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CSPR URGES INCLUSIVE AGRICULTURAL REFORMS AMID ZAMBIA'S PROJECTED MAIZE BUMPER HARVEST

By Cecilia Chituba



Civil Society for Poverty Reduction (CSPR) has called for a people-centred agricultural strategy as Zambia moves toward its target of producing 10 million metric tonnes of maize by 2030, following the country's projected bumper harvest of 4.9 million metric tonnes during the 2025/2026 farming season.

CSPR Executive Director, Isabel Mukelabai said the strategy should prioritize the welfare of smallholder farmers, address the structural risks associated with rain-fed agriculture through scaled-up irrigation investment, tackle post-harvest losses, and ensure credible market absorption pathways through export market facilitation.

In a statement, Ms. Mukelabai noted that the projected maize harvest, as recently announced by the Zambia Statistics Agency (ZamStats), represents a significant recovery for the

agricultural sector after climate-related shocks experienced during the 2023/2024 farming season.

"The projected harvest is an important step toward strengthening national food security and reduced dependency on imports as a harvest of this magnitude if well managed has the potential to positively impact poverty levels through increased rural incomes, improved household food availability and enhanced economic activity along agricultural value chains," she said.

Ms. Mukelabai said increased production could further contribute to lowering food inflation and support inflation stabilization, noting that the projected 4.9 million metric tonnes exceeds Government's annual maize production target for 2026, which is set at 4.5 million metric tonnes.

She, however, cautioned that the positive trajectory remains threatened by inadequate investment in

water infrastructure for agricultural production, the growing impacts of climate change, weak post-harvest management systems, and market access limitations.

Ms. Mukelabai observed that Zambia's continued dependence on rain-fed agriculture remains a major structural vulnerability, particularly for smallholder farmers who rely heavily on seasonal rainfall.

"Without reducing rain-fed dependence, even well-intentioned production targets remain fragile and hostage to weather events beyond farmers' control," Ms. Mukelabai said.

CSPR Executive Director called for increased public investment in irrigation infrastructure, water harvesting systems, and small-scale dam construction in climate-vulnerable agro-ecological zones.

She also warned that inadequate storage infrastructure, limited

access to grain preservation technologies, poor rural road networks, and limited processing facilities continue to expose farmers to major post-harvest losses, and urged Government to invest in community-level grain storage facilities, as well as accessible storage solutions for smallholder growers.

On market access, Ms. Mukelabai expressed concern about whether the Food Reserve Agency (FRA) has sufficient financing, storage capacity, and logistical capability to absorb the anticipated harvest across all farming districts.

She further called on Government to proactively facilitate access to regional and international export markets under the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) frameworks.

"Failure to address market absorption proactively risks a situation where a record harvest paradoxically impoverishes farmers through collapsed farm-gate prices; a scenario Zambia has experienced in previous bumper harvest seasons and must not repeat," she stated.

Ms. Mukelabai also urged Government to develop a competitive strategy to navigate Genetically Modified Organism (GMO) price competition in regional markets.

She encouraged Government to promote agricultural diversification through increased investment in livestock, fisheries, legumes, cassava, millet, sorghum, and other climate-resilient crops to support sustainable poverty reduction.

GOVT DISBURSES K2.79 MILLION IN CDF GRANTS TO 85 COOPERATIVES IN CHIENGE

By Money Daily Reporter



Government has disbursed over K2.79 million in Constituency Development Fund (CDF) grants to 85 cooperatives in Chiengwe District.

It has also commissioned community development projects and distributed empowerment support to improve livelihoods and expand access to public services.

Speaking during the handover ceremony, Luapula Province Deputy Permanent Secretary, Evans Sikabbubba said the initiatives demonstrate government's commitment to bringing resources and services closer to the people.

"The CDF allocation has increased from K1.6 million in 2021 to K40 million, enabling districts such as Chiengwe to accelerate infrastructure development and community empowerment," Mr.

Sikabbubba noted. He said government has commissioned the first communal maternity annex in Chiengwe, located at Lunchinda and worth K1.56 million.

"Other completed projects include a classroom block and 75 desks at Kanwa Primary School, the Shemu Mukabe Water solar system at Chiengwe District Hospital, and a classroom block at Mweru Community School. Construction of additional maternity annexes is underway," he said.

Mr. Sikabbubba further handed over 14 hammer mills valued at over K700,000 and 1,900 mobile phones worth approximately K500,000 to support empowerment and digital social protection systems.

He urged beneficiaries to safeguard the support and invest in sustainable ventures

rather than selling the assets.

At the same event, Chiengwe District Commissioner Rosemary Chikonde said the projects reflect the government's commitment to inclusive development. She called on communities to protect the investments and ensure they benefit everyone.

And Sub Chief Twaileta, who spoke through a representative, welcomed the projects and appealed for staff housing to complement the newly commissioned maternity annex.

Meanwhile, Lunchinda health facility in-charge, Jacqueline Kabwe paid tribute to government for the infrastructure. "The facility will improve health service delivery and strengthen access to maternal healthcare in the area," she said.

ZAMBIA POSTS K3.5 BILLION TRADE SURPLUS IN APRIL 2026

By Cecilia Chiluba



Zambia Statistics Agency (ZamStats) has disclosed that the country posted a trade surplus of K3.5 billion in April 2026, up from K0.9 billion recorded in March 2026.

