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ZRA BLOCKS K890,000 TAX LEAK

Zambia Revenue Authority (ZRA) has intercepted two trucks carrying assorted smuggled alcohol with a revenue loss of over K890,000...

Page 6

US HANDS OVER \$5.8 MILLION INFRASTRUCTURE TO ZAMBIA ARMY

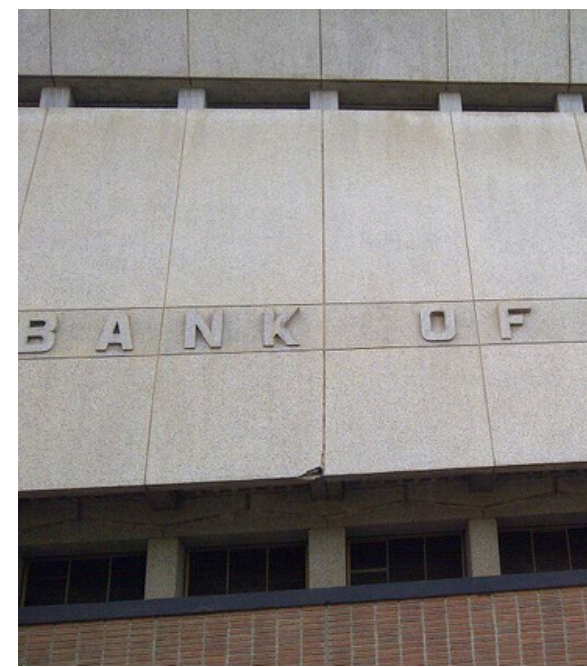
United States (US) government has handed over newly built infrastructure worth \$5.8 million to the Zambia Army.

Page 2

KEEP IT SIMPLE FOR SMES, MANUFACTURERS URGE GOVERNMENT

Manufacturers in the country have called on policymakers to simplify the business environment for small and medium enterprises (SMEs), by reducing complexity in key areas of enterprise development....

Page 5



BOZ URGES TRANSITION TO DIGITAL PAYMENTS AS ZAMBIA PREPARES TO RETIRE CHEQUES

Page 5



PREFABRICATED TECHNOLOGY SET TO REVOLUTIONIZE ZAMBIA'S HERITAGE TOURISM INFRASTRUCTURE

By Cecilia Chiluba



National Heritage Conservation Commission (NHCC) has described prefabricated construction technology being manufactured by Zambia National Shelter Limited as a transformative solution for infrastructure development at Zambia's heritage sites.

Zambia National Shelter Limited, a joint venture between Zambian and Chinese partners, is establishing a state-of-the-art Green Prefabricated Housing Production Plant at the Lusaka South Multi-Facility Economic Zone (LS-MFEZ) at an investment of approximately US\$10 million.

The project stems from a Memorandum of Understanding witnessed by President Hakainde Hichilema during his State Visit to China in September 2023 and is aimed at promoting modern construction technologies and mass infrastructure development in Zambia.

Speaking after a

familiarization tour of the company's manufacturing facility, NHCC Executive Director, Kagosi Mwamulowe said the innovation would help address longstanding challenges in establishing durable and cost-effective visitor facilities at heritage sites across the country.

Mr. Mwamulowe said the Commission has for many years struggled to construct ticketing offices, ablution blocks and other visitor support infrastructure due to the high costs and logistical demands associated with conventional construction methods.

He noted that the reinforced concrete prefabricated panels produced by Zambia National Shelter Limited offer an ideal alternative that will enable the Commission to modernize tourism infrastructure in a timely, durable and environmentally sustainable manner.

"What we have seen here today is truly remarkable. The challenge of constructing durable ticketing offices, ablution facilities and other visitor

infrastructure at our heritage sites will soon be a thing of the past. This technology provides NHCC with an opportunity to enhance service delivery and improve visitor experiences across the country," Mr. Mwamulowe stated.

Mr. Mwamulowe stressed that the technology's potential extends beyond housing and could significantly contribute to tourism and heritage development through the rapid construction of resilient facilities capable of withstanding varying climatic conditions.

He said the Commission is eager to explore partnerships with Zambia National Shelter Limited for the development of ticketing offices, ablution facilities, information centres and other critical infrastructure at heritage sites.

Mr. Mwamulowe added that improved facilities would support Government efforts to expand the tourism sector, create employment opportunities and preserve Zambia's rich cultural and

natural heritage for future generations.

"These, if introduced to heritage sites, will boost both foreign and domestic tourism, otherwise known as 'Holiday Yamu Loko', since the heritage sites as prime tourism destinations would encourage families and other visitors to travel and spend more time enjoying Zambia's heritage sites," he added.

The NHCC delegation included Director of Conservation Macmillan Mudenda, Director-East Central Muyumbwa Ndiroyi and other senior management officers.

The delegation was received by Corporate Affairs Manager for National Housing Authority/Zambia National Shelter Limited, Bwalya Makasa, who welcomed the Commission's interest in the innovative construction technology.

"The company remains committed to supporting national development through the provision of quality prefabricated construction materials for sectors such as tourism, housing, education and health," Ms. Makasa said.

She added that Zambia National Shelter Limited looks forward to collaborating with NHCC on infrastructure projects at heritage sites.

During the groundbreaking ceremony for the project, former Minister of Infrastructure, Housing and Urban Development, Charles Milupi said the facility would manufacture prefabricated reinforced concrete panels for housing and other infrastructure projects.

This is according to a statement issued by NHCC Manager-Information and Public Relations, Ndubi Mvula.

US HANDS OVER \$5.8 MILLION INFRASTRUCTURE TO ZAMBIA ARMY

By Cecilia Chiluba



United States (US) government has handed over newly built infrastructure worth \$5.8 million to the Zambia Army.

