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# KWACHA CONTINUES TO DOMINATE

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# REA HANDS OVER 85 RURAL ELECTRIFICATION PROJECTS TO ZESCO WORTH OVER K463 MILLION

By Mwiya Mwiya



Government, through the Rural Electrification Authority (REA) has handed over 85 completed rural electrification grid extension projects to ZESCO Limited, worth over K463 million.

This marks a major milestone in efforts to expand electricity access across underserved communities.

Speaking on behalf of Secretary to the Cabinet, Patrick Kangwa, Deputy Secretary to the Cabinet Dr. Oliver Kalabo said the investments reflect Government's continued commitment to rural development and national transformation.

"These projects are a clear demonstration of Government's continued and increased investment in rural electrification and national development," he said.

Dr. Kalabo stated that electricity remains central

to socio-economic growth with wide ranging benefits across key sectors of the economy.

"Electricity is a key driver of socio-economic transformation, stimulating growth in communities and providing a better life and future for our communities," Dr. Kalabo added.

He noted that the handover underscores strong collaboration between REA and ZESCO in ensuring sustainability of infrastructure investments.

Dr. Kalabo further said the initiative aligns with Government's Rural Electrification Master Plan, which targets universal access to electricity by 2030, adding that Government remains committed to expanding both grid and off-grid solutions under programmes such as the Accelerating Sustainable and Clean Energy Access

Transformation (ASCENT). At the same event, REA Board Chairperson Engineer Charles Mboma said the Authority has successfully implemented 85 grid extension projects across the country, with an estimated 15,232 initial household connections completed.

Eng. Mboma stressed that the projects, valued at K463 million demonstrate strong public investment in rural electrification.

"This level of investment clearly shows Government's determination to close the electricity access gap in rural areas," he said.

He added that the projects have delivered electricity to communities that previously had no access, opening up new economic and social opportunities.

Eng. Mboma further said the completed infrastructure has been handed over to ZESCO for

operation and maintenance in line with policy. "The transition is key to ensuring long term sustainability and reliable service delivery," he added.

He applauded Government, the Ministry of Energy, cooperating partners, and ZESCO for their collaboration, reaffirming REA's commitment to continued electrification.

And speaking on behalf of ZESCO Managing Director Engineer Justin Loongo, Director of Projects and Planning, Eng. Francis Namakanda said the handover demonstrates effective government to government collaboration in extending electricity services to rural and underserved communities.

He said the assets belong to the people and urged traditional leaders, civic leaders, community groups and members of the public to report suspicious activities and help safeguard electricity infrastructure for continued better service.

# CEJ LAUNCHES COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT COMPONENT FOR WOMEN ENVIRONMENTAL RIGHTS DEFENDERS

By Money Daily Reporter



Centre for Environment Justice (CEJ), with support from the Carter Centre Foundation, has introduced the community empowerment component under the Resilient Women for Climate Action and Environmental Justice (RW4CAEJ) project in Lufwanyama District.

The initiative is designed to empower women environmental rights defenders, strengthen climate resilience, and promote inclusive environmental governance.

Speaking in Lufwanyama, CEJ Programme Coordinator Climate Change and Energy, Dalitso Mvula, said the component will run from 2025 to 2026, aiming to promote alternative sources of livelihoods among Women Environmental Rights Defenders (WERDs), advance inclusive climate governance, and support gender-responsive frameworks for climate adaptation, land governance, and resource management.

Ms. Mvula noted that the initiative is particularly significant because women, girls, and persons with disabilities in rural Copperbelt communities face disproportionate impacts of climate change, including floods, water scarcity, and displacement.

"The component ensures women are not merely beneficiaries but leaders shaping Zambia's climate resilience agenda," Ms. Mvula said.

She added that the initiative builds on CEJ's earlier efforts such as the SheRise Campaign and Environmental Protection Dialogue.

Ms. Mvula explained that the community empowerment component follows consultations that revealed the need for livelihood alternatives to strengthen environmental protection.

"We concluded that savings groups, popularly known as SILC, can work well in this area. Today's

training focuses on savings groups, as many community members expressed interest in learning how they function," she explained.

She emphasized that financial empowerment is essential for households to meet basic needs such as food, education, health, and transport, with women being active participants in business and community life.

In her training, CEJ Staffer Memory Mfungo guided participants on how savings groups operate, highlighting the importance of transparency, collective accountability, and record-keeping.

Ms. Mfungo explained that savings groups require open meetings where members declare their contributions and repayments publicly to prevent malpractice.

"Savings groups are not permanent; they have a cycle in which members loan, repay, and eventually share the savings," she said.

# MRC FORMS LICENSING COMMITTEE TO STRENGTHEN REGULATORY COMPLIANCE, MINING GOVERNANCE

By Cecilia Chiluba



Minerals Regulation Commission (MRC) has constituted the Licensing Committee (LC) aimed at enhancing transparency, efficiency and investment in Zambia's mining sector.

This follows the recent induction of the MRC Board of Commissioners, marking a significant step towards strengthening the administration, regulation and oversight of mining and non-mining rights in Zambia.

Established under the Minerals Regulation Commission Act, No. 14 of 2024, the Licensing Committee has a mandate to support the MRC on in ensuring transparent, efficient and accountable management of the country's mineral resources.

Among its key functions, the Committee will review and evaluate applications for

mining and non-mining rights, determine whether to grant, renew or reject applications in accordance with applicable laws and regulatory standards, as well as monitor compliance by rights holders with statutory and license obligation.

Furthermore, the Committee will recommend the suspension, termination or cancellation of rights where breaches of legal or regulatory requirements occur, assess applications for amendments to the terms and conditions of existing rights, and provide expert technical and administrative advice to the Board on matters falling within its mandate under the MRC Act.

MRC Board Chairperson Matongo Matamwandi, said the formation of the Committee represents a major milestone in the Commission's efforts to streamline licensing processes, enhance regulatory compliance and strengthen governance within the mining sector.