ZamStats Statistician General, Sheila Mudenda, revealed that exports, mainly comprising domestically produced goods, rose by 1.5 percent from K25.0 billion in March 2026 to K25.4 billion in April 2026.

Speaking at a media briefing, Ms. Mudenda attributed the development to increases in export earnings from raw materials by 17.8 percent and capital goods by 0.4 percent.

She noted that imports decreased by 9.3

billion in March 2026 to K21.9 billion in April 2026. "This was mainly as a result of decreases in import bills of Consumer goods by 43.5 percent and Raw materials by 1.7 percent," she noted.

Cumulative total trade for the period January to April 2026 declined by 9.5 percent from K216.1 billion during the same period in 2025 to K195.7 billion this year.

According to Ms. Mudenda, Traditional Exports (TEs) earnings dropped by 6.8 percent from K17.5 billion in March 2026 to K16.3 billion in April 2026.

"In terms of share in total exports, TE accounted for 64.4 percent in April 2026," she stated.

She said Non-Traditional Exports (NTEs) earnings surged by 20.9 percent from K7.5 billion in March 2026 to K9.0 billion in April 2026, with agricultural products accounting for 23.1 percent of NTEs compared to 23.8 percent recorded in the previous month.

"Export earnings from agricultural products increased by 17.3 percent from K1.8 billion in March 2026 to K2.1 billion in April 2026. The major export commodities were Tobacco-partly or wholly stemmed/stripped accounting for 31.5 percent, maize flour at 13.6 percent, and Buttermilk, curdled milk and cream at 5.3 percent," she said.

The Statistician General noted that in terms of share in total exports, NTEs accounted for 35.6

percent in April 2026.

She further revealed that export earnings from refined copper declined by 7.2 percent from K17.3 billion in March 2026 to K16.1 billion in April 2026, while refined copper export volumes decreased by 6.3 percent from 68.6 thousand metric tonnes in March 2026 to 64.3 thousand metric tonnes in April 2026.

Ms. Mudenda also noted that copper prices on the London Metal Exchange (LME) market for the corresponding months rose by 3.1 percent from US\$12,499.0 per metric tonne in March 2026 to US\$12,891.4 per metric tonne in April 2026.

"The cumulative volume of refined copper exports for the period January to April 2026 was 288.2 thousand metric tonnes while that of 2025 for the same period was 283.5 thousand metric tonnes representing a 1.7 percent increase," Ms. Mudenda noted.

Export earnings from non-agricultural products increased by 22.0 percent from K5.7 billion in March 2026 to K7.0 billion in April 2026.

The major export commodities were Nickel ores and concentrates at 17.2 percent, Sulphur of all kinds accounting for 8.2 percent, and Other, worked precious or semi-precious stones at 7.1 percent.

GOVT ROLLS OUT 200,000 FEATURE PHONES TO ELDERLY SCT BENEFICIARIES NATIONWIDE

By Money Daily Reporter



Ministry of Community Development and Social Services has rolled out the distribution of over 200,000 feature phones to identified elderly beneficiaries of the Social Cash Transfer (SCT) Programme nationwide.

of platforms and banking systems. Government seeks to empower vulnerable citizens with secure and reliable access to their funds while promoting financial and digital inclusion, particularly among rural and marginalized communities.

"The initiative reflects the Government's continued progress towards digitizing social protection services and improving financial inclusion," Ms. Nachinga stated.

Ministry's Principal Public Relations Officer, Glenda Nachinga said the intervention forms part of Government's broader commitment to advancing an inclusive digital transformation agenda aimed at enabling beneficiaries to receive their social cash transfers directly through digital platforms.

She explained that the ongoing exercise is expected to further enhance efficiency, accountability, and convenience in the delivery of social cash transfers nationwide.

Ms. Nachinga noted that currently, the Social Cash Transfer Programme supports a total of 1,555,840 beneficiary households across 116 districts, of which 89% are already receiving their payments through mobile money

She said the Ministry has prioritized elderly beneficiaries following concerns that many senior citizens continue to face challenges in accessing their cash transfers.

"In many instances, beneficiaries possess only SIM cards and rely on other people's mobile phones to verify receipt of funds, a situation that exposes them to inconvenience, dependency, potential exploitation, and the risk of losing SIM cards altogether, which further disrupts their access to payments," she said.

"This milestone represents a significant step forward in ensuring that no beneficiary is left behind in Zambia's digital transformation agenda," Ms. Nachinga stressed.

Ms. Nachinga stressed that by directly providing mobile phones to beneficiaries, Government's continued commitment to delivering inclusive and equitable social protection services for all citizens."

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GOVT FINALIZES PROCUREMENT FOR SOLAR PROJECTS IN ALL CONSTITUENCIES UNDER US\$232M PCEI

By Cecilia Chiluba



Government says it has finalized the procurement process for the development of 2 Megawatt solar plants in all the 156 constituencies countrywide, under the Presidential Constituency Energy Initiative (PCEI).

Under the PCEI, Government had secured contractors for the implementation of 312 Megawatts of solar power generation countrywide at a total estimated cost of about US\$232 million, to enhance local energy security and generate permanent income for communities by feeding power into the national grid.