Built at the Kenneth Kaunda Peace Training Center (KKPTC) in Chongwe District, the infrastructure includes a Multi-Purpose Hall, a 400 capacity Dining Hall, Storage Facilities, Outdoor Classrooms, four Warehouses, an Engagement Skills Trainer and Renewable Facilities.

US Embassy Chief of Mission, Mich Coker said the American Government has decided to provide the infrastructure because Zambia is now a leader in peacekeeping efforts worldwide.

Mr. Coker said Zambia has earned a reputation of being a country which serves humanity and preserves peace worldwide.

"Zambian peacekeepers are known to be professional, dedicated and respectful when deployed," Mr. Coker

said. "As we hand over this infrastructure, we hope it can help the ZAMBATT XII troops who are deploying soon to the Central Africa Republic."

He added that the United States Government wants to support the Kenneth Kaunda Peace Training Center so that it can be a top trainer of peacekeepers on the African continent.

In receiving the infrastructure, Ministry of Defence Permanent Secretary, Maambo Haamaundu expressed gratitude to the American Government for the investment at the Kenneth Kaunda Peace Training Center.

Mr. Haamaundu noted that KKPTC plays a critical role in training troops for all scenarios when deployed in trouble spots worldwide.

He said the US\$5.8 million investment is very significant as it will help the Zambia Army prepare its

troops adequately before deployment under the United Nations.

"The Zambia Government is committed to supporting professional military training and peacekeeping preparedness in readiness for deployment," Mr. Haamaundu stated.

Meanwhile, Kenneth Kaunda Peace Training Center Commandant Brigadier General, Telenkako Banda said the Infrastructure will help accommodate more numbers of troops as they prepare for deployment.

Brig Gen Banda thanked the United States, Britain and France for supporting the center with equipment, financial and human resources which are critical for pre-employment training.

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

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MQHZ CALLS FOR URGENT ACTION AS DRUG, SUBSTANCE ABUSE AMONG YOUTH RISES

By Money Daily Reporter



Medical for Quality Healthcare in Zambia (MQHZ) has raised concern over the growing levels of drug and substance abuse among young people, warning that the trend is placing increased pressure on the country's health system and threatening the well-being of communities.

MQHZ Director General, Dr. Quince Mwabu said the rise in substance abuse among youths had become a serious public health and social challenge affecting both urban and rural areas.

Dr. Mwabu noted that health facilities were increasingly being required to manage cases linked to substance use, including mental health complications, addiction-related conditions and emergency cases involving intoxication and behavioral

disturbances. "MQHZ is concerned that substance abuse is placing additional pressure on health services and affecting the well-being of communities across both urban and rural areas," Dr. Mwabu said.

"As a result, health facilities are increasingly required to respond to cases associated with substance use, including mental health complications, addiction-related conditions, and emergency cases involving intoxication and behavioral disturbances. This growing demand is stretching already limited health resources and affecting the capacity of front-line health workers to respond effectively to other essential health needs."

He further observed that the misuse of

alcohol, cannabis, prescription medicines and other psychoactive substances was contributing to addiction, mental health problems, school dropouts and increased crime among young people.

Dr. Mwabu said illicit drug abuse had also heightened demand for mental health services, strained families and contributed to wider social problems affecting community well-being.

He noted that factors such as unemployment, poverty, peer pressure and limited access to youth-friendly health and psycho-social support services were driving the growing problem across the country.

Dr. Mwabu also pointed to gaps in mental health services, rehabilitation facilities and community-based prevention programmes, saying these were limiting Zambia's ability to effectively respond to substance abuse at community level.

He called for stronger collaboration among key stakeholders, including the Ministry of Health, Drug Enforcement Commission, Zambia Medicines Regulatory Authority (ZAMRA), the Ministry of Education, local authorities and community structures to enhance prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation efforts.

"Prevention and early intervention remain the most effective and sustainable approaches to addressing substance abuse, as failure to act will continue to place pressure on health services and negatively affect the future of young people across the country," he stated.

"Protecting the health and well-being of young people in Zambia's communities must therefore remain a national priority requiring urgent and coordinated action."

ACAF URGES FARMERS TO SAFELY DISPOSE OF USED AGROCHEMICAL CONTAINERS

By Money Daily Reporter



Agriculture Climate Action Foundation (ACAF), says the increasing practice of farmers improperly disposing of empty agrochemical

containers poses serious risks to the environment, public health and agricultural sustainability. ACAF Executive Director Dr. Oliver Bulaya, said the disposal of pesticide, herbicide and fungicide containers in streams, rivers and other water bodies is contributing to environmental degradation and should not be tolerated.

"Agrochemicals are toxic substances designed to control pests, diseases and weeds and, while they play an important role in agricultural production, they must be handled, stored and disposed responsibly to prevent harmful consequences," Dr. Bulaya said.

He observed that some farmers leave used chemical containers in fields, while others throw them into streams and rivers that provide water for livestock, wildlife and nearby communities.

According to Dr. Bulaya, the practice contaminates aquatic

ecosystems, destroys aquatic life and disrupts the environmental balance upon which human survival depends.

He also described as alarming the growing tendency among some farmers to reuse empty chemical containers for household purposes, including storing salt, cooking oil, drinking water and traditional beverages such as Munkoyo.

"Regardless of how thoroughly these containers are washed, toxic chemical residues may remain and pose serious health risks," he cautioned.

Dr. Bulaya warned that prolonged exposure to such residues could contribute to chronic illnesses and other long-term health complications.

He urged farmers to adopt approved disposal methods, including puncturing or crushing empty containers to prevent reuse and disposing of them at designated disposal sites or in properly constructed pits located away from water sources, homes and grazing areas.