"The Committee will play a central role in the evaluation and administration of applications for mining and non-mining rights," he said. "It will also support the Commission's commitment to promoting fairness, consistency and adherence to the law in the regulation of mining activities across the country."

In a statement, Mr. Matamwandi added that the Committee will provide technical, administrative and professional recommendations to the Board of Commissioners on matters relating to the granting, renewal, suspension, amendment and cancellation of mineral rights.

He noted that the Licensing Committee comprises members drawn from key stakeholders, including Government institutions, industry representatives and community interests.

"Collectively, the members bring various expertise, ensuring balanced, informed and evidence-based decision-making," Mr. Matamwandi stated.

According to Mr. Matamwandi, the formation of the Licensing Committee is expected to improve investor confidence, enhance efficiencies in procedures and processes

and increase local and foreign investment in Zambia's mining sector.

He emphasized that an efficient, predictable and transparent licensing regime is a key factor in attracting responsible investment and supporting the growth of the mining industry.

"The constitution of the Licencing Committee underscores the Government's commitment to responsible mineral resource governance and reflects Zambia's determination to balance economic growth with environmental sustainability and social development," he added.

"As Zambia pursues its ambitious target of increasing copper production to three million metric tonnes by 2031, the Commission remains committed to creating an efficient and credible regulatory framework that supports investment, promotes compliance and maximizes the benefits of the country's mineral wealth for present and future generations."

The MRC was established by an Act of Parliament, specifically the Minerals Regulation Commission Act No. 14 of 2024, to regulate and monitor the development and management of minerals resource in the Zambia.

# ZMA URGES CONSUMERS TO REPORT BUSINESSES OPERATING WITHOUT VALID MEASURING INSTRUMENTS

By Cecilia Chiluba



Humphrey Nkoben

Zambia Metrology Agency (ZMA) has called on consumers to report businesses using suspected defective measuring instruments or operating without valid certification, as the institution intensifies inspections across the country.

Speaking in Lusaka, ZMA Executive Director Humphrey Nkoben said the Agency conducts inspections based on planned schedules developed through research and risk assessments to ensure measuring instruments used in trade comply with legal requirements.

Mr. Nkoben explained that inspections are carried out in various locations across the country on a monthly basis, targeting areas where measuring instruments are expected to be in use.

"The way inspections are done is through plans and research. A

schedule is developed for products and instruments in various locations across the country, and these are monitored on a monthly basis," he said.

Mr Nkoben, however, acknowledged that it is not possible for the Agency to be present at every business premises due to the large number of establishments operating nationwide.

"We realize that the Agency cannot be in every place all the time because there are so many businesses. Just look around and see how many shops and restaurants there are," Mr. Nkoben stated.

He said public participation is therefore critical in helping the Agency identify non-compliant businesses.

"We want to sensitive members of the public that where they find a measuring instrument

that does not have a valid sticker, does not have a certificate, or is suspected to be defective, they are free to bring it to our attention," he said.

Mr. Nkoben added that the ZMA is continuously conducting inspections to ensure businesses remain compliant with Metrology standards and legal requirements.

He appealed to consumers to report any suspected irregularities involving measurements used in trade.

"We want to appeal to the public, please bring to our attention areas where you suspect that measurements are not correct. It can be a shop, a service station, a manufacturer or any product sold to you based on measurements. You are free to bring it to our attention and we will attend to it," he implored.

# ECZ LAUNCHES EARLY WARNING SYSTEM, ONLINE ACCREDITATION PLATFORM AHEAD OF 2026 GENERAL ELECTION

By Money Daily Reporter



Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ) has launched a Conflict Management Early Warning System (EWS), an Online Accreditation System and Voter Verification Devices (VVDs) as part of efforts to enhance transparency, efficiency and credibility in the 2026 General Election.

Speaking during a stakeholders' sensitisation meeting in Lusaka today, ECZ Chairperson Mwangala Zalomis said the new technologies mark a significant milestone in the country's electoral management.

Mrs. Zalomis said the Commission had introduced the Early Warning System to shift from reactive dispute resolution to proactive conflict prevention ahead of the August 13, 2026 General Election.

"To change this narrative, the Commission has

approved and resolved to deploy an innovative Conflict Management Early Warning System (EWS) for the 2026 General Election. This historic Early Warning System is the very first of its kind in our nation's electoral history," Mrs. Zalomis said.

She noted that the system relies on four pillar responsibilities, which include ensuring all stakeholders strictly adhere to the electoral code of conduct, preventing electoral conflicts before they escalate, managing ongoing disputes professionally and resolving arisen disputes expeditiously and amicably.

"By utilizing modern Information Communication Technologies (ICTs), this innovative system ensures maximum accessibility and convenience for all citizens. It allows us to swiftly identify and map hate speech, rumours, and violent incidents. The system empowers members

of the public to report threats or live incidents directly," she said.

She explained that citizens will be able to access the platform through a web-based system and a dedicated USSD code available across all mobile networks, ensuring accessibility even for people in remote areas without internet access.

Mrs. Zalomis added that Voter Education Facilitators will play a frontline role in reporting incidents and verifying information within their respective wards.

The ECZ Chairperson also announced the launch of a revised Online Accreditation System for observers, monitors and members of the media.

"This system is also a major milestone, being the first of its kind in our history. This new platform will completely streamline the accreditation process for observers, monitors, and

the media, guaranteeing absolute transparency, speed, and electronic efficiency," she explained.

Mrs. Zalomis noted that while applications will be submitted electronically, successful applicants will still be required to physically collect their security accreditation cards.

She further revealed that the Commission will deploy Voter Verification Devices nationwide to strengthen voter identification and safeguard the integrity of the electoral process.

"These devices are central to protecting the integrity of the vote, ensuring that voter verification is seamless, secure, and accurate at every polling station," Mrs. Zalomis stressed.

