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# ZAMBIA RECORDS A 4.9M METRIC TONS OF MAIZE HARVEST

Government has projected a historic maize harvest of about 4.9 million tonnes for the 2025/2026 agricultural season, marking the highest production estimate recorded so far....

Page 4

## CSPR URGES GOVT TO CUT DOMESTIC BORROWING FOLLOWING MPR REDUCTION

Civil Society for Poverty Reduction (CSPR) has called on Government to reduce excessive domestic borrowing and strengthen coordination between monetary...

Page 2

## ZAMBIA AMONG FOUR COUNTRIES TO BENEFIT FROM EIB'S €10 MILLION HEALTH INITIATIVE

Zambia is among the first four African countries selected to benefit from a €10 million (equivalent to K217.9 million) technical assistance programme by EIB Global, the development arm...

Page 3



ECZ FLAGS 10 FORGED DOCUMENTS DURING 2026 ELECTION QUALIFICATION VERIFICATION

Page 5

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NATURAL MINERAL WATER

# CSPR URGES GOVT TO CUT DOMESTIC BORROWING FOLLOWING MPR REDUCTION

By Cecilia Chituba



Central Bank to reconsider the statutory reserve ratio, which has remained at 26 percent since 2022, and intensify oversight of the financial sector to encourage commercial banks to reduce lending rates in response to the cut in the MPR.

Ms. Mukelabai noted that despite previous adjustments to monetary policy, lending rates in the commercial banking sector have remained above 25 percent, limiting access to affordable credit for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), smallholder farmers, youth-led enterprises and informal sector businesses.

“CSPR further remains concerned that the transmission mechanism between the Monetary policy rate and actual commercial lending rates remains minimal,” Ms. Mukelabai noted.

Civil Society for Poverty Reduction (CSPR) has called on Government to reduce excessive domestic borrowing and strengthen coordination between monetary and fiscal policy following the Bank of Zambia’s decision to lower the Monetary Policy Rate (MPR) from 13.5 percent to 13.25 percent.

The Bank’s decision to cut the MPR was influenced by a sharp decline in inflation, the expected favourable maize harvest during the current crop marketing season, and the relative stability of the Kwacha against the United States dollar.

In a statement, CSPR Executive Director Isabel Mukelabai, said while the reduction in the MPR signals improving macroeconomic conditions and moderating inflationary pressures, deliberate policy actions are needed

to ensure the benefits translate into inclusive economic growth and poverty reduction.

Ms. Mukelabai stated that Government’s increasing reliance on domestic borrowing risks undermining private sector access to affordable credit.

“The Government should reduce excessive domestic borrowing as seen in the national budget 2026 and the recently published Supplementary budget where K7.5billion additional net domestic borrowing was approved and prioritize fiscal discipline in order to avoid crowding out private sector access to credit,” she recommended.

She explained that commercial banks and institutional investors often prefer investing in Treasury Bills and Government Bonds because they are considered low-risk investments with attractive

returns compared to lending to private businesses.

“While domestic borrowing may provide short-term fiscal relief, excessive Government participation in the domestic financial market risks crowding out private access to credit as commercial banks and institutional investors often prefer investing in Government securities such as Treasury Bills and Government Bonds because they are considered low-risk investments with attractive returns compared to lending to private businesses,” she said.

Ms. Mukelabai urged authorities to strengthen coordination between monetary and fiscal policy to ensure inflation management measures support economic growth and social protection objectives.

She also called on the

The CSPR Executive Director noted that while the reduction in the MPR could potentially stimulate investment, job creation and household consumption, the impact would remain limited if commercial banks fail to pass on lower borrowing costs to consumers and businesses.

“If commercial banks respond positively by lowering lending rates, reduction estimated around 0.25% and expanding credit to productive sectors, the reduction in the MPR could stimulate some minimal level economic activity, increase private sector investment, support SME growth, and improve employment opportunities,” she noted.

She urged Government to accelerate investments in energy infrastructure and agricultural productivity to address supply-side inflation drivers that monetary policy alone cannot resolve.

# LUMEZI COUNCIL APPROVES OVER K5 MILLION IN CDF GRANTS, LOANS FOR 91 BENEFICIARIES

By Money Daily Reporter



Lumezi Town Council says it has approved over K5 million under the 2025 and 2026 Constituency Development Fund (CDF) Youth, Women and Community Empowerment Grant and loan facility for 91 beneficiaries.

Council Spokesperson Irvin Muyumbwa disclosed that the approved grants totaling K2,755,000, will benefit 69 clubs and community groups drawn from all the 11 wards of Lumezi Constituency, with individual grant allocations ranging between K35,000 and K40,000.

Mr. Muyumbwa further revealed that the Council has approved 22 beneficiaries for CDF loan empowerment support amounting to K2,322,670.

He explained that out of this number, four beneficiaries have been awarded loans under the 2025 CDF allocation, while 18 people have been approved under the CDF Loan Revolving Fund.

“This has been done in accordance with

Section 4(c) of the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) Act No. 1 of 2024,” he said.

Mr. Muyumbwa added that individual loan amounts range from K50,000 to K200,000. “The approved business ventures include irrigation farming, poultry projects, phone accessories businesses, stationery shops, and the expansion of a private school,” Mr. Muyumbwa added.

He said the Loan Revolving Fund is sustained through repayments made by previous beneficiaries and continues to provide opportunities for community members to access empowerment financing for viable business ventures.

Mr. Muyumbwa, however, noted that a total of 141 applicants were unsuccessful under the 2026 grant facility.

“The reasons for non-selection as beneficiaries included failure to attach complete business proposals, inadequate justification of proposed ventures

during field appraisal, lack of recommendation by Ward Development Committees, and failure to sufficiently demonstrate the anticipated community impact of the proposed projects, among other factors,” he explained.

He encouraged unsuccessful applicants to improve and refine their proposals and participate in future empowerment opportunities.

“The Council remains committed to ensuring equitable distribution of empowerment resources across the constituency and enhancing socio-economic development through community-driven initiatives,” Mr. Muyumbwa said.

“The Council further reiterates its commitment to intensifying sensitization programmes on the Constituency Development Fund to ensure increased awareness, understanding, and uptake of the fund by community members across the constituency.”

# MEDRAP CALLS FOR HEIGHTENED EBOLA PREPAREDNESS IN ZAMBIA, HAILS GOVT'S RESPONSE EFFORTS

By Cecilia Chiluba



Medicines Research and Access Platform (MedRAP) has urged government and all relevant stakeholders to intensify efforts to Ebola preparedness measures by strengthening screening at border posts, airports, and other points of entry following the outbreak of the disease in the neighboring Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

In a statement, MedRAP Secretary General David Banda said early identification and isolation of suspected cases remains one of the most effective ways of preventing the spread of Ebola Virus Disease.