Speaking during a site visit and preparatory engagements for the ground-breaking ceremony in Eastern Province, Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development, Permanent Secretary for Technical Services, Nicholas Phiri, said the

development follows the pronouncement made by President Hakainde Hichilema in late 2025 to invest in renewable energy infrastructure aimed at enhancing national energy security through decentralized power generation.

Mr. Phiri disclosed that Eastern Province is expected to benefit from approximately 32 Megawatts of solar power generation, with an estimated project value of over US\$23 million.

“The procurement process had met the three key principles consistently emphasized by President Hichilema namely quality, timely delivery and value for money,” he said.

He explained that Government was now preparing for the official ground-breaking ceremony for the projects.

“The site visits are intended to assess the readiness of local authorities and ensure

smooth commencement of works,” Mr. Phiri added.

Mr. Phiri described the programme as a historic milestone that would fundamentally transform Councils and strengthen Zambia’s energy security through renewable energy investments.

“The significance of this project cannot be overemphasized,” he said. “For the first time, local authorities will become direct contributors to national energy security through sustainable energy generation that does not depend on rainfall patterns or hydroelectric generation alone.”

The Permanent Secretary stressed that the initiative would mark a major shift in the financial sustainability of local authorities, as councils would begin generating predictable income through dividends earned from selling electricity to the national grid.

“Currently, most Councils operate under serious financial constraints. Once these plants are operational, councils will begin earning dividends as shareholders in these projects,” Mr. Phiri added.

“This will create predictable revenue streams and improve service delivery in our communities.”

He said the programme demonstrated Government’s dedication to decentralization by empowering councils to generate their own resources and make independent development decisions.

Mr. Phiri urged all stakeholders to work together to ensure the successful implementation of the initiative, stating that the first phase of the project would lay the foundation for future expansion of renewable energy investments by local authorities.

ACC ARRESTS THREE MORE MINISTRY OFFICIALS IN K8.8 MILLION SLIMP CORRUPTION PROBE

By Money Daily Reporter



ANTI-CORRUPTION COMMISSION

Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) has arrested and charged three more Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock officials in connection with the alleged misappropriation of more than K8.8 million under the Sustainable Livestock Infrastructure Management Project (SLIMP).

The arrests are part of ongoing investigations into the alleged abuse of part of the US\$10 million project funds meant for SLIMP, bringing the total number of officers arrested in the matter to 12.

According to a statement issued by ACC Acting Head of Corporate Communications, Chilufya Chisanga, investigations have so far uncovered assets valued at well over K124 million, including motor vehicles, houses, farms, livestock and government bonds.

Ms. Chisanga said among those arrested is 47-year-old Principal Livestock Production Officer, Grace Lungu of Lusaka’s Lilayi area, who has been charged with 16 counts of Fraudulent False Accounting contrary to Section 326(a) and (b) of the Penal Code.

She explained that the charges relate to alleged false imprest retirements amounting to K750,320.52, where

Ms. Lungu allegedly indicated that SLIMP funds had been used for their intended purpose when they had not.

Ms. Lungu has also been charged with two counts of Possession of Property Reasonably Suspected to be Proceeds of Crime involving a Hyundai Creta valued at K450,000 and a Jaguar F-Pace valued at K650,000.

“The charges relate to one (1) residential property in Chipata District valued at K800,000 and a Government security (bond) valued at K300,000,” Ms. Chisanga stated.

Meanwhile, Senior Livestock Production Officer, Trohyb Hanyimbo, 42, of Libala South in Lusaka, has been charged with one count of Corrupt Acquisition of Public Property and Revenue contrary to the Anti-Corruption Act.

According to Ms. Chisanga, Mr. Hanyimbo fraudulently diverted K1,984,071 from Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock SLIMP accounts.

She revealed that also arrested is Assistant Director Kabemba Mwambilwa, 48, of Palabana area in Chongwe, who has been charged with one count of Corrupt Acquisition of Public Property and Revenue involving K3,888,534.51 allegedly diverted from various

SLIMP accounts.

Ms. Chisanga said Mr. Mwambilwa has additionally been charged with two counts of Possession of Property Reasonably Suspected to be Proceeds of Crime involving a Hyundai Creta valued at K450,000 and a Jaguar F-Pace valued at K650,000.

“Mr. Mwambilwa has further been charged with one count of Abuse of Authority of Office in the manner he facilitated the employment of Grace Chundama as SLIMP Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist without approval from the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock Controlling Officer, namely the Permanent Secretary,” Ms. Chisanga explained.

“In addition, members of the public may wish to note that early this year Mr. Mwambilwa was arrested and charged with two counts of Possession of Property Reasonably Suspected to be Proceeds of Crime,” she added.

Ms. Chisanga stated that three suspects have since been released on bond and are expected to appear in court soon. “Investigations into the SLIMP are ongoing, and more arrests are expected to be made,” she said.



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THINK BUSINESS



ZAMBIA'S INFLATION SLOWS TO 6.6% IN MAY ON LOWER FOOD PRICES

By Cecilia Chiluba



Zambia's annual inflation rate for May 2026 slowed down to 6.6 percent from 6.8 percent recorded in April 2026, marking a continuing disinflation trend.

