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ZAFOD URGES ELECTORAL STAKEHOLDERS TO STRENGTHEN DISABILITY INCLUSION AHEAD OF 2026 ELECTIONS

By Cecilia Chiluba



Zambia Federation of Disability Organizations (ZAFOD) has called on electoral stakeholders, including the Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ), political parties, civil society organizations and development partners, to strengthen disability-inclusive electoral processes ahead of the 2026 General Elections.

ZAFOD Federal Director Justine Bbakali, urged stakeholders to ensure that voter education, election information and civic engagement initiatives are available in accessible formats, including Braille, sign language, audio and simplified information, to enable persons with disabilities to participate fully in the electoral process.

Mr. Bbakali stressed that disability inclusion must extend beyond symbolic representation and should encompass accessible information, reasonable accommodation, meaningful participation, dignity and respect throughout the electoral cycle.

He also called on all political parties, independent candidates and campaign teams to deliberately integrate disability inclusion into their campaign planning and public communication strategies.

“Inclusive campaigns not only broaden democratic participation, but also demonstrate a commitment to representing the interests of all citizens,” Mr. Bbakali said.

Mr. Bbakali further encouraged media organizations to continue promoting inclusive broadcasting by consistently providing qualified sign language interpretation during political programmes, debates and election-related broadcasts.

He called for reasonable accommodations, including additional time where interpretation is required, and the use of captioning, audio formats, Braille, digital accessibility tools and easy-to-read materials.

Mr. Bbakali welcomed

efforts by media institutions, including the national broadcaster to provide platforms for political candidates to engage citizens ahead of the 2026 General Elections.

He particularly commended the inclusion of a sign language interpreter during a recent edition of Race to Mandahill that featured a candidate with hearing impairment, describing the move as a positive step towards making political discourse more accessible.

Mr. Bbakali, however, observed that the programme format did not adequately accommodate the additional time required for sign language interpretation, highlighting the need for broader implementation of reasonable accommodation measures.

“Affirmative action should not be misunderstood as conferring an unfair advantage. Rather, it is a deliberate approach aimed at addressing historical, structural and systematic barriers that continue to limit the participation of

persons with disabilities,” he stated.

He noted that true equality is not achieved by treating everyone the same, but by providing support and accommodations necessary to ensure equitable opportunities and outcomes.

Mr. Bbakali observed that many campaign activities, including political rallies, media engagements, digital content and voter information, continue to be disseminated without sign language interpretation, audio description, Braille or other accessible communication formats, limiting equal access to information for many persons with disabilities.

“As Zambia prepares for the 2026 General Elections, ZAFOD remains committed to working collaboratively with all stakeholders to promote elections in which every citizen, including persons with disabilities, is able to participate fully, effectively and on an equal basis with others,” Mr. Bbakali added.

COUNCIL DRILLS 20 CDF FUNDED BOREHOLES BETWEEN 2022, 2026

By Money Daily Reporter



Lusaka City Council (LCC) says it has drilled and installed 20 boreholes in selected areas of the city between 2022 and 2026, through the Constituency Development Fund (CDF).

Council Public Relations Manager, Chola Mwamba said this is part of ongoing efforts to improve water reticulation in communities that previously experienced erratic water supply.

Ms. Mwamba stressed that the CDF projects targeted schools, markets, health facilities, and residential compounds across Lusaka Central, Munali, Matero, Mandevu, and Kanyama constituencies.

“In Lusaka Central, boreholes were drilled at Thorn-Park Primary School,

Burma Primary Compound,” Ms. Mwamba stated.

Combined School,” she said.

“In Matero, works included the construction of the Madimba Water Reticulation System and the drilling of a solar-powered borehole with water reticulation at Matero Stadium.

She added that in Mandevu, the Council drilled a borehole at Mutambe Ground, alongside two commercial boreholes with transmission pipes in Ng’ombe Compound.

“In Munali, LCC rehabilitated a borehole at Kamanga Clinic and upgraded water reticulation at Mahatma Gandhi Community Ground.

In Kanyama, solar-powered boreholes with water reticulation were installed in Linda

Ms. Mwamba said in addition to borehole drilling, the Local Authority has also undertaken rehabilitation works and the installation of water reticulation systems at markets and other public facilities, including Chunga Market and Lubuto.

“The Council also wishes to inform the public that works to improve water supply are ongoing in other areas, with more solar-powered boreholes and reticulation systems planned for 2026 to expand coverage and reduce dependence on erratic supply,” she added. “LCC reaffirms its commitment to working with communities and stakeholders to ensure access to clean and safe water for all residents of Lusaka.”