“Authorities must ensure that screening systems are fully operational, adequately staffed, and supported with the necessary equipment and resources. This proactive approach will help limit the risk of transmission within our communities,” Mr Banda said.

He also advised Government to strengthen surveillance mechanisms nationwide to ensure that cases presenting with suspicious symptoms, particularly high fevers and hemorrhagic signs, are detected early.

Mr. Banda emphasized that health facilities at all levels must remain alert and equipped to conduct proper screening, testing, reporting, and isolation where necessary, stating that rapid detection and response are critical in preventing further spread and protecting communities.

He stressed the need for intensified community sensitization and public education campaigns on Ebola Virus Disease. “Citizens must be made aware of the signs and symptoms of the disease, modes of transmission, and preventive measures,” he stated.

Mr. Banda noted that increased public awareness will promote positive health seeking behavior, encourage timely reporting of

suspected cases, reduce misinformation and panic, and ultimately save lives. “Traditional leaders, churches, community-based organizations, and the media should all be engaged in spreading accurate information,” Mr. Banda added.

He implored Government to ensure that isolation and treatment centers are fully prepared and operational across the country should the need arise.

“Specialized response teams, including healthcare workers and emergency personnel, must be adequately trained, equipped, and ready to manage any suspected or confirmed cases. Preparedness is essential in reducing mortality and preventing healthcare systems from becoming overwhelmed,” he emphasized.

Mr. Banda further encouraged to support government efforts by remaining alert, observing public health guidelines, and reporting suspected cases promptly.

“Public health security requires collective

responsibility and cooperation from all stakeholders,” he said. “We remain confident that with coordinated action, preparedness, and continued vigilance, Zambia can effectively prevent and respond to any potential Ebola outbreak.”

Meanwhile, applauded Ministry of Health and Zambia National Public Health Institute (ZNPHI), for taking proactive measures to strengthen disease surveillance and screening at the country’s points of entry.

Mr. Banda said efforts being made to monitor travelers and identify possible cases early demonstrate government’s commitment to protecting public health and safeguarding citizens from potential outbreaks.

“The experience gained during the COVID-19 pandemic has significantly improved the country’s capacity to respond to public health emergencies. Zambia now has stronger surveillance systems, improved coordination mechanisms, and a better understanding of outbreak management,” Mr. Banda noted.

He, however, observed that despite these gains, there is still need for heightened vigilance and additional interventions to ensure the country remains adequately prepared in the event of an Ebola outbreak.

# ZAMBIA AMONG FOUR COUNTRIES TO BENEFIT FROM EIB'S €10 MILLION HEALTH INITIATIVE

By Cecilia Chiluba



Zambia is among the first four African countries selected to benefit from a €10 million (equivalent to K217.9 million) technical assistance programme by EIB Global, the development arm of the European Investment Bank.

The other countries participating in the programme are Angola, Burundi and Ethiopia. The programme is aimed at helping sub-Saharan African nations develop health projects capable of attracting broader domestic and international financing.

According to EIB, the technical assistance aims to accelerate investments in primary healthcare and progress towards universal health coverage by strengthening the planning, prioritization and design of relevant projects.

The assistance is being offered through an initiative of EIB Global, Islamic

Development Bank and World Health Organization known as the Health Impact Investment Platform (HIIP).

These three institutions together are providing an initial €30 million to support technical assistance and capacity building and aim to attract more funding for health projects.

In a statement, EIB Vice-President, Marek Mora said the Bank’s partnership with global partners to support Africa’s health illustrates what coordinated action can achieve when public and private actors work together around nationally defined priorities.

“By joining forces, multilateral development banks, global health organizations and philanthropic partners can help reduce risks, crowd in private capital and align investment with local needs and priorities as well as broader initiatives such as global health policies,” he stated.

He noted that investments in African health systems have been constrained by capacity gaps, regulatory complexities and a longstanding aversion to debt financing in a sector shaped by grants, while a limited pipeline of bankable, sizeable projects has also curbed project financing.

“Overcoming these factors calls for coordination. EIB Global and other partners aim to align interested parties behind a single investment plan in each country and mobilize concessional financing for high-impact, prioritized actions that strengthen health systems,” Mr. Mora said.

The HIIP offers a country-led approach that reduces fragmentation of resources, accelerates project readiness and maximizes limited funds. It is also working with low and medium income countries in Asia including Kazakhstan, the Maldives and Tajikistan.

# ZAMBIA PROJECTS RECORD 4.9 MILLION METRIC TONNES MAIZE HARVEST FOR 2025/2026 SEASON, UP 27.8%

By Cecilia Chiluba



Sheila Mudenda

Government has projected a historic maize harvest of about 4.9 million tonnes for the 2025/2026 agricultural season, marking the highest production estimate recorded so far.

The projected output reflects a 27.8 percent increase from last year's estimated harvest of about 3.8 million metric tonnes.

According to the Zambia Statistics Agency (ZamStats), the country is also expected to record increased production volumes for key crops such as rice, soybeans and wheat compared to the 2024/2025 agricultural season.

ZamStats figures further show that the total national maize supply is estimated at a secure level of 6,713,142 metric tonnes. This amount includes a substantial carry-over stock of 1,775,537 metric tonnes from previous harvests and the newly projected production.

National maize grain

requirements are accounted for at 4,223,916 metric tonnes, leaving the country with an estimated net surplus at a substantial margin of 2,489,226 metric tonnes.

The top 10 crops planted for the 2025/2026 Crop Forecast Survey showed that maize was the most planted crop, with an Planted Area of about 2.4 million hectares, followed by soya beans at nearly 410,000 hectares, and sunflower at about 233,000 hectares.

Presenting the findings of the Crop Forecast Survey in Lusaka today, ZamStats Statistician General, Sheila Mudenda revealed that on the lower end of the top 10 crops were millet at about 47,000 hectares and sorghum at about 37,000 hectares in terms of area planted.

“Southern Province recorded the highest Area Planted (Ha) at about 495,000 hectares, followed by Central Province with about 450,000 hectares, while Lusaka Province recorded the least at about 69,000 hectares,” Ms.

Mudenda said.

Officiating at the Dissemination of the Results, Secretary to the Cabinet, Patrick Kangwa said the findings indicate a positive trajectory, signaling another good season following the positive performance in the 2024/2025 agricultural season.

“I note with deep gratitude that the country has successfully secured two consecutive seasons of recovery and growth following the devastating, climate-induced drought experienced during the 2023/2024 agricultural season,” he said.

