

MONEY DAILY



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NHCC PLEDGES SUSTAINABLE HERITAGE CONSERVATION THROUGH COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT

By Cecilia Chiluba



National Conservation Commission (NHCC) has reaffirmed its commitment to promoting sustainable heritage conservation through active community participation and empowerment.

The Commission made the commitment during the ongoing Workshop and Field Project on Entrepreneurship around World Heritage in Africa taking place from 29 June to 2nd July 2026 in Zimbabwe.

Speaking through NHCC East Central Regional Director Muyumbwa Ndiyoi, who represented him at the official opening, NHCC Executive Director Kagosi Mwamulowe said the Commission remains committed to integrating heritage conservation with socio-economic development in surrounding communities.

Mr. Mwamulowe noted that the future of World Heritage Sites depends on a coordinated approach that combines conservation, community development and sustainable economic

Heritage growth. “When local communities derive tangible benefits through sustainable tourism, crafts and entrepreneurship, they naturally become the most committed custodians of heritage resources,” he said.

He emphasized that the workshop represents a strategic intervention aimed at ensuring that communities living around World Heritage Sites directly benefit from the global recognition attached to such heritage resources.

Mr. Mwamulowe stated that UNESCO-supported programmes are designed to empower communities as key actors in conservation by directly linking heritage protection to job creation and sustainable livelihoods.

“The NHCC has embraced this approach as part of its broader agenda of promoting people-centred and sustainable conservation,” Mr. Mwamulowe added.

Meanwhile, the Zambezi River Authority described the initiative as a practical outcome of collaborative

partnerships being implemented under the sustainable development programme for the Mosi-oa-Tunya World Heritage Site.

The Authority stated that effective collaboration has the potential to transform heritage conservation, sustainable development and community empowerment into practical interventions that directly benefit local communities.

And Africa World Heritage Fund Executive Director Dr. Albino Jopela expressed confidence that the workshop would lead to immediate and practical outcomes through the implementation of pilot projects focused on entrepreneurship, job creation and income generation.

Dr. Jopela applauded cooperating partners for their continued commitment to heritage preservation and community development.

In a joint statement, the Zambia and Zimbabwe National Commissions for UNESCO emphasized that heritage conservation should extend beyond

preservation and contribute meaningfully to improving people’s livelihoods.

At the same event, Chief Mosokotwane described Mosi-oa-Tunya as a living heritage deeply connected to the identity and daily lives of local communities, stressing that communities must responsibly benefit from heritage resources they have safeguarded for generations.

And Chief Hwange of Zimbabwe highlighted the need to empower young people and women through entrepreneurship opportunities linked to heritage conservation.

“Many young people possess innovative ideas and talent but often lack the necessary support systems to transform such potential into sustainable livelihoods,” he observed.

According to a statement issued by NHCC Manager – Information and Public Relations, Ndubi Mvula, the workshop has attracted key regional and international stakeholders who have collectively reaffirmed the importance of strengthening the relationship between conservation and community empowerment.

ILLICIT ALCOHOL, CIGARETTE TRADE THREATENS LIVES, REVENUE AS STAKEHOLDERS PUSH FOR CRACKDOWN

By Money Daily Reporter



Government and the private sector have raised concern over the growing threat of illicit trade in alcohol and cigarettes, warning that the illegal activities are costing lives, undermining legitimate businesses and reducing the country’s revenue.

This came to light during a high-level stakeholder meeting convened by the Public Private Dialogue Forum (PPDF) on Wednesday. The meeting brought together Government institutions, regulatory agencies, law enforcement bodies and private sector players to discuss measures aimed at tackling the escalating challenge.

The meeting, co-chaired by the Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry in collaboration with the PPDF, described illicit trade as a national crisis requiring urgent and coordinated intervention.

Stakeholders heard that illicit alcohol has increasingly been associated with rising hospital admissions and deaths, creating additional pressure on Zambia’s healthcare system, while counterfeit and smuggled cigarettes continue to deprive Government of

significant tax revenue and create unfair competition for businesses operating within legal frameworks.

According to a statement issued by PPDF Director Strategic Communication & Partnerships, Francesca Phiri, stakeholders observed that several factors are fueling the problem, including illegal manufacturing of alcohol products outside regulated facilities.

Stakeholders also cited the circulation of counterfeit alcohol and cigarette products, organized smuggling activities through porous borders and other practices such as diversion of transit goods, under-declaration, undervaluation and misrepresentation of product origins.

“The meeting underscored the gravity of illicit trade as a national crisis demanding urgent, coordinated action,” she said.

Ms. Phiri stated that the forum further noted that stakeholders welcomed efforts already being undertaken by authorities to combat the problem.

“Updates shared

during the meeting highlighted progress in enforcement, including the deployment of specialized anti-smuggling units, the use of surveillance drones and artificial intelligence tools to detect suspicious trade patterns, enhanced customs inspections, and improved cross-border intelligence sharing with international partners such as Interpol,” Ms. Phiri added.

She said participants also emphasized that continued collaboration among Government institutions and the private sector would be critical in dismantling criminal networks driving illicit trade.

Stakeholders resolved to strengthen coordination among agencies, intensify enforcement against illegal production and smuggling activities, increase public awareness on the dangers of illicit products and enhance intelligence sharing between public and private institutions.

Ms. Phiri stressed that the initiative reflects Zambia’s commitment to protecting citizens, safeguarding legitimate businesses and securing revenue needed for national development.

ECOBANK COMMITS K142,001 TOWARDS INAUGURAL NAPSA PENSIONERS MARATHON

By Mwiya Mwiya



Ecobank Zambia has pledged K142,001 towards the inaugural NAPSA Pensioners Marathon, an initiative aimed at promoting healthy living, social cohesion and awareness on retirement planning.