Mrs. Zalomis urged stakeholders to actively participate in learning and utilizing the new systems to support a peaceful and credible election.

# 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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# KWACHA EXTENDS GAINS AS STRONG FX INFLOWS, COPPER PRICES BOOST MARKET CONFIDENCE

By Cecilia Chiluba



Zambia's currency, the Kwacha continued its upward momentum for a third consecutive week, strengthening against major convertible currencies amid healthy foreign exchange (FX) liquidity, subdued demand for foreign currency, and firm copper prices.

According to the Zanaco Weekly Financial Markets Update for the week ended May 29, 2026, the Kwacha appreciated by 2.4 percent against the United States dollar on the interbank market.

The local currency opened trading at K18.78/18.83 per US dollar and closed the week stronger at K18.33/18.38.

"The appreciation of the Kwacha over the course of the week under review continued to be underpinned by a combination of healthy

interbank foreign exchange liquidity and weak FX demand," the report stated.

Interbank foreign exchange liquidity increased to US\$32.35 million from US\$30.8 million recorded the previous week.

In its report, the Bank noted that demand for foreign currency typically retreats when the Kwacha is appreciating, as buyers delay purchases in anticipation of more favourable exchange rates.

The local currency also benefited from a softer US dollar on international markets and rising copper prices. Copper prices on the London Metal Exchange rose by 0.8 percent to an average of US\$13,559.63 per metric tonne from US\$13,445.60 per metric tonne the previous week.

Looking ahead, Zanaco projected continued strength for the Kwacha, supported by increased foreign exchange inflows

from corporate entities preparing to meet quarterly payment obligations.

Meanwhile, the Bank observed that liquidity conditions in the money market eased significantly after three weeks of tightening.

It noted that commercial banks' current account balances surged by 79.6 percent to K5.63 billion from K3.14 billion, largely driven by month-end public sector spending.

"Despite the increased liquidity, the overnight interbank lending rate remained unchanged at 13.25 percent, reflecting the Bank of Zambia's recent monetary policy easing measures," it noted.

In the government securities market, demand for Treasury Bills weakened, with total bids submitted falling to K1.58 billion from K2.37 billion recorded two weeks earlier, resulting in an auction subscription rate of

71.8 percent against the government's borrowing target of K2.2 billion.

Yields remained largely unchanged across most tenors, with only the 273-day Treasury Bill yield declining by 25 basis points to 11.25 percent. On the Lusaka Securities Exchange (LuSE), trading activity slowed during the shortened trading week.

The Bank said the volume of shares traded declined by 47.5 percent to 2.27 million shares, while turnover dropped by more than 57 percent to ZMW28.38 million.

The LuSE All Share Index (LASI) fell by 0.67 percent to close at 25,596.87 points from 25,770.34 points recorded the previous week, as losses in several counters outweighed gains recorded by Zanaco and Standard Chartered Bank Zambia.

# ZAMBIA'S HIGHER EDUCATION ACCREDITATION GOES DIGITAL WITH QAMIS PILOT

By Cecilia Chiluba



Higher Education Authority (HEA) has unveiled the pilot phase of its Online Accreditation Module, called the Quality Assurance Management Information System (QAMIS).

The new system moves Zambia's higher education accreditation process off email inboxes and onto a dedicated digital platform for the first time.

According to HEA, the system, will allow Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) to submit accreditation applications electronically, track their submissions and manage the process in one place.

This shift will cut processing times, reduce paperwork and bring much-needed transparency to how accreditation is handled across the sector.

The pilot follows a five (5)-day training workshop HEA held from 23rd to 27th March, 2026, where 50 HEIs sent two participants each, who were drawn specifically from their

Quality Assurance and Information Technology units, to get hands-on with the platform, create user accounts and work through its functions before it went live.

The Online Accreditation Module is part of a broader digital transformation agenda HEA has been building out, aimed at making its regulatory processes more efficient and more responsive to the institutions it serves.

HEA Director-General, Professor Kazhila Chinsemu, announced the start of the pilot in a communiqué to HEIs, describing it as a meaningful step forward in how the Authority delivers its services.

"The Higher Education Authority wishes to inform all Higher Education Institutions that the Online Accreditation Module is now ready for piloting," Prof. Chinsemu said.

He added that the Authority appreciates the cooperation of institutions in getting the system off the ground.

Prof. Chinsemu said the transition is being managed carefully as during the pilot phase, the online platform will run in parallel with the existing email-based submission process.

"This is to emphasize that no institution will be cut off mid-process as the full switchover date will be communicated separately once the Authority is satisfied the system is ready to carry the full load," he stated.

"For a sector that spans Colleges, University Colleges, Technical University Colleges, Universities, Technical University, Institution for Specialised Training of Professionals in a Specified Field, and Institutes across the country, having a centralised, trackable system for accreditation is long overdue, and the strong turnout at the training suggests HEIs are ready for it."

This is according to a statement issued by HEA Corporate Communications Officer, Birbal Musoba.



# 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.

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. chains through regional cooperation and knowledge sharing. “We are particularly encouraged by the project’s focus on ensuring that the benefits arising from energy transition minerals are shared broadly across society. This is because sustainable development cannot be achieved unless women, youth, local communities and persons with disabilities are meaningfully included in economic opportunities created by the sector,” he remarked.

Dr. Kabeta thanked the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), consortium partners and the Government of Germany for supporting the initiative through the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Climate Action, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMUKN) and the International Climate Initiative (IKI).

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.

# LUAPULA LEADS NATIONAL CASSAVA PRODUCTION DURING 2025/2026 AGRICULTURAL SEASON

By Cecilia Chiluba



Luapula Province has once again cemented its position as Zambia's cassava powerhouse, contributing the largest share of the country's projected cassava production during the 2025/2026 Agricultural Season. The Crop Forecasting Survey further indicates that Zambia has secured a national food surplus of over 1.48 million metric tonnes of maize equivalent for the 2026/2027 marketing season, reinforcing the country's food security and positioning Zambia as a regional food basket.