Dr. Bulaya further encouraged farmers to participate in container collection and recycling

programmes coordinated by agricultural authorities and other stakeholders wherever such initiatives exist.

"Agriculture and environmental stewardship must go hand in hand," he said. "Farmers, as custodians of the land, have a responsibility not only to produce food but also to protect the natural resources upon which future generations will depend."

He stressed that clean water, healthy soils and a safe environment are fundamental to sustainable agricultural development.

Dr. Bulaya also called on farmers involved in horticulture, crop production, livestock farming and other agricultural enterprises to prioritize safety by using personal protective equipment, adhering to manufacturers' guidelines and ensuring responsible disposal of agrochemical waste.

He emphasized that protecting farmers, consumers, livestock and the environment is a shared responsibility and urged all stakeholders to work together in promoting safe agricultural practices.

ZAMBIA CALLS FOR EARLY ACTION AS AFRICA PREPARES FOR POTENTIAL EL NIÑO IMPACTS

By Money Daily Reporter



Zambia has urged African countries to strengthen preparedness and turn climate information into decisive action as the continent braces for the possibility of another El Niño event later this year.

Speaking at the official opening of the 21st Africa Continental Climate Outlook Forum (ACCOF-21) in Lusaka, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Green Economy and Environment, Dr. Douty Chibamba, said Africa could no longer afford to treat climate shocks as distant threats.

“The question before us is no longer whether climate shocks will occur, but whether we are adequately prepared to anticipate, manage and reduce their impacts,” Dr. Chibamba said.

Dr. Chibamba stated that the continent continues to experience increasingly severe droughts, floods, heatwaves, tropical cyclones and other extreme weather events that threaten food security, water resources, energy systems, infrastructure, public health and livelihoods.

He recalled the devastating effects of the

2015/2016 El Niño phenomenon, which left millions of Africans food insecure and strained national economies.

“Here in Zambia, the 2023/2024 El Niño-induced drought was among the worst in our living memory. It compelled Government to declare a national disaster and emergency, as the drought devastated crop production, severely reduced water levels in our hydropower reservoirs and triggered a prolonged energy deficit that affected households, industry and the economy at large,” he added.

Dr. Chibamba noted that current forecasts from global climate centres indicate the possibility of another El Niño event developing during the latter part of 2026.

He said Zambia has placed climate resilience and adaptation at the centre of its national development agenda through investments in climate services and early warning systems.

“In the long term, Government is also investing in the expansion and modernization of weather and climate observation infrastructure across the country, including automatic weather stations, upper-air

observations and planned lightning detection capabilities, to improve forecasting accuracy, strengthen early warning systems and enhance climate monitoring,” Dr. Chibamba stressed.

The Permanent Secretary further said Government is promoting climate-resilient farming practices and expanding irrigation infrastructure to improve food security and reduce vulnerability to erratic rainfall patterns, recognizing that more than 70 percent of Zambia's population depends on rain-fed agriculture.

He added that Government aims to reach more than one million farmers through the Digital Climate Advisory Services Platform by providing timely, location-specific and actionable climate information.

And WMO Director-Regional Office for Africa, Dr. Agnes Kijazi, said the forum provides an opportunity to build a common understanding of climate drivers and anticipated impacts to support timely decision-making.

Dr. Kijazi outlined four priority areas through which WMO is strengthening support to

African countries which include; enhancing regional coordination and partnerships, expanding climate financing for adaptation, modernizing observational infrastructure, and advancing end-to-end early warning systems.

“WMO is committed to strengthening end-to-end early warning systems that connect data, forecasts, communication, and action, ensuring that climate information leads to timely and life-saving decisions on the ground,” she said.

She expressed confidence that the forum would strengthen collaboration, knowledge exchange and trust among stakeholders while ensuring that climate services move beyond information provision to enabling practical action.

Held under the theme, “Preparing Africa for El Niño 2026/2027: Strengthening Readiness to Anticipate and Manage Climate Shocks,” the forum is expected to produce a harmonized continental climate outlook and strengthen mechanisms for translating climate information into practical action.

LCC WARNS TRADERS, RESIDENTS AGAINST DUMPING WASTE IN DRAINAGE SYSTEMS

By Money Daily Reporter



Chola Mwamba

Lusaka City Council has warned traders, and businesses against dumping waste in primary drainage systems, especially the Bombay Drain.

Council Public Relations Manager Chola Mwamba, noted that in recent months, LCC's Engineering and Infrastructure Development Department, carried out extensive rehabilitation works on a collapsed stretch of the Bombay Drain.

Ms. Mwamba said the works were aimed at reinforcing the structure and restoring safe water flow to protect surrounding homes and businesses.

She observed that despite these efforts, illegal dumping continues unabated, as waste, plastics, and solid refuse are being thrown into the drains daily.

“This blocks water channels, reduces drainage capacity, and threatens the integrity of

the recently rehabilitated infrastructure,” she said.

“This practice must cease with immediate effect.”

According to Ms. Mwamba, blocked drains are a direct cause of flash floods during the rainy season.

“This endangers lives, destroys property, damages roads, and disrupts economic activity,” Ms. Mwamba stated.

She noted that the cost of repairing avoidable damage places an unnecessary burden on both the Council and the community.

Ms. Mwamba reminded the public that dumping waste in drainage systems is an offense under the Local Government Act and the Public Health Act.

“It is not only irresponsible, but also punishable by law. Lusaka City Council will no longer treat this

matter lightly,” she warned.

“In response, LCC enforcement officers, in partnership with the Zambia Police Service, will intensify patrols and surveillance along all primary drains.”

She further warned that offenders will be identified, arrested, and prosecuted, adding that heavy fines will be imposed, in addition to costs for cleanup and any damage caused.

