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NHCC, UNIVERSITY OF YORK BEGIN NEW EXCAVATIONS AT INGOMBE ILEDE

By Money Daily Reporter



National Heritage Conservation Commission (NHCC), in partnership with the University of York under the Zambezi Project, has launched a new phase of archaeological excavations at the historic Ingombe Ilede National Monument in Siavonga District.

This is aimed at updating the interpretation of one of Zambia's most important archaeological sites.

The ongoing excavations are uncovering deeper and more complex archaeological deposits than previously documented, offering fresh insights into the site's role in regional trade, cultural interactions and early settlement patterns.

They are being conducted through the Zambezi Project, a major archaeological research initiative funded by the European Research Council Advanced Grant, bringing together international expertise and local heritage management.

NHCC Director of Conservation Services Macmillan Mudenda visited the site to assess the progress of the excavations at the internationally recognized heritage site, which served as a major trade centre during the 13th century.

And speaking during the field activities, NHCC Conservation Officer for History, Victor Syatyoka, said the excavation represents a significant step in expanding knowledge of the ancient settlement.

"The work currently underway is critical in helping us move beyond established narratives and develop a more nuanced understanding of Ingombe Ilede. The data emerging from these deposits will allow us to update the interpretation of the site in a way that is both scientifically grounded and more reflective of its true historical complexity," Mr. Syatyoka said.

He added that the Commission is committed to translating the research findings into improved site interpretation, public education and sustainable heritage tourism development to ensure the site continues to connect present and future generations with Zambia's rich cultural heritage.

Meanwhile, University of York Professor of Archaeology, Stephanie Wynne-Jones, said the findings are expected to significantly improve understanding of communities that occupied the area before the 15th century.

"This site is the only place that we can start to understand that society. When the Portuguese started trading along the Zambezi, they did not reach Ingombe Ilede, so the histories they wrote cannot tell us about what was happening before they arrived," Professor Wynne-Jones said.

As part of NHCC's capacity-building efforts, six University of Zambia (UNZA) students have joined the excavation programme to receive practical training in archaeological methods, excavation techniques and heritage documentation.

Speaking on behalf of the students, UNZA Historical and Archaeological Association President, George Zimba said the programme had provided valuable hands-on experience.

"The fieldwork has provided us with invaluable practical experience in archaeological excavation, including working in excavation trenches and using modern archaeological equipment," Mr. Zimba added.

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

COUNCIL ROLLS OUT ADVANCED SOLAR-POWERED STREETLIGHTS TO SUPPORT 24-HOUR ECONOMY

By Money Daily Reporter



Lusaka City Council (LCC) says it has intensified the installation of advanced solar-powered streetlights across the city.

Council Public Relations Manager, Chola Mwamba said this is part of efforts to improve urban illumination, enhance road safety, and support the growth of a 24-hour economy.

"Through the Department of Engineering and Infrastructure Development, the Council is deploying modern all-in-one solar streetlight systems," Ms. Mwamvela said.

She noted that the upgrade also includes the phased removal of old solar lights, many of which became non-functional following the theft of batteries by vandals.

Ms. Mwamba stated that the new all-in-one solar lights integrate the solar panel, battery, and LED light source into a single compact unit.

"This design eliminates the need for complex and costly underground wiring and reduces long-term maintenance requirements," she added.

"The new lighting system offers several key advantages. It provides enhanced public safety and crime deterrence through consistent, high-lumen illumination in public spaces and along major roads, which helps reduce nighttime road traffic accidents."

She noted that the lights are fitted with state-of-the-art optical lenses that provide uniform light distribution across roadways and pedestrian walkways, thereby minimizing light pollution and glare while maximizing visibility for both drivers and pedestrians.

"In addition, the integrated design ensures cost-effectiveness by lowering both installation costs and ongoing maintenance, resulting in more efficient use of Council resources," she stressed.

According to Ms. Mwamba, solar-powered streetlights have so far been installed on Mosi-o-Tunya Road and Haile Selassie Road.

"The next phase of the project will extend to Independence Road, Great East Road Lake Road, and Ben Mwiinga Road," she said.