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CRAZ DESCRIBES BUS FARE REDUCTION AS MOCKERY

By Cecilia Chiluba



Commuter Rights Association of Zambia (CRAZ) has described the recently announced reduction in bus fares as insignificant, as it offers little relief to low-income households struggling with the high cost of living.

On Thursday, Road Transport and Safety Agency (RTSA) announced the reduction in bus fares nationwide following recent downward adjustments in fuel pump prices.

Fares for local routes including Lusaka, Copperbelt and other towns have reduced by K1, while those for peri-Urban routes between Lusaka and surrounding areas, have dropped by K3, Inter-Mine Routes on the Copperbelt by K3 and Inter-City Routes by 6.2%.

However, CRAZ President Aaron Kamuti said the

reduction does not reflect the economic realities facing commuters, whose incomes have remained largely unchanged despite the adjustment in transport charges.

Mr. Kamuti told Money News in an interview that all stakeholders have been affected by the current economic challenges, noting that many workers' salaries have remained stagnant while businesses are also grappling with reduced money in circulation.

"I think we need to appreciate one another. It is not a one-sided matter, all of us are affected, and we know very well that our people's salaries are stagnant. Even for those who are doing business, there is no money in circulation, so things are stagnant," he said.

He argued that the K1 reduction on local bus fares is too small to

make a meaningful difference for ordinary commuters.

"If you look at the figures which came out, especially for local buses, the K1 reduction across the board does not help the situation. Even for long-distance buses, we are talking about the same thing. The reductions are not making sense, and it's a mockery," Mr. Kamuti stated.

Mr. Kamuti called on RTSA to broaden consultations before approving fare adjustments, stating that the concerns of passengers and other key stakeholders should be taken into account. He said authorities should not rely solely on proposals from bus operators when determining public transport fares.

"Sometimes when they receive a communiqué from the operators, they need to engage the major stakeholders because these are the people who

are affected, especially the passengers," he emphasized.

Mr. Kamuti further noted that many commuters already negotiate lower fares directly with bus crews, particularly during off-peak periods, meaning the announced reductions merely formalize discounts that have long existed in practice.

"If we talk of a reduction in bus fares, all this has been done already because most of the time we negotiate our way with the bus crew before boarding. So already the reductions on the fares have been there for a long time. Going forward, what has happened now does not make sense," Mr. Kamuti added.

He urged RTSA to adopt a more consultative approach to future fare reviews to ensure decisions provide meaningful relief to the travelling public, particularly low-income households and students.

GOVERNMENT LAUNCHES MULIMI360 DIGITAL PLATFORM TO MODERNISE AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICES

By Money Daily Reporter



The Ministry of Agriculture and Development has launched a nationwide sensitisation programme on the Mulimi360 E-Extension Platform, describing it as a major step towards modernising agricultural extension services and accelerating digital transformation in Zambia's agriculture sector.

The sensitisation programme commenced today at the Mulungushi International Conference Centre, bringing together stakeholders to familiarise them with the digital platform, which is expected to improve access to agricultural information and strengthen service delivery to farmers.

Speaking during the meeting, Permanent Secretary for Technical Services John Mulongoti said embracing innovative digital technologies was critical to building climate resilience, improving food and nutrition security, creating employment opportunities and driving sustainable socio-economic growth.

Mr Mulongoti further urged Ministry personnel to fully embrace and champion the platform, stressing that its long-term success will depend on collective ownership, strong collaboration among departments and the continuous provision of accurate and reliable information to farmers across the country.

He commended the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the European Union, CIMMYT, the Smart Zambia Institute and the Zambia Meteorological Department for their technical and financial support in developing the platform under the Sustainable Intensification of Smallholder Farming Systems in Zambia (SIFAZ) Project.

ZCTU HAILS GOVT FOR PENSION REFORMS

By Money Daily Reporter



Zambia Congress of Trade Unions (ZCTU) has hailed government for implementing pension reforms that have safeguarded the future of thousands of workers and pensioners.

In June, President Hakaiinde Hichilema signed into law four landmark Pension Bills aimed at transforming Zambia's pension system through enhanced benefits, improved access to retirement savings, and strengthened sustainability of pension schemes.

The reforms include increased minimum pensions, improved income replacement rates, structured lump-sum access to retirement benefits, and strengthened governance of pension institutions.

Speaking during a courtesy call on the Luapula Provincial Administration in Mansa today, ZCTU delegation leader David Siamutwa said the pension reforms

recently signed into law by President Hakaiinde Hichilema were timely and necessary to prevent the collapse of major pension schemes.