“The Council urges all residents to dispose of waste responsibly by using designated collection points, skip bins, and licensed waste collectors,” Ms. Mwamba urged.

“Keeping waste out of drains, streams, and open spaces is a shared responsibility that ensures safety for all. Lusaka City Council calls on residents to report incidents of illegal dumping to protect public infrastructure.”



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BOZ URGES TRANSITION TO DIGITAL PAYMENTS AS ZAMBIA PREPARES TO RETIRE CHEQUES

By Cecilia Chiluba



Bank of Zambia (BOZ) has urged individuals and businesses to complete their transition plans and adopt suitable digital payment channels ahead of the discontinuation of cheques later this month.

The BOZ recently announced that cheques will no longer be accepted as a payment instrument in Zambia with effect from 24 June 2026, with the final day for interbank cheque clearing set for 26 June 2026.

In its latest edition of the Zambanker magazine, the Central Bank said the move marks a significant shift towards a fully digital payments ecosystem aimed at supporting a 24/7 economy through faster, safer and more efficient payment systems.

BOZ stated that this decision is aligned with Section 43 of the National Payment Systems Act, 2007, and the National Payment Systems Vision and Strategy 2023- 2027.

“The Strategy’s overarching goal is to transform the national payment system to support the development of a 24/7 digital economy through interoperability, innovation, adoption of international standards, and seamless processing of payments,” the Bank stated.

According to BOZ, cheque transactions have declined by 80 percent over the past decade as electronic payment methods such as mobile money, electronic funds transfers, Real-Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) and card payments have become more widely used.

“Compared with electronic payment instruments, cheque usage has steadily declined over the past decade, with transaction volumes and values consistently falling year after year,” it said.

“This downward trend culminated in an overall 80% reduction in cheque transactions, underscoring their diminishing relevance in Zambia’s modern payments landscape.”

The Bank noted that cheques remain vulnerable to fraud, forgery and dishonoring, making them less secure and less efficient than real-time electronic alternatives.

“As the 26 June 2026 deadline approaches, all stakeholders are encouraged to complete their transition plans and adopt suitable electronic payment channels,” BOZ stated.

“The decision to discontinue cheques followed extensive nationwide stakeholder consultations conducted between July and November 2024, in collaboration with the Public Private Dialogue Forum (PPDF). Stakeholders engaged during this process included Government institutions, corporate organizations, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), financial institutions, and members of the public.”

The Central Bank added that it will continue supporting the transition through public awareness campaigns, strengthened

consumer protection measures and the implementation of fast and instant payments on the National Financial Switch, alongside extended RTGS operating hours to support a round-the-clock economy.

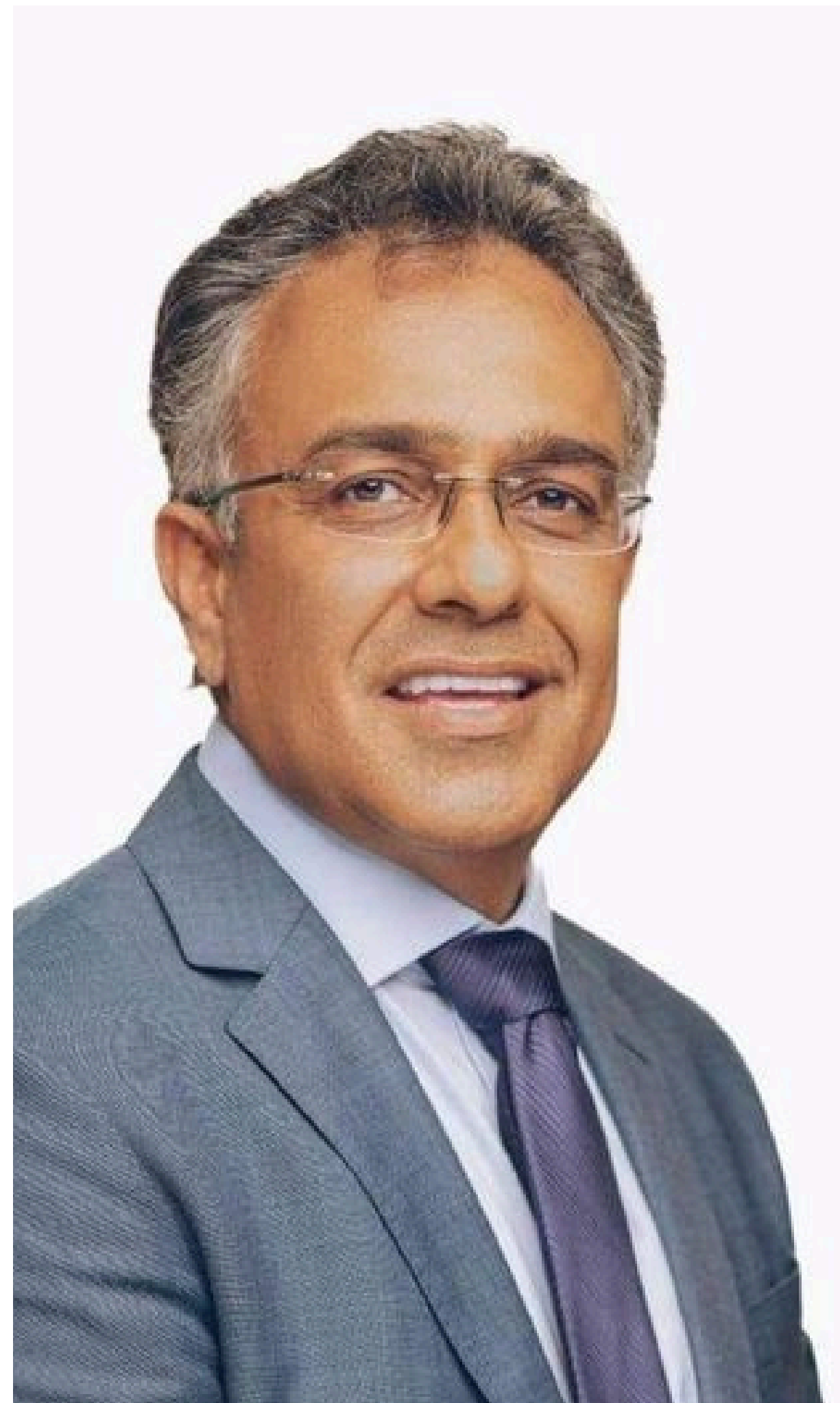
“The Bank encourages individuals and businesses to take proactive steps to familiarize themselves with digital payment tools and adopt safer digital habits consistent with a modern payments ecosystem,” BOZ urged.

