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# KWACHA GAINS GROUND AS SUPPLY RISES

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# IMPROVED FOREX SUPPLY, REGULATORY CHANGES DRIVE KWACHA STABILITY

By Cecilia Chiluba



A Financial Analyst says Zambia's currency performance has recently been supported by improved foreign exchange supply conditions, stronger commodity earnings, and regulatory interventions that have eased pressure on the market.

The Zambian Kwacha has broadly stabilized, currently trading around K17.96 and K18.32 against the US Dollar across local banks and foreign exchange platforms in Lusaka.

Speaking in an interview with Money News, Trevor Hambayi explained that the current stability of the Kwacha is largely being driven by a supply-and-demand imbalance in favour of supply.

"We have got more supply than demand and

that is what is holding the Kwacha," Mr. Hambayi said.

Mr. Hambayi also noted that regulatory changes requiring domestic transactions to be conducted in local currency have helped reduce pressure on foreign exchange demand.

"The regulation around having to transact in local currency on the local market has had an impact on the stability of the Kwacha and this is because everybody who is dealing locally is having to be able to deal in local currency and this has put a little less pressure on the Kwacha and that is the first thing," he noted.

He further pointed to rising copper prices as a major support factor for foreign exchange inflows, noting that international copper markets have

strengthened significantly.

"The price of copper has gone up to around US\$13,000 from US\$10,000. This is the second aspect in terms of the mining sector having able to bring in the funds," he stated.

"Thirdly, the mining sector having to be able to account for their exports onto the local market, using the Bank of Zambia exchange rate monitoring framework, this has also had an impact on having to be able to ensure there is stability in the Kwacha."

Mr. Hambayi said additional support has come from improved external inflows linked to fiscal and debt developments, including progress under the International Monetary Fund (IMF) programme and debt restructuring efforts, which have

contributed to higher foreign reserves and improved liquidity conditions in the economy.

Looking ahead, he projected relative stability in the exchange rate in the short term, particularly leading up to the August election period.

Mr. Hambayi explained that election cycles typically influence capital movements, with outflows before voting periods and inflows once political stability is confirmed.

"There is always capital flight and after the elections when they have seen the stability, there is always capital inflow and we expect that it will remain relatively constant until the elections because the factors that are speaking to creating stability will remain relatively the same until after the elections."

# LCC LAUNCHES CITYWIDE FOOD INSPECTIONS AHEAD OF WORLD FOOD SAFETY DAY

By Money Daily Reporter



Lusaka City Council (LCC) has started conducting citywide inspections of food premises ahead of the World Food Safety Day, which is commemorated annually on 7th June.

Council Public Relations Officer, Chola Mwamba said the inspections are targeting markets, restaurants, and street vending sites to ensure that all food sold to residents is safe and fit for human consumption.

Ms. Mwamba explained that the Council's Public Health Department, working in collaboration with the Ministry of Health officers, is assessing compliance with hygiene standards.

"They are also educating food handlers on proper storage, handling, and preparation techniques to prevent food-borne illnesses," she said.

She added that beyond enforcement, the exercise is also serving as a platform for

health education. Ms. Mwamba said food handlers, marketeers, and food business operators are being sensitized on the importance of maintaining high hygiene standards and understanding the risks associated with unsafe food.

"The aim is to shift the narrative from treating food safety as a burden to embracing practical solutions that protect public health," Ms. Mwamba stated.

She implored the public to play their part by purchasing food from approved and inspected premises, as unregulated and informal settings cannot guarantee safety standards.

Ms. Mwamba further urged consumers to carefully examine food labels before making a purchase.

"Particular attention should be paid to expiry dates, date of manufacture, name of manufacturer, ingredients, and other

packaging information, as these details are critical in determining the safety and suitability of food for consumption," Ms. Mwamba emphasized.

She encouraged residents to report any suspected cases of unsafe, contaminated, or expired food products to the Council so that authorities can act swiftly to prevent public health risks.

"We wish to strongly warn that, in accordance with the Public Health Act and other applicable laws, the Council will not hesitate to institute legal action against any individual or business found selling, storing, preparing, or distributing food that is unfit for human consumption," she warned.

This year's World Food Safety Day commemoration is being held under the theme: "Food Safety: From Burden to Solutions – Safe Food Everywhere."

# KCM COMMENCES 60-DAY MAINTENANCE SHUTDOWN AT NCHANGA SMELTER

By Cecilia Chiluba



Konkola Copper Mines Plc (KCM) has commenced a planned 60-day shutdown at the Nchanga Smelter, as part of a comprehensive maintenance and repair programme.

The programme is aimed at enhancing operational efficiency, reliability and long-term production performance. Smelter operations are expected to resume in August 2026.

KCM Acting Chief Executive Officer, Malcolm Mewett, said the scheduled shutdown forms part of the company's broader rebuilding and modernization strategy designed to strengthen mining and processing operations

across the business. "KCM commenced a planned 60-day shutdown of the Nchanga Smelter to undertake critical maintenance works that will enhance operational effectiveness and improve overall plant reliability," Mr. Mewett said.