Mr. Siamutwa, who is also Dynamic Teachers Union of Zambia General Secretary, said the reforms addressed longstanding challenges that had persisted for decades and ensured the sustainability of pension funds for current and future retirees.

He noted that without decisive action, pension institutions such as the Public Service Pensions Fund (PSPF) and the Local Authorities Superannuation Fund (LASF) risked financial instability, potentially leaving thousands of workers without retirement benefits.

"The reforms are not merely policy changes but interventions designed to protect workers, improve retirement benefits, and strengthen social security for generations to come," he said.

Mr. Siamutwa hailed President Hichilema for implementing reforms that many had hesitated to undertake despite growing concerns about the future of pension schemes.

He further disclosed that ZCTU, working alongside the National Pension Scheme Authority (NAPSA) and the Public Service Pensions Fund, had embarked on a nationwide sensitization programme aimed at educating workers on the new pension laws and dispelling misinformation surrounding the reforms.

"The exercise would help workers understand the benefits of the reforms, including improved pension sustainability, enhanced retirement benefits, and greater financial security after retirement," Mr. Siamutwa explained.

And Luapula Province Deputy Permanent Secretary Evans Sikabbubba, welcomed the delegation and commended the initiative to take pension awareness directly

to workers.

Mr. Sikabbubba stressed the importance of continuous sensitization, stating that public understanding was critical whenever major reforms were introduced.

"Many government programmes initially faced resistance due to inadequate information but later gained widespread acceptance after citizens experienced their benefits," Mr. Sikabbubba stated.

He encouraged ZCTU and pension institutions to intensify public education efforts across Luapula's 12 districts and 20 constituencies to ensure that workers fully appreciated the value of the reforms.

Mr. Sikabbubba said the reforms form part of Government's broader agenda to improve the welfare of workers, strengthen social protection systems, and build a more secure future for all Zambians ahead of retirement.

ECONOMIST PREDICTS STRONGER KWACHA NEXT WEEK ON IMPROVED FOREIGN EXCHANGE SUPPLY

By Cecilia Chiluba



An Economist has projected that the Zambian Kwacha is likely to strengthen next week, citing improved conditions in the market.

Speaking in an interview with Money News, Misozi Phiri said this week has been characterized by higher supply conditions, largely driven by increased interbank trading activity.

"We expect the Kwacha to be stronger next week as this week has seen higher supply conditions, and most market players may sit

on the fence awaiting a more favourable buying rate," Ms. Phiri said.

She explained that the improved supply of foreign currency in the market is being triggered by interbank trades, which have helped ease pressure on the exchange rate.

Ms. Phiri noted that as market participants wait for more attractive buying rates, demand for foreign currency could remain subdued, providing further support for the Kwacha in the coming week.

According to Trading Economics, the

USD/Kwacha exchange rate fell to 18.02 today July 9, 2026, down 0.85% from the previous session.

Over the past month, the Zambian Kwacha has weakened 2.80%, but it is up by 23.07% over the last 12 months.

The Kwacha's performance remains closely watched by businesses, investors and consumers, as movements in the exchange rate have a direct impact on the cost of imports, inflation and overall economic activity.



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MINISTRY OF DEFENCE HANDS OVER 190 HOUSING UNITS TO ZAMBIA ARMY AT MIKANGO BARRACKS

By Cecilia Chiluba



Ministry of Defence has handed over 190 newly built furnished housing units to the Zambia Army at the Kenneth David Kaunda Barracks, commonly known as Mikango Barracks in Chongwe District.

The housing units which include 10 High Cost, 62 Medium Cost and 118 Low Cost Houses, were built by Zhongmei Engineering Group, contracted by the Ministry of Defence.

Permanent Secretary, Maambo Haamaundu said the Ministry is elated that the houses are now ready for occupation by Officers and Non-Commissioned Officers.

Speaking during the

handover ceremony, Mr. Haamaundu stated that the Ministry's decision to build the houses is to bridge the gap in the housing deficit for military personnel.

He disclosed that over 600 housing units are also nearing completion at the Buffalo Park Barracks in Lusaka's Chalala area.

"The water and sewerage line being laid at Buffalo Park Barracks will also benefit residents of Chalala, Chilenje and surrounding areas," he stated.

Mr. Haamaundu stressed that government's objective is to improve the living standard of the men and women in uniform.

"The Ministry wants to provide modern houses to

military personnel in all the Services under the Ministry so that they can be motivated as they work to defend the territorial integrity of the country and preserve it's sovereignty," Mr. Haamaundu added.

And Zambia Army Commander, Lt Gen Geoffrey Zyelee expressed gratitude to government for providing the new housing units to personnel.