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SMART ZAMBIA, PARTNERS LAUNCH GOVERNMENT-OWNED 4G NETWORK

By Cecilia Chiluba



SMART Zambia operational in more than 2,000 health facilities nationwide, will gradually migrate onto the GovLink network. Speaking through Government Chief Technical Officer, Kasali Musenge, SMART Zambia Institute National Coordinator Percy Chinyama described GovLink as a key driver of Zambia's digital transformation agenda.

The network, launched at Ndola Teaching Hospital, is designed to provide reliable and secure connectivity to health facilities, schools and other public institutions through a shared national government network.

Health has been identified as the flagship sector for the rollout, with digital health platforms such as Care 2.0 currently being piloted at Ndola Teaching Hospital, Arthur Davison Children's Hospital and Kitwe Teaching Hospital.

Meanwhile, SmartCare Pro, which is already

collaboration between government and private sector partners. "The success we have attained here, nearing 100 percent connectivity in public sector sites on the Copperbelt, has been achieved through collaboration with our partners in government and the private sector," he added.

He also applauded the Copperbelt Provincial Administration and public service workers for embracing digital transformation, saying their commitment had positioned the province at the forefront of implementing government digital services.

And Ministry of Health Permanent Secretary for Technical Services, Dr. Kennedy Lishimpi described the launch as a significant milestone in Zambia's digital health journey.

Dr. Lishimpi said despite significant investment in electronic health systems such as SmartCare, inadequate digital infrastructure had limited the full benefits of those investments. "This is the infrastructure that finally sits beneath our digital health investments and allows them to deliver the results we have always intended," Dr Lishimpi stated.

He stressed that GovLink would provide the dependable connectivity required to support

electronic health records, telemedicine, real-time clinical decision-making and other digital health services nationwide.

Dr. Lishimpi added that Ndola Teaching Hospital, Kitwe Teaching Hospital and Arthur Davison Children's Hospital were among the first health facilities connected to the network and would serve as demonstration sites for the national rollout.

Meanwhile, Copperbelt Provincial Health Director, Dr. Charles Mwinuna said reliable digital connectivity would reduce patient waiting times, strengthen referral systems, improve the management of medicines and medical supplies, and enable healthcare workers to provide faster and more efficient services.

At the same event, Senior Medical Superintendent at Ndola Teaching Hospital Dr. Justo Banda, said the hospital was already benefiting from improved connectivity through electronic health records and other digital innovations.

GovLink is expected to strengthen digital service delivery by providing secure and reliable connectivity for government institutions while expanding digital access to underserved communities across Zambia.

ECZ DISMISSES CLAIMS OF SECRET BALLOT PAPER PRINTING IN TANZANIA

By Money Daily Reporter



Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ) has dismissed as false and malicious allegations circulating on social media that it has secretly printed extra ballot papers in Tanzania for the 2026 General Election.

In a statement, ECZ Chief Electoral Officer Brown Kasaro, said the claims, which were shared on The Candidates Facebook page, falsely allege that the ballot papers will be smuggled into Zambia through the Nakonde border with the assistance of the Zambia Army and distributed in Eastern, Luapula, Northern and Muchinga provinces to favour President Hakainde Hichilema.

Mr. Kasaro stated that the allegations are baseless and urged those behind them to stop misleading the public and political stakeholders. "The Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ) strongly rejects the false and malicious claims circulating on The Candidates Facebook page alleging that the Commission has secretly printed extra ballot papers in Tanzania," Mr. Kasaro said. He noted that this is not the first time the Facebook page has circulated false claims regarding the printing of ballot papers. Mr. Kasaro clarified that ballot papers for the 2026 General Election are being printed exclusively at Al Gurair Printing and Publishing in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE), under the observation of political party representatives and members of the media. "Contrary to the false narrative that ballot papers are being printed in Tanzania, the Commission wishes to categorically state that printing of ballot papers is exclusively taking place at Al Gurair Printing and Publishing in Dubai, United Arab Emirates

(UAE) and this is being witnessed by various stakeholders who include political party representatives and the media," he added.

He further explained that the ballot papers will be transported by a chartered aircraft directly from Dubai to Kenneth Kaunda International Airport in Lusaka.

Mr. Kasaro said the Commission will announce the dispatch schedule and invite stakeholders to witness the arrival and verification of the ballot papers before they are distributed to districts across the country.

"No ballot paper for the 2026 General Election will enter the country by road through any border," he emphasized.