Speaking during the sponsorship announcement in Lusaka, NAPSA Director General Muyangwa expressed gratitude to the bank for supporting the marathon with an initial contribution of K101,000, describing the gesture as a strong demonstration of confidence in the initiative's vision.

Mr. Muyangwa stated that the Pensioners Marathon has been designed as more than a sporting event but as a platform to promote healthy lifestyles,

community participation and social security awareness under the theme; "Your Health is Your Wealth."

He said the well-being of members extends beyond financial security, noting that healthy citizens are more productive and better positioned to enjoy retirement.

"This generous contribution reflects Ecobank's confidence in the vision of the Pensioners Marathon and demonstrates the bank's commitment to supporting initiatives that promote healthier communities and contribute to national development," he said.

Mr. Muyangwa added that the success of the marathon will be measured not only by participation numbers but by its long-term impact on awareness

creation, partnerships and community well-being.

Meanwhile, Ecobank Zambia Managing Director Aina Moore, in remarks read on her behalf by Head of Corporate Banking, Richard Musukwa, said the bank was proud to support the inaugural event as part of its commitment to health and wellness.

Ms. Moore stated that the marathon would bring together pensioners, workers, students, corporates and athletes in a shared celebration of unity and wellness, describing it as a national initiative promoting dignity in ageing and social cohesion.

She added that Ecobank Zambia initially committed K100,001 but increased its sponsorship after over 70 staff members expressed interest in participating in

the event, bringing the total support to K142,001.

"This is more than a financial contribution; it is an investment in our people, our communities and the future of Zambia," she added.

Ms. Moore further said Ecobank remains committed to supporting initiatives that strengthen community well-being and encourage active participation in health-focused national programmes.

The NAPSA Pensioners Marathon is scheduled for 25th July 2026 and is expected to attract pensioners, workers, corporates and members of the public in a nationwide wellness campaign promoting active lifestyles and retirement preparedness.

COUNCIL URGES RESIDENTS TO AVOID PLANTING UMBRELLA TREES NEAR ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE

By Money Daily Reporter



Lusaka City Council (LCC) has advised residents to stop planting umbrella trees, also known as Melia azedarach, along roads, pavements, driveways, and other road infrastructure within the city.

Council Public Relations Manager, Chola Mwamba, explained that umbrella trees have aggressive and shallow root systems that spread extensively as the tree matures.

"These roots crack and lift pavements, kerbs, drainage channels, and road surfaces. This damage reduces road durability, increases maintenance costs, and creates safety

hazards for motorists, cyclists, and pedestrians," she said.

She noted that the Council in the past year passed a by-law to encourage tree planting at household level as part of efforts to green Lusaka and improve the urban environment.

Ms. Mwamba, however said umbrella trees must not be planted on household boundaries near road infrastructure, road reserves, drainage lines, or underground services.

She urged residents to observe the recommended planting distance of at least 3 meters from any road infrastructure and to choose tree species

with non-invasive root systems.

"LCC's Parks and Recreation Unit under the Department of Engineering and Infrastructure Development is available to advise on suitable indigenous tree species that provide shade without damaging public assets," Ms. Mwamba added.

"Community cooperation in responsible tree planting is essential to preserving public assets and extending the lifespan of Lusaka's road network."

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EIGHT LOCAL AUTHORITIES JOIN GOVERNMENT SERVICE BUS PLATFORM

By Money Daily Reporter



Dr Gabriel Pollen

Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development says eight Local Authorities have been on-boarded on the Government Service Bus (GSB).

GSB is a 24 Hour-Government digital operational platform that enables citizens to access online services as part of the ongoing e-Council Digitization Project.

According to the Ministry, the eight Local Authorities included in this digital transformation phase are; Lusaka, Ndola, Kitwe, Solwezi, Chingola, Kalulushi, Kalumbila and Chilanga, thereby expanding public Council services onto the ZamPortal, an initiative driven in collaboration with Smart Zambia Institute.

Speaking at a media

briefing today, Permanent Secretary, Dr Gabriel Pollen said the digital migration allows the users to conveniently apply for and make electronic payments for high-priority services including health permits and fire safety certificates, property rates and business levies, market and bus station fees, billboard and banner permits.

“Following the successful go-live of the Lusaka City Council in May, this year, the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development actively on-boarded the other seven Local authorities bringing the cumulative to now eight Councils,” he said.

Dr. Pollen highlighted that the digital migration is part of the Government's broad effort to improve service delivery and efficiency, offering citizens a secure and convenient way to interact with the Local

Authority.

He stated that the development marks a vital step forward in modernizing municipal services and eliminating inefficiencies associated with manual, cash-based transactions.

The Permanent Secretary encouraged all residents and business operators within the connected jurisdictions to fully utilize the 24-hour digital payment platforms to streamline their transactions with the Local Authorities.

“We are following the steady improvement in revenue in the named Local Authorities and I encourage our business community as well as our Citizens to take advantage of this unprecedented phenomenon as we enhance your transaction experience with the Local Authorities,” Dr. Pollen

stated.