In a speech read for him by Brig Gen Maybin Muyanga, Lt Gen Zyelee, said the Command's vision is of a modernized military and the works done at Kenneth David Kaunda Barracks fit into that vision.

"The provision of descent housing for troops is a morale booster," he said.

Meanwhile, Zhongmei Engineering Group Project Manager, Ye Xinjin said the company delivered the project on time due to an excellent working relationship with the consultant the Ministry of Infrastructure, Housing and Urban Development and the client, the Ministry of Defence.

Mr. Ye pledged that his company will continue to maintain the houses even though they have now been handed over to the Zambia Army.

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

ZAMBIA'S DATA, AI PROGRESS ATTRACT GLOBAL RECOGNITION - PROF. MALUNGO

By Money Daily Reporter



National Institute of Public Administration (NIPA) Executive Director Professor Jacob Malungo says Zambia's progress in evidence-based policymaking, decentralisation and digital transformation is increasingly earning recognition across Africa and beyond, with the country emerging as a model for development planning and public sector innovation.

Speaking during a Zambia Statistics Agency (ZamStats) public forum on Gross Domestic Product (GDP) rebasing held on the sidelines of the recently concluded Zambia International Trade Fair, Professor Malungo said reliable official statistics remain critical for effective policymaking, implementation and national development.

He said ZamStats plays a vital role in producing quality national statistics that support informed decision-making by Government, businesses, researchers, development partners and the public.

Professor Malungo stressed the need for stronger collaboration among institutions to ensure official statistics are better understood, widely utilised and fully integrated into national development planning.

Drawing on his international

engagements, including his role as regional chair of institutes of national administration and development, Professor Malungo said Zambia's reform agenda continues to attract positive attention from other African countries.

He singled out the country's decentralisation programme as one of the reforms positioning Zambia as a reference point for strengthening local governance and improving service delivery.

"What we are doing in Zambia is phenomenal. When you engage with colleagues and institutions outside the country, you begin to appreciate the value of the progress being made. Zambia's development trajectory is increasingly being viewed as a model for Africa and other parts of the world," Professor Malungo said.

He added that feedback from regional and international stakeholders points to Zambia's growing reputation as a country embracing data-driven governance and institutional reforms.

Professor Malungo urged citizens to place greater confidence in official statistics, saying data on economic activity, livelihoods and life expectancy continue to

provide valuable insights for national planning.

He also highlighted the growing importance of artificial intelligence (AI), encouraging institutions to collaborate in harnessing emerging technologies to improve communication, citizen engagement and public service delivery.

Professor Malungo revealed that NIPA has already integrated AI-enabled systems capable of responding to public inquiries around the clock.

"Artificial intelligence has arrived and is transforming the way institutions operate. As a country, we need to develop the capabilities necessary to leverage these technologies for communication, service delivery, and development planning," he said.

He said the combination of robust statistical systems and AI presents Zambia with an opportunity to strengthen governance, improve public sector efficiency and accelerate national development.

The ZamStats public forum was organised to enhance public understanding of GDP rebasing and its role in ensuring that Zambia's economic statistics accurately reflect the current structure, size and dynamics of the economy.



GOVT DIGITAL PAYMENT PLATFORMS COLLECT OVER K8.8 BILLION, EXPAND ACCESS TO PUBLIC SERVICES

By Cecilia Chiluba



Office of Accountant General says Government's digital payment and service delivery platforms have so far collected over K8.8 billion while expanding access to public services.

Speaking during the recently concluded 2026 Zambia International Trade Fair, on behalf of the Accountant General, Nsandi Manza, Ministry of Finance and National Planning Principal Accountant, Daniel Mwewa said the platforms have strengthened financial accountability, improved transparency, and supports Zambia's broader digital transformation agenda.

Mr. Mwewa stated that the Government Service Bus (GSB), the Government Electronic Payment Gateway (GePG), ZamPortal, and ZamPay have become central pillars of the State's efforts to modernize public service delivery and improve the efficiency of public financial management.

"The platforms now enable citizens and businesses to

digitally driven a economy. Government institutions, and local authorities, thereby helping bridge service delivery gaps while supporting the development of a modern and inclusive digital economy," he noted. Meanwhile, Ministry of Labour and Social Security Permanent Secretary Zacharia Luhanga said the digital transformation initiatives being championed by the Ministry of Finance and National Planning as well as Smart Zambia are helping improve productivity, efficiency, and service delivery across public institutions.

Mr. Mwewa noted that the Government has extended the digital payment ecosystem to local authorities, with eight Councils already onboarded while plans are underway to roll out the platform to all 116 local authorities across the country.