“This strong performance we are experiencing in the crop sector is a positive response attributed to relatively favorable weather conditions coupled with targeted interventions by government and stakeholders.”

Mr. Kangwa stressed that the performance is also anchored on progressive strategies framed under the Comprehensive Agriculture Transformation Support

Programme (CATSP) and the 8th National Development Plan.

He commended farmers who responded to President Hakainde Hichilema's call to increase agricultural production.

“Current meteorological projections indicate a higher likelihood of below-average rainfall for the upcoming 2026/2027 agricultural season. Therefore, let me encourage everyone to prepare adequately and build absolute resilience against the anticipated climate shocks,” he urged.

And Agriculture Permanent Secretary John Mulongoti assured that the Ministry will continue to ensure the timely and efficient implementation of its agricultural systems, while closely monitoring weather updates from the Meteorological Department.

# MANSA COUNCIL CONFISCATES 70 BOTTLES OF ILLICIT BEER, DETAINS FIVE TRADERS

By Cecilia Chiluba



Mansa Municipal Council through its Police Unit, has confiscated about 70 bottles of illicit beer from five traders operating around Down UB Market at a place commonly known as “Isambo Lyamfwa.”

The operation forms part of the Council's ongoing efforts aimed at promoting public health, maintaining order as well as ensuring compliance with the laws governing the sale and distribution of intoxicating liquor within the district.

Council Public Relations Officer, Norman Kashi told Money News that the confiscated items include 48 bottles of the locally brewed illicit beer commonly known as Kachasu, which was packed in Mojo bottles, 8 bottles of Bull beer and 14 bottles of Mr. Chief beer.

“The illegal activities by the suspects contravene the Liquor Licensing

Act No. 2 of 2011, the Public Health Act Cap 295 of the Laws of Zambia and the Local Government (Street Vending and Nuisances Amendment No. 2) Regulations of 2018,” he said.

Mr. Kashi revealed that the five traders have since been detained for selling intoxicating liquor in an undesignated place and for trading in the illicit local beer known as Kachasu, which poses serious health risks to members of the public due to its unregulated and unsafe production processes.

He warned the public against engaging in the illegal sale and distribution of illicit beer and other intoxicating substances in undesignated areas.

Mr. Kashi further urged the public to remain vigilant and cooperate with law enforcement agencies by reporting individuals involved in illegal liquor trading

and related unlawful activities.

“The Local Authority wishes to remind offenders that such offences attract penalties including fines, imprisonment and confiscation of the illicit products. The confiscated items shall be disposed of in accordance with Section 355 of Cap 88 of the Laws of Zambia,” Mr. Kashi stated.

He reaffirmed the Council's commitment to safeguarding the health and welfare of residents through continued enforcement operations and regular inspections across trading places within the district.

“Mansa Municipal Council remains steadfast in its mandate to create a clean, safe and law-abiding trading environment for all residents and businesses within the district,” he added.



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# IBA ISSUES ELECTION COVERAGE GUIDELINES AHEAD OF THE AUGUST 2026 POLLS

Press Statement



The Independent Broadcasting Authority (IBA) has issued Election Coverage Guidelines to promote fair, balanced, accurate, and responsible broadcasting ahead of the 2026 General Elections scheduled for August this year.

The Guidelines have been developed to provide practical direction to broadcasters in the coverage of elections and election-related matters, to strengthen professionalism, fairness and ethical conduct during the electoral process.

Further, the Guidelines provide greater clarity on the responsibilities of broadcasters during the electoral period and seek to strengthen compliance with broadcasting standards.

The Election Coverage Guidelines cover the following key areas:

(i) Fair and balanced election reporting to ensure equitable and

impartial coverage of all political parties and candidates;

(ii) Equitable allocation of airtime requiring broadcasting stations to divide available advertising time on an equitable basis to ensure fair access for political parties and candidates during campaigns;

(iii) The conduct of political interviews and debates to promote fairness, professionalism and impartiality by broadcasters;

(iv) Broadcasting of opinion polls to ensure disclosure of sources, sponsors, sample size and other relevant information;

(v) Coverage of polling day, including the prohibition of campaign interviews for political parties or independent candidates and the prediction of election results on polling day;

(vi) The announcement of election results based only on verified and officially confirmed information; and

(vii) Complaints handling procedures requiring broadcasting stations to respond to election-related

complaints within two days, while the IBA is expected to conclude investigations within four days and issue appropriate directives where necessary.

The Guidelines also prohibit the broadcasting of hate speech, tribalism, incitement to violence, misinformation and unverified election-related content that may undermine peace, national unity and the integrity of the electoral process.

They apply to all broadcasting stations in Zambia and are aligned with the Electoral Process Act No. 35 of 2016, particularly the Electoral Code of Conduct relating to the duties of the media during elections.

The Authority wishes to emphasise that professional and responsible media coverage is essential to promoting peaceful and credible elections by ensuring that citizens receive accurate and balanced information needed to make informed electoral decisions.

Accordingly, the Authority will monitor election coverage across all broadcasting stations and will ensure compliance with the Guidelines and applicable broadcasting regulations throughout the electoral period.

All broadcasting stations are therefore called upon to familiarise themselves with the Guidelines, which have since been made available to them, and to fully comply with the provisions contained therein.

The IBA Board approved the Guidelines during its 45th Board Meeting held on 20th May 2026.

The Authority remains committed to fostering a broadcasting environment that supports free, fair, peaceful and credible elections in Zambia.

**Mr. Webster Malido**  
**DIRECTOR**  
**GENERALBOARD**  
**SECRETARY**  
**INDEPENDENT**  
**BROADCASTING**  
**AUTHORITY (IBA)**

# ECZ FLAGS 10 FORGED DOCUMENTS DURING 2026 ELECTION QUALIFICATION VERIFICATION

By Cecilia Chiluba



Dr. Michael Chilala

Examinations Council of Zambia (ECZ) has announced that it uncovered 10 forged academic documents during the verification of qualifications for aspiring candidates in the 2026 General Elections.

Speaking at a media briefing, ECZ Executive Director Dr. Michael Chilala described the discovery as disappointing, stating that the cases had since been reported to law enforcement agencies for further action.

“Allow me to now announce, to our disappointment, that a total of 10 documents were found not to be genuine or forged,” Dr. Chilala stated.

Dr. Chilala said it was disappointing that those who aspire to be national leaders continue to present forged documents, even when it is public knowledge now that the Council has all the records of qualifications, going back up to the 1960s.

He further expressed concern over the extent to which political leaders lost their original certificates between

the 2021 elections and 2026, noting that the Council replaced 334 academic documents for aspiring candidates who reported losing their original certificates between the said period.