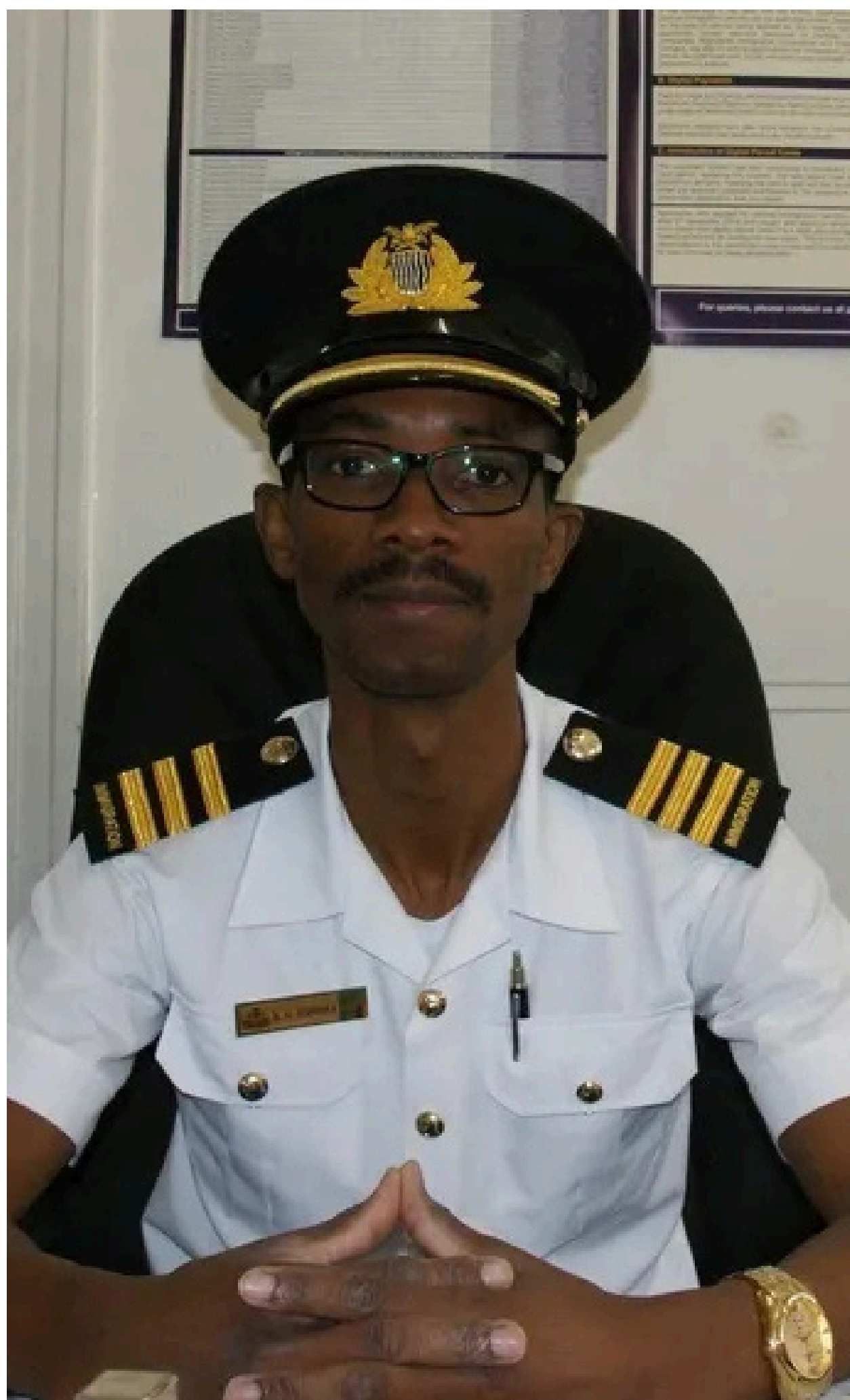
Dr. Pollen further highlighted that after the successful on-boarding of those eight Local Authorities, the Ministry in partnership with Smart-Zambia Institute would officially launch the e-Council s4rvices by end of this month.

“I therefore instruct all Local Authorities to begin raising awareness to their communities, and ensure to establish customer help desks,” he added.

Dr. Pollen reaffirmed that the Government remains committed to working alongside Smart Zambia and other stakeholders to ensure all the 116 Local Authorities are successfully digitalized, ultimately fostering a more responsive, transparent, and service-oriented Local Government sector.

LIVINGSTONE MAN JAILED 2 YEARS, 9 MONTHS FOR AIDING ILLEGAL EXIT OF SEVEN SOMALI NATIONALS

By Money Daily Reporter



Namati Nshinka

A 31-year-old Livingstone man has been sentenced to two years and nine months imprisonment with hard labour after being convicted for aiding and abetting the illegal exit of seven Somali nationals from Zambia.

According to the Department of Immigration and Border Control, Immigration Chief Public Relations Officer Namati Nshinka, the Livingstone Magistrate Court on June 30, 2026 convicted Greyson Mabessu of Libuyu Compound in Livingstone for aiding and abetting prohibited immigrants, contrary to Sections 46(1)(a) and 46(2) of the Immigration and Deportation Act, Chapter 123 of the Laws of Zambia.

Mr. Nshinka said Mabessu was convicted for facilitating the illegal exit of seven Somali nationals aged between 19 and 27 years.

“The conviction followed his apprehension by Immigration Officers based at Victoria Falls Border Control on 21st January, 2026, during routine patrols conducted near the Victoria Falls ZESCO Market,” Mr. Nshinka said.

He explained that officers intercepted Mabessu as he attempted to facilitate the illegal departure of the seven Somali nationals from Zambia into Zimbabwe through the railway line.

Mr. Nshinka further disclosed that at the time of his arrest, Mabessu was using a Toyota Corolla to transport the prohibited immigrants.

He said the Court further ordered that the vehicle be forfeited to the State following the conviction.

“Following the conviction, the Court ordered that the motor vehicle be forfeited to the State,” he stated.

“The Court sentenced Mabessu to two years and nine months imprisonment with hard labour effective 21st January, 2026, the date of his arrest.”