"The expansion now allows residents and businesses to make electronic payments for property rates, business levies, permits, and other local authority services," Mr. Mwewa said. "Since the local authority rollout commenced approximately one month ago, collections of about K21.7 million have already been recorded through the system."

He stressed that early results from participating councils indicate that digital platforms are helping improve revenue collection efficiency and strengthen financial oversight, citing Lusaka City Council as one example where collections have increased significantly following the introduction of online payment facilities.

"The digital ecosystem is creating a seamless interface connecting citizens, businesses, financial institutions,

central Government institutions, and local authorities, thereby helping bridge service delivery gaps while supporting the development of a modern and inclusive digital economy," he noted.

Meanwhile, Ministry of Labour and Social Security Permanent Secretary Zacharia Luhanga said the digital transformation initiatives being championed by the Ministry of Finance and National Planning as well as Smart Zambia are helping improve productivity, efficiency, and service delivery across public institutions.

Speaking during a visit to the Ministry's pavilion at the Trade Fair, Mr. Luhanga said the Government's investments in technology are generating operational efficiencies, reducing administrative costs, and creating opportunities for resources to be redirected towards national development priorities.

"Human capital remains the most valuable asset in any institution and the benefits of digital transformation can only be fully realized when accompanied by a culture of productivity, discipline, and effective time management," Mr. Luhanga emphasized.

He urged public service workers to embrace the digital solutions being deployed through Smart Zambia, noting that technology should be viewed as a strategic productivity tool rather than merely an innovation platform.

JULY 6 WAS FINAL ADMINISTRATIVE DEADLINE FOR CANDIDATE RESIGNATIONS - ECZ

By Money Daily Reporter



Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ) says it had set 6th July 2026 as the administrative deadline for the submission of candidate resignations to facilitate the removal of their names from ballot papers for the August General Elections.

In a statement, Commission Corporate Affairs Manager, Patricia Luhanga said the deadline was set to allow for the commencement of printing ballot papers for the National Assembly, Mayoral/Council Elections and Councillor elections, which began on the same date.

"The Electoral Commission hereby

process had already commenced.

and the general public that 6th July 2026 was the administrative cut-off date for the receipt of candidate resignations for the purposes of removing candidates' names from the ballot papers for the 2026 General Election, as printing of ballot papers for the National Assembly, Mayoral/Council Elections and Councillor Elections commenced on that date," Ms. Luhanga said.

She explained that candidates who submitted their resignations after 6th July 2026, or who resign after that date, will still have their names appear on the ballot papers, as the printing

She said where a ballot paper contains the name of a candidate who has subsequently resigned, the Commission will issue a Local Notice to clarify that such candidate is no longer eligible to contest the election. "The Commission encourages all candidates and members of the public to take note of this information," she added.



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BRUCE MWAPE'S LEGACY WILL FOREVER ECHO IN ZAMBIAN FOOTBALL

There are moments in sport when statistics alone fail to capture the true measure of a person. Trophies, medals and qualification records may tell part of the story, but they rarely reveal the sacrifices, resilience and belief that make extraordinary achievements possible. The passing of former Copper Queens head coach Bruce Mwape at the age of 67 is one such moment.

Zambia has not simply lost a football coach. It has lost a visionary who transformed the fortunes of women's football and changed the way the nation viewed the women's game.

Bruce Mwape inherited a Copper Queens side with undeniable talent but limited opportunities and recognition. Over the years, he patiently built a team that would become one of Africa's most respected women's national sides. His work was never about quick success. It was about creating a winning culture founded on discipline, unity and unwavering belief.

The milestones achieved under his leadership speak for themselves.

He guided Zambia to its first-ever FIFA Women's World Cup appearance in 2023, a feat that many once believed was beyond the country's reach. He also

steered the Copper Queens to back-to-back Olympic Games in Tokyo 2020 and Paris 2024, placing Zambia among an elite group of nations consistently competing on the world's biggest sporting stages.

Perhaps one of his defining moments came in Morocco in 2022, when Zambia secured a historic bronze medal at the Women's Africa Cup of Nations. It was more than just a podium finish. It announced to the continent that the Copper Queens had arrived as genuine contenders.

Yet Bruce Mwape's greatest achievement cannot simply be measured by tournaments qualified for or medals won.

He inspired a generation.

Young girls across Zambia who once had few role models in football suddenly saw Barbra Banda, Racheal Kundananji, Grace Chanda and many others competing against the world's finest. Those players, now admired globally, flourished under an environment where they were trusted, challenged and encouraged to dream bigger.

Behind every successful player stood a coach who believed that Zambian

women deserved a place among football's elite.