According to the 2025/2026 Crop Forecasting Survey recently released by Zambia Statistics Agency (ZamStats), Luapula Province is projected to produce approximately 1.23 million metric tonnes of cassava from over 104,000 hectares planted, accounting for the largest contribution to national cassava output. In a statement, Luapula Province Principal Public Relations Officer, Emmanuel Maseko, said the achievement underscores the success of Government's agricultural transformation agenda.

The positive performance comes as Zambia records its highest-ever maize harvest in history, with projected production exceeding 5.1 million metric tonnes. “The Province's outstanding performance reflects Government's deliberate interventions aimed at boosting agricultural productivity, enhancing food security and improving the livelihoods of farming communities across the

country,” Mr. Maseko stated.

Mr. Maseko noted that Luapula's continued dominance in cassava production highlights the Province's strategic role in supporting national food security, promoting crop diversification, creating employment opportunities and stimulating agro-processing and value-addition industries.

“Government remains committed to supporting farmers through timely access to farming inputs, improved extension services, mechanization, irrigation development and expanded market opportunities aimed at increasing agricultural productivity and household incomes,” he added.



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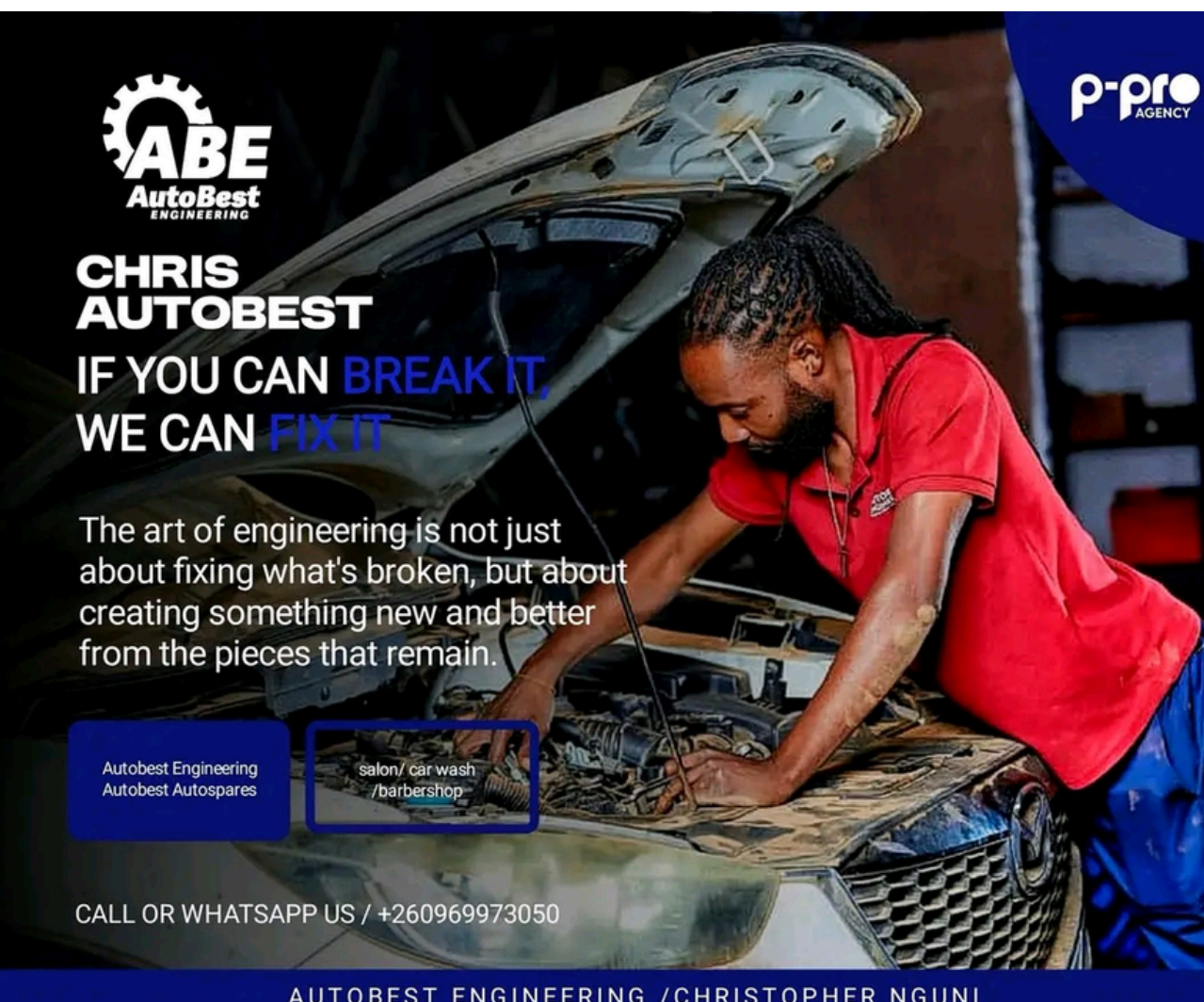
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# CIRCULAR SUPPLY CHAINS IN AGRO-PROCESSING

By Prof Bupe Getrude Mutono-Mwanza



Agriculture remains a key pillar of Zambia's economy, supporting livelihoods, food security, and industrial development. However, significant post-harvest losses particularly in fruits, vegetables, and other perishable products continue to reduce farmer incomes and limit economic growth. Circular supply chains offer a practical solution by ensuring that resources remain in productive use for as long as possible through reuse, recycling, recovery, and value addition.

Unlike the traditional "produce-use-dispose" model, a circular supply chain seeks to minimize waste and maximize value. In agro-processing, this means transforming surplus produce and agricultural by-products into new products, energy, or inputs for other industries.

## Current Circular Economy Practices in Zambia

Zambia is already implementing several circular economy practices, although many remain small-scale and fragmented. Across the country, agro-processors convert tomatoes into sauces and pastes, fruits into juices, and sweet potatoes into flour and other products, helping to reduce spoilage while increasing product value.

