in CE activities.
Weak Enforcement	Environmental regulations are inconsistently enforced.	Non-compliance increases across industries and communities.
Weak Data Systems	Lack of reliable waste and recycling data.	Poor planning and weak evidence-based policymaking.
Imported Policy Models	Policies copied from developed economies without localization.	Policies become impractical in local contexts.
Limited Political Commitment	Changing priorities affect continuity of CE initiatives.	Long-term implementation becomes unstable.

WHY CHIPOLOPOLO MUST QUALIFY FOR AFCON 2027

George Lwandamina is right. Qualification for the 2027 Africa Cup of Nations will not be decided by reputation, history or emotion. It will be decided by preparation.

The veteran coach's reaction to Zambia's placement in Group I alongside Algeria, Togo and Burundi is measured and realistic. This is not a group to fear, but neither is it one to take lightly. Every team has a chance. Every team will believe qualification is possible. And, as Lwandamina correctly observes, the side that prepares best will likely emerge strongest.

For Zambia, this qualification campaign is about far more than reaching another tournament. It is about restoring football credibility, rebuilding national confidence and proving that the country still belongs among Africa's serious footballing nations.

Zambia remains one of the continent's most respected football brands because of what Chipolopolo achieved in 2012 when they lifted the Africa Cup of Nations. That triumph was not an accident. It was built on planning, discipline, unity and sacrifice. It was achieved by players who understood that wearing the national jersey was a responsibility, not a

privilege to be taken for granted.

That spirit has often been missing in recent years.

The painful truth is that Zambia has struggled for consistency on the continental stage since that historic victory. Qualification campaigns have too often been marked by poor planning, technical instability, delayed preparations and internal distractions.

We have frequently entered crucial matches reacting instead of preparing.

That must end.

AFCON qualification is no longer optional for a football nation of Zambia's stature. It is an expectation.

Failure to qualify would deepen concerns about the direction of the senior national team and raise serious questions about whether the structures around Chipolopolo are functioning as they should. Success, however, would send a powerful message that Zambia is once again building with purpose.

There is enough talent to do it.

Zambian players are

competing across Europe, Africa and within a competitive domestic league. There is quality in this generation. What has often been lacking is not ability, but coordination. Talent without structure rarely succeeds at international level.

This is why Lwandamina's emphasis on preparation matters.

players will feel overlooked. That is normal in football. But once the team is selected, division becomes self-defeating.

A fractured football culture never wins.

Supporters, administrators, former players and the media all have a role to play. Criticism is healthy when it is

stronger opposition.

Zambia has done it before.

The road to East Africa in 2027 is challenging but entirely manageable. The opportunity is there for Chipolopolo to remind Africa of who they are.

But wanting qualification will not be enough.

Preparation, humility and national unity must define this campaign. If those ingredients are present, Zambia will qualify. If they are absent, another painful failure will follow.

The choice must be made now — not when the qualifiers begin in September.

constructive. Accountability is necessary. But endless negativity before crucial campaigns only weakens confidence and focus. The same applies to administrators.

The Football Association of Zambia under president Keith Mweemba carries enormous responsibility here. The association must ensure Chipolopolo have every tool required to compete effectively. There can be no excuses about logistics, funding gaps or avoidable disruptions. Qualification campaigns are won long before matchday.

Algeria will likely start as favourites, but football history repeatedly shows that disciplined, united and well-prepared teams overcome



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ZIG1.2 BILLION SITS UNUSED WHILE BUSINESSES BEG FOR CREDIT

By News Day



Zimbabwe's central bank built a lending lifeline. Banks drew less than 5% of it. The people paying the price are the ones the facility was designed to serve.

The Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe had an answer ready for the businesses struggling under one of Africa's tightest credit environments.

It created a ZiG1.2 billion targeted finance facility, earmarked specifically for productive sectors struggling to access affordable loans. By mid-April, banks had used

less than five cents of every available ZiG dollar.

As at April 15, 2026, only ZiG56.9 million of the ZiG1.2 billion had been drawn down. At the exchange rate of US\$1 to ZiG25.2 prevailing on that date, the untouched portion represents roughly US\$45 million in credit that never reached the businesses it was intended to support.

Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe governor John Mushayavanhu called the drawdown figure "disappointing." It is, in practice, a credit transmission failure with real victims.

The Bankers Association of Zimbabwe argued the low uptake did not signal a failure by financial institutions, saying the facility was designed as a supplement to existing credit lines and that deployment was governed by actual credit demand and viable applications from productive sectors.

That explanation deserves scrutiny. It implies the demand for productive-sector credit is simply not there, which directly contradicts what business associations have been saying for months.