The ECZ urged stakeholders and members of the public not to be misled by false information intended to undermine confidence in the electoral process.



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GOVT REAFFIRMS COMMITMENT TO TRADE FACILITATION REFORMS

By Money Daily Reporter



Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry has reaffirmed Government's commitment to implementing trade facilitation reforms aimed at enhancing the efficiency of cross-border trade, strengthening regional integration and improving Zambia's competitiveness.

Ministry's Permanent Secretary Lillian Bwalya, said Government remains steadfast in creating an enabling environment for trade.

Mrs. Bwalya was speaking when she officially opened the Technical Meeting of the National Trade Facilitation Committee in Lusaka today.

The meeting provides a vital platform to reflect on progress made, assess ongoing initiatives, identify implementation challenges, and agree on practical measures to further streamline trade.

The Permanent Secretary noted that since the last meeting, notable progress has been made in advancing Coordinated

Border Management and in the repeal and enactment of the Border Management and Trade Facilitation Act No. 8 of 2025.

"The Act provides the legal and institutional framework for the National Trade Facilitation Committee and its structures, and strengthens coordination among border agencies and the implementation of the Single Window system," she stated.

And Mrs. Bwalya backed the establishment of a Gender and Youth Responsive Technical Working Group, describing it as an important step toward ensuring that trade facilitation reforms are inclusive and responsive to the needs of women and young people.

Meanwhile, the Permanent Secretary noted that Zambia's implementation rate of commitments under the World Trade Organization (WTO) Trade Facilitation Agreement currently stands at 72.3 percent, with the implementation timeframe running from February 2018 to December 2038 as recorded in the WTO TFA

database.

She emphasized the need to maintain momentum through sustained collaboration among Government institutions, the private sector, cooperating partners, and all members of the Committee.

And Zambia Revenue Authority (ZRA) Commissioner of Customs, Ernest Singande, underscored the importance of strong collaboration between Government institutions and the private sector in creating an efficient and predictable trade environment.

"Coordinated efforts to strengthen systems, streamline registration processes, improve infrastructure, and address regulatory and procedural bottlenecks are critical to ensuring that economic activities continue to operate smoothly," he noted.

Mr. Singande called on all stakeholders to sustain cooperation and dialogue in order to foster a business-friendly

environment that supports trade and investment.

"Such collaboration will enhance Zambia's competitiveness, facilitate seamless economic activity, and align the country's trade systems with international best practices for the benefit of businesses and the economy at large," Mr. Singande emphasized.

The meeting focused on several strategic priorities under the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement and the Committee's mandate.

These include Coordinated Border Management, connectivity of border agencies through the Government Wide Area Network (GWAN) the, enhanced operations of the Simplified Trade Regime, and the stabilization and upgrade of the Automated Systems for Customs Data (ASYCUDA).

This is according to a statement issued by Ministry's Principal Public Relations Officer, Everness Nankala.

LUAPULA PS RAISES CONCERN OVER RAPID LOSS OF WETLANDS AND FORESTS

By Money Daily Reporter



Luapula Province Permanent Secretary Ngulube, said she has expressed concern over the rapid loss of wetlands, forests and other critical ecosystems in the province.

Prudence Chinama-Kangwa, described the trend as a threat to environmental sustainability and water security.

Mrs. Chinama-Kangwa said urgent interventions are needed to restore degraded wetlands and forests, particularly in districts such as Lunga.

She was speaking when a delegation from the Ministry of Green Economy and Environment, led by Ecosystem-Based

Adaptation (EBA) Project Manager Nellie Ngulube, paid a courtesy call on her today.

"Cimate change and unsustainable human activities have contributed to the disappearance of streams, shrinking water bodies and the loss of wildlife habitats," she noted.

Mrs. Chinama-Kangwa warned that the long-term effects could be difficult to reverse.

She called for intensified community sensitization programmes, stating that public participation is key to protecting the province's rich natural resources.

Meanwhile, Ms. Ngulube said the Ecosystem-Based Adaptation (EBA) Project, valued at 6.185 million Yuan, is supporting ecosystem restoration and climate resilience through sustainable agriculture, wetland rehabilitation, forest restoration and the promotion of energy-efficient technologies.