Many farmers and cooperatives use crop residues and animal manure to produce compost, returning nutrients to the soil and reducing reliance on chemical fertilizers. Agro-industrial by-products such as maize bran, soybean residues, and brewery waste are widely used in livestock feed production. In addition, some farms and processing facilities are exploring

biogas technologies that convert organic waste into renewable energy.

While these initiatives demonstrate progress, challenges remain. Limited cold storage facilities, weak linkages between farmers and processors, inadequate financing for SMEs, and poor waste management systems continue to contribute to high levels of food loss. There is also limited data on post-harvest losses, making it difficult to design targeted interventions.

## Lessons from Developed Economies

**The Netherlands: Agro-Industrial Clusters**  
The Netherlands is a global leader in circular agriculture through its agro-industrial cluster model. Farmers, processors, logistics providers, and energy producers operate within integrated systems where waste from one activity becomes a resource for another.

Zambia can adapt this model by establishing agro-processing hubs in key production areas such as Mkushi, Chisamba, Eastern Province, and Southern Province. These hubs could provide shared processing equipment, storage facilities, and systems for converting agricultural waste into animal feed, compost, and energy.

**Denmark: Agricultural Biogas Systems**  
Denmark has successfully developed biogas systems that convert agricultural residues and livestock waste into renewable energy. Nutrient-rich by-products are then returned to farms as fertilizer.

Zambia could expand biogas adoption around dairy, poultry, and livestock

production zones, helping to reduce energy costs, improve waste management, and strengthen energy security.

## Japan: Food Waste Recycling

Japan has developed highly efficient systems for converting food waste into animal feed, fertilizers, and energy. A similar approach in Zambia could connect supermarkets, hotels, restaurants, and agro-processors with livestock farmers and compost producers to ensure food waste is recovered and reused rather than disposed of.

## Germany: Digital Resource Tracking

Germany's success is partly driven by advanced digital systems that track resource flows and waste generation. Zambia could benefit from developing a national food loss and circular economy data system to monitor post-harvest losses, identify waste hotspots, and support evidence-based decision-making.

## Opportunities for Improving Zambia's Circular Supply Chains

To accelerate the transition, Zambia should focus on four key priorities:

- Investing in cold chain infrastructure to reduce post-harvest losses.
- Establishing agro-processing hubs in major production areas.
- Promoting waste-to-energy technologies such as biogas systems.
- Strengthening data collection and monitoring systems for food losses and resource recovery.

Universities, government agencies, local authorities, farmers, and private sector actors must work together to create integrated circular supply chains that

support sustainable growth.

## Conclusion

The opportunity for Zambia is significant. By reducing losses, increasing value addition, and recovering resources from agricultural waste, the country can improve food security, create jobs, increase farmer incomes, and strengthen industrial development. Circular supply chains are not merely a waste management solution; they represent a pathway towards a more resilient, competitive, and sustainable agricultural economy. With targeted investments and stronger coordination, Zambia can transform agricultural waste into a valuable resource that drives economic growth and supports national development goals.

## ABOUT AUTHOR:

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*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.*

# UMBRELLA'S LAST SHADE: WHY LUSAKA NEEDS AN EXECUTIVE MAYOR

By Patrick Chifwambwa



A city that cuts down its oldest living witnesses to declare itself modern has forgotten what modernity truly means. The umbrella tree does not argue; it simply falls, and in its falling leaves a void no pavement can fill. We mistake the whine of the saw for the sound of progress, when in truth it is the sound of collective amnesia—a forgetting that infrastructure is not the enemy of nature but a guest within it. Every mature tree removed is a silent treaty broken: between the generation that planted and the generation that now inherits only the memory of shade.

That silence now hangs over several roads in Lusaka, where the Lusaka City Council has removed selected umbrella trees along road reserves under the Constituency Development Fund. The council's defence is not without sense: umbrella trees possess aggressive, wide-spreading root systems that crack pavements, lift paving blocks, and drive up maintenance costs. In a city desperate for durable roads, this is a genuine engineering problem. Yet the response—cut first, promise to replace with palm and Ashoka trees later—exposes a deeper sickness in how we govern urban space. As Tchiyiwe Chihana rightly noted on Facebook, replacement planting alone does not compensate for the loss of decades-old canopy. A sapling is not a synonym for a tree. A plan is not a promise.

To understand why we keep reaching for the saw, we have to look backwards. Most of Lusaka's mature umbrella trees were planted during the late colonial and early

post-independence years—the 1960s and 1970s. They were part of a deliberate vision: a garden city on the Lusaka Plateau, where wide avenues and shade trees signalled order, health, and civility. That vision, however flawed in its origins, bequeathed us a natural asset that no CDF budget can replicate. We have become orphaned custodians of a canopy we did not plant, and we are failing to protect it.

Fast-forward to today, and the City Planning Department operates at less than 40 percent of its professional establishment—this according to a 2022 JICA capacity assessment. Fewer than five qualified urban planners with any training in green infrastructure remain on staff. There is no dedicated urban forester. No tree inventory. No by-law that defines a protected tree or requires a permit for removal on public land. So when a roads contractor needs to show CDF results quickly, and the planning department lacks the expertise to say "not without a root-mapping study and a public hearing," the saw wins every time. This is not a failure of individual will. It is a structural collapse of institutional memory.

Other African cities face the same tension between asphalt and roots, yet some have responded with real sophistication. Kampala, once notorious for falling trees and haphazard removals, completed a two-year, 53,000-tree audit across four central districts. Each tree was tagged, measured, health-assessed, and entered into a GIS database. That audit became the

foundation of a 20-year Urban Forest Management Plan, which now requires that any road design affecting a mature tree must include a certified arborist's report and a public notice period. Today Kampala is Africa's first FAO-recognised "Tree City of the World" (2021). Their roads still get paved. They just pave around the trees.