STUDY SHOWS MILLIONS OF MALAWIANS SURVIVING ON 'GANYU'

By The Nation

Data from a new study show that millions of Malawians in rural areas are abandoning their gardens to do piecework (ganyu) that ironically enhances the vicious circle of poverty.

International Food Policy Research Institute (Ifpri) said in its policy brief that ganyu, an informal temporary labour arrangement over an agreed duration, has emerged as a key source of employment for a growing number of the rural populations.

The brief said data sourced from 35 819 rural working age individuals indicated that previously, rural-based

Malawians worked for an average of 910 hours per year across four income generating activities, namely own-farm, casual labour, household off-farm enterprises and wage employment.

But the brief notes that the number of hours have increased to 985 per year with more time spent on casual labour tasks at the expense of time spent on household farms which has declined from 577 to 504 hours per year.

Reads the brief: "As households devote less labour to their own farms and

rely increasingly on ganyu, they become more dependent on both labour and food markets to secure their livelihoods. Yet ganyu typically offers low and volatile wages and its growing importance in Malawi has not been accompanied by gains in food security.

"On the contrary, over time, poverty and food insecurity have become more strongly associated with engagement in casual labour, making the rise of ganyu a growing concern from a welfare perspective."

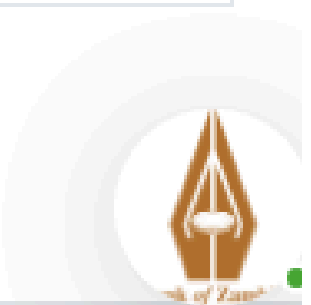


EXCHANGE RATES

Last updated: 21-05-2026

CURRENCY	BUYING	SELLING
ZMW / USD	18.8561	18.9061
ZMW / GBP	25.2690	25.3455
ZMW / EUR	21.8429	21.9046
ZMW / ZAR	1.1379	1.1420

[Download historical rates](#)



Source: Bank of Zambia (BOZ)



LWANDAMINA BACKS CHIPOLOPOLO TO QUALIFY

By Lucky Chama

Chipolopolo coach George Lwandamina says Zambia has what it takes to qualify for the 2027 Africa Cup of Nations but insists adequate preparation will be the key factor in Group I.

Reacting to Tuesday's draw that paired Zambia with two-time African champions Algeria, Togo and Burundi, Lwandamina said all four teams stood a realistic chance of progressing, with preparation likely to

determine who advances. "Draws are drawn and not pointed, so it means that we all have a chance. It all goes about preparation," Lwandamina said.

"The team that will prepare adequately, I am sure that's the team that will pose a threat to us, if that is, we don't prepare well."

The veteran tactician expressed confidence in the quality within the

Chipolopolo squad, saying Zambia possesses players capable of competing with the continent's best sides.

"We have players who can compete. What is just important is how much preparation will be given to the team," he said.

Lwandamina has since challenged his players to remain humble and united when the qualifiers kick off in September.

"They have to remove pride and embrace one Zambia. We only have Zambia as our country, so we have to fight for our mother Zambia," he said.

He also called on fans across the country to rally behind the team, saying national unity would be vital in the qualification campaign.

"We are all Zambians and we only have one Zambia,

so everyone should rally behind the team. I am sure selections cannot please everybody, but we have to push in one direction. Whether happy or unhappy, we are all Zambians," he said.

The Chipolopolo are targeting qualification for the 20th edition of AFCON, which will be co-hosted by Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania from June 19 to July 17, 2027.

QUOTES ROUND-UP: COACHES HAVE THEIR SAY ON TOTALENERGIES CAF AFRICA CUP OF NATIONS PAMOJA 2027 QUALIFIER DRAW



By CAF Media: Coaches from across the continent have been having their say following the Qualifier Draw for the TotalEnergies CAF Africa Cup of Nations PAMOJA 2027 that was staged on Tuesday.

The 48 teams now know their opponents and path to the finals, which will be staged in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania from 17 June to 19 July 2027.

Here is a round-up of coach reaction following the draw.

Morocco coach Mohamed Ouahbi as his team faces Gabon, Niger and Lesotho

"These teams are not surprises; they are opponents we know well. We have had the opportunity to play against them in recent years. I think it is an advantage to be able to face teams we are already familiar with.

"(Gabon) are a highly competitive team that knows how to be formidable thanks to the quality of their players. We will have to approach these matches well.

"As for Niger, first of all, there is a bit of personal affection because we will

meet (Moroccan coach) Badou Zaki, who is an absolute legend here in Morocco and an inspiration for us coaches.

"Otherwise, it is a team, much like Lesotho, that has proven we must respect everyone. They are a growing side with a Moroccan coach at the helm, which makes us very proud.