“The Council received requests for replacement and replaced a total of 334 certificates from aspiring candidates during the exercise of confirming qualifications. We therefore urge our leaders to take care of the certificates as they are security documents,” he urged.

The ECZ conducted the confirmation of qualifications for individuals wishing to participate in the 2026 General Election between April 27 and May 22, 2026, through the newly developed Confirmation Online System.

Dr. Chilala explained that although the initial exercise was scheduled to end on May 11, the period was extended by 11 days due to overwhelming demand for the service.

He revealed that a total of 10,731 Confirmation Letters

were issued during the exercise.

“10,020 confirmations were done through the 2026 Election Confirmation Online System, while 711 confirmations were done through the physical submission of documents to our Service Centres,” he said.

Dr. Chilala noted that the online platform, which was developed in-house, had significantly improved access to the qualification confirmation process for aspiring candidates across the country.

“In addition to this Online system, our 10 Service Centres remained open even during weekends and provided support to all those who needed to physically access the service or required interaction with our staff for further guidance on how to confirm their qualifications online,” Dr. Chilala stressed.

He assured the nation that the Examinations Council had carried out its mandate with integrity and diligence and would continue supporting the electoral process until elections are concluded.



# WATER SECURITY KEY TO HERITAGE CONSERVATION, SAYS NHCC

By Money Daily Reporter



National Heritage Conservation Commission (NHCC) has stressed the importance of sustainable water management in preserving Zambia's cultural and natural heritage.

Commission Executive Director, Kagosi Mwamulowe said water security remains critical to achieving Africa's long-term development goals.

Mr. Mwamulowe said this year's 2026 Africa Freedom Day theme, "Assuring Sustainable Water Availability and Safe Sanitation Systems to Achieve the Goals of Agenda 2063," strongly resonates with Zambia's heritage landscape, whose sustainability is closely tied to water resources.

He stressed that Zambia is endowed with vast heritage sites, wetlands, rivers, waterfalls and traditional landscapes that continue to sustain livelihoods, preserve ecosystems and support tourism development for present and future generations.

Mr. Mwamulowe noted that water remains central to human existence and

cultural identity, adding that many heritage sites across the country thrive because of dependable water systems which communities have protected for generations through indigenous knowledge and conservation practices.

"NHCC is interpreting this year's Africa Freedom Day theme as a call for African nations to safeguard water bodies and sanitation systems not only for human survival but also for the preservation of heritage and natural ecosystems that define our identity as a people," Mr. Mwamulowe said.

He further observed that heritage sites such as Mosi- oa-Tunya / Victoria Falls, Kalambo Falls and Chishimba Falls, together with wetlands and river basins across the country, continue to provide water for domestic use, agriculture, tourism, fisheries, transportation and cultural ceremonies.

Mr. Mwamulowe cited the Barotse Floodplain as one of Zambia's significant heritage landscapes whose ecological and cultural importance continues to attract international attention as efforts progress

towards its recognition as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

He explained that sustainable water availability can only be achieved through deliberate environmental protection measures such as preserving wetlands, preventing pollution, promoting afforestation, embracing climate resilience initiatives and strengthening community participation in heritage conservation.

"Water is life and heritage is identity. The sustainability of our water resources guarantees the continuity of our heritage sites, tourism industry, and the wellbeing of communities that depend on them," he added. "We therefore urge citizens to become responsible custodians of the environment and sanitation systems."

The NHCC Executive Director said the commemoration of Africa Freedom Day should inspire Africans to appreciate the direct relationship between water security, sanitation, heritage conservation, environmental sustainability and

economic development as envisioned under the African Union Agenda 2063 framework.

Mr. Mwamulowe also reminded the public that all waterfalls in Zambia are protected under the National Heritage Conservation Commission Act, CAP 173 of the Laws of Zambia of 1989.

He said areas with unique or rare natural features of national significance can be declared National Monuments through Statutory Instruments, while other heritage areas are protected as listed sites under the Commission's National Register.

Mr. Mwamulowe noted that Mosi- oa-Tunya / Victoria Falls remains globally recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site because of its Outstanding Universal Value and its status as the only African site among the Seven Natural Wonders of the World.

He further emphasized the importance of implementing the 2015 UNESCO World Heritage Policy on Sustainable Development, warning that Africa risks losing its independence if heritage conservation and sustainable development are not effectively balanced.

"The implication of this policy is Conservation and Development should go side by side without compromising the integrity, authenticity and indeed the Outstanding Universal Value of and World Heritage or heritage place," Mr. Mwamulowe added.

# MINISTRY EMPHASIZES POLICY, INSTITUTIONAL REFORMS FOR SUSTAINABLE WATER INVESTMENTS

By Cecilia Chiluba

## INVESTMENT FORUM: PRIVATE INVESTMENT FINANCING FOR INFRASTRUCTURE IN LLCs



Ministry of Water Developing Countries (NWASCO), the Ministry of Water and Sanitation has emphasized the importance of enabling policy, institutional frameworks, as well as strengthening and institutional capacities to effectively translate project priorities into bankable investments.

Ministry's Director of Water Resources Development, Eng. Oswell Katooka, highlighted Zambia's ongoing interventions, including the development of the Water Investment Plan as well as the review and amendment of policies and legislation related to water resources management.

The forum was held on the margins of the Fourth High-Level International Conference on the International Decade for Action "Water for Sustainable Development 2018– 2028" (Water Action Decade), taking place from 25th to 28th May 2026 in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.

Eng. Katooka was speaking during a panel discussion at the High-Level Investment Forum on Mobilizing Private Investment and Innovative Financing for Water Infrastructure in Landlocked

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# SEVEN LEVERS, ONE LIVING SYSTEM: A LETTER TO THE FUTURE WE DESERVE

By Patrick Chifwambwa



I have been staring at seven numbers for weeks now, turning them over like river stones, feeling their weight and their promise. Ten gigawatts of power. Ten million tonnes of maize. Five million tourists. Three million tonnes of copper. Three million tonnes of soya. One million tonnes of wheat. One billion dollars in beef exports. These are the seven pillars that Jito Kayumba, Special Assistant to the President for Finance and Economic Affairs, has laid before the nation—a collective ambition that, if realized, could generate roughly sixty-five billion dollars in annual economic value for Zambia. And I confess, my first reaction was not skepticism but wonder. Wonder that someone in State House is thinking this big. Wonder that we have finally stopped apologizing for our potential and started naming it aloud.

But wonder, left unchecked, becomes a lullaby. And I am not here to sing anyone to sleep.