This means that on average, prices of goods and services surged by 6.6 percent between May 2025 and May 2026.

The continued decline in inflation brings the rate within the Bank of Zambia's medium-term target band of between 6% to 8%.

Zambia Statistics Agency (ZamStats), attributed the decline in inflation figures for May 2026, to price movements in food items.

Annual food inflation for May 2026 slowed to 6.9

percent from 7.3 percent in April 2026, while non-food inflation declined to 6.1 percent from 6.0 percent in the previous month.

The decline in annual food inflation was mainly attributed to movements in prices of food items such as breakfast and roller mealie meal, maize grain, imported price, vegetables such as green beans, green pepper, dried beans, sweet potatoes, sugar, cooking oil and eggs.

ZamStats Statistician General, Sheila Mudenda told Journalists at a media briefing that the drop in annual non-food inflation for May 2026 was mainly due to movements in prices of non-food items such as phamarceuticles products,diesel, paraffin, engine oil, lubricants and hammer milling charge.

“The overall monthly inflation rate for May 2026 was recorded at 0.2 percent from 0.7 percent recorded in the previous month. This outturn was mainly attributed to price movements in selected food items,” Ms. Mudenda explained.

She further disclosed that monthly food inflation for May 2026 remained unchanged at 0.3 percent, same as that recorded in April 2026, which indicates that on average,food prices rose by 0.3 percent between April 2026 and May 2026.

“This movement was mainly attributed to price movements in meats, vegetables, fish, fresh and dried Kapenta, including Chisense,” she noted. “Monthly non-food inflation for May 2026 was recorded at 0.1 percent,

compared with 1.3 percent recorded in April 2026.”

According to Ms. Mudenda, the outturn was mainly attributed to price movements in prices of non-food items such as pharmaceutical products,motor cars,and passenger transport by air.

Of the overall annual inflation rate of 6.6 percent, Lusaka Province accounted for the highest contribution at 2.5 percentage points, followed by Copperbelt Province at 1.3 percentage points.

Further, Central and Southern Provinces contributed 0.7 percentage points each, with Luapula Northwestern and Western Provinces recording the lowest contributions at 0.2 percentage points, each.

ZAMMSA STARTS RECEIVING SECOND CONSIGNMENT OF 9,500 HEALTH CENTER KITS

By Cecilia Chiluba



Enock Lusoke

Zambia Medicines and Medical Supplies Agency (ZAMMSA) says it has started receiving the second consignment of 9,500 Health Center Kits.

ZAMMSA Senior Officer– Corporate Communications Enock Lusoke, said the move is set to boost the supply of essential medicines and medical supplies to primary health facilities across the country.

Ms. Lusoke stated that of the expected consignment, 4,550 kits have since been

received, with the remainder scheduled to arrive in the coming days.

He said distribution of the life-saving commodities will commence once the Zambia Medicines Regulatory Authority (ZAMRA) completes mandatory quality assurance processes.

Mr. Lusoke added that ZAMRA is also expected to issue Certificates of Analysis confirming the safety, quality, and efficacy of the medicines and medical supplies.

“Health Center Kits are a cornerstone of Zambia’s primary healthcare system. They support the treatment of common illnesses, maternal and child health services, and emergency care in clinics nationwide,” he emphasized.

Mr. Lusoke reiterated ZAMMSA’s pledge to deliver essential medical supplies on time and fairly, ensuring all Zambians can access safe and effective healthcare.



BRRA RESOLVES MAZABUKA SUGAR LEVY DISPUTE, ADVANCES BUSINESS REFORMS

By Cecilia Chiluba



Dominic Kapalu

Business Regulatory the progress recorded Authority (ZRA) on the need to harmonize fish-related charges affecting traders.

Review Agency (BRRA) during the quarter under review reflects the importance of sustained engagement with local authorities, regulatory agencies and the private sector in addressing longstanding regulatory bottlenecks affecting businesses across the country.

BRRA Board Chairperson, Dominic Kapalu, said in a statement that the agreement, reached through facilitated dialogue between the two parties, has resulted in a revised levy structure aimed at balancing local revenue mobilization with the operational sustainability of the sugar industry.

Mr. Kapalu stated that the resolution of the dispute was among the key achievements recorded during the first quarter of 2026 as the Agency intensified efforts to improve Zambia's business environment and reduce the cost of doing business.

Mr. Kapalu noted that

the progress recorded Authority (ZRA) on the need to harmonize fish-related charges affecting traders.

He stressed that a multi-institutional technical committee has since been established to identify overlapping charges and develop a harmonized framework aimed at reducing compliance costs and regulatory duplication.

Mr. Kapalu revealed that the Agency also recorded progress in Petauke District following earlier interventions prompted by concerns raised by the business community.

He said measures implemented by Petauke Town Council include aligning business levies with statutory requirements, improving stakeholder consultations, reducing transport allocation fees and parking charges, as well as increasing efficiency in processing business permits and certificates.

"The Council further introduced significant relief

measures on property rates, including remissions for the 2024, 2025 and 2026 financial years," he said.

Meanwhile, Mr. Kapalu welcomed Cabinet approval of wide-ranging reforms aimed at reducing the cost of doing business across key sectors of the economy.