Tshwane, or Pretoria, enacted an Urban Forestry By-Law: no tree on a public road reserve above a specified diameter may be removed without a permit, an independent risk assessment, and proof that mitigation—root barriers, permeable paving, or realignment—has been exhausted. Violations carry stiff fines. Nairobi redesigned road expansion along Waiyaki Way to retain mature Jacaranda and Grevillea trees by shifting drainage lines and using suspended pavement systems. The upfront cost was higher, but lifecycle maintenance savings and preserved property values have already justified the investment. What do these examples share? Three things Lusaka currently lacks: a statutory protection framework, a technically competent planning department, and a political leadership with the authority to say no.

That last point brings us to the mayor. Under Zambia's Local Government Act (Cap 281), the Lusaka Mayor is largely ceremonial. Real executive power lies with the Town Clerk and council directors. The mayor can chair meetings, cut ribbons, and issue statements—but cannot unilaterally halt a tree removal, cannot reallocate funds to an arborist study, cannot demand a town hall before the saws start. This is a colonial relic. In South Africa's major metros, the executive mayor appoints a mayoral committee, directs departmental heads, and bears direct accountability to voters. When a

Johannesburg mayor decides to protect a row of trees along Oxford Road, that decision is implemented within weeks. When a Cape Town mayor prioritises green infrastructure, the budget follows.

I believe we should pilot a reform: amend the Local Government Act to establish an executive mayor model for Lusaka and, potentially, two other major cities. The amendment would require a parliamentary bill, which could be introduced as a private member's bill or through the Ministry of Local Government. A transitional clause could allow for a referendum of Lusaka residents—because concentrated power must be visibly and directly answerable to the people who lose their shade.

An executive mayor would not just save umbrella trees. She or he would be compelled to debate and deliver on a broader urban agenda: stormwater drainage, since mature trees absorb thousands of litres of rainwater and their removal without alternatives worsens flash floods; pedestrian infrastructure, because pavements are ecosystems of movement, rest, and shade; informal settlement upgrading, so that tree protection does not become a tool for displacement; building setbacks, currently ignored bylaws that an executive mayor could finally enforce; and public transport route planning, which should be designed to preserve trees, not the other way around. These are not niche environmental concerns. They are the everyday texture of urban life, and they deserve a political champion with real power.

Before the coming mayoral election, I call on every Lusaka resident to ask each candidate three specific questions. Will you commit to a public, independent audit of all mature trees on road reserves, with

results published within six months of taking office? Will you support a Tree Protection By-Law modelled on Tshwane's, with permit requirements and public notice for any removal? Do you endorse the executive mayor model, and will you lobby the Ministry of Local Government for a pilot in Lusaka?

And to the Lusaka City Council, I say this: issuing a press release after the trees are gone is not transparency. Before the next road project, publish the technical assessments. List the mitigation measures considered. Hold a town hall in the affected ward. Let the people see the evidence that a tree's removal was truly unavoidable.

Lusaka needs roads. But a city that cannot keep its oldest living residents—the umbrella trees that watched us grow from a small colonial outpost into a sprawling metropolis—is not modern. It is merely poor and in a hurry. We can pave and preserve. We can invest and listen. But only if we have the courage to reform not just our roads, but the very architecture of power that decides what stays and what falls.

Let the next mayor be an executive. And let the first executive order be this: no mature tree shall see the saw until the people have seen the plan.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

*Patrick Chifwambwa turns complex ideas into thoughtful storytelling on an array of topical issues—from urban governance to environmental justice—bringing depth and clarity to the conversations that shape our lives.*

# POLITICAL STABILITY IS THE FOUNDATION OF ECONOMIC STABILITY

The recent stability of the Zambian Kwacha offers a welcome sign for businesses, investors and ordinary citizens who have endured years of currency volatility, inflationary pressures and economic uncertainty. According to financial analysts, improved foreign exchange supply, stronger copper earnings, regulatory reforms and progress in debt restructuring have all contributed to the relative calm currently being experienced in the foreign exchange market.

However, there is another factor that deserves equal attention, especially as Zambia approaches the August 2026 general elections: political stability.

Economics and politics are often discussed separately, but in reality they are deeply interconnected. Investors, businesses and financial markets do not only respond to economic data. They also react to perceptions of political risk, uncertainty and stability. In many developing economies, including Zambia, political stability can be just as important as fiscal discipline, export earnings or monetary policy.

The Kwacha's recent performance reflects growing confidence in the market. Foreign exchange inflows have improved, copper prices remain favorable, and reforms requiring domestic transactions to be

conducted in local currency have reduced pressure on demand for the United States dollar. These are positive developments that should be protected.

History shows that election periods often create uncertainty. Investors naturally become cautious as they wait to see whether the political environment will remain peaceful and predictable. Businesses postpone major investment decisions. Some investors move capital into safer markets until election outcomes become clear. Financial markets dislike uncertainty because uncertainty makes planning difficult.

This is why political stability matters.

When political tensions rise, economic confidence often falls. Capital flight can occur, foreign investment decisions can be delayed, and pressure can quickly return to the foreign exchange market. Even where economic fundamentals remain strong, instability can create perceptions of risk that weaken investor confidence.

Fortunately, Zambia has built a reputation as one of Africa's most stable democracies. The country has successfully conducted multiple elections since the return to multi-party democracy. Power has changed hands peacefully.

Institutions have generally remained functional. These achievements should never be taken for granted.

The upcoming elections present another opportunity for Zambia to strengthen this reputation.

Political parties have a responsibility to conduct campaigns peacefully and

institutions often determines whether markets remain calm during election periods.

The experience of several African countries offers valuable lessons. Nations that have maintained political stability during elections often continue attracting investment even during periods of global economic uncertainty.

citizens can focus on productive economic activity rather than uncertainty.