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THINK BUSINESS



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AIRTEL AFRICA REAFFIRMS COMMITMENT TO DIGITAL INNOVATION, CUSTOMER PROTECTION

By Mwiya Mwiya



Airtel Africa has reaffirmed its commitment to driving digital innovation, strengthening customer protection and expanding connectivity across Zambia and the continent as part of its broader strategy to accelerate Africa's digital transformation.

Speaking during a media Round Table in Lusaka, Airtel Zambia Managing Director Hussam Baday said the company remains committed to connecting communities, promoting digital inclusion and contributing to Zambia's social and economic development beyond the provision of telecommunications services.

Mr. Baday stated that the firm continues to leverage its products, services and initiatives to support innovation, empower individuals and create opportunities for communities across the country.

"We deeply value the important role the media plays in informing, educating and engaging the public. Today's engagement reflects our continued commitment to transparency, collaboration and open dialogue as we share Airtel Africa's vision for connectivity, technology and sustainability," he said.

Meanwhile, Airtel Africa Group Chief Executive Officer, Sunil Taldar highlighted the company's investments in education, innovation, environmental sustainability and digital inclusion across Zambia.

Mr. Taldar said Airtel's partnership with UNICEF has enabled the digital connection of about 300 schools, benefiting nearly 90,000 learners while equipping more than 5,200 teachers with digital education skills.

"Around 300 schools have been connected, approximately 90,000 students have gained access to digital education, and

over 5,200 teachers have received digital skills training. We are proud of the impact these initiatives continue to make in schools and surrounding communities," he stressed.

He added that through Airtel's partnership with LICTA, more than 500 innovators have been trained, while over 20 startups have been commercialized and more than 200 jobs created, with over 80 innovation workshops conducted across Zambia in the past year.

Mr. Taldar further said the firm remains committed to empowering women and young people through programmes such as Take Her Further, which trained 200 women in digital skills, supported 100 young people and provided mentorship and technical support to 10 startups.

He also disclosed that Airtel blocks close to 400,000 spam and scam attempts every day in Zambia as part of efforts to protect customers from

digital fraud.

"Innovation must improve people's everyday lives. In Zambia alone, we stop nearly 400,000 spam and scam attempts every day to protect our customers. At the same time, we are investing in broadband, artificial intelligence and digital financial services to ensure Africa is fully prepared for the future digital economy," Mr. Taldar said.

He further revealed that Airtel Africa is investing in three major data centres in Nigeria, Kenya and Côte d'Ivoire to strengthen artificial intelligence capabilities, including the development of large language models in African languages.

Mr. Taldar also announced plans to expand Airtel Money services, with customers expected to soon access international money transfers and stock market transactions through the Mobile Money and MyAirtel applications.

ZAMBIA PUSHES PPP INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN UAE

By Money Daily Reporter



Zambia's Ambassador to the United Arab Emirates (UAE), says the country's ambitious economic growth strategy has created a stable and attractive environment for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI).

Professor Gerry Muuka, noted that the country's strategic location in Southern Africa, coupled with long-standing peace and stability as well as investor-friendly policies, has made Zambia one of the continent's most attractive destinations for international investors.

"President Hakainde Hichilema's commitment to economic reforms, transparency, zero corruption and private-sector-led growth continues to attract billions of dollars in investment to Zambia," Prof. Muuka noted.

He also underscored the importance of the UAE as a gateway connecting Africa, Asia, and Europe, noting that strong air connectivity between Lusaka and Dubai on Emirates Airlines has further strengthened trade and investment relations.

Pro. Muuka made the

remarks when he delivered keynote address in both Dubai and Abu Dhabi, when a high-level delegation from the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Office and the Zambia Credit Guarantee Scheme visited UAE to promote PPP projects to investors in the UAE.

The delegation was led by Dr. Stephen Chanda, Principal Business Development Officer at the PPP Secretariat in Lusaka, and Zambia Credit Guarantee Scheme, Chief Executive Officer, Mary Mumba.

The Zambian delegation visited three of the seven Emirates that make up the UAE —Abu Dhabi (the Capital), Dubai, and the Emirate of Ras Al Khaimah. High level investment seminars were held in Dubai and in Abu Dhabi, aimed at promoting PPP Projects and reaffirming Zambia's position as one of Africa's most attractive and preferred investment destinations.

The promotional tour brought together investors, corporate leaders, businessmen, entrepreneurs, funders, and government officials from both Zambia and the UAE to explore

and showcase investment opportunities across key sectors of the Zambian economy including, but not limited to: Agriculture, Infrastructure, Mining (AIM), Energy, Tourism and Hospitality, Manufacturing, Healthcare, Education, as well as Financial Services.

Speaking on Zambia's PPP framework, Principal Business Development Officer, Dr. Stephen Chanda, outlined the legal and institutional mechanisms that have been established to protect investors and facilitate private sector participation in national development projects.

Dr. Chanda explained that Zambia has created a robust regulatory environment designed to ensure transparency, security, and long-term sustainability for both local and international investors.

He revealed that Zambia's PPP framework has attracted more than US\$19 billion in investments over the past four years, demonstrating growing investor confidence in the country's economic prospects.



GOVT COMMISSIONS K9.6 MILLION JONGOLO DAM IN KALOMO

By Cecilia Chiluba



Government has commissioned the Jongolo Dam in Dundumwezi Constituency, Kalomo district, Southern Province constructed at over K9.6 million. The Dam will directly benefit more than 7,300 people while providing a reliable water source for approximately 5,000 livestock. The facility will also serve surrounding communities by improving access to water for domestic use, livestock watering, agriculture, and other productive economic activities.

Speaking during the commissioning ceremony, Ministry of Water Development and Sanitation Permanent Secretary Eng. Romas Kamanga, said the project marks another important milestone in expanding access to reliable and sustainable water infrastructure across the country. Eng. Kamanga described the project as a significant investment in improving water security, enhancing livelihoods, and supporting sustainable socio-economic development in Southern Province.