The transformation of women's football in Zambia has also carried social significance. The success of the Copper Queens has helped break stereotypes, attracted greater investment into the women's game and inspired thousands of young girls to pursue football

citizens whose service transcends ordinary duty, and Bruce Mwape undoubtedly earned that distinction.

His passing also offers an opportunity for reflection.

The greatest way to honour Bruce Mwape is not merely through heartfelt tributes, moments of silence or funeral speeches. His true legacy must

Football is often described as the beautiful game because it creates memories that endure beyond generations. Bruce Mwape gave Zambia many such memories. From emotional Olympic qualifications to unforgettable World Cup celebrations and historic continental success, he united a nation through football and proved that impossible dreams can become reality with commitment and belief.

As the nation mourns, it should also celebrate a life well lived in service to sport. Bruce Mwape's name now belongs among the architects of modern Zambian football. His contribution extended beyond tactics and team selections. He gave confidence to a generation, dignity to the women's game and hope to countless young footballers.

Legends are remembered not because they never left us, but because what they built continues long after they are gone.

Bruce Mwape may have left the touchline, but his legacy will forever echo across every football pitch where a young Zambian girl dares to dream.

be preserved through continued investment in women's football. Zambia must ensure that the pathways he helped create remain open for future generations.

Coaching development, youth academies, improved domestic leagues and better support for female athletes would all stand as living monuments to his life's work.

The Copper Queens themselves now carry an added responsibility. Every time they wear the national jersey, they will be representing not only the hopes of millions of Zambians but also the enduring legacy of a man who helped shape their journey. Their future successes will inevitably carry traces of Bruce Mwape's influence.



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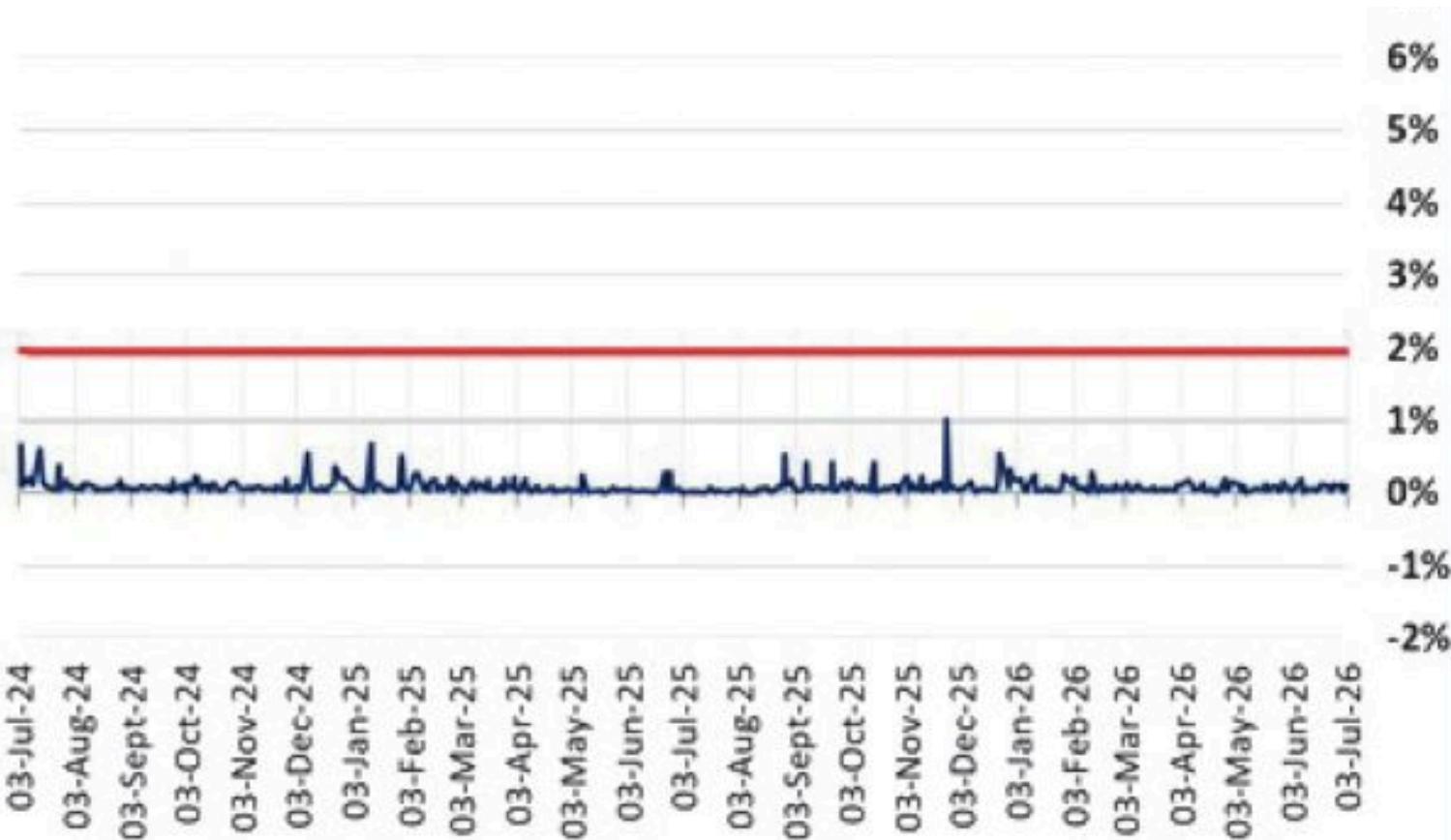