So let me say this directly, with the respect that hard truth demands: Jito and the economic team must give us realistic timelines. Ambition without a calendar is just poetry recited in the dark, beautiful but useless to a farmer wondering when to plant or an entrepreneur deciding where to invest. What by 2027? What by 2030? What by 2035? Without mile markers, we cannot hold power to account, nor can we marshal the collective discipline that transformation requires. Give us the years, and we will give you the sweat. Refuse, and these seven numbers will join the graveyard of Zambian dreams—well-intentioned, loudly announced, quietly forgotten.

But let me go deeper, because the conversation we need to have is not merely about dates. It is about the living tissue beneath the targets. Zambia's economic future lies not in spreadsheets but in its forests, rivers, wetlands, farmlands, wildlife corridors, and mineral landscapes. These are not background assets—scenery for the real drama of roads and factories. They are the economy's operating system. A country cannot build a strong future by

exhausting the very resources that make that future possible. Development must be regenerative, not destructive. That is the philosophical spine of everything that follows.

Take energy first. Ten gigawatts. Today, our installed capacity limps along near four thousand megawatts, and our beloved hydropower—eighty-five percent of the mix—has become a climate roulette wheel. Kariba shrinks, the lights flicker, and households in Lusaka learn to cook dinner by candlelight again. To reach ten gigawatts, we must look to Morocco, where the Noor Ouarzazate solar complex—a nine-billion-dollar shimmering sea of glass and mirrors—now powers over a million people. But Morocco's early path was costly, because they bet heavily on concentrated solar power, an expensive technology that Zambia should leapfrog in favor of cheap photovoltaic panels, where bids have fallen to three cents per kilowatt-hour. And we must also look to Kenya, where the Olkaria geothermal field now delivers over eight hundred megawatts of stable baseload, immune to drought. Imagine drilling into the earth's own heat, turning volcanic breath into the steady hum of industry. Realistically, we can reach three gigawatts of new renewable capacity by 2027, six by 2030, and the full ten by 2032. Every megawatt is a factory that can run the night shift, a clinic that can refrigerate vaccines, a girl who can study after sunset.

Then maize. Ten million tonnes from a recent record of 3.66 million. Smallholders produce ninety-three percent of our maize, yet most farm without irrigation, without storage, without the dignity of a guaranteed market. The lesson of Malawi's Farm Input Subsidy Programme is sobering: yields rose, but poverty remained because they chased volume without building linkages. Contrast that with Zimbabwe's tobacco contract farming system, where over one hundred and twenty-seven thousand smallholders now produce eighty-five percent of national output under credit-backed agreements with buyers.

Or Ethiopia's cluster farming, where the Agricultural Transformation Agency raised productivity from forty to sixty quintals per hectare through training and technology. We can reach six million tonnes by 2027 by focusing on irrigation in the Northern and Central provinces, eight million by 2029, and ten million by 2030. But only if we treat the soil as a living bank account, not a mineral to be mined.

Wheat is where our vulnerability bleeds through. In the 2024/2025 season, production crashed thirty-five percent to roughly one hundred and thirty thousand tonnes, yet national consumption exceeds half a million. That gap is filled by expensive imports, a drain on foreign exchange that every loaf of bread conceals. We have two tracks: rain-fed varieties like Tyetye and Mpheta, already successfully piloted across seven provinces, and pivot irrigation on commercial farms. Egypt achieved near self-sufficiency by treating every grain as a matter of national security, but their water intensity is not our path. Our advantage is land. We should mandate that large commercial farmers allocate a fixed percentage of irrigated land to wheat. Four hundred thousand tonnes by 2027, seven hundred thousand by 2028, one million by 2029. Entrepreneurs: build district-level flour mills so farmers don't truck grain across provinces. Keep the value local. Keep the bread affordable.

And now, soya. Here is where economics becomes personal. After climbing from two hundred and ninety-seven thousand tonnes to six hundred and fifty thousand, production crashed seventy-four percent to just one hundred and seventy thousand tonnes in 2024. And when soya collapsed, something happened that every Zambian household felt: costly chicken. Because soya is the primary protein source for poultry feed. When soya becomes scarce, feed prices soar, and that burden lands on the plate of every mother deciding whether to buy two birds or one. That phrase—costly chicken—is not an economist's abstraction. It is the texture of daily life. To reach three million tonnes, we need de-risked smallholder participation. Ghana's cocoa policy, which mandates that fifty percent of beans be processed locally starting in 2026, creates guaranteed demand. We must attract investors to build three new soybean crushing and refining plants by 2028, producing vegetable

oil and high-protein animal feed. Eight hundred thousand tonnes by 2027, 1.5 million by 2029, three million by 2031. And then chicken will be chicken again—not a luxury, but a staple.

Copper. Three million tonnes from 820,676 in 2024, thanks to the revival of Konkola and Mopani. But raw tonnes are not the prize. The prize is value addition. Botswana's new directive—"no diamond will leave this country raw"—signals a continental shift. If we export raw copper and import finished cables, we remain trapped in the colonial extractive logic. If we build a copper cable factory in Kitwe by 2029, we capture the margin, create skilled jobs, and teach our children that Zambian hands can make finished things. One point two million tonnes by 2027, two million by 2029, three million by 2030. Entrepreneurs: stop seeing mining as foreign-only. Move into downstream manufacturing. Wind copper wire for electric motors. Supply semi-processed metal to regional automotive plants. Build the industries that built South Africa.

Beef. One billion dollars in exports. We have the land, the cattle, the space to roam. What we lack is trust. The inaugural forty-tonne export to the DRC was a breakthrough, but Botswana's recent experience haunts us—when the European Union suspended their beef imports due to foot-and-mouth disease, they scrambled for alternatives. Zambia must build diversified markets from day one. The Middle East, with its growing demand for halal-certified meat, is a natural target. Qatari investors have already shown interest. Realistically, two hundred million dollars by 2028, five hundred million by 2030, one billion by 2033. But first, build the veterinary laboratories. Certify the abattoirs. Train the pastoralists in record-keeping. No foreign buyer trusts meat from a country that cannot prove its health status.

Tourism. Five million arrivals. After welcoming 2.2 million international tourists in 2024, and expanding visa waivers to one hundred and sixty-seven countries, Zambia saw mid-year arrivals hit 1.2 million by June 2025. The numbers are moving, but quantity without quality is a cheap souvenir. Rwanda's gorilla tourism model shows the way: permits at fifteen hundred dollars per trek, with ten percent of park revenue shared with local communities. That creates

guardians, not poachers. For volume, we need professionalized community benefit structures—Kenyan-style Beach Management Units that negotiate revenue sharing and maintain standards. Three point five million by 2028, five million by 2030. Entrepreneurs: develop mid-range lodges near parks, train as certified safari guides, and create cultural tourism experiences that put village stories on the global map. Let the world come to Livingstone not just for the smoke that thunders, but for the people who welcome them.