"These reforms are anchored on the Presidential Directives issued during the 2025 Private Sector Day and include the introduction of a single consolidated business levy under local authorities, rationalization of tourism sector licensing through a single omnibus licence, and reforms to the property rating system to make it more business friendly," Mr. Kapalu stressed.

He noted that additional reforms approved by Cabinet include simplification and digitization of investor permit processes, reduction and harmonization of property rates, reductions in honey production and export fees, streamlining licensing requirements in the construction sector, and strengthened coordination among regulatory institutions.

"BRRA remains committed to promoting smart regulation that safeguards public interest while supporting economic growth, competitiveness and investment. We will continue to work closely with stakeholders to ensure that approved reforms translate into tangible improvements for businesses and citizens," he added.

LUSAKA CITY COUNCIL COMPLETES K1.9 MILLION MATERO MINI CIVIC CENTRE

By Money Daily Reporter



Lusaka City Council (LCC) has completed the construction of the Matero Mini Civic Centre at a cost of over K1.9 million.

Council Public Relations Manager, Chola Mwamba said the facility, which is located in Matero Constituency, was financed from the LCC's internally generated revenue.

Ms. Mwamba explained that the Matero Mini Civic Centre is one of the four facilities constructed by the

Council, alongside the Lusaka Central, Kanyama, and Kabwata Mini Civic Centres, at a cost of more than K10.5 million.

"The Mini Civic Centres are designed to decentralize municipal services and bring them closer to residents," Ms. Mwamba said.

She noted that the initiative will enhance operational efficiency, decongest the main Civic Centre, and improve service delivery

to the public. "The construction of these facilities is in line with Government's fiscal decentralization policy, which emphasizes community-driven infrastructure that responds directly to local needs," she stated.

Ms. Mwamba reaffirmed the Council's dedication to implementing projects that promote accessibility, efficiency, and responsiveness in public service delivery.



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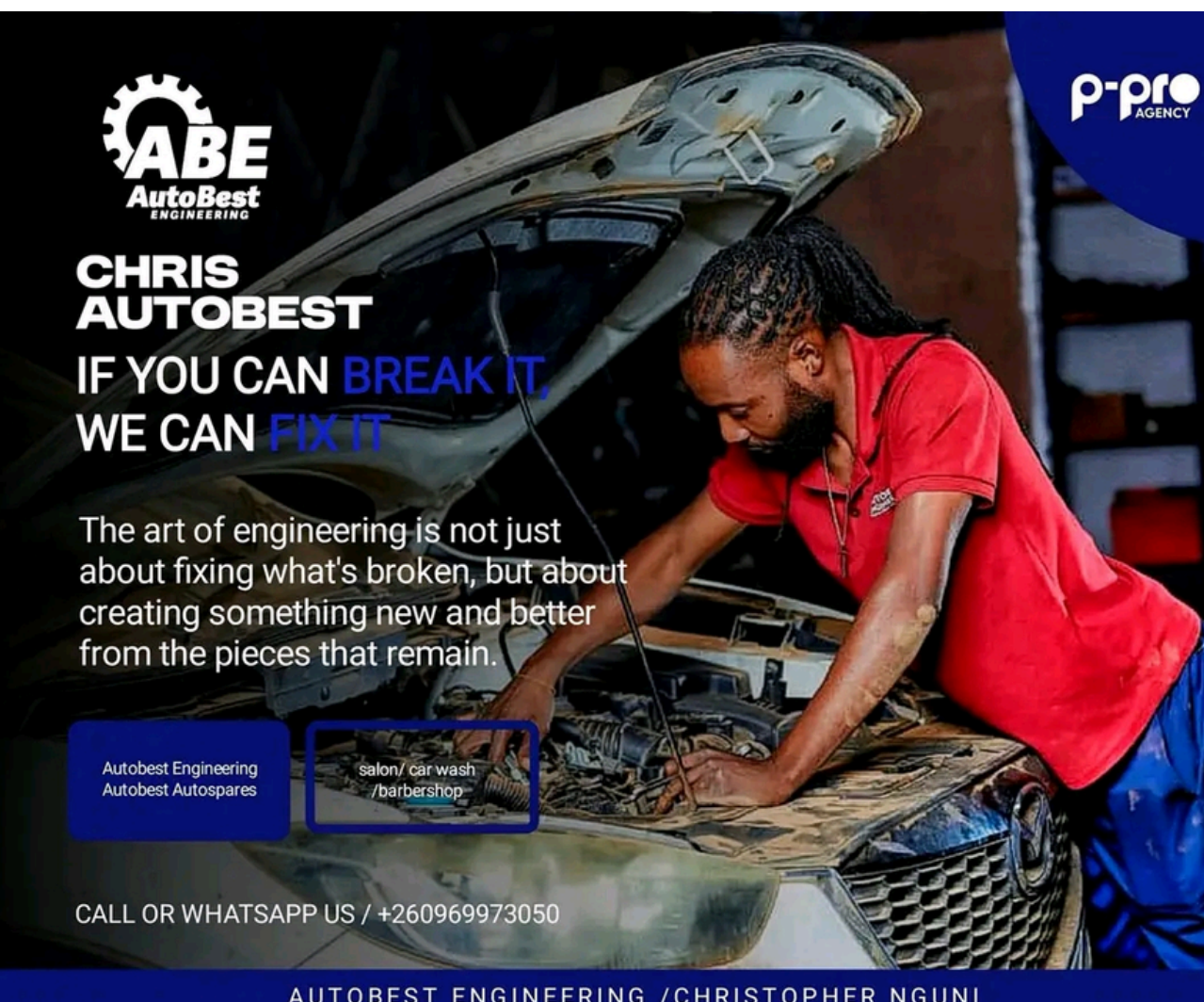
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CARBON MARKETS AND CIRCULAR ECONOMY OPPORTUNITIES