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UNIT SEES RENEWED IMF PUSH FOR DEVALUATION

By The Nation



The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) says it foresees the International Monetary Fund (IMF) continuing its push for currency realignment as discussions on a new Extended Credit Facility (ECF) for Malawi progresses.

The research and analysis division of the Economist Group's observation quoted in the Nico Asset Managers Limited Monthly Economic Report for June 2026 comes at a time the kwacha is fixed at K1 751 against the dollar while the parallel market rate is at as high as K4 400 against the greenback.

Reads the report in part: "The central bank continues to heavily manage the official exchange rate, keeping the kwacha at about K1 750 per dollar while the parallel market has seen sharp depreciation, with the currency currently trading at about K4 400 per dollar."

"The IMF will continue to push Malawi toward a market-determined exchange rate, but in the absence of a funded programme, the authorities are likely to maintain tight control of the kwacha."

The report further said lower

foreign exchange inflows coupled with a large appetite for imports are likely to maintain downward pressure on the value of the kwacha as foreign reserves continue to decline, resulting in further depreciation of the kwacha.

The forecast comes weeks after the National Planning Commission (NPC) said in a policy brief that the exchange rate unification could help solve current economic challenges such as forex scarcity, but needs to be implemented jointly with a broad reform package to ensure stability.

BOTSWANA OIL TARGETS 60-DAY FUEL BUFFER

By Daily News

The country's fuel storage capacity is envisaged to reach 55 days' cover by the first quarter of the 2027/28 financial year.

This will be dependent on the commissioning of the Francistown Depot early next year and the Gantsi Depot, both of which are currently under construction.

Botswana Oil Limited (BOL) Senior Manager, Project Management Office, Mr Kabelo Lanka, said this during a media tour of the Gaborone BOL Depot on July 7.

"We hope and believe that by mid-next year, the country will

be sitting comfortably at about 55 days' cover, which will be a significant improvement from the current 15 days' cover," Mr. Lanka said.

He said the Francistown Depot was nearing completion, while work has started on the Gantsi Depot, adding that the two depots would take the country's reserves to 55 days.

This figure excludes the Tshele Depot, which will be constructed under a Public-Private Partnership, pointing out that the government, through the Omani government, had secured a partner for the project.

Mr Lanka further stated that while fuel consumption was expected to increase and reduce strategic fuel capacity, it is envisaged that the Tshele project, upon completion, would increase reserves to 60 days by 2035.

He added that all the storage facilities would give the country 60 days' cover, which would, however, be below the 90 days recommended by the feasibility study.

He said the storage facilities were strategically located as the country imports fuel from South Africa, Mozambique and Namibia.

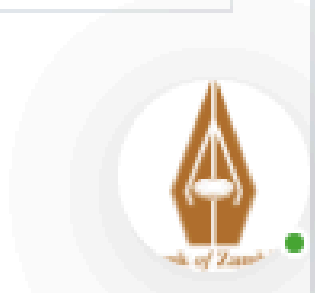


EXCHANGE RATES

Last updated: 09-07-2026

| CURRENCY | BUYING | SELLING |
|-----------|---------|---------|
| ZMW / USD | 18.1283 | 18.1783 |
| ZMW / GBP | 24.2630 | 24.3444 |
| ZMW / EUR | 20.7134 | 20.7724 |
| ZMW / ZAR | 1.1064 | 1.1097 |

[Download historical rates](#)



Source: Bank of Zambia (BOZ)



COACH BRUCE MWAPE DIES AT 67



FAZ, FOOTBALL FRATERNITY MOURN FORMER COPPER QUEENS COACH BRUCE MWAPE

By Lucky Chama

The Football Association of Zambia (FAZ) has paid tribute to former Copper Queens head coach Bruce Mwape, who died this morning at the age of 67 after a short illness.