"The project, which is being implemented in selected districts of Luapula and other provinces, has been extended to August 2027 and will continue engaging stakeholders while supporting ongoing environmental conservation activities," she added.



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ZAMBIA CELEBRATES YOUTH ROBOTICS TEAM AFTER TOP-12 GLOBAL FINISH

By Money Daily Reporter



Government says it remains dedicated to promoting science, technology and innovation as key drivers of economic transformation.

Deputy Secretary to the Cabinet, Dr. Oliver Kalabo said Government's aspiration to build an inclusive digital economy depends not only on infrastructure and technology, but also on investing in people.

And Dr. Kalabo hailed Team Zambia's outstanding performance at the Zambia Robotics for Good Youth Challenge, describing the team's top-12 finish among nearly 50 participating countries as proof of the country's growing innovation potential and the capabilities of its young people.

He was speaking during the "Welcome Home,

Team Zambia: Celebrating Innovation, Excellence, and National Pride" reception in Lusaka.,

"The greatest asset of any nation is its human capital. Today's celebration reminds us that Zambia possesses extraordinary talent," he said.

"The success we are recognizing today is more than robotics or artificial intelligence. It is about confidence. It is about ambition. It is about showing that young Zambians can compete successfully on the global stage when given the opportunity."

Dr. Kalabo stated that Team Zambia's performance reflected talent, discipline, creativity and resilience, while demonstrating that the country has a generation of young innovators ready to contribute to national development and compete in future industries.

"Finishing among the top 12 teams from nearly 50 participating countries is no small accomplishment. It reflects talent, discipline, creativity, and resilience. Most importantly, it tells us that Zambia has a generation of young innovators ready to contribute to our country's development and compete in the industries of the future," he added.

He also attributed the team's success to strong collaboration among government institutions, innovation hubs, schools, universities and the private sector.

He encouraged the young innovators to remain committed to learning and innovation, saying they had inspired many other young Zambians to dream beyond the classroom.

Dr. Kalabo thanked the Presidential Delivery Unit, E-Mark Innovation Hub, the Ministries of Technology

and Science and Youth, Sport and Arts, as well as corporate partners including Zamtel, Zanaco, KoBold Metals, Liquid Intelligent Technologies Zambia and MTN Zambia for supporting the country's participation in the global competition.

He urged stakeholders to continue investing in young innovators, research and technology to position Zambia as a leader in the digital future.

"The story we celebrate today should not end with this reception. It should inspire us to create more opportunities for young people to innovate, invent, and lead. If we continue investing in our youth, supporting research, and embracing technology, Zambia will not simply participate in the future; we will help shape it," Dr. Kalabo added.

MISA ZAMBIA CALLS FOR ETHICAL, BALANCED ELECTION REPORTING

By Cecilia Chiluba



Media Institute of Southern Africa (MISA) Zambia has called on journalists to prioritize accuracy, fairness and ethical reporting as the country prepares for the upcoming general election.

Speaking during a virtual Membership Information Session on Election Reporting, MISA Zambia Chairperson Lorraine Chisanga said journalists have a critical responsibility to provide citizens with accurate, balanced, timely and credible information to enable meaningful participation in democratic processes.

Ms. Chisanga said the election period presents both opportunities and challenges for the media, with journalists expected to operate in an increasingly characterised by misinformation, political contestation and growing digital influence.

"Accuracy must always take precedence over speed. Fairness must guide every story. Balance must remain our trademark. Above all,

the public interest must continue to inform every editorial decision we make," she emphasized.

She stated that the training session was organized to prepare journalists for quality election coverage by enhancing their understanding of the new electoral system, voter-centred journalism, ethical reporting and journalist safety.

Ms. Chisanga stressed that election reporting should go beyond covering political campaigns and personalities by placing citizens and their concerns at the centre of news coverage.

"Election reporting should not merely focus on political campaigns, personalities, or party competition. Rather, it should place citizens and their concerns at the centre of reporting," Ms. Chisanga said.

She added that journalists have a duty to elevate community issues, provide context to policy debates, amplify underrepresented voices and ensure electoral discussions

focus on matters affecting people's daily lives.

On journalist safety, Ms. Chisanga noted that election periods have increasingly become environments where media practitioners face intimidation, harassment, online abuse and physical threats.