By Prof Bupe Getrude Mutono-Mwanza



As countries and industries intensify efforts to address climate change, carbon markets and the circular economy are increasingly being recognized as complementary pathways toward sustainable development. Together, they create opportunities for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, improving resource efficiency, generating green jobs, and attracting climate finance. For developing countries such as Zambia, these approaches present significant opportunities for inclusive economic growth and environmental sustainability.

Understanding Carbon Markets

Carbon markets are systems that allow governments, organizations, or companies to buy and sell carbon credits. A carbon credit represents the reduction or removal of one ton of carbon dioxide (CO₂) or its equivalent from the atmosphere. These credits are generated through activities such as renewable energy projects, reforestation, energy efficiency improvements, methane capture, and sustainable waste management.

There are two major types of carbon markets:

1. Compliance Markets – regulated by governments under national or international climate policies.
2. Voluntary Carbon Markets – where companies and institutions voluntarily purchase carbon credits to offset their emissions and meet sustainability goals. For many African economies, voluntary carbon markets are becoming increasingly important because they provide financing opportunities for community-based environmental projects.

The Link Between Carbon Markets and Circular Economy

A circular economy aims to minimise waste and keep materials and products in use for as long as possible through reuse, recycling, repair, remanufacturing, and sustainable design. Unlike the traditional “take-make-dispose” linear model, the circular economy reduces resource extraction and environmental pollution.

Circular economy activities can generate measurable carbon reductions, making them eligible for carbon financing. This creates a powerful connection between carbon markets and circular economy strategies.

Examples include: (See table below)

Circular Economy Activity	Carbon Market Opportunity
Recycling plastic waste	Reduced emissions from virgin plastic production
Organic waste composting	Methane emission reduction credits
Waste-to-energy systems	Renewable energy carbon credits
Sustainable agriculture	Soil carbon sequestration credits
Industrial symbiosis	Reduced industrial energy consumption
Reuse and repair businesses	Lower manufacturing-related emissions

Key Opportunities for Zambia

1. Waste Management and Recycling

Urban centres such as Lusaka generate increasing amounts of plastic and organic waste. Improving waste collection, recycling, and composting systems can significantly reduce methane emissions from dumpsites while generating carbon credits.

Integrating informal waste pickers into recycling systems can also promote social inclusion and green employment.

2. Renewable Energy and Biomass Utilization

Agricultural residues, forestry waste, and organic waste can be converted into renewable energy sources such as biogas or biomass fuel. These projects can reduce reliance on charcoal and fossil fuels while attracting carbon finance.

3. Sustainable Mining and Industrial Practices

Mining industries can adopt circular economy principles through waste recovery, metal recycling, water reuse, and energy efficiency improvements. Such interventions can support emissions reductions while improving environmental compliance.

4. Green Entrepreneurship and SMEs

Small and medium enterprises (SMEs) can benefit from emerging green business opportunities in recycling, eco-design, remanufacturing, and sustainable packaging. Carbon financing mechanisms can provide additional investment incentives for these enterprises.

Challenges Limiting Progress

Despite the opportunities, several barriers remain:

- Limited awareness of carbon trading mechanisms
- Weak measurement and verification systems
- Inadequate waste management infrastructure
- Limited access to climate finance
- Policy and regulatory gaps

5. Build capacity in carbon accounting and project verification.

6. Encourage partnerships between government, academia, industry, and communities.

7. Invest in recycling infrastructure and renewable energy technologies.

Conclusion

Carbon markets and circular economy strategies provide a transformative opportunity for sustainable development. By linking waste reduction, resource efficiency, and emissions reduction, countries can simultaneously address climate change, unemployment, pollution, and economic resilience. For Zambia, investing in circular economy systems supported by carbon finance can accelerate the transition toward a greener and more inclusive economy.

ABOUT AUTHOR:

Prof Bupe Getrude Mutono-Mwanza is an Associate Professor in Sustainable Supply Chains and Circular Economy and also serves as the Associate Director at the Graduate School of Business, University of Zambia.

She is also Professor Extraordinarius at the University of South Africa. She has over ten years of experience in academic leadership, teaching, and research.

Her areas of expertise include production and operations management, sustainable supply chains, and the circular economy. She has supervised and examined several postgraduate theses, contributed to major international sustainability projects, published extensively, and serves on editorial boards, professional associations, and university governance committees.

ZAMBIA CANNOT BUILD A MODERN ECONOMY ON UNRELIABLE INTERNET

The concerns raised by the Acton Institute for Policy Analysis Centre (AIPAC) over persistent mobile network failures should not be dismissed as ordinary consumer complaints. They point to a much deeper national problem — Zambia's growing dependence on digital connectivity without matching reliability in communication infrastructure.