Now step back. See the common river flowing under all seven goals. Healthy soils, clean water, intact forests, stable wetlands. When we degrade a wetland, fish stocks collapse and irrigation schemes falter. When we clear a forest without replanting, rainfall patterns shift and hydropower output drops. When we mine without reclamation, we poison the water that feeds our crops. These are not separate problems. They are one problem. And the solution is a new compact: government aligning economic policy with environmental stewardship, private investors seeing sustainability as long-term competitiveness, communities recognized as custodians rather than squatters, and citizens demanding growth that creates value without burning tomorrow's seed corn.

I have given you milestones. 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033. They are not pulled from thin air. They are rooted in the hard-earned lessons of our African peers—Morocco, Kenya, Ethiopia, Ghana, Botswana, Rwanda, South Africa, Zimbabwe. Each of those nations stumbled, corrected, and advanced. We can too. But we need the official timelines. We need the cabinet papers that say: by this year, this target will be met, this budget allocated, this regulation changed. Without that, the seven goals remain beautiful abstractions, and costly chicken will keep showing up on our dinner tables.

President Hichilema has provided the policy scaffolding—liberalizing energy, reforming the Food Reserve Agency, opening diplomatic channels for beef. Now Jito and the economic team must nail the plan to the calendar. And we, the citizenry and entrepreneurial class, must supply the muscle, the ingenuity, and the sheer grit. Because here is the deeper truth: these seven goals are not really about gigawatts or tonnes or dollars. They are about dignity. They are about a young engineer in Kitwe who wants to build a cable factory. A retired civil servant in Chipata who wants to pivot his smallholding into a contract soya farm. A tour guide in Livingstone who wants to train his village as licensed safari guides. A mother who wants to buy chicken without calculating whether she can afford the electricity to cook it.

The hour is late. The opportunity is vast. The living system is waiting. Let us build—with a clock in one hand and a seed in the other. Let us build for the Zambia that our grandchildren will inherit. Let us build as if the future depends on us, because it does.

**ABOUT THE AUTHOR:**

*Patrick Chifwambwa is a socio-economic analyst and commentator on Zambian and African affairs.*

# THE MEDIA'S ELECTION TEST: WHY ZAMBIA CANNOT AFFORD FAILURE

The Independent Broadcasting Authority's release of election coverage guidelines ahead of the August 2026 general elections is both timely and necessary. At a moment when political temperatures are rising and public scrutiny is intensifying, Zambia's media institutions now stand at one of the most defining crossroads in the country's democratic journey.

This is not merely another regulatory notice. It is a direct challenge to the media fraternity: rise to the occasion or risk becoming an accessory to electoral disorder.

The media has always played a central role in democratic societies. In election periods, that role becomes even more critical. Broadcasters are not simply conveyors of campaign messages. They are custodians of public trust, gatekeepers of truth, and moderators of national conversation.

How they perform over the next few months will significantly shape not only voter decisions but also public confidence in the credibility of the electoral process itself.

The IBA guidelines are clear. Coverage must be fair, balanced and accurate. Political advertising airtime must be allocated equitably. Interviews and debates must be professionally conducted. Opinion polls must disclose

methodology and sponsorship. Election-day reporting must avoid premature predictions, and results can only be announced when officially verified.

These are not arbitrary restrictions. They are democratic safeguards.

Zambia has learnt, both from its own history and from events across Africa, that irresponsible media coverage during elections can inflame tensions, spread panic, and dangerously distort public perception.

One false report, one manipulated interview, one deliberately misleading headline can trigger consequences far beyond the newsroom.

This is why the prohibition of hate speech, tribal rhetoric, incitement and misinformation is especially significant.

Our politics has, at times, flirted with dangerous ethnic undertones and partisan hostility. When broadcasters amplify such narratives for ratings or political convenience, they cease to inform and begin to destabilise.

The microphone is a powerful instrument. In responsible hands, it educates and unites. In reckless hands, it divides and destroys.

Yet the real test lies not in the existence of the guidelines, but in their enforcement.

Historically, Zambia's media regulation environment has often attracted criticism over perceived selective application. If these guidelines are to carry legitimacy, enforcement must be consistent, transparent and free from political interference.

No broadcaster should be shielded because of proximity to power. Equally, no station should be unfairly targeted because of editorial independence.

The IBA itself must be beyond reproach.

Its monitoring must be professional, evidence-based and impartial. Investigations into complaints must be swift and publicly defensible. Directives must be corrective, not punitive tools for silencing dissent.

A regulator that appears politically compromised weakens the very standards it seeks to uphold.

At the same time, media houses must not interpret regulation as censorship.

Freedom of expression remains fundamental to

democratic elections. Journalists must continue asking difficult questions, interrogating campaign promises, exposing falsehoods and holding all candidates accountable.

Balance does not mean timidity.

Objectivity does not require abandoning investigative

scrutiny.

Professional journalism is not about pleasing everyone. It is about serving truth without fear or favour.

This also demands introspection within newsrooms themselves.

Too often during elections, some broadcasters abandon editorial discipline in pursuit of political patronage, financial gain or audience sensationalism. Paid propaganda is disguised as analysis. Panel discussions become partisan battlegrounds rather than platforms for informed debate. Moderators become participants rather than referees.

Such conduct insults audiences and erodes democratic culture.

The Zambian voter deserves

better.

Citizens need information they can trust to make rational choices. They need issue-based discussions focused on jobs, inflation, education, healthcare, mining policy, debt management and governance.

They do not need endless political theatre packaged as journalism.

As August approaches, broadcasters must remember that elections are not entertainment spectacles. They are moments of national decision-making with consequences for generations.

The media's task is not to manufacture winners or protect losers. It is to ensure the public sees clearly enough to decide wisely.

The IBA guidelines have drawn the line.

Now comes the harder part: proving that Zambia's media is mature enough to honour it.

If broadcasters embrace professionalism, fairness and courage, they will strengthen democracy and help preserve national peace.

If they fail, the damage will extend far beyond the ballot box.

History will be watching. And so will the nation.