It said as the use of cheques declines, digital financial services are expected to make electronic payments increasingly simple and routine.

“As Zambia prepares to retire cheques and advance a fully digital payments ecosystem, the transition represents not only the conclusion of a long standing instrument, but also an opportunity to strengthen payment efficiency, security, and inclusion,” the Bank added.

KEEP IT SIMPLE FOR SMES, MANUFACTURERS URGE GOVERNMENT

By Cecilia Chiluba



Ashu Sagar

Manufacturers in the country have called on policymakers to simplify the business environment for small and medium enterprises (SMEs), by reducing complexity in key areas of enterprise development.

Speaking during the recently concluded Private Sector Day held in Lusaka, manufacturers’ representative Ashu Sagar said reducing complexity in key areas of enterprise development will unlock growth and support women-led businesses.

Mr. Sagar emphasized that Zambia must adopt a straightforward approach to supporting entrepreneurs if it hopes to build a thriving private sector.

“Once we go to the basics and keep it simple, keep access to finance simple, keep access to market simple, I think we are on a winning ticket,” Mr. Sagar said.

He noted that many entrepreneurs, particularly SMEs and women-owned businesses, face unnecessary barriers that complicate their journey to success.

“So my recommendation is to find a way to keep it simple. Because that’s what they need,” he stated.

Mr. Sagar stressed the need for a supportive ecosystem that enables businesses to grow through clear and

accessible systems. “You need a system or an ecosystem that nurtures SMEs and women-led businesses in a very simple, straightforward path to success. And that is my only recommendation,” Mr. Sagar stressed.

“Whether the logistics of it, we can discuss at PPDF. But that is the principle we must follow. Keep it simple.”

His remarks come amid growing calls for reforms aimed at easing the cost and complexity of doing business, improving access to finance and markets, and strengthening support mechanisms for entrepreneurs across the country.



K5 BILLION MSME FUND HEADLINES MAJOR FINANCING DEALS AT AFRICA IMPACT SUMMIT 2026

By Cecilia Chiluba



The fourth Africa Impact Summit (AIS) 2026 has concluded in Zambia with the unveiling of major financing commitments aimed at accelerating Africa's sustainable development agenda and expanding access to capital for small businesses.

Among the summit's most significant outcomes was the announcement of the K5 billion (approximately US\$260 million) Small Business Growth Initiative (SBGI), a landmark partnership between the National Advisory Board for Impact Investment Zambia (NABII Zambia) and the Bank of Zambia (BoZ).

The initiative will provide affordable, patient capital to micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), positioning Zambia as a model for how central banks can catalyse inclusive economic growth through innovative financing mechanisms.

The summit also

highlighted the US\$80 million GIP Zambia Fund, detailed by the National Pension Scheme Authority (NAPSA) in partnership with British International Investment (BII) and Swedfund.

According to a statement, the facility is designed to address the financing gap affecting the missing middle by providing flexible, long-tenor capital to businesses that often struggle to access traditional financing.

Hosted by NABII Zambia and organized by the Africa Impact Investing Group (AIIG), the summit brought together more than 300 delegates from across the world to shift the continental conversation from concerns over capital scarcity to the urgent need for market activation.

Delegates agreed that Africa's challenge is not the absence of capital, but the lack of systems capable of connecting domestic institutional wealth, particularly pension and insurance funds, to

productive small and growing businesses.

"Africa does not lack capital; it lacks the systems to connect institutional wealth to productive enterprises capable of delivering both financial returns and measurable social impact," delegates said.

The summit further underscored the growing importance of strategic impact management, with participants noting that impact measurement has evolved beyond compliance and reporting requirements to become a critical tool informing investment decisions.

Regional progress in impact investing was also showcased, including the first close of Ghana's US\$75 million Fund of Funds and advances made toward establishing the Nigeria Wholesale Impact Investment Fund.

Participants highlighted Zambia's emerging leadership in policy

and innovation, citing new legislation establishing special economic zones in resettlement areas as a breakthrough in refugees investing and efforts to promote self-reliance among displaced populations.

The summit concluded with a call for stronger institutional collaboration and increased cross-border capital flows to unlock Africa's development potential through home-grown investment solutions.

Organizers announced that the baton for the next edition of the gathering has been passed to West Africa, with Burkina Faso set to host the Africa Impact Summit 2027.

The transition signals the continuation of a continental effort to deepen impact investing ecosystems, mobilize domestic capital and accelerate sustainable development across Africa.

ZRA SEIZES SMUGGLED ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES IN KAPIRI

By Cecilia Chiluba



Zambia Revenue Authority (ZRA) has intercepted two trucks carrying smuggled alcohol with a revenue loss of over K890,000.

According to the Authority, the two trucks carrying Konyagi, K-Vant and other alcoholic beverages were intercepted in Kapiri Mposhi, Central Province.