"As soon as the World Cup is over, we will shift our entire focus to this. Winning it is one of our main objectives."

Cameroon coach David Pagou as his team faces Comoros, Namibia and Congo

"I'd say it's a balanced group, but whenever Cameroon has focused on itself, I think things have always gone well.

"So these are teams we must take very seriously. There are no longer any 'minnows' in football: all teams are on a level playing field; now it's up to us to do the job.

"As for Namibia, we've been in the same qualifying groups for three consecutive tournaments; they're a team that has always caused us problems.

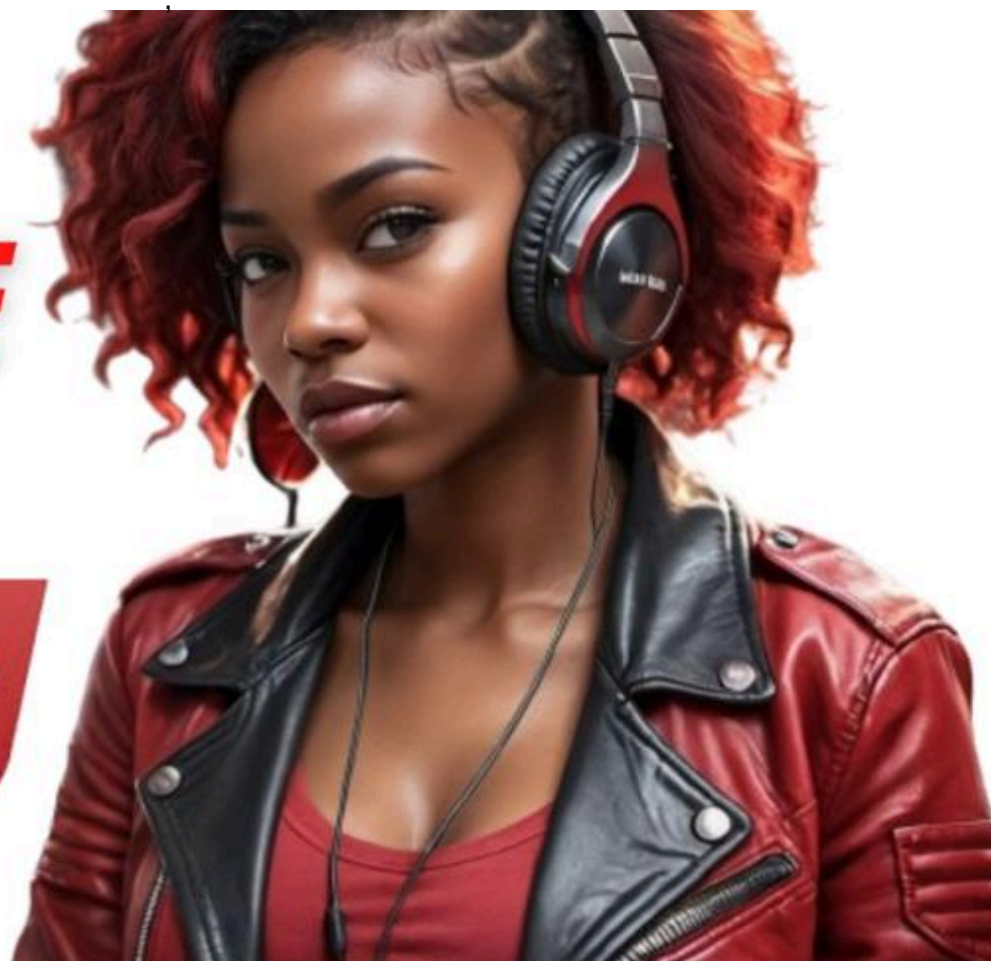


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THINK BUSINESS



THE WORLD CUP SQUAD DILEMMAS FACING TUCHEL

By BBC Sport

Thomas Tuchel has already started contacting the England hopefuls who have not made the cut.

It's the call any player dreads - because even in today's club-centric landscape, representing your country at a World Cup remains the pinnacle.

Tuchel's squad will be made public on Friday. For the fortunate 26, opportunity beckons - England head to this tournament as one of the fancied few to lift the trophy in New Jersey on 19 July.

But for those the England head coach rings with bad news, there will only be a summer with thoughts of what might have been.

BBC Sport looks at the key decisions Tuchel has faced in picking his final squad - and



who has had most reason to be nervous during the selection process.

Some of Tuchel's biggest dilemmas have been in defence, where there have been injury and fitness issues.

Centre-back John Stones, in normal circumstances, would have been one of the first names on the England manager's list.

When he accepted the job, Tuchel identified captain Harry Kane, Declan Rice and Stones as the key members of his leadership group.