"This programme represents an important milestone in our ongoing rebuilding and repair efforts as we continue to restore key infrastructure and position the business for sustainable production growth."

Mr. Mewett explained that KCM has deliberately scheduled these works to ensure the smelter operates

optimally within its design parameters and supports improved performance in the years ahead.

He said the shutdown will involve major refurbishment and maintenance activities requiring close collaboration with Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs), specialized technical partners, local contractors, and suppliers," he added.

Mr. Mewett further stated that the rehabilitation works have engaged over 1,449 skilled and unskilled workers, including 578 newly created jobs that directly benefit local community members through employment opportunities, skilled labour engagement, and associated support services.

"To ensure continuity of copper production during the maintenance period, KCM has put in place business continuity measures to sustain processing operations," Mr. Mewett said.

"The company will continue supplying the Tailings Leach Plant (TLP) through a combination of externally sourced acid and production from the 500-tonne-per-day acid plant at Nchanga Operations."

He reaffirmed KCM's commitment to investing in critical infrastructure, operational excellence, employee safety and sustainable long-term growth as the company advances its production recovery and expansion strategy.

# PEACE SCIENTIST RAISES ALARM OVER SILENCE AS 2026 ELECTION CAMPAIGNS KICK OFF

By Money Daily Reporter



Tom Njovu

A Peace Scientist has expressed concern over the current silence even when campaigns for the 2026 August general election officially kicked off few weeks ago.

Tom Njovu observed that while a few individuals have been actively campaigning, many others have remained silent.

"This silence is noticeable and raises important questions about why people are quiet," he said.

Mr. Njovu emphasized that Zambia has long been recognized as a peaceful and democratic nation where citizens freely participate in national affairs.

He stressed that it is important to ensure the prevailing environment encourages open dialogue, political participation, and the protection of fundamental freedoms.

"A healthy democracy thrives when citizens feel free to express their views, engage in campaigns, and

participate in shaping the future of their country without fear," he emphasized.

Mr. Njovu noted that many people have expressed different opinions regarding the current situation and environment as the country heads towards the general elections.

He explained that peace scientists have observed that what is currently prevailing in the country can best be described as negative peace.

"Peace is not merely the absence of physical conflict or violence. Peace also includes the freedom of citizens to express themselves without fear, participate in democratic processes, and have access to their basic needs such as food, income, and economic opportunities," Mr. Njovu said.

Mr. Njovu stressed that at the moment, many citizens appear hesitant to openly campaign or freely express support for their preferred political candidates.

He cautioned that there is a growing sense of uncertainty among some people regarding whether they can freely exercise their democratic rights without facing consequences.

Mr. Njovu further noted that many citizens continue to struggle to meet their basic needs, as concerns about the cost of living, limited disposable income, and economic hardships are affecting daily life for a number of families.

"People are in conflict within themselves, as a result, Zambia appears unusually quiet for a nation approaching a major election," he noted.

Mr. Njovu added that there is a sense that the vibrant political engagement and public debate traditionally associated with election periods are not being fully expressed.

The peace scientist urged Government and all relevant stakeholders to take a keen interest in the silence.

# MTN MOMO PARTNERS WITH STANBIC BANK TO ADVANCE FINANCIAL INCLUSION IN ZAMBIA

By Miwya Mwiya



MTN Mobile Money Limited (MTN MoMo) has partnered with Stanbic Bank Zambia, to strengthen financial inclusion by expanding access to digital financial services across the country.

This follows the launch of the MTN MoMo on Stanbic Bank Zambia Point of Sale (POS) Machines countrywide. The partnership strengthens digital financial services, promotes financial inclusion, and supports Zambia's digital transformation through secure and convenient payment solutions.

The integration makes Stanbic Bank the fourth banking partner to accept MoMo payments on its POS network, joining First National Bank (FNB), United Bank for Africa (UBA), Indo Zambia Bank and Zanaco.

Speaking during the launch in Lusaka, MTN MoMo Head of Strategy and Business

Development, Pafyako Malema, said the collaboration will enable customers to seamlessly transfer funds between mobile wallets and bank accounts while supporting Zambia's broader financial inclusion agenda.

"With FNB, UBA, IZB, Zanaco and now Stanbic Bank POS terminals accepting MoMo payments, we have significantly expanded payment acceptance points and strengthened MoMo's position as the most widely available mobile money payment option on bank POS infrastructure in Zambia," Ms. Malema aid.

She noted that the initiative will contribute to the development of a modern financial ecosystem that is accessible, secure, and convenient for all Zambians.

According to Ms. Malema, MTN Mobile Money's network of more than 185,000 agents nationwide positions the company to deliver reliable and responsive financial services to customers in both urban

and rural communities. "Today's launch signifies our position as a total financial solutions provider. We continue to strengthen our role as one of the most widely accepted digital financial service providers in Zambia," she stated.