As the elections approach, all stakeholders must recognize that maintaining stability is not only a political responsibility but also an economic necessity. Every peaceful campaign, every responsible statement, and every credible institution contributes to strengthening confidence in Zambia's future.

The recent stability of the Kwacha demonstrates what can be achieved when economic reforms are supported by confidence and predictability. Preserving that confidence will require Zambia to once again demonstrate the political maturity that has long distinguished it within the region.

Ultimately, a stable currency, a growing economy and rising investment all depend on one fundamental ingredient: a stable nation. Zambia's greatest economic asset may not be copper, agriculture or foreign investment. It may well be its enduring commitment to peace, democracy and political stability.

Countries that experience political disputes, violence or prolonged instability frequently suffer currency depreciation, capital outflows and slower economic growth.

Zambia cannot afford such setbacks.

The country is making progress in several areas. Inflation has been easing. Foreign reserves have improved. Debt restructuring efforts have advanced. The mining sector is attracting new investment. Agricultural output is recovering strongly following recent climate challenges. These gains have not come easily and should not be placed at risk.

Political stability is not simply about avoiding conflict. It is about creating an environment where businesses can invest with confidence, where entrepreneurs can plan for the future, and where



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THINK BUSINESS

# US JOB OPENINGS ARE AT THEIR HIGHEST LEVEL IN NEARLY TWO YEARS

By CNN Business



US businesses are brushing off those “Now Hiring” signs: Job openings rose sharply in April to their highest level in nearly two years, Bureau of Labor Statistics data showed Tuesday.

However, the latest look at labor turnover also showed that those job postings aren’t necessarily turning into job offers – the US job market remains entrenched in a low-hire, low-fire dynamic.

The number of available jobs jumped to an estimated 7.62 million positions at the end of April, increasing from 6.89

million in March and bucking a two-month decline, the latest Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey showed.

At the same time, the number of new hires and layoffs both tumbled after bolting higher in March; and voluntary quits fell to their lowest level in nearly six years, an indication of workers’ slipping confidence in the labor market.

The imbalance between employers’ wish lists and their payrolls can be partly attributed to rising labor costs and broader economic uncertainty, Noah Yosif, chief

economist at the American Staffing Association, told CNN in an interview.

“Miscalculating on the wrong worker can be costly for employers, and so employers are really taking their time to make sure they are filling jobs with the right candidates,” he said.

First, a level-set: Monthly data can be immensely volatile, and April’s data could be revised when the May JOLTS rolls around. Plus, JOLTS and other economic reports have been dogged by low survey response rates.

# TREASURY CRACKS THE WHIP

By The Nation

Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Decentralisation has ordered a review of public contracts signed between September 1 2023 and September 1 2025 and suspended any payments for the same until completion of assessments.

Secretary to the Treasury Cliff Chiunda, in a memo to controlling officers and heads of department in government ministries, departments and agencies (MDAs) dated May 29 2026, said the suspension affects all contracts, agreements, guarantees, consents and employment-related contracts signed

during the prescribed period.

He asked the MDAs to provide original contract sums and addendum, justification necessitating upward adjustment and evidence that the due approval process was followed during the procurement process.

“Funding will not be provided for the works and services related to these contracts until the review process is completed,” said Chiunda.

The MDAs face a June 20 2026 deadline to provide the requested information to the

National Audit Office and the Office of the Attorney General.

The move comes against a background of the public service head count that the Department of Human Resource Management and Development launched last November barely a month after President Peter Mutharika and Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) returned to power following their victory in the September 16 2025 General Election.



## EXCHANGE RATES

Bank Name	9:30				12:30				15:30			
	Interbank Rates		Retail Rates		Interbank Rates		Retail Rates		Interbank Rates		Retail Rates	
	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)

TRANSITION SEASON 2026/27

# TRANSFER WINDOW NOW OPEN

1<sup>ST</sup> JUNE 2026 - 31<sup>ST</sup> AUGUST 2026

## ZPL OPENS TRANSITION SEASON TRANSFER WINDOW AHEAD OF CALENDAR SHIFT

By Lucky Chama

The Zambian Premier League (ZPL) has officially opened the player registration and transfer window for the 2026–2027 Transition Season as clubs begin preparations for a historic shift in the country's football calendar.

In a statement issued on Tuesday, ZPL announced that the registration and transfer window opened on June 1 and will remain open until August 31, 2026. The league explained that,

in line with the revised football calendar adopted for the Transition Season, clubs will have only one registration and transfer window before the campaign kicks off in September.

"The registration window opened on 1 June 2026 and will close on 31 August 2026. In line with the revised football calendar adopted for the Transition Season, there will be only one registration and transfer

window during the season," the league said.

The Transition Season is scheduled to begin in September and conclude on December 19, 2026, paving the way for the implementation of Zambia's new annual football calendar.

The change follows a decision by football authorities to move away from the traditional August-to-May format and align

domestic football with a March-to-December calendar beginning in 2027. According to ZPL, the full 2027 season will commence in March and run through to December.

The league also outlined the registration windows that will apply from the 2027 season onwards. The first registration window will run from January 1 until the first week of April, while a second registration window will be held from June 1 to

June 30 each year.

ZPL reminded clubs that all player registrations, transfers and de-registrations must be completed within the stipulated periods.

"No registrations will be processed outside the designated windows except in circumstances permitted by the applicable regulations," the league stated.

## FIFA BANS VUVUZELAS FROM 2026 WORLD CUP STADIUMS



By News Day - The world governing body ruled that the vuvuzelas fall under the category of items prohibited from being brought into World Cup venues, a decision that will affect thousands of fans who traditionally carry the plastic horn as part of their matchday culture. The world governing body ruled that the tournament that the relentless noise made communication on the pitch and in the dugout extremely difficult. Television audiences around the globe also raised concerns about the instrument drowning out commentary during broadcasts.

The vuvuzela first captured the world's attention at the 2010 FIFA World Cup in South Africa, where its distinctive droning sound became impossible to ignore.