He said the commissioning of the Jongolo Dam represents another step towards achieving improved water security, enhanced food production, stronger climate resilience, and sustainable development for the people of Kalomo District and the nation at large.

“Water remains the foundation of sustainable development and investments in water infrastructure are essential for strengthening food security, building resilience to climate change, the engineers, contractors, consultants, local leadership, and community members whose dedication and cooperation contributed to the successful completion of the project.”

Eng. Kamanga emphasized. He said the dam is expected to help communities better withstand recurring droughts and unpredictable rainfall while creating opportunities for increased agricultural production, livestock development, and income generation.

“The project reflects the Government’s unwavering commitment to ensuring that no community is left behind in accessing essential water resources and aligns with national development priorities aimed at promoting rural development, improving livelihoods, and enhancing resilience against the adverse effects of climate change,” he added.

Eng. Kamanga applauded the engineers, contractors, consultants, local leadership, and community members whose dedication and cooperation contributed to the successful completion of the project.

He further encouraged the people of Dundumwezi to take ownership of the dam by protecting it from vandalism, ensuring its proper management and maintenance, and using it responsibly so that it continues to benefit both present and future generations.

“The Ministry of Water Development and Sanitation remains committed to expanding water infrastructure across Zambia to provide more communities with safe, reliable, and sustainable water resources for both domestic and productive use,” Eng. Kamanga said.

CHIEF SEKUTE HAILS SEKUTE FREE ZONE AS PRIME INVESTMENT HUB

By Money Daily Reporter



Chief Emmanuel December 2024. Kazungula, Sekute IV has described the Sekute Economic Free Zone as a unique investment destination with significant potential in trade, logistics, energy, manufacturing, tourism, and hospitality.

The Traditional Leader made the remarks during his visit to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to showcase and attract investments to the Sekute Economic Free Zone located in Kazungula district, the first ever of its kind launched by President Hakainde Hichilema in

December 2024. The promotional tour was organized by the Zambian Embassy in Abu Dhabi, led by Ambassador Professor Gerry Nkombo Muuka, and the Consulate in Dubai and the Northern Emirates, led by Consul General Richard Chinyama Njolomba.

During his presentation to UAE investors in Abu Dhabi, the Traditional Leader noted that the Sekute Economic Free Zone is poised to become a major economic and tourism hub for Southern Africa.

“The project benefits from its proximity to the world-renowned Victoria Falls, national parks, and regional transport corridors, creating opportunities for investors across multiple sectors,” he said.

The Sekute Economic Free Zone has 17,000 hectares of land and is strategically positioned at the intersection of four Southern African nations — Zambia, Zimbabwe, Botswana, and Namibia, with the Kazungula Bridge as the backdrop.



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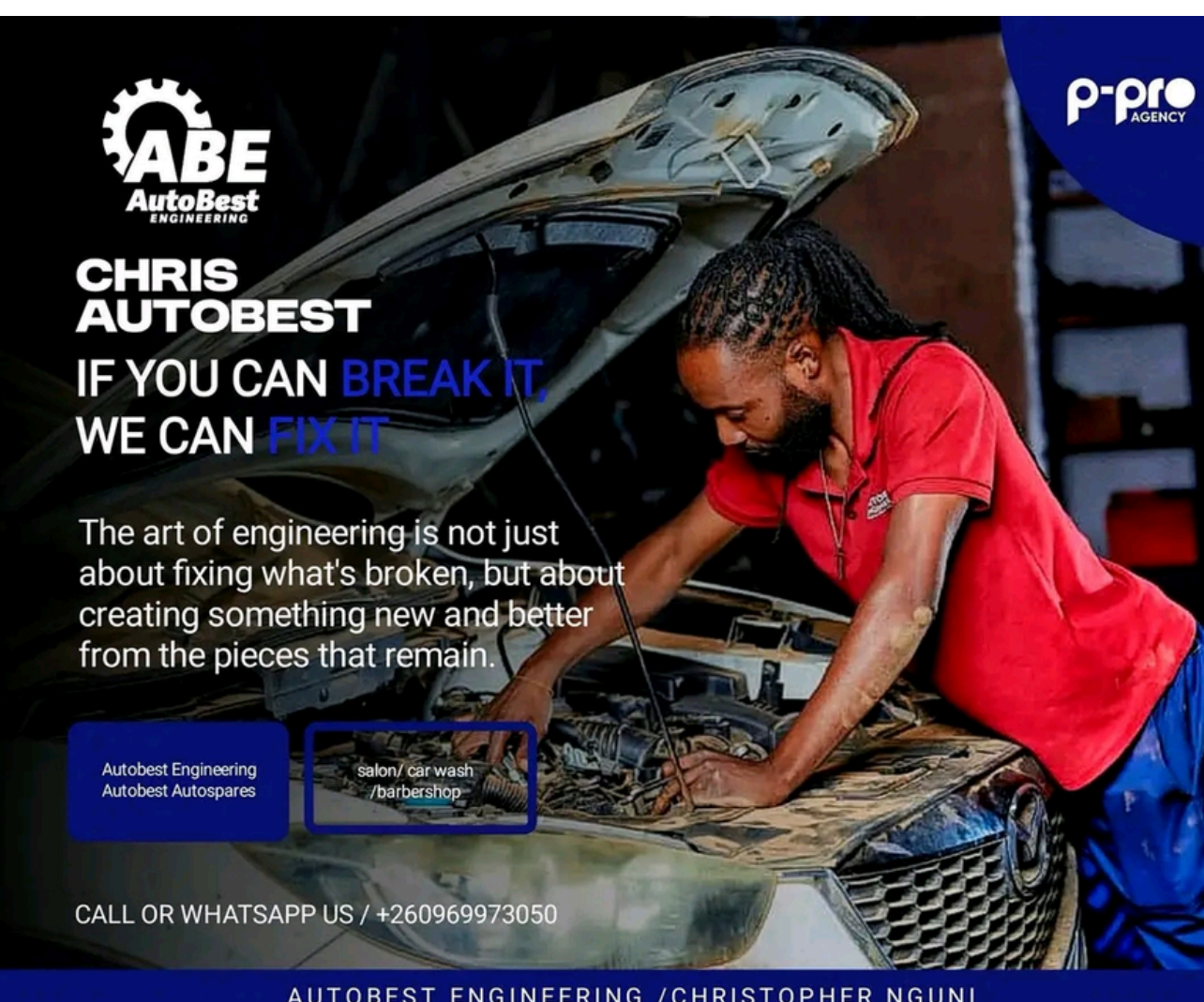
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MACROECONOMIC GAINS MUST BE FELT BY THE COMMON CITIZEN