She added that the first phase of the partnership will focus on enabling customers to easily move money between mobile wallets and bank accounts, improving convenience for both personal and business transactions.

Ms. Malema further said the service is expected to benefit more than 260,000 registered customers already using digital financial services, noting that the partnership will also make everyday transactions such as grocery purchases, bill payments, shopping, and other financial activities faster, safer, and more efficient.

She assured customers that all transactions will be protected by robust security

systems designed to ensure confidence and peace of mind.

Speaking at the same event, Stanbic Bank Head of Corporate and Investment Banking, Hellen Lubamba, said the partnership reflects the importance of collaboration in driving innovation and expanding opportunity within the financial sector.

"The more institutions collaborate, the more creative and forward-thinking they become," Ms. Lubamba said.

She noted that mobile money payments are now widely used by both individuals and businesses, and continue to transform how people transact when combined with strong customer service, innovation, and reliability.

Ms. Lubamba added that the partnership is anchored on supporting economic growth, trade and financial inclusion, while strengthening collaboration between banks and mobile network operators to improve financial access and efficiency.

# SERBIAN FIRM BEGINS SETTING UP AGRICULTURE MANUFACTURING COMPANY IN ZAMBIA

By Cecilia Chiluba



FPM Agro Mechanic, one of Europe's largest agriculture equipment manufacturers, has started establishing a manufacture and assembly plant in the Lusaka South Multi-Facility Economic Zone (LS-MFEZ).

The plant, which is being built by a family owned multinational company in Serbia, is expected to be fully operational between eight to ten weeks from now.

FPM Agro Mechanic Founder and President Ljubinko Gobeljic said the manufacturing plant will be used to assemble agriculture equipment for local use in Zambia and for export to neighbouring countries.

Speaking when he paid a courtesy call on Ministry of Defence Permanent Secretary Maambo Haamaundu in Lusaka this morning, Mr. Gobeljic stated that his company exports agriculture equipment to 65 countries worldwide but has no presence in Southern Africa.

"The manufacturing plant in Zambia will also help in building the capacity of Zambian farmers to increase their yield and productivity," he said.

And Mr. Haamaundu said the setting up of the agriculture manufacturing plant in Lusaka aligns with government's aspirations of diversifying the economy away from copper production.

He noted that the plant will create jobs for the locals and boost the agriculture sector. "Agriculture is one of our growth areas in the country. We want more investment and partnerships in the sector so that it can grow," Mr. Haamaundu said.

The Permanent Secretary expressed gratitude to the Republic of Serbia for partnering with Zambia on developmental projects.

Meanwhile, Serbian Ambassador to Zambia, Jasna Zrnovic said

Serbia has always been helping Zambia in the agricultural sector.

"In Zambia's post-independence era, the former Yugoslavia sent agriculture experts who helped Zambia grow food in abundance," Ms. Zrnovic said.

She announced that this year, the Serbian government will increase the number of Zambian students who are being sponsored to study agriculture courses in the European country.

"In February this year, we sent four students to Serbia and they are fully sponsored. Later this year, we will be increasing the number of students so that they can come back and help their country," she stated.

This is according to a statement issued by Ministry of Defence, Principal Public Relations Officer, Paul Shalala.



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# ACAF URGES STRONGER CLIMATE RESILIENCE MEASURES FOLLOWING ANTICIPATED EL NIÑO CONDITIONS

By Money Daily Reporter



Agriculture Climate Action Foundation (ACAF) has called on government, development partners, agricultural institutions, extension services, the private sector, and farming communities to strengthen climate resilience measures in view of the anticipated increased El Niño conditions.

Emerging climate forecasts and expert assessments indicate an increased likelihood of El Niño conditions developing during the 2026/2027 agricultural season across the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region.

ACAF Executive Director, Dr. Oliver Bulaya said the growing frequency and intensity of climate-related shocks underscore the need for proactive planning and long-term investment in resilient agricultural systems.

Dr. Bulaya noted that climate change has altered traditional production patterns, making reliance on predictable rainfall increasingly risky.

“Agriculture remains the backbone of most SADC economies, supporting livelihoods, creating employment, driving economic growth, and ensuring food and nutrition security. Any disruption to agricultural production therefore has far-reaching social and economic implications,” Dr. Bulaya said.

He warned that a severe El Niño event could lead to reduced crop yields, food insecurity, rising food prices, declining household incomes, and increased vulnerability among rural communities, potentially reversing development gains achieved in recent years.

Dr. Bulaya said the anticipated El Niño should be viewed not only as a climate threat but also as an opportunity to accelerate the

transition toward climate-resilient and sustainable food systems, stressing that resilience and climate action must become integral components of agricultural development planning.

“Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) remains one of the most effective approaches for strengthening food systems,” he stated. “CSA enhances productivity, improves resilience to climate shocks, and contributes to greenhouse gas emission reduction.”