Mwape passed away at Nchanga South Mine Hospital in Chingola, where he had been receiving treatment after suffering a suspected stroke last week.

In a statement, FAZ President Keith Mweemba described Mwape's death as a devastating loss to

Zambian football, saying the former coach leaves behind an unmatched legacy in the women's game.

"The death of Coach Mwape is a huge shock to the football family and the nation as a whole. We extend our deepest condolences to the family and can only wish them God's strength at this hour," Mweemba said.

He hailed Mwape's achievements during his tenure with the Copper Queens, crediting him for transforming the national

team into one of Africa's leading sides.

"Everyone recognises Coach Mwape's contribution to our game especially his reign as Copper Queens coach where he took the team to unimaginable heights. He took the Copper Queens to back-to-back Olympics (Tokyo 2020 & Paris 2024), WAFCON bronze in 2022 and the first ever FIFA World Cup appearance in Australia/New Zealand."

"It is a day of great loss, but Mwape leaves a great

legacy."

Mweemba said FAZ would announce further details in due course, adding that the association's secretariat was already in contact with the bereaved family in Chingola.

Mwape's son, Chikonde, said his father suffered a suspected stroke on Tuesday last week before being admitted to hospital, where he later passed away.

Appointed Copper Queens head coach in 2018,

Mwape guided Zambia to three Women's Africa Cup of Nations tournaments in 2018, 2022 and the 2024 edition, which was played in 2025. Under his leadership, Zambia also qualified for back-to-back Olympic Games in Tokyo and Paris and reached the FIFA Women's World Cup for the first time in 2023.

Before taking charge of the women's national team, Mwape served as coach of Zambia's Under-17 men's national team in 2015.

Tributes have continued to

continuation... - pour in condolences to your family, from across the football friends, and the entire fraternity. Zambia nation on the loss of a remarkable coach."

Former FAZ Technical Director Lyson Zulu described Mwape as a coach who inspired generations.

"I am truly lost for words. Thank you for the unforgettable memories, the victories, and the invaluable lessons. You persevered, believed, and lifted us to heights we once only dreamed of. May God receive your soul, Coach Bruce Mwape. My deepest

condolences to your family, friends, and the entire Zambia nation on the loss of a remarkable coach."

Copper Queens star Racheal Kundananji also paid an emotional tribute.

"Rest in peace Coach Bruce Mwape! Thank you for believing in me, for shaping me and for paving the way for Zambian women's football. Learning about your demise has just left us shattered! Your legacy will live on in all of us. We will miss you, Coach. Rest In Peace!"



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GOVERNMENT MOURNS FORMER COPPER QUEENS COACH BRUCE MWAPE

By Lucky Chama

The Government has joined the nation in mourning former Copper Queens head coach Bruce Mwape, describing him as a dedicated football servant whose contribution to the growth of women's football in Zambia will remain part of the country's sporting history.

Mwape, 67, died this morning at Nchanga South Mine Hospital in Chingola after a short illness.

In a statement issued by the Ministry of Youth, Sport and Arts, Permanent Secretary Kangwa Chileshe said the late coach played a transformative role in elevating the Copper Queens to unprecedented success on both the continental and global

stage. The Ministry noted that under Mwape's leadership, Zambia qualified for its maiden FIFA Women's World Cup in 2023, a historic milestone that inspired millions of Zambians and raised the country's profile in women's football.

Mwape also guided the Copper Queens to back-to-back Olympic Games appearances at Tokyo 2020 and Paris 2024, while steering the team to a historic bronze medal at the 2022 Women's Africa Cup of Nations (WAFCON).

Permanent Secretary Chileshe said Mwape's achievements would continue to inspire generations of female footballers. "Coach Bruce Mwape



dedicated his life to the development of football in Zambia and played a key role in opening new possibilities for the Copper Queens. The milestones achieved under his guidance will continue to inspire future generations of female footballers," Chileshe said.

He added that Government recognises the critical role coaches and sports administrators play in nurturing talent and promoting national pride through sport.

"As a Ministry, we extend our heartfelt condolences to the Mwape family, the Football Association of Zambia, the Copper Queens and the entire

football fraternity. We remain grateful for his service, commitment and the legacy he leaves behind in Zambian sport," the Permanent Secretary said.

The Ministry further recalled that in recognition of his exceptional contribution to women's football, President Hakainde Hichilema honoured Mwape with the President's Insignia for Meritorious Achievement.

Government said the nation had lost not only a successful coach but also a mentor whose commitment and dedication helped shape one of the most successful eras in the history of Zambian women's football.

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