Zambia's economy is showing encouraging signs of recovery. Inflation has fallen significantly, the Kwacha has regained some strength, progress has been made in restructuring external debt, and improved agricultural output offers renewed hope for economic stability. These are achievements that deserve recognition because they signal that the country's economic fundamentals are gradually improving after years of immense pressure.

However, as the latest Jesuit Centre for Theological Reflection (JCTR) Basic Needs and Nutrition Basket (BNNB) report reminds us, positive economic indicators alone do not put food on the table or reduce the daily struggles of ordinary families. For many households, particularly low-income earners, life remains just as difficult despite the positive headlines surrounding the economy.

The most important measure of economic success is not how impressive macroeconomic statistics appear in official reports. Rather, it is whether an ordinary market trader, teacher, farmer, civil servant, taxi driver or unemployed youth can genuinely feel an improvement in their standard of living.

This is the gap that Zambia must urgently close.

The JCTR report shows that the cost of maintaining a basic standard of living

for a family of five in Lusaka has continued to rise despite the decline in inflation. Between January and June alone, the cost of the basket increased by more than K700, while charcoal, vegetables, beans and other essential household items continued placing enormous pressure on family budgets.

This illustrates an important economic reality that is often misunderstood. Lower inflation does not necessarily mean prices become cheaper. It simply means prices are rising more slowly than before. Families are therefore still paying high prices for food, transport, cooking fuel and other necessities even as inflation moderates.

For households already operating on tight budgets, these costs make the difference between eating three meals a day and skipping meals altogether.

Economic growth that exists only in statistics risks creating frustration among citizens. When people hear repeated announcements about a stronger economy but continue struggling to buy mealie meal, pay rent or afford transport, they naturally begin questioning whether the recovery is reaching them.

Public confidence in economic reforms depends on visible improvements in everyday life.

This does not mean the

macroeconomic reforms have failed. On the contrary, stabilising inflation, restoring investor confidence and strengthening the Kwacha are necessary foundations for long-term development. Without these achievements, the country would likely face even higher prices, reduced investment and slower economic growth.

only improve household welfare but also reduce pressure on forests.

Similarly, sustained investment in agriculture should aim beyond increasing production. Efficient storage facilities, improved transport networks and competitive markets can help reduce food prices for consumers while ensuring farmers receive fair

Statistics such as inflation rates, exchange rates and debt restructuring milestones are important because they provide direction for policymakers and investors. Yet the average citizen measures economic progress differently. They judge the economy by whether they can comfortably feed their families, educate their children, access healthcare and meet monthly expenses without constant financial anxiety.

That is the true test of economic success.

Zambia has made commendable progress in restoring macroeconomic stability. The challenge now is ensuring that these gains move beyond government reports and financial markets into homes, communities and businesses across the country.

Only when the benefits of economic recovery are reflected in lower household costs, rising incomes, greater employment opportunities and improved quality of life will ordinary Zambians fully appreciate the value of the reforms being undertaken.

A stronger economy should not simply exist on paper—it must be experienced in every household. That is when economic recovery becomes meaningful, sustainable and truly inclusive.

MONEY EDITORIAL

returns for their produce.

Social protection programmes must also remain responsive to changing economic realities. Vulnerable households should not be expected to wait indefinitely for macroeconomic improvements to trickle down. Well-targeted support for the poorest citizens can cushion families while broader economic reforms take effect.

The private sector equally has a critical role to play. Stable macroeconomic conditions should encourage businesses to expand operations, invest in production and create employment opportunities. Increased investment must translate into decent jobs, better wages and improved productivity if economic growth is to become meaningful for ordinary citizens.

Ultimately, economic policy should never lose sight of its primary purpose: improving people's lives.

But macroeconomic stability should be viewed as a starting point rather than the final destination.

Government now faces the equally important challenge of ensuring that stability translates into inclusive growth. That means creating jobs, increasing household incomes, supporting small businesses and ensuring essential goods become more affordable over time.

The continued rise in charcoal prices highlighted by JCTR also exposes deeper structural challenges. Many households continue depending on charcoal because alternative sources of energy remain beyond their financial reach. This demonstrates that energy policy, environmental protection and poverty reduction are closely interconnected. Expanding access to affordable electricity, clean cooking technologies and renewable energy solutions would not

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THINK BUSINESS

SMES ENCOURAGED TO UTILISE DIGITAL PAYMENTS

By The Herald



THE Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe (RBZ) has called on small and medium enterprises to utilise digital payments in today's evolving economy as a strategic enabler of financial inclusion, productivity and sustainable economic growth.