He also encouraged farmers to adopt conservation agriculture practices such as minimum tillage, crop rotation, residue retention, integrated soil fertility management, cover cropping, and agroforestry.

“These practices improve soil health, conserve moisture, increase water infiltration, and strengthen the capacity of farming systems to withstand drought conditions,” Dr. Bulaya noted.

“Early land preparation is

another critical intervention. Farmers who prepare their fields ahead of the rainy season are better positioned to plant promptly when effective rainfall occurs, thereby maximizing soil moisture utilization and improving crop establishment. The use of drought-tolerant, early-maturing, and climate-resilient seed varieties should also be prioritized.”

Dr. Bulaya further urged Government to collaborate with research institutions, and seed companies to ensure timely access to suitable planting materials capable of performing under challenging climatic conditions.

“The projected El Niño further highlights the urgency of expanding irrigation development,” he said. “Continued dependence on rain-fed agriculture leaves farming communities highly exposed to climate variability.”

He said investments in smallholder irrigation schemes, solar-powered irrigation technologies, water harvesting systems, farm ponds, dams, and groundwater development can significantly reduce production risks while supporting year-round agricultural activities.

Dr. Bulaya further urged SADC member states to strengthen strategic grain reserves and national food security systems. “Early preparation and contingency planning will help stabilize markets, cushion vulnerable populations, and reduce the impact of potential production shortfalls,” Dr. Bulaya added.

# LUAPULA RECORDS MAJOR GAINS IN CLEAN WATER ACCESS UNDER AFDB PROGRAMME

By Money Daily Reporter



Luapula Province Permanent Secretary says the Integrated Small Towns Water Supply and Sanitation Programme, supported by the African Development Bank and the Government has significantly enhanced access to clean and safe drinking water, contributing to the reduction of waterborne diseases in the region.

Prudence Kangwa described Government’s continued investment in clean water and sanitation infrastructure, as a major driver of public health, economic growth and improved living standards across the province.

Speaking when an African Development Bank (AfDB) delegation led by Senior Water and Sanitation Engineer Herbert Chinokoro, paid a courtesy call on her in Mansa today, Mrs. Kangwa attributed the progress to President Hakainde Hichilema’s commitment to ensuring that every

Zambian has access to clean and safe water. “The remaining outstanding works under the project will soon be concluded to pave way for the full commissioning of the infrastructure and expansion of services to more households and districts,” she said. She noted that the Province is experiencing increased investment interest following the Luapula Investment Expo 2026.

“Reliable water and sanitation services will be critical in supporting industrial growth, business expansion and urban development,” Mrs. Kangwa added.

And Mr. Chinokoro hailed Luapula Water Supply and Sanitation Company for sustainably operating and maintaining the infrastructure established under the AfDB-supported programme.

“The Bank is impressed with the performance of water infrastructure in Samfya and we are

confident that the utility company will continue improving service delivery to communities across Mansa, Mwense and Kawambwa districts,” he said.

Mr. Chinokoro further emphasized the need to increase household connections and customer enrolment to enhance revenue generation and ensure sustainability of the infrastructure.

The Integrated Small Towns Water Supply and Sanitation Programme is being implemented in Luapula, Muchinga, Northern and Western provinces to improve access to clean water and sanitation services for thousands of households.

The project is expected to further strengthen Government’s agenda of delivering quality social services and improving the well-being of citizens as Zambia advances towards inclusive and sustainable development.



# ZAMBIA LAUNCHES REGIONAL PROJECT TO BUILD SUSTAINABLE ENERGY TRANSITION MINERAL VALUE CHAINS

By Money Daily Reporter



Zambia has launched a regional initiative aimed at fostering environmentally and socially responsible, decarbonized, inclusive and transformative value chains for energy transition minerals across the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region.

The regional project seeks to promote responsible mineral development as demand for energy transition minerals continues to rise globally. Speaking during the launch of the International Climate Initiative (IKI)-supported project in Lusaka, Ministry of Mines and Development Permanent Secretary Dr. Hapenga Kabeta said the programme presents a significant opportunity for Southern Africa to leverage its vast mineral resources to drive industrialization, job creation and sustainable development.

Dr. Kabeta noted that growing global demand for critical minerals such as copper, cobalt, lithium, nickel, manganese and rare earth elements is being driven by the transition to cleaner energy systems and technologies including electric vehicles, battery storage and renewable energy infrastructure. “The SADC region is uniquely positioned to contribute to this global transformation. Our region is significantly endowed with these strategic minerals. As such, the region has an opportunity not only to supply raw materials to the world but also to leverage these resources to accelerate industrialization, create jobs, foster innovation and improve the livelihoods of our citizens,” he said.

The Permanent Secretary said Zambia, as one of the world’s major copper producers and an emerging player in critical minerals development, recognizes the need to strengthen responsible production, environmental stewardship and value addition to remain competitive in the global mining sector. He, however, acknowledged challenges facing the sector, including limited beneficiation and value addition, gaps in environmental, social and

governance compliance, inadequate participation of local communities and vulnerable groups, and the need for stronger regional coordination.