The interception happened when it was

discovered that the goods were using falsified documents.

"One driver claimed the truck was carrying groundnuts, cassava and sweet potatoes from Mansa, while the second truck had old ZRA receipts," ZRA said.

The Authority stated that both trucks and the goods have been seized in accordance with the Customs and Excise

Act. ZRA urged importers, exporters and other stakeholders to make correct declarations and avoid actions that lead to forfeiture of their goods and possible prosecution.

"ZRA remains in high alert to curtail all forms of smuggling to protect government revenue," it added.



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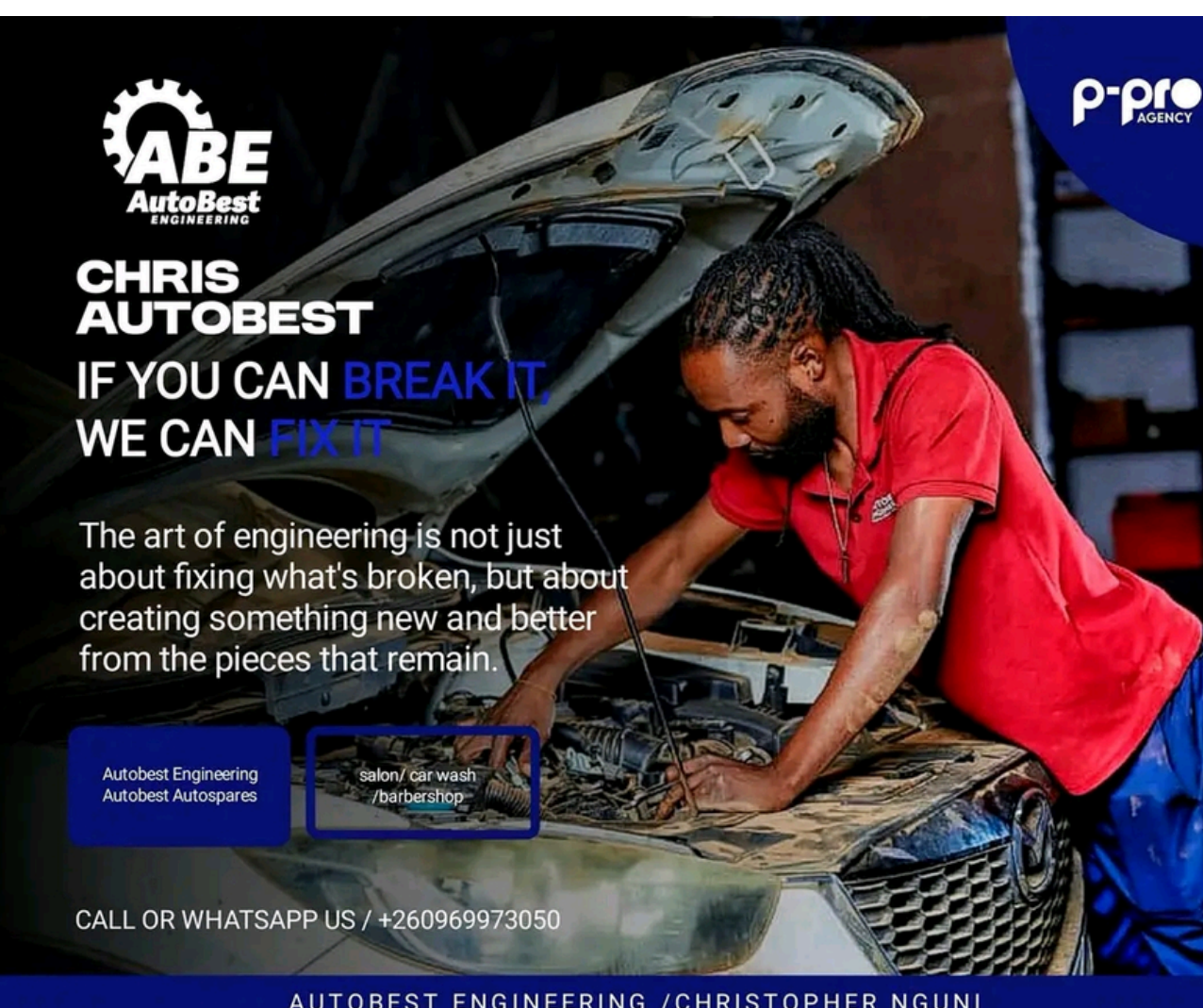
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SMUGGLING THRIVES ON INSIDE HELP – IS THERE A MOLE IN THE SYSTEM?

The Zambia Revenue Authority's (ZRA) seizure of two trucks carrying smuggled alcoholic beverages worth more than K890,000 in lost tax revenue is yet another reminder that the country's fight against smuggling remains far from over. While the interception deserves commendation, it also raises a difficult but necessary question: why do sophisticated smuggling operations continue to occur despite stronger border controls and improved enforcement?

The uncomfortable possibility is that smuggling on this scale rarely succeeds without inside assistance.

Whether that assistance comes from corrupt officials, dishonest clearing agents, transporters, warehouse operators or other actors within the supply chain, organized smuggling often depends on people who understand how the system works and how to exploit its weaknesses.

This latest case illustrates the point. According to ZRA, one truck was falsely declared as carrying groundnuts, cassava and sweet potatoes, while another was accompanied by outdated ZRA receipts. These are not random mistakes. They suggest deliberate attempts to deceive authorities using documentation that required knowledge of customs procedures.

Such schemes rarely emerge overnight.

Modern smuggling operations have become

increasingly sophisticated. Criminal syndicates study inspection routines, identify vulnerable checkpoints, recruit insiders and constantly adjust their methods whenever authorities tighten controls. In many cases, they are several steps ahead because they possess information that should never leave official offices. This is why enforcement alone cannot solve the problem.