This emerged during the World SME Day Commemoration Seminar in Bulawayo on Tuesday.

RBZ chief of digital financial services and licensing, national payments systems, Mrs Julia Njobo, said from a global perspective, digital payments were increasingly

recognised as catalysts for financial inclusion and economic advancement.

"According to Annan, Cheung and Giné (2024), digital payments reduce transaction costs while enabling SMEs to access markets, finance and digital commerce opportunities.

"While the World Bank (2024) Financial Inclusion report highlights that digital financial services are lowering costs, increasing speed, security, and transparency of transactions, enabling access for underserved sections," she said.

She said regionally, Africa remains the global leader in mobile money adoption, leveraging digital payments to bridge financial access gaps and support SME growth.

Mrs Njobo said the State of the Industry Report on Mobile Money by GSMA (2025) indicates that mobile money has evolved from a tool for financial inclusion into a thriving industry with vast business potential.

TANZANIAN ENHANCES INVESTOR-FRIENDLY ENVIRONMENT AS IT LURES MORE POLISH INVESTORS

By Daily News

THE Tanzanian government has reaffirmed its commitment to creating a predictable and investor-friendly business environment as it seeks to attract more Polish investment, with the private sector positioned at the centre of Tanzania's economic transformation.

Permanent Secretary in the President's Office (Planning and Investment), Fredy Msemwa made the remarks earlier on Wednesday when opening the Tanzania-Poland Business Forum in Dar es Salaam where he noted that the government is implementing reforms aimed at ensuring long-term policy

stability, simplifying business regulations and expanding infrastructure to support trade and investment.

Held under the theme "Strengthening Poland-Tanzania Economic Partnerships for Sustainable Growth through Trade and Investment," the forum brought together government officials and business leaders from both countries to explore investment opportunities and forge new commercial partnerships.

Additionally, the PS stated that the government is committed to maintaining consistent policies that will

allow investors to plan with confidence over the long term.

"We are putting the private sector at the centre of building this economy. Our role as government is to continue strengthening policy credibility and consistency while creating a competitive and business-friendly environment," he said.

Additionally, he noted that Tanzania is finalising a comprehensive review of its business environment to make the country one of the most competitive investment destinations globally.



EXCHANGE RATES

ZMW/USD Commercial Bank Rates for 02/07/2026

Bank Name	9:30				12:30				15:30		
	Interbank Rates		Retail Rates		Interbank Rates		Retail Rates		Interbank Rates		Retail
	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	Buy
ABSA BANK ZAMBIA PLC	18.2000	18.2500	18.1500	18.4584	18.2000	18.2500	18.1500	18.4584	18.2000	18.2500	18.1500
ACCESS BANK ZAMBIA LIMITED	18.1700	18.2200	18.1500	18.3750	18.2200	18.2700	18.2200	18.4200	18.2200	18.2700	18.2200
BANK OF CHINA (ZAMBIA) LIMITED	18.1500	18.2000	18.1000	18.3300	18.1700	18.2200	18.1200	18.3700	18.1700	18.2200	18.1200
CITIBANK ZAMBIA LIMITED	18.1750	18.2250	18.1000	18.4000	18.2000	18.2500	18.1000	18.4000	18.2000	18.2500	18.1000
ECOBANK ZAMBIA LIMITED	18.2000	18.2500	18.0500	18.3750	18.1750	18.2250	18.1000	18.3500	18.2000	18.2500	18.1500
FIRST ALLIANCE BANK ZAMBIA LIMITED	18.2000	18.2500	18.2000	18.4200	18.2200	18.2700	18.2200	18.4200	18.2300	18.2800	18.2

Source: Bank of Zambia (BOZ)



KAWANA HAILS SPORTS JOURNALISTS AS ABSA REWARDS EXCELLENCE

By Lucky Chama

Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Information and Media, Thabo Kawana, has commended sports journalists for their vital role in documenting Zambia's football history, describing the media as an indispensable partner in the growth of the country's game.

Speaking during the 2026 Absa Cup Journalists Awards held in Lusaka on Thursday morning, Mr. Kawana said journalism has played a significant role in transforming the Absa Cup from a football competition

into a national legacy through professional storytelling.

Mr. Kawana said the Zambia National Sports Policy recognizes sport as an important tool for economic and social development, adding that private sector partners such as Absa Bank continue to contribute meaningfully to that vision.

He praised Absa Bank for introducing the awards, saying the initiative acknowledges that football's success extends beyond

what happens on the pitch.

"The success of football in our country is not defined only by what happens on the pitch. It is defined by how those moments are captured, interpreted, and shared with millions of Zambians. This initiative affirms that the work of journalists matters," Mr. Kawana said.

The Permanent Secretary also commended the Football Association of Zambia (FAZ) and the Zambia Premier League (ZPL) for ensuring that the

Absa Cup remains one of the country's most respected football competitions.

He urged journalists to continue upholding professionalism, stressing that accuracy, fairness and credibility remain essential in an era of rapidly evolving information.

Meanwhile, Absa Bank Zambia Managing Director Dr. Mizinga Melu described journalists as strategic partners whose work has given the Absa Cup its voice over the years.

During the ceremony, ZNBC's Chansa Kunda won the Best Television award, Patrick Nyangulu scooped the Best Radio accolade, while Zambia Daily Mail journalist Dinawe Sempelwe was named Best Print Journalist.

Kalumiana Kalumiana won the Best Online category, with Jean Serge Mandala receiving the Best Photography award. Each winner walked away with K10,000 in prize money.