“It is therefore encouraging that this project seeks to address these challenges through a comprehensive and collaborative approach that promotes responsible mining practices, supports decarbonization efforts, strengthens local value addition and enhances inclusivity across the entire value chain,” Dr. Kabeta stated.

Dr. Kabeta added that the initiative aligns with Zambia’s development objectives as well as continental and regional frameworks such as the Africa Mining Vision and the SADC Regional Mining Vision, which seek to ensure mineral resources contribute to sustainable development and economic transformation.

He called on governments, regional institutions, private sector players, academia, civil society and development partners to actively participate in the initiative and use it as a platform to strengthen collaboration and advance sustainable industrialization.

Dr. Kabeta expressed confidence that the project would enhance responsible mineral governance, improve regional competitiveness and position the SADC region as a trusted supplier of sustainable energy transition minerals to global markets.

# BUYZED CAMPAIGN QUESTIONS LOCAL SOURCING AS TOMATOES ROT IN MARKETS

By Cecilia Chiluba



BuyZed Campaign has challenged government and industry stakeholders to verify whether manufacturers of tomato-based products are genuinely supporting local farmers, amid reports of large quantities of the crop going to waste in markets across the country.

Campaign Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Evans Ng’oma, said it was concerning that tomatoes were reportedly rotting in major supermarket shelves remained stocked with tomato sauce and puree claiming to be produced in Zambia.

“Zambian consumers deserve better. They deserve fresh products and value for money,” Mr. Ng’oma said.

He noted that tomatoes were going to waste in Chisokone, Maramba, Soweto, Busakile and

Lusaka’s Green Market, raising questions about the sources of raw materials used by local processors.

“Yet today we see a painful contradiction. Tomatoes rotting in the Chisokone, Maramba, Soweto, Busakile, and Lusaka’s Green Market, while shelves are full of tomato sauce and puree ‘purporting to be made in Zambia,’” he stated.

Mr. Ng’oma questioned whether local manufacturers were adequately supporting Zambian vegetable growers.

“If our farmers are losing crop to waste, who are these processors buying from?” he asked.

He called on the Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry as well as the Zambia Association of Manufacturers (ZAM) to join the BuyZed

Campaign on a fact-finding tour which establish which companies are sourcing produce from local farmers.

“BuyZed Campaign therefore challenges the Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry plus Zambia Association of Manufacturers (ZAM) to join us on a conducted tour. Let us verify which companies truly support local vegetable growers,” Mr. Ngioma added.

Mr. Ng’oma emphasized the need to strengthen linkages between farmers and processors to reduce post-harvest losses and ensure more value is added to locally produced crops.

“Let us match Zambian tomatoes to Zambian factories. No more waste, only value,” he emphasized.



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# THE PRIVATE SECTOR HOLDS THE KEY TO ZAMBIA'S ENERGY SECURITY

Zambia's power crisis has long been one of the biggest constraints on economic growth. From load shedding that disrupts mining production to electricity shortages that cripple small businesses, the cost of unreliable energy has been enormous. It is therefore encouraging to see ZCCM Investments Holdings (ZCCM-IH) and Wonderful Group Services Limited move forward with plans to develop a US\$451.7 million, 600MW thermal power plant in Sinazongwe District.

While debates around energy sources will continue, one reality cannot be ignored: Zambia urgently needs more power generation capacity. The country's estimated 1,400MW base-load deficit is not a statistic on paper; it represents lost investment, reduced industrial output, lower productivity, and missed employment opportunities.

The Sinazongwe project should serve as a reminder that the private sector has a critical role to play in helping Zambia solve its energy challenges. Government alone cannot finance the massive investments required to meet the country's growing electricity demand.

The numbers tell the story.

Zambia's ambitions are becoming bigger. The country wants to increase copper production to three million tonnes annually. New mines are being developed. Manufacturing is expanding. Agriculture is

becoming increasingly mechanized. The digital economy is growing rapidly. All these sectors require reliable electricity.

Without adequate power generation, these ambitions will remain difficult to achieve.

Historically, Zambia has relied heavily on hydropower. While hydropower remains an important and relatively clean source of energy, recent droughts have exposed the risks of depending too heavily on one source. Climate change has transformed what was once considered a reliable system into one that requires diversification.

This is where private sector investment becomes essential.

The Government has made notable progress in opening up the energy sector through policy reforms and encouraging Independent Power Producers (IPPs). However, more needs to be done to attract large-scale private investment into power generation, transmission, and distribution.

The ZCCM-IH-Wonderful Group partnership demonstrates what can be achieved when public and private capital work together. Instead of waiting for public resources alone, a strategic investor has stepped forward with financing expertise, technical capacity,

and project implementation experience.

This model has worked elsewhere in the region.