Every successful interception raises an equally important question: how many similar consignments passed through undetected?

If two trucks were intercepted in Kapiri Mposhi, what guarantees exist that others using similar methods have not already entered the market? That is the concern that should occupy policymakers.

Smuggling is not merely a customs offence. It is economic sabotage.

Government loses much-needed tax revenue that could finance hospitals, schools, roads and social services. Legitimate businesses that comply with tax obligations are forced to compete against illegally imported products sold at lower prices. Consumers are also placed at risk because smuggled goods frequently bypass quality and safety inspections.

Alcohol presents an additional public health concern. Products entering the country illegally may not meet Zambia's regulatory

standards, creating potential risks for consumers who unknowingly purchase them.

The financial loss reported in this case—more than K890,000—is substantial. Yet the broader economic cost is likely much higher when similar transactions occurring across multiple border points are considered.

schedules or enforcement operations sometimes become targets for bribery or intimidation. This does not mean every officer is compromised. The overwhelming majority perform their duties professionally and deserve recognition for protecting national revenue.

However, even a handful of

and importers who knowingly facilitate smuggling should face severe penalties, including licence suspension and criminal prosecution. Honest businesses suffer when dishonest competitors are allowed to operate with impunity.

At the same time, border communities should become partners in the fight against illicit trade. Many residents witness suspicious movements long before authorities do. Creating confidential reporting mechanisms and rewarding credible intelligence could strengthen enforcement efforts.

Ultimately, Zambia should judge success not only by the value of goods seized but by the number of criminal networks dismantled, corrupt officials prosecuted and repeat offenders removed from the system.

The seizure in Kapiri Mposhi demonstrates that ZRA remains vigilant. But vigilance alone is not enough. If sophisticated smuggling continues using falsified documents and deceptive declarations, the country must confront the possibility that the problem extends beyond border crossings.

The real battle may not simply be against smugglers outside the system—but against those inside it who enable them. Until every weak link in the chain is identified and removed, the question of whether there is a mole in the system will continue to linger.

compromised individuals can undermine the integrity of an entire institution.

That is why internal integrity systems must remain as strong as border enforcement itself.

Regular staff rotations, lifestyle audits for high-risk positions, stronger whistleblower protection, digital tracking of customs processes and independent internal investigations can significantly reduce opportunities for collusion. Technology should also become a bigger weapon against smuggling.

Electronic cargo tracking, integrated customs databases, artificial intelligence to detect unusual declarations and real-time verification of customs documents can make it much harder for criminals to manipulate paperwork. Manual systems remain vulnerable to forgery and human interference.

The private sector also has a responsibility. Clearing agents, transport companies

It is therefore time to shift the conversation from simply celebrating seizures to dismantling the networks behind them.

Every major seizure should automatically trigger a broader investigation that extends beyond the truck driver.

Who prepared the false documentation? Who supplied the old receipts? Who loaded the cargo? Which clearing agents were involved? Which warehouses were expecting delivery? Who financed the shipment? These questions are often more important than the seizure itself because they expose the criminal ecosystem that makes smuggling profitable.

Equally important is examining whether internal information is leaking.

Across the world, revenue authorities face the challenge of insider corruption. Employees with access to customs systems, inspection



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BILLIONS WIPED OUT AS FIRMS EXIT STOCK MARKET

By News Day



ZIMBABWE'S stock market is facing a crisis of confidence as companies abandon public markets, billions of dollars in value are wiped out and investors question whether the country's bourses can still serve as credible platforms for wealth creation and capital raising.

have delisted or initiated delisting processes from the Zimbabwe Stock Exchange (ZSE) and the Victoria Falls Stock Exchange (VFEX) since 2020, according to a new report prepared by economic think-tank Africa Economic Development Strategies (AEDS).

The warning comes as Zimbabwe seeks to attract billions of US dollars in private investment to drive industrialisation, expand manufacturing and achieve upper-middle-income status by 2030.

The exits span telecommunications, manufacturing, retail and hospitality sectors and signal what analysts describe as a fundamental loss of confidence in the ability of public markets to create and preserve shareholder value.

More than 10 companies

"These are not isolated

corporate events," AEDS said in its latest Market Watch publication.

"They reflect a reassessment of whether the domestic equity market still performs its core economic function: preserving and compounding capital in hard currency terms."

The implications extend beyond the stock market.

Capital markets play a critical role in channelling savings into productive investment, funding business expansion and supporting economic growth.

US OVERTAKES SAUDI ARABIA AND RUSSIA AS WORLD'S TOP OIL EXPORTER

By Invezz

The United States has become the world's largest oil exporter, surpassing traditional heavyweights Saudi Arabia and Russia, a dramatic shift accelerated by the ongoing US-Iran war and years of shale-driven production growth.

This milestone marks a profound reversal for a country that once suffered greatly from the 1973 Arab oil embargo, imposed in retaliation for US support of Israel.

Back then, long gas lines and economic pain defined America's energy vulnerability. Today, it wields significant influence as the top global supplier.

US exports of crude and refined fuels reached approximately 10.5 million barrels per day in May, according to ship-tracking data from Vortexa.

This marked the third consecutive month the US held the top exporter position. In comparison, Russian exports stood at around 7 million bpd, while Saudi Arabia's were at 5.9 million bpd.

Just a year earlier, Saudi Arabia exported about 8.1 million bpd, while the US shipped 6.6 million bpd.

The rapid change reflects disruptions to Saudi and

Russian supplies due to the Iran conflict, Ukrainian attacks, and sanctions.

America's rise began after 2010 when shale oil and gas production soared. The country first became the world's top gas producer, then the top oil producer.