In today's economy, internet access is no longer a luxury. It is not merely a convenience for social media, entertainment or casual communication. Reliable internet and mobile connectivity have become as essential to economic activity as electricity, roads and banking systems. When networks fail repeatedly, businesses lose money, productivity declines and public confidence weakens.

That reality is becoming increasingly visible across Zambia.

From disrupted mobile money transactions and delayed online banking services to failed business communications and unreliable digital platforms, the cost of poor connectivity is now affecting nearly every sector of the economy. Small businesses, transport operators, students, hospitals, financial institutions and ordinary consumers are all paying

the price for network instability.

The timing could not be worse.

Zambia is actively positioning itself as an investment destination, a digital economy and a regional trade hub. Government institutions are promoting digital transformation, electronic payments, smart agriculture, online education and e-government services. Yet these ambitions cannot succeed on weak and inconsistent communication networks.

A modern economy cannot function efficiently when people are uncertain whether they will complete a mobile money transaction, join an online meeting or access internet banking without interruption.

The most worrying aspect is that these network failures are no longer isolated incidents. They are becoming normalised. Dropped calls, unstable data connections and delayed transactions are increasingly treated as routine inconveniences instead of serious economic disruptions.

That attitude is dangerous. For many businesses today, especially small and medium

enterprises, internet connectivity is directly linked to daily survival. Entrepreneurs market products online, receive customer payments through mobile platforms, coordinate logistics digitally and communicate with suppliers electronically. When networks collapse, operations slow down immediately.

A trader who

fails to process payments loses customers. A transport operator who cannot communicate loses efficiency. A student unable to access online learning platforms falls behind. A hospital experiencing communication disruptions faces operational risks. The economic impact is far wider than most people realise.

The banking and financial sector is particularly vulnerable. Zambia has made major progress in promoting financial inclusion through mobile money and digital banking platforms. Millions of citizens now depend on electronic transactions instead of cash. But unreliable networks undermine trust in digital finance systems.

Trust is everything in a digital economy.

Once consumers begin doubting whether transactions will go through safely and consistently, confidence in electronic systems weakens. That can slow financial inclusion progress and hurt broader economic formalisation efforts.

This is why AIPAC's challenge to the Zambia Information and

broader infrastructure challenge. Reliable internet requires stable electricity, strong fibre infrastructure, investment in towers, cybersecurity protection and continuous technological upgrades. Communication infrastructure must now be treated as strategic national infrastructure, not merely a commercial service.

Countries that are succeeding economically are investing heavily in digital reliability because they understand that future competitiveness depends on connectivity. Investors assessing Zambia today do not only look at taxes and regulations. They examine digital efficiency, communication reliability and technology readiness.

A country with unstable communication systems risks appearing unprepared for serious investment.

There is also a governance dimension to this issue. As Zambia moves closer to elections, network reliability becomes even more sensitive because communication systems play a critical role in information sharing, business continuity and public confidence. Disruptions during politically important periods can easily fuel public frustration and mistrust.

The solution is not complicated in principle,

though it requires seriousness in execution.

Government, regulators and network providers must strengthen oversight, improve infrastructure investment and enforce measurable service standards. Consumers also deserve transparent communication whenever major outages occur. Silence from service providers only deepens public dissatisfaction.

Most importantly, Zambia must stop viewing internet access as secondary infrastructure. In the 21st century economy, connectivity is economic infrastructure.

A nation cannot seriously pursue industrialisation, digital transformation, innovation and investment attraction while its communication systems remain unreliable.

The future economy will belong to connected societies. Zambia must decide whether it wants to compete seriously in that future or continue losing valuable economic opportunities to avoidable network failures.



“Think Business”



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THINK BUSINESS

DIASPORA REMITTANCES TOP US\$3.5BN AS AFDB WARNS ON SLOWING GROWTH

By News Day



Mobile Telecommunications Limited (MTC) has announced a N\$624.9 million capital investment plan for the 2025/26 financial year to upgrade its network infrastructure and expand coverage across the country.

Speaking at a high-level information and communication technology (ICT) stakeholder event at Oshakati, MTC marketing officer Tim Ekandjo explains that the funding will target

several key infrastructure projects.

These include modernising the existing network, upgrading ICT systems, expanding transmission capacity, and building new mobile towers to cope with rising data demands.

A major focus of the rollout will be extending reliable signal to remote and underserved areas, ensuring that rural communities gain better

access to telecommunications.

To improve operational continuity and network resilience, MTC will also invest in power infrastructure at its network sites to prevent service downtime.

Additionally, part of the budget will fund new strategic business initiatives aimed at driving long-term growth and digital innovation across Namibia.

CHINA'S E-COMMERCE SECTOR MAINTAINS STEADY EXPANSION IN JANUARY-APRIL

By Xinhua

China's e-commerce sector has sustained steady expansion in the first four months of 2026, with the sector continuing to stimulate consumption vitality and empower the real economy, according to data released by the Ministry of Commerce on Tuesday.

During the January-April period, China's online retail sales of goods and services rose 6.6 percent year on year, with online retail sales of goods contributing 72.2 percent to the growth of total retail sales of consumer

goods.

Online sales of agricultural products increased 12.2 percent during the period, while the e-commerce transaction value of metal products and chemical products rose 34.8 percent and 12.2 percent, respectively, data from the ministry showed.