South Africa, despite its own electricity challenges, has successfully attracted billions of dollars through its Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Procurement Programme

(REIPPPP). Private companies have invested heavily in solar and wind generation, helping diversify the country's energy mix.

In Namibia, independent power producers are increasingly contributing to national electricity supply through solar projects supported by predictable regulatory frameworks.

Botswana has also encouraged private investment in both coal and renewable energy projects to strengthen domestic generation capacity and reduce dependence on imported electricity.

Zambia can learn from these examples.

The first requirement is policy certainty. Investors need confidence that contracts will be respected, tariffs will be predictable, and regulations will remain stable. Energy projects involve investments

that run into hundreds of millions of dollars and are often financed over decades. Sudden policy shifts discourage investment and increase financing costs.

Secondly, Zambia must accelerate approval processes. Large infrastructure projects often face delays related to licensing, environmental clearances, and bureaucratic

procedures. Investors should encounter efficiency, not unnecessary red tape.

Thirdly, the country must continue investing in transmission infrastructure. Generating electricity is only one part of the equation. Power must be transported efficiently to homes, factories, mines, and commercial centres. Private investment should be encouraged not only in generation but also in transmission and grid modernization.

Another area with enormous potential is solar energy.

Zambia enjoys abundant sunshine throughout the year, yet solar contributes only a small portion of national electricity generation. The private sector can rapidly deploy utility-scale solar plants, rooftop systems for businesses, and mini-grids for rural communities. Such investments would complement traditional generation sources and

improve energy security.

The mining sector itself can also become a major investor in power infrastructure. Many mining companies are increasingly developing captive power projects to secure their own electricity needs. Government should continue creating incentives that encourage mines to invest in generation capacity that can also benefit the national grid.

Ultimately, solving Zambia's energy crisis requires a partnership approach. Government must provide leadership, regulation, and an enabling environment. Financial institutions must support long-term infrastructure financing. Development partners can provide technical assistance and risk guarantees. But the private sector must be at the centre of the solution.

The Sinazongwe power plant is more than a generation project. It is a signal that private capital can help unlock Zambia's economic potential.

If Zambia is serious about becoming a regional mining powerhouse, expanding manufacturing, creating jobs, and accelerating industrialisation, then reliable electricity must become a national priority. The public sector cannot do it alone. The future of Zambia's energy security will depend largely on how effectively the country mobilises private sector investment to power growth.



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# FINTECH ECOSYSTEM OF FRANCE IN 2026

By The FinTech Times



One of the world's largest thriving fintech ecosystems. How does that play out in 2026?

If fintech in Europe has historically been associated with London, Berlin or Stockholm, France has spent the last decade quietly building a compelling case to be considered among the continent's leading financial technology hubs. This is specifically mainly with Paris. Today, fintech is no longer a niche segment of the French economy. It has become part of a broader national strategy

centred on innovation, digital sovereignty, entrepreneurship and economic competitiveness.

What makes France particularly interesting is the scale at which this transformation has occurred. As the European Union (EU)'s second-largest economy and seventh globally, France possesses something many fintech ecosystems lack: a large domestic market, a sophisticated financial sector, strong government support and growing access to venture capital. Combined, these factors have helped create

one of Europe's most dynamic fintech landscapes. The country's economic foundations remain diverse and resilient. France is a global leader in sectors including financial services, aerospace, luxury goods, manufacturing, energy, technology and tourism. According to the World Bank, gross domestic product (GDP) per capita now exceeds \$46,000. The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) continues to highlight the country's strengths in innovation, infrastructure and industrial competitiveness.

# EASYJET LURES TAKEOVER INTEREST AS INVESTORS SPOT A BARGAIN

By RTE

British budget airline EasyJet has caught the eye of US investment firm Castlelake for a possible takeover.

While EasyJet has called the timing "highly opportunistic", analysts say its low valuation, slots at key airports and stable fleet make it a prime takeover target as it has struggled to boost its market capitalisation since the Covid-19 pandemic.

"Few people can resist a bargain," said Chris Beauchamp, chief market analyst at trading platform IG. The airline's shares have underperformed peers like

Ryanair, making it attractive to potential suitors.

"EasyJet has 'looked cheap' for some time," Deutsche Bank analyst Jaime Rowbotham wrote in a note, adding that possible attractions could be its airline fleet, room to boost margins and efficiency, and the airport slots it commands.

"This latest bid speculation will likely see a boost again to the easyJet share price," the analyst added.

A successful holiday business and an efficient Airbus fleet

have bolstered results, despite the airline's struggle to grow passenger numbers from its position between low-cost and traditional rivals like Aer Lingus and British Airways operator AIG.

EasyJet also has no direct exposure to the Middle East, where flights have been disrupted by the three-month-old Iran war.

Bank of America analysts said Castlelake's strategic plan was unclear, but the airline's fleet could be of interest. They estimated a takeover at a price of £6.50 per EasyJet share.