The lifting of a 40-year export ban in 2015, a legacy of the 1973 embargo, opened the floodgates for US crude to reach global markets.

Unlike OPEC nations, where governments control output, the US boom is driven by private companies responding to market signals and profit opportunities.

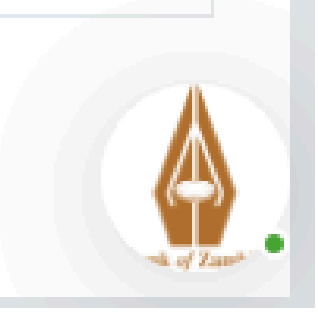


EXCHANGE RATES

Last updated: 10-06-2026

CURRENCY	BUYING	SELLING
ZMW / USD	17.5567	17.6067
ZMW / GBP	23.5540	23.6334
ZMW / EUR	20.3096	20.3709
ZMW / ZAR	1.0640	1.0675

[Download historical rates](#)



Source: Bank of Zambia (BOZ)



MALAMBO URGES TOP CLUBS TO ABANDON OPEN TRIALS FOR SCOUTING NETWORKS

By Lucky Chama

Football analyst and coach educator Franklyn Malambo has urged Zambia's top-flight clubs to abandon the long-standing practice of open player trials, arguing that structured scouting networks offer a more effective and reliable approach to recruitment.

As clubs prepare for the 2026/27 transition season, Malambo said elite teams should prioritize identifying transfer targets through established scouting

systems rather than relying on open trials.

"At the top level, our clubs must stop doing open trials but use networks to organize teams," Malambo said.

He argued that open trials are often time-consuming, costly and misleading, as players tend to perform beyond their usual level in an effort to secure contracts.

"Players will put in 110

percent and be at their best even in behaviour just to get the deal. Once it's done, issues start. It really takes one who sees beyond the obvious to not be deceived from such a process," he explained.

Malambo believes the reliance on open trials contributes to bloated squads, with many clubs registering more than 30 players despite only a fraction being trusted for competitive matches.

"In fact, it is because of a system of open trials that most clubs will have 30-plus registered players, but only half can be trusted to play. The rest are just 'helpers' in training. The quality isn't so good," he said.

Instead, he encouraged clubs to establish scouting networks capable of recommending players who have already been monitored over an extended period in competitive matches.

According to Malambo, scouting networks allow clubs to assess players in real-game situations while also evaluating qualities that cannot easily be identified during short trial sessions.

"The beauty of a network is players are assessed over time in real match situations and other not so easy factors are assessed and, crucially, what you see is what you get," he noted.

SOMALI REFEREE OMAR ARTAN, BARRED FROM 2026 FIFA WORLD CUP, LANDS UEFA ROLE



By FSL - Ruben Amorim has agreed to become AC Milan's next head coach. Amorim was axed after a torrid 14 months at Old Trafford.

While there is no deal signed just yet, the 41-year-old is expected to fly into Milan later this week and sign a two-year contract to replace Massimiliano Allegri, who was sacked after a catastrophic run of form at the end of the season led to the club missing out on Champions League qualification.

Reports in Italy claim Amorim has said he will forego the year's pay he was still owed by Manchester United following his dismissal in January.

In February, United said Amorim's exit, together with his coaching staff, could cost the club up to £15.9m.

It is not known whether United will have to outline the saving in their next set of financial results, which are due out in the autumn.

However, prior to that, he had become one of Europe's most sought-after young coaches due to his work at Sporting, where he ended the club's 19-year wait for a league title in 2020-21, and then won it again in 2023-24. Amorim replaced Erik ten Hag at Old Trafford in November 2024 after the club rejected his plea to take over at the end of the season.

Last month, sources close to Amorim distanced him from the impending vacancy at former club Benfica as it became apparent Jose Mourinho was about to leave for Real Madrid. Former Fulham boss Marco Silva has since been appointed.

Providing the contracts are signed as expected, Amorim's first game in charge will be a pre-season match at Celtic on 25 July.



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THINK BUSINESS



DIOMANDE AND DIALLO HINT AT EXCITING ROAD AHEAD FOR CÔTE D'IVOIRE

By FIFA.com

Emerse Fae and Nicolas Pepe led the praise for teenage sensation Yan Diomande after Côte d'Ivoire's young stars inspired them to victory over Ecuador.

Has the Atlantic air made Emerse Fae clairvoyant? Prior to his team's showdown with Ecuador, the Côte d'Ivoire coach predicted a "battle", and a close FIFA World Cup 2026™ opening match that would be decided by "the fine margins".

When Sunday rolled around, this was precisely what came to pass, as the Ivorians faced a highly raucous and partisan crowd in a Philadelphia Stadium dominated by yellow shirts.

Coming up against an Ecuadorian side who were

aggressive in the duels and driven on by the unceasing support in the stands, Côte d'Ivoire had to wait until the 90th minute for an Amad Diallo goal to secure a valuable three points and their first ever World Cup victory over South American opposition.

"We were united, we were patient, and we were up for the battle that we were expecting," Fae told FIFA. "I have to congratulate the players, because this is the first World Cup for every single one of them." This may go some way towards explaining the "tension at the start of the game" that Fae also observed.

"It wasn't easy, because we were playing in front of 60,000 Ecuadorians," explained forward Nicolas Pepe. "It felt like we were in enemy territory, but it was a



huge performance for us, which is going to help us with the matches to come."

Sebastian Beccacece's side were unbeaten in 17 games coming into this encounter and had boasted the meanest defence over the course of the CONMEBOL qualifiers. However, Côte d'Ivoire had the shining brilliance of Yan Diomande to call on and eventually wore down Ecuador's resolute back four, led by Willian Pacho.