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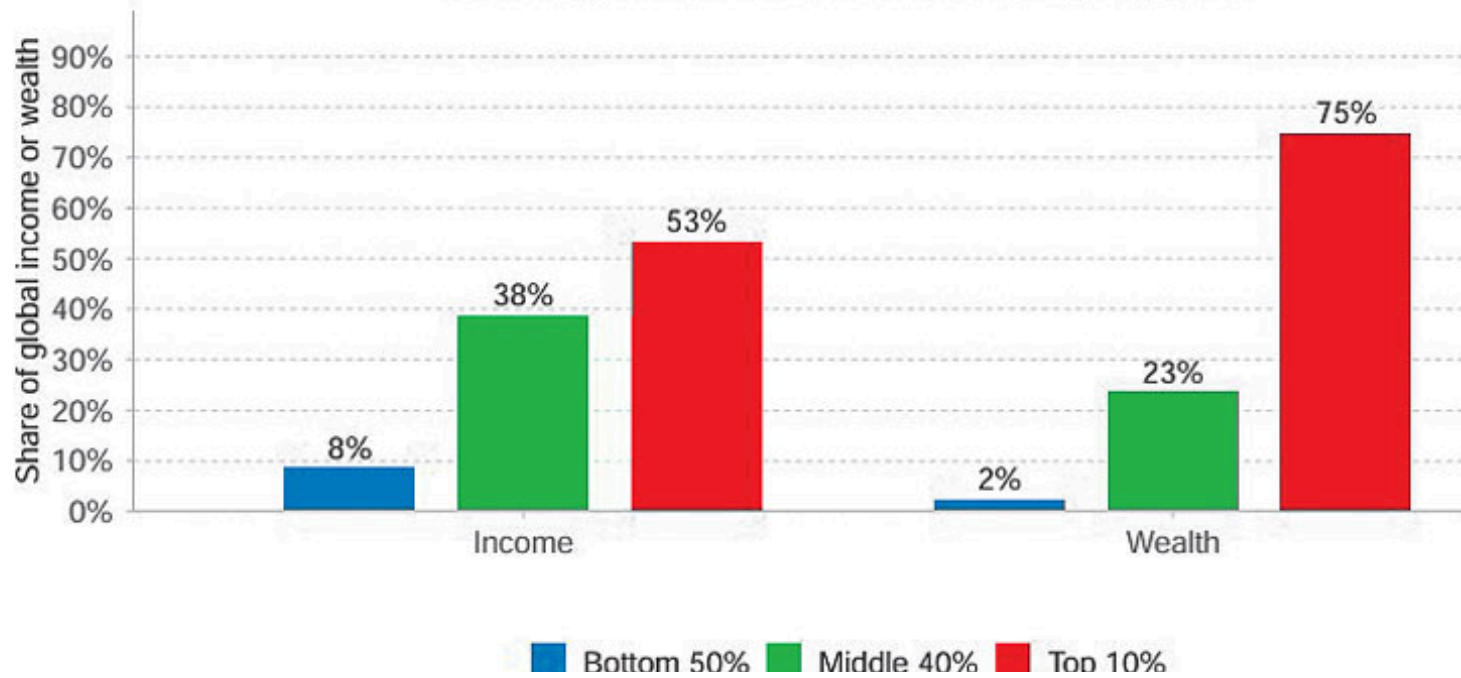
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# MALAWI INCOMES BEHIND REGIONAL PEERS—REPORT

By The Nation

Figure 1. The world is extremely unequal  
Share of global income or wealth per group, 2025



Malawi remains among the world's poorest economies with average monthly incomes below €130 (about K261 000), far below the Sub Saharan African average of about €300 (K603 000).

The findings contained in the 2026 World Inequality Report, produced with support from the United Nations Development Programme, the World Inequality Lab and the European Union, group Malawi alongside Burundi, Yemen, Mozambique, Somalia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Madagascar, South Sudan, Niger and Chad as the

poorest large countries globally based on income levels.

At the global level, monthly incomes average €1 300 (about K2.6 million), underscoring stark demographic and economic disparities.

Regions with the largest populations, including Sub Saharan Africa, continue to record the lowest incomes despite global growth, according to the report.

On average, a person in Malawi earns about three times less than someone in

Sub Saharan Africa and 10 times less than the global average, according to the report.

The report further indicates that within Malawi and across the region, inequality remains acute and the bottom 50 percent earn just eight to 11 percent of income, while the top 10 percent capture between 55 and 57 percent.

The richest one percent alone take more than double the share earned by the poorest half combined.

# NEARLY 1,000 PEOPLE FACE RELOCATION IN KZN LITHIUM MINE EXPANSION PLAN

By Daily Maverick

Roughly 150 homesteads in the village of Magog have been earmarked for relocation by the SA Lithium group due to their proximity to its new Highbury lithium mine near Port Shepstone.

According to a basic environmental impact assessment (EIA) report compiled by Joan Consultants on behalf of SA Lithium, the mine plans to increase the size of its mining pit by at least five times, as well as expanding its waste rock dumping area at least fourfold.

This would necessitate the physical removal of "about 142 to 153 households situated within the mine's buffer zone".

The consultants say this equates to about 800 people,

based on their estimate that Magog household sizes vary between single-person homes and those with as many as 18 family members.

When the mine was established about two-and-half years ago, several residents on the immediate fenceline were regularly temporarily "evacuated" to shelter in a local crèche during dynamite blasting operations, rather than being relocated.

It remains unclear why residents were not relocated – or mining plans not amended – before the onset of mining operations, as hundreds of residents in Magog and the nearby Fairview Mission areas have since been exposed repeatedly to high levels of noise, along with

dense clouds of dust from exploding rocks and daily convoys of heavy trucks hauling lithium mining ore through residential areas for export via the port of Durban.

According to the Mine Community Resettlement Guidelines gazetted by Mineral Resources and Energy Minister Gwede Mantashe in March 2022: "No mining activity shall commence until a resettlement agreement is agreed on the appropriate amount of compensation as a result of resettlement of landowners, lawful occupiers, holders of informal or communal land rights, mine communities and host communities."



## EXCHANGE RATES

Last updated: 22-05-2026

| CURRENCY  | BUYING  | SELLING |
|-----------|---------|---------|
| ZMW / USD | 18.8067 | 18.8557 |
| ZMW / GBP | 25.2423 | 25.3213 |
| ZMW / EUR | 21.8026 | 21.8613 |
| ZMW / ZAR | 1.1423  | 1.1455  |

Source: Bank of Zambia (BOZ)



## POWER, ARROWS TIPPED FOR 2026/27 SUPER LEAGUE TITLE RACE

By Lucky Chama

Former Chipolopolo winger Clifford Mulenga has tipped defending champions Power Dynamos and Red Arrows as the favourites for the 2026/27 MTN Super League title, describing the two clubs as the current benchmark of Zambian football.

Mulenga, now an international football consultant, analyst and commentator, said both clubs had built strong structures that have made

them the standard setters in the domestic game.