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	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell
ABSA BANK ZAMBIA PLC	18.2000	18.2500	18.1500	18.5126	18.1500	18.2000	18.1000	18.4345	17.9000	17.9500	17.8244	18.1798
ACCESS BANK ZAMBIA LIMITED	18.1000	18.1500	18.0500	18.3500	18.1000	18.1500	18.0000	18.3000	17.9000	17.9500	17.9000	18.2500
BANK OF CHINA (ZAMBIA) LIMITED	18.1000	18.1500	18.0400	18.3200	18.1000	18.1500	18.0400	18.3200	18.0000	18.0500	17.9000	18.1800
CITIBANK ZAMBIA LIMITED	18.2000	18.2500	18.0250	18.3750	18.1000	18.1500	18.0250	18.3750	17.8500	17.9000	17.7750	18.1250
ECOBANK ZAMBIA LIMITED	18.0750	18.1250	17.9950	18.3500	18.0500	18.1000	17.9250	18.2800	17.9500	18.0000	17.8500	18.2000
FIRST ALLIANCE BANK ZAMBIA LIMITED	18.1000	18.1500	18.0500	18.2000	18.1000	18.1500	18.0500	18.2000	17.9500	18.0000	17.9500	18.1500

Source: Bank of Zambia (BOZ)



## NEW FAZ GENERAL SECRETARY STRENGTHENS TIES WITH GOVERNMENT AHEAD OF WAFCON

By Lucky Chama

Newly appointed Football Association of Zambia (FAZ) General Secretary Charles Chakatazya has reaffirmed the importance of strong collaboration between Government and the football governing body following a courtesy call on Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Youth, Sport and Arts, Kangwa Chileshe.

Chakatazya, who was appointed FAZ General Secretary last month, met

Chileshe at the Ministry headquarters in Lusaka on Monday, accompanied by Deputy General Secretary Iva Lengwe and Finance Manager Owen Buntele.

During the meeting, Chakatazya thanked Government for its continued support towards football development, particularly the men's and women's national teams, describing the partnership as vital to Zambia's success

on the international stage. He said sustained cooperation between FAZ and Government would remain key to enhancing the competitiveness and performance of national teams.

Meanwhile, Chileshe congratulated Mr. Chakatazya on his appointment and assured him of Government's commitment to maintaining a strong working

relationship with FAZ.

He said Government remained fully supportive of football development programmes across the country and urged the association to ensure the Copper Queens receive adequate preparations ahead of WAFCON.

Chileshe emphasized that Zambia should approach the tournament with the ambition of competing for

honours rather than merely participating.

The meeting underscored the continued partnership between FAZ and Government as both institutions seek to strengthen football development and improve Zambia's standing in international football.

## SOUTH AFRICA DELAY WORLD CUP TRIP ON VISA SNARL



By AFP - World Cup-bound South Africa delayed their departure for the global showpiece after visa problems disrupted the team's travel plans, the national football association said on Sunday.

The squad was scheduled to leave Johannesburg Sunday morning for a training camp in Mexico aboard a chartered flight, but "experienced challenges regarding visas for some players and officials," the South African Football Association (Safa) said in a statement.

Sports Minister Gayton McKenzie later said all the players had received their visas, with only the assistant coach, team

doctor, head of security and one analyst still awaiting clearance.

The travelling party would depart on Monday, he said on X.

The delay came after visas for at least 20 members of the squad were still being processed at the United States embassy in Johannesburg 11 days ahead of their tournament-opening match, according to state broadcaster SABC.

An emergency SAFA meeting was planned for Sunday evening.

Earlier, McKenzie said he had demanded an explanation and vowed action against those responsible for "this mess".