While African supporters embraced it as a symbol of cultural identity and celebration, broadcasters, coaches and players from across the world

complained throughout the tournament that the relentless noise made communication on the pitch and in the dugout extremely difficult. Television audiences around the globe also raised concerns about the instrument drowning out commentary during broadcasts. Despite the controversy it generated, the vuvuzela went on to appear at numerous football tournaments in the years that followed, becoming a recognisable feature of supporter culture particularly across Africa. FIFA's decision to formally ban it from the 2026 World Cup now draws a firm line under its presence at the sport's biggest stage.

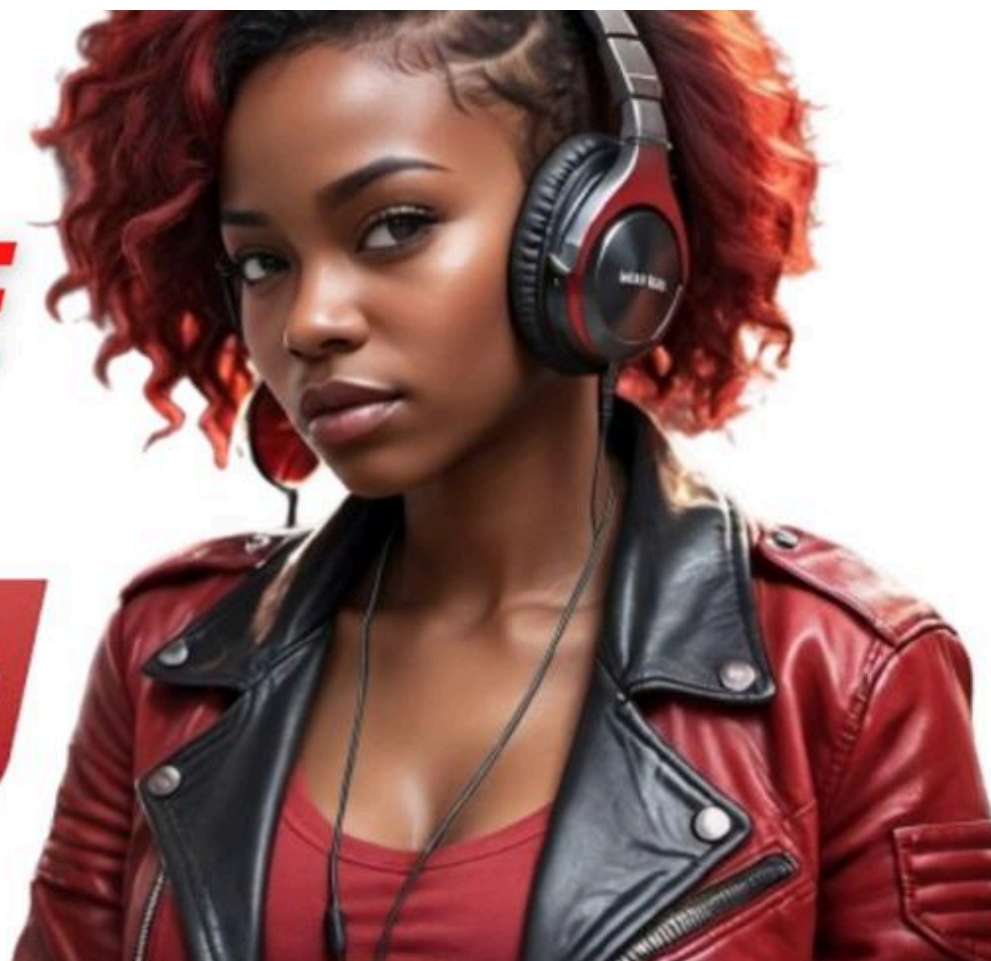


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THINK BUSINESS



## TABITHA, 5 OTHER PROS JOIN SQUAD

By The Nation

Scorchers coach Lovemore Fazili says he is satisfied with the turn-up of foreign-based players ahead of their two international friendlies against hosts Tanzania's Twiga Stars and is confident of securing straight victories.

"I am impressed with the turn-up of the professionals and I have no doubt that we will beat Tanzania," he said.

The Scorchers and Twiga Stars play the first game this afternoon at MK Stadium in Dar es Salaam. The two teams meet again at the same venue on Saturday as part of their preparations for a historic appearance at the 2026 Women's Africa Cup of Nations (Wafcon) finals in Morocco next month.

Six professionals, including France-based strikers Tabitha Chawinga and Rose Kabzere, are in the 23-player squad alongside Sweden-based Faith Chinzimu. The others are Sabina Thom who is based in Morocco, Egypt-based Vanessa Chikupira and Democratic Republic of Congo-domiciled Chimwenwe Madise.

But he team will for the umpteenth time play without US-based free-scoring striker Temwa Chawinga, who has excused herself on personal grounds.

The latest friendlies come after the Scorchers' back-to-back losses to Australia 5-0 and India 3-2 during the Fifa Women's Series in Kenya and the coach believes it is now time to make amends on the results.

"Although this is a friendly, we will strive for victory to give Malawians something to smile for before we head to the Wafcon finals," Fazili said.

The Scorchers coach added that he has included Under-20 National Women's Football Team players, namely forward Fatima Lali and defender Talandira Joseph as part of the team's transitional process.

"These youngsters have been outstanding for the junior national team and the plan is to make them adapt to playing with the experienced players because they will soon be replacing them as they head towards the twilight of their careers," he said.

On the other hand, Tanzania coach Bakari



Shime, whose side is also tuning up for Wafcon, has included seven foreign-based players in his 24-member squad, including Mexico-based Eneka Lunyamila and Julietha Tamuwai who play in Spain Viõth Nicholaus and Opa Clement and Israel-based Noela Luhala.

At the 16-team Wafcon finals, Malawi and Cape Verde will be making their debut appearance

The Scorchers are in Group C alongside defending champions Nigeria, Zambia and Egypt.

## 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