"The 2026/27 Zambian Super League season is shaping up to be a fascinating battle and, at this stage, it looks like it could come down to Power Dynamos FC and Red Arrows FC," Mulenga said.

"These are currently the two benchmark clubs in Zambian football, having won two league titles each in the last five seasons.

Their consistency has not come by luck, but through strong club structure, player retention, disciplined recruitment, stability and a clear football identity."

Mulenga believes ZESCO United remain the only side with the institutional capacity to challenge the top two consistently, but warned that the Ndola giants must first stabilise their technical bench.

"In my view, only ZESCO United has the structure

and capacity to consistently match them, provided they address and stabilise their coaching department," he said.

He also backed ZANACO to re-emerge as title contenders if they can solve their inconsistency issues.

"ZANACO also have the potential to become serious contenders again, but player consistency has been their biggest challenge this season. If

they solve that issue, they can compete at the top level once more."

Mulenga described Nkana as the league's biggest wildcard.

"Nkana remains one of the most unpredictable clubs in the league, always balancing between struggle and success. However, they are a dangerous dark horse because of their history, fan base and ability to rise when least expected," he said.

## SUNDOWNS AND PIRATES SUCCESSES A GREAT BOOST FOR BAFANA BAFANA BEFORE WORLD CUP



By Daily Maverick - South Africa's return to the World Cup stage is now just weeks away after a 16-year wait. Bafana Bafana will play the curtainraiser of the 2026 edition against co-hosts Mexico on 11 June. Coach Hugo Broos will have a pool of players overflowing with confidence at this disposal, following the silverware successes of Mamelodi Sundowns and Orlando Pirates.

Sundowns relinquished the Premiership to Pirates after the latter beat Orbit College 2-0 on Saturday, 23 May, clinching the league title for the first time in 14 years to end the Brazilians' monopoly of eight seasons. Despite this defeat in the league marathon Sundowns bounced back immediately by catching

an even bigger fish in the form of the African Champions League. On Sunday, 24 May, Miguel Cardoso's men beat Morocco's AS FAR Rabat 2-1 on aggregate to finally reclaim the continental title they won for the first time in 2016.

It was fitting that the winning strike in the hard-fought final came from the boot of the tireless Teboho Mokoena, who works in the shadows and does not always receive the plaudits he deserves for being one of the most consistent players for club and country.

The central midfielder cancelled out Mohamed Hrimat's penalty kick with a vintage rasping strike from outside the box to seal the deal for Sundowns at a cauldron-like Prince Moulay Abdellah Stadium.

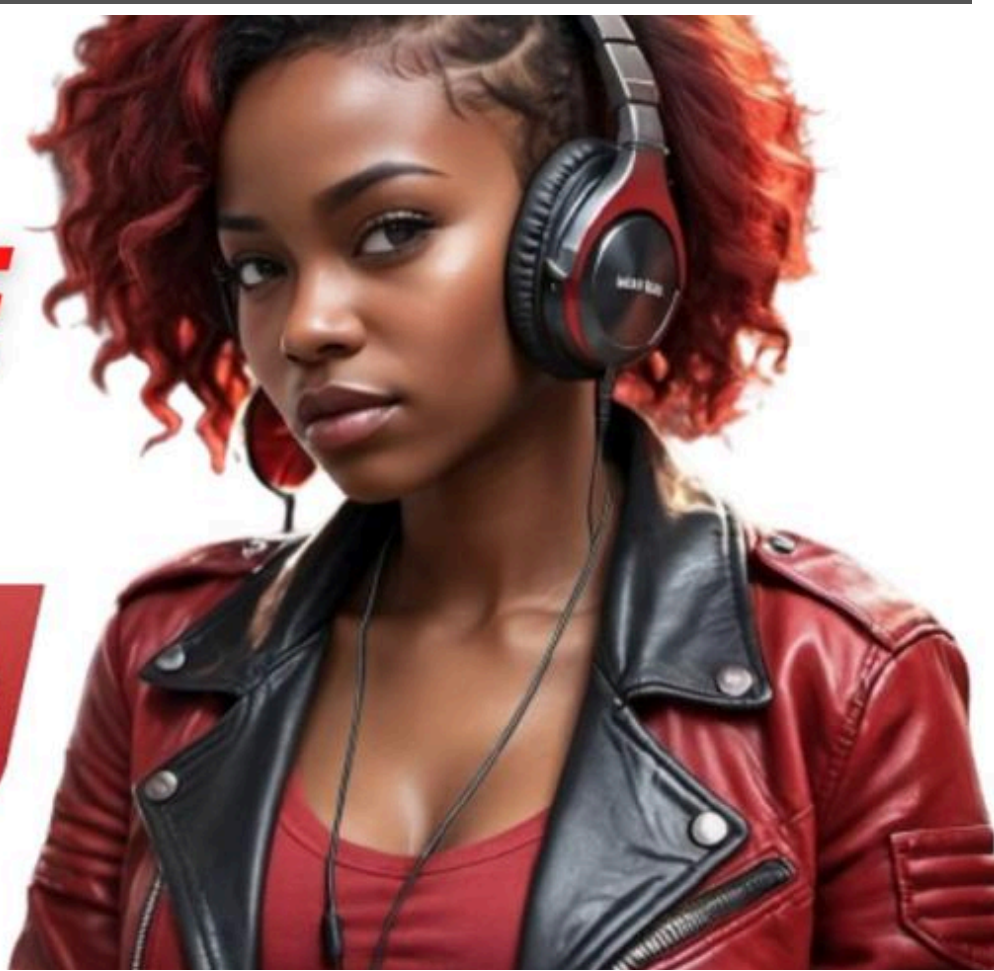


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THINK BUSINESS



## UGANDA'S SHAMIKA QUALIFIES FOR BWF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP IN NEW DELHI

By Xinhua

Uganda's Fadilah Shamika Mohamed Rafi is among two African women's singles players to have qualified for the 2026 BWF World Championships.

Fresh from winning the All-Africa Senior Women's singles title, Shamika secured a place at the event this August in New Delhi, India.

Shamika, currently ranked No. 1 in Africa and 105th in the world, will compete in the women's singles draw. Egypt's Nour Youssri, Africa's second-ranked women's singles player, also qualified for the tournament.

"I am very glad that I have qualified for the BWF World Championship which brings together the top players from all over the world. This dream has come true because of the hard work which saw me



perform well in several tournaments and also winning the African title," Shamika said on Tuesday.

The two Africans are expected to face strong competition from leading international contenders, including world No. 1 An Se-young of South Korea and China's Chen Yufei and Wang Zhiyi.

Simon Mugabi, executive director of the Uganda Badminton Association, said Shamika's qualification was a major achievement for both the athlete and the country.