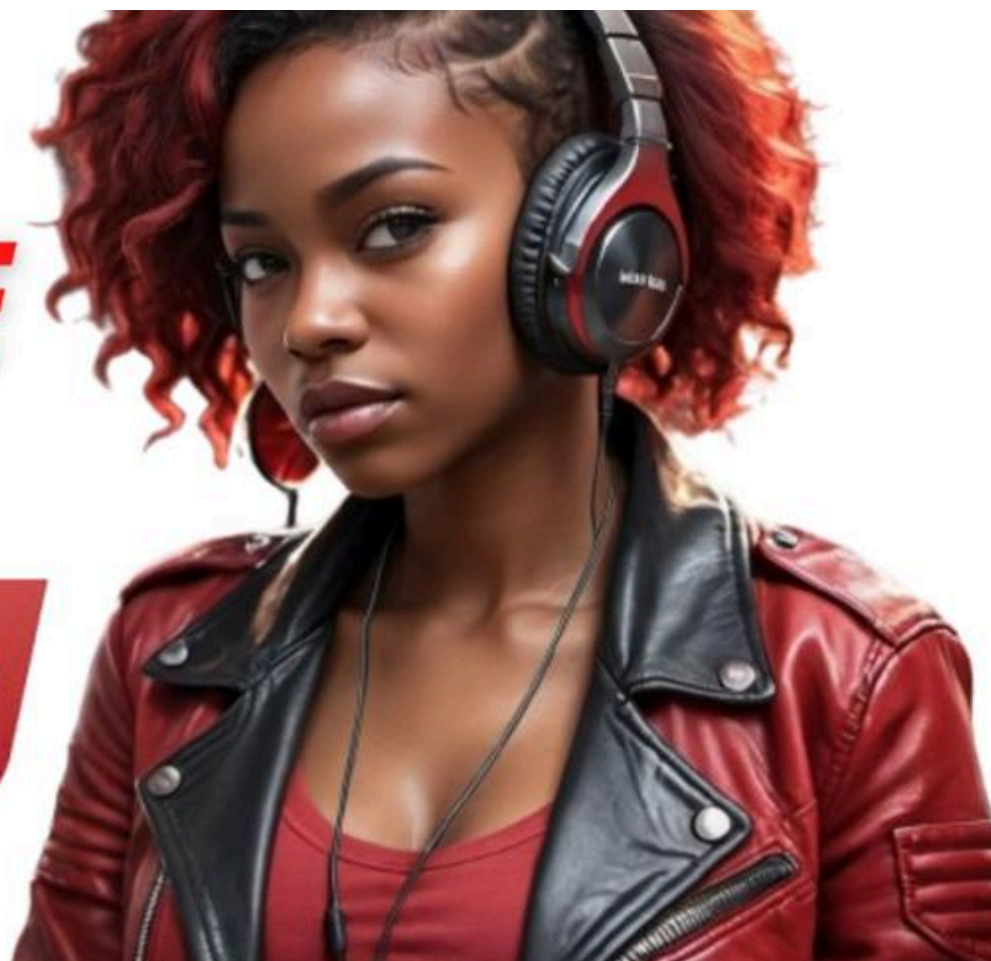


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THINK BUSINESS



## OYDC ZAMBIA CELEBRATES MMA ZAMBIA'S INTERNATIONAL SUCCESS AS OYDC ATHLETES LEAD MEDAL HAUL

By OYDC Media

Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) Zambia has continued its impressive rise on the international stage after the national team returned home with an outstanding 16 medals from a team of 20 athletes, highlighting the growing strength of the sport in the country.

The achievements were celebrated during a special medal presentation ceremony held at OYDC Zambia, where athletes, coaches, officials, and stakeholders gathered to recognize the team's success.

Three OYDC-based athletes were among the standout performers, with Alex Bwalya winning a gold medal, Justine Mwene securing silver, and Zinaida Nanyinza claiming bronze. Their achievements further

demonstrated the impact of OYDC Zambia's investment in providing quality training facilities and opportunities for young athletes.

Representing OYDC Zambia Acting Chief Executive Officer Benjamin Tembo, Richard Mulenga delivered remarks on behalf of the institution, congratulating the athletes and the MMA Federation for the historic achievement.

In the speech, OYDC Zambia expressed pride in the remarkable growth of Mixed Martial Arts and commended the federation for setting an example of successful sports development through dedication, planning, and hard work.

The institution reaffirmed its commitment to supporting MMA and other sports,

emphasizing the transformative role sport plays in creating opportunities for young people and inspiring excellence.

Speaking during the ceremony, MMA Zambia President Henly Shoko expressed gratitude to OYDC Zambia for its continued support of the sport.

Shoko thanked OYDC Zambia for providing athletes with access to training facilities that have contributed significantly to their development. He also acknowledged OYDC's role in hosting previous MMA competitions, creating a platform for athletes to gain valuable experience and exposure.

"The support from OYDC Zambia has been



instrumental in the growth of Mixed Martial Arts. The facilities and opportunities provided have helped our athletes prepare and compete at the highest level," said Shoko.

## QUEENS FRIENDLIES SQUAD



- GOALKEEPERS**
- MWILA CHISHALA MUFUNTE
- CATHERINE MUSONDA
- HAZEL NALI
- EUNICE SAKALA
- DEFENDERS**
- LUSHOMO MWEEMBA
- MARGARET BELEMU
- PAULINE ZULU
- MEMORY NTHALA
- MAPALO MALUBA
- RACHEAL NACHULA
- MARGRET GONDWE
- XIOMARA MAPEPA
- SALIYA MWANZA
- MARTHA TEMBO
- MIDFIELDERS**
- SUSAN BANDA
- IREEN LUNGU
- GRACE CHANDA
- EVARINE SUSAN KATONGO
- NATASHA NANYANGWE
- RHODA CHILESHE
- STRIKERS**
- BARBRA BANDA
- PRISCA CHILUFYA
- MERCY CHIPASULA
- AVELL CHITUNDU
- FRIDAH MUKOMA
- KABANGE MUPOPO
- RACHEAL KUNDANANJI
- OCHUMBA OSEKE LUBANJI
- ENELESS PHIRI