E-commerce has also boosted the rapid growth of service sectors such as tourism and catering, with online sales in tourism and

catering jumping 33.2 percent and 20 percent, respectively.

Boosted by the Silk Road e-commerce initiative, some partner countries posted surging exports to China, the ministry said, noting that Thai durians, Emirati beverages and Italian casual pants recorded online sales surges of 344.8 percent, 78.6 percent and 22.8 percent, respectively, in the first four months.



EXCHANGE RATES

Last updated: 28-05-2026

CURRENCY	BUYING	SELLING
ZMW / USD	18.5257	18.5757
ZMW / GBP	24.8652	24.9342
ZMW / EUR	21.5547	21.6147
ZMW / ZAR	1.1351	1.1383

Source: Bank of Zambia (BOZ)



COPPER PRINCESSES IN DR CONGO FOR SECOND LEG WORLD CUP QUALIFIER

By Lucky Chama

Zambia's Under-17 women's national team, the Copper Princesses, have arrived in Lubumbashi ahead of Sunday's crucial FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup Morocco 2026 second round qualifier against DR Congo.

The Copper Princesses head into the return leg carrying a commanding 5-0 advantage from the first leg played in Lusaka, placing them in a strong position to advance to the next stage

of the qualifiers. Despite the comfortable lead, head coach Carol Kanyemba has warned against complacency, stressing that the technical bench has focused heavily on the players' mental preparation ahead of the encounter.

"We're preparing for the second leg psychologically because physically we won the game at home," Kanyemba said.

"A 5-0 win is a comfortable lead, but football being what it is, tables can overturn when players get complacent, overexcited and lose focus."

Kanyemba said the Congolese side is expected to come out aggressively as they attempt to overturn the deficit on home soil.

"We know that as we go to Congo, they will come at us very strongly because they really want to overturn the

tables," she said. "Besides the physical game itself, there will be a lot of mind games played on us, but our girls need to stay strong and focused."

The coach praised her players for executing tactical instructions effectively during the first leg, particularly in build-up play, finishing and defensive concentration.

"The girls were able to build

up well, pass to each other and the finishing was very good. Defensively, we also showed good concentration and managed to keep a clean sheet, which was a big plus," Kanyemba said.

Kanyemba also acknowledged the growing expectations surrounding the team as they seek to qualify for a third successive FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup.

The winner over two legs will face either Ethiopia or Burundi.

TEBOGO SHIFTS FOCUS TO 200M IN RABAT



By Daily News - Rabat takes centre stage on May 30 as the sprint sensation, Letsile Tebogo, steps onto the track to officially open his 200-metre Diamond League account at the Meeting International Mohammed VI.

For the 21-year-old sprint prodigy, this race marks a pivotal shift in his season, representing his highly anticipated return to the global stage in the very discipline where he made history as Africa's fastest man and secured the country's historic first-ever Olympic gold medal.

Highly motivated to collect vital qualification points for the Wanda Diamond League Final, Tebogo enters the weekend facing a true championship-level preview.

While he missed out on the top three during his first two 100m Diamond League outings in Xiamen and Shanghai, the world

number two remains entirely unfazed by the early-season noise.

Treating the initial months of the year as strategic building blocks, he opened his 200m campaign back in February with a relaxed 20.75 seconds in Francistown, a time he is now poised to shatter.

This weekend's meeting represents an immense escalation in competitive intensity. In the official entry lists, Tebogo will line up against a formidable grid of global rivals. The powerhouse line-up features USA's Kenneth Bednarek and Courtney Lindsey, alongside Canada's Andre De Grasse.

South Africa will be heavily represented by Wayde van Niekerk and Sinesipho Dambile, while Jamaica's Bryan Levell, Cuba's Reynier Mena and local favourite Yassine Hssine of Morocco round out the world-class field.



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THINK BUSINESS



FIFA CONGRATULATES CHAKATAZYA ON FAZ APPOINTMENT

By Lucky Chama

World football governing body FIFA has congratulated newly appointed Football Association of Zambia (FAZ) General Secretary Charles Chakatazya following his appointment to the association's top administrative office.

FIFA Secretary General Mattias Grafström conveyed the message in a congratulatory letter addressed to Chakatazya, expressing confidence in his leadership and pledging support to the new FAZ administration.

"Please allow me to extend my warmest congratulations on your recent appointment as General Secretary of the Football Association of Zambia," Grafström said.

"This marks an exciting new chapter for Zambian football and I have no doubt that your leadership and commitment will bring a lot to the federation and to the development of the game across the country."



Grafström further assured Chakatazya of FIFA's willingness to work closely with him as he begins his tenure at Football House.

"Please know that my team and I are here to support you in any way we can. I'm very much looking forward to working closely together and building a strong collaboration in the years ahead," he added.

Chakatazya was officially appointed FAZ General Secretary on Sunday, replacing Machacha Shepande, who left the position on mutual terms with the association.

The new FAZ chief executive officer brings with him extensive experience in football administration, having previously served as Chief Executive Officer at Nkana Football Club, Kabwe Warriors and Napsa Stars.

His appointment comes at a time when FAZ is seeking to strengthen football administration and continue developing the game at all levels in Zambia.