TANZANIA GOLFERS SHINE AT ZAMBIA LADIES AMATEUR OPEN



By Daily News - Zambia's Annie Nsama won TANZANIAN golfers produced a strong showing at the Zambia Ladies Amateur Open Strokeplay Championship at Lusaka Golf Club, with three players securing top-10 finishes in a field of more than 120 competitors from across Southern and Eastern Africa.

Neema Olomi led Tanzania's challenge after finishing fourth on 257 (+38), while Ayne Magombe placed sixth on 264 (+45). Loveness Frank Mungure completed the country's top performances in eighth place on 268 (+49).

Former Tanzania Ladies Golf Union (TLGU) honorary secretary Yasmin Chali also impressed with a top30 finish.

TLGU president Timea Chogo praised the Tanzanian contingent for their performances at what she described as one of the region's most competitive amateur tournaments. "Special congratulations to Neema, Ayne and Loveness for securing three top-10 finishes and representing Tanzania well," Chogo said. She also commended Chali for her commitment and performance, adding: "We are proud of our golfers and must continue building on this momentum."

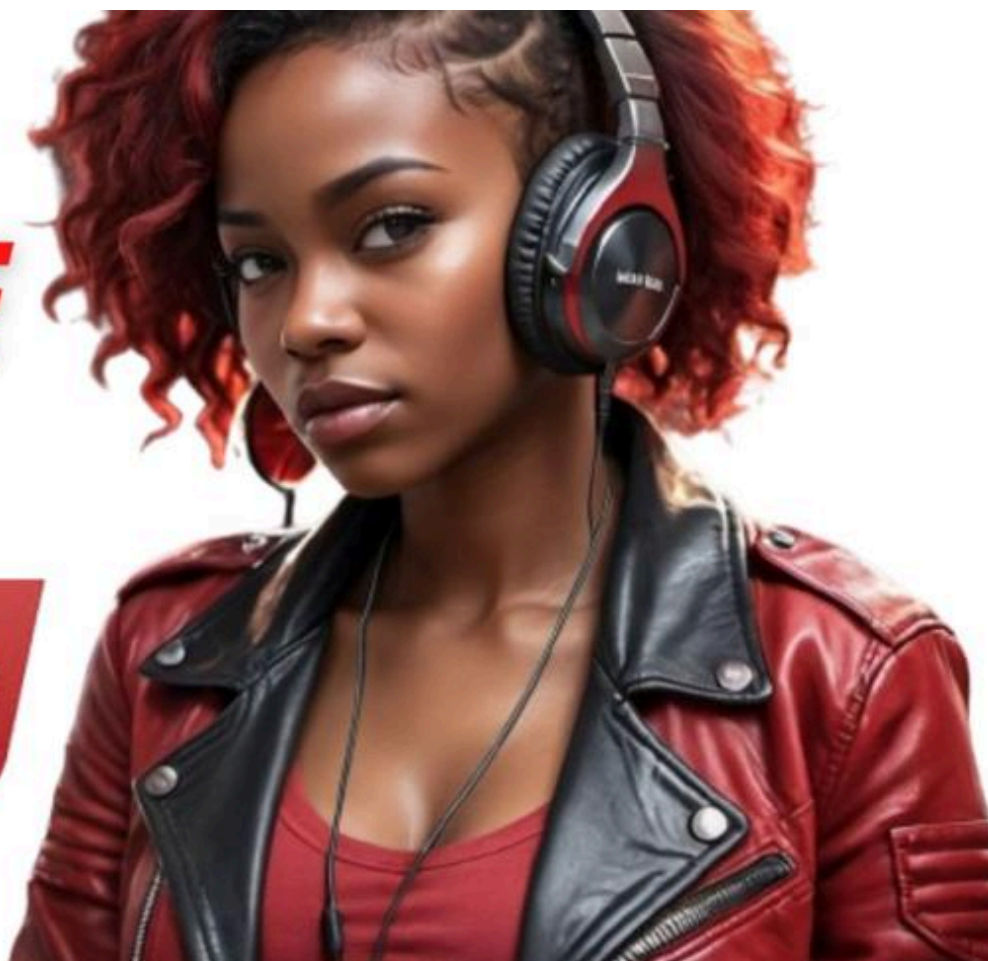


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NOCZ ATTENDS OLYMPIC SOLIDARITY ENGLISH FORUM AHEAD OF LA28 OLYMPIC GAMES

By NOCZ Media

The National Olympic Committee of Zambia (NOCZ) is among the National Olympic Committees participating in the Olympic Solidarity English Forum taking place in Nairobi, Kenya, from 2 to 3 July 2026, as preparations for the LA28 Olympic Games gather momentum.

The forum has brought together representatives from English-speaking African National Olympic Committees to strengthen Games planning, enhance operational readiness, and share best practices ahead of the Olympic Games in Los Angeles.

Representing the NOCZ are Treasurer Victor Banda, who will serve as Team Zambia's Chef de Mission for LA28, and Accounts Officer

Chaelelwa Kazika, who will serve as the Games Administrator.

Over the two-day forum, delegates are discussing key areas of Games preparation, including the LA28 venue masterplan, competition schedules, athlete and National Olympic Committee journeys, accommodation, transport operations, ticketing, media accreditation, delegation registration, athlete selection, operational planning, Games budgeting, Safe Sport, anti-doping, team communications, and strategies for ensuring efficient management of Olympic delegations.

The programme also provides National Olympic Committees with practical resources and guidance to strengthen their



preparations for the LA28 Olympic Games.

The NOCZ remains committed to ensuring Team Zambia is well prepared for future Olympic Games through continued participation in international capacity-building programmes and knowledge-sharing initiatives aimed at enhancing the country's performance and Games management.



GLASGOW 2026 Commonwealth Games

July 23 to 2 August, 2026 Glasgow, Scotland



Catherine Mwape Boxing

www.nocz.org



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