She said MISA Zambia remains committed to advocating for the protection of journalists while encouraging media practitioners to prioritise both their physical and digital security.

Ms. Chisanga further urged journalists to uphold the highest ethical standards, stressing that ethical journalism strengthens public trust in the media and contributes to peaceful and credible elections.

"Let us therefore choose accuracy over speculation, verification over assumption, responsibility over sensationalism," she added.



CIRCULAR AGRICULTURE: BUSINESS MODELS THAT WORK

By Prof Bupe Getrude Mutono-Mwanza



Agriculture lies at the heart of many African economies, yet traditional farming systems often follow a linear model of "take-produce-dispose," resulting in soil degradation, food loss, water pollution, and declining productivity. Circular agriculture offers a more sustainable alternative by designing farming systems that minimise waste, regenerate natural resources, and maximize the value of agricultural outputs and by-products. Around the world, successful circular agriculture business models are demonstrating that environmental sustainability and profitability can go hand in hand.

What is Circular Agriculture?

Circular agriculture is a farming approach that keeps nutrients, water, energy, and biological resources circulating within the agricultural system for as long as possible. Instead of viewing agricultural waste as a disposal problem, it treats it as a valuable resource that can generate new products, reduce production costs, and create additional income streams.

Examples include converting crop residues into livestock feed, producing compost from organic waste, generating biogas from animal manure, recycling irrigation water, and transforming agricultural by-products into new commercial products.

Business Models That Have Proven Successful

1. Integrated Crop-Livestock Farming

This model combines crop and livestock production within the same farming system. Crop residues become livestock feed, while animal manure is returned to fields as organic fertilizer.

Benefits include:

- Reduced fertilizer costs
- Improved soil fertility
- Lower waste generation
- Diversified farm income
- Greater resilience to climate shocks

This model has been successfully adopted in countries such as Brazil, China, and Netherlands.

2. Biogas Production from Agricultural Waste

Animal manure and crop residues are processed in biodigesters to produce

biogas for cooking, electricity generation, and heating. The remaining digestate is used as a nutrient-rich organic fertilizer.

This model creates multiple revenue streams by:

- Reducing household energy costs
- Lowering greenhouse gas emissions
- Producing high-quality fertilizer
- Selling surplus electricity where regulations permit

Many dairy farms in Germany and Denmark have adopted this model successfully.

3. Composting and Organic Fertilizer Enterprises

Agricultural residues, food waste, and livestock manure can be transformed into organic compost for commercial sale. Rising demand for sustainable agriculture has created expanding markets for organic soil conditioners.

Business opportunities include:

- Commercial compost production
- Vermicomposting
- Biofertilizer production
- Organic soil amendment services

Besides generating income, composting improves soil structure, increases water retention, and reduces dependence on expensive chemical fertilizers.

4. Agricultural By-product Valorization

Instead of disposing of agricultural residues, businesses convert them into higher-value products.

Examples include:

- Rice husks into bioenergy
- Maize stalks into livestock feed
- Sugarcane bagasse into paper and biodegradable packaging
- Fruit peels into animal feed or essential oils
- Coffee husks into biomass briquettes

These activities create entirely new value chains while reducing waste.

5. Precision Agriculture with Circular Resource Management

Digital technologies enable farmers to optimize the use of water, fertilizers, and pesticides through sensors, drones, satellite imagery, and data analytics. Applying inputs only where needed reduces costs

and minimizes environmental impacts. When integrated with recycling of, water and nutrients, precision agriculture significantly improves resource efficiency.

6. Water Recycling and Irrigation Reuse

Water scarcity is becoming a major constraint on agricultural production. Circular water systems collect rainwater, recycle irrigation runoff, and treat wastewater for agricultural use.

Successful models include:

- Drip irrigation
- Rainwater harvesting
- Constructed wetlands
- On-farm water recycling systems

These systems reduce production costs while increasing resilience during droughts.

Lessons from Developed Economies
Several countries have successfully integrated circular agriculture into national agricultural strategies:

- Netherlands has developed highly efficient greenhouse farming systems that recycle nutrients, water, and energy while maintaining some of the world's highest agricultural productivity.
- Denmark promotes industrial symbiosis, where agricultural waste supplies nearby industries with renewable energy and raw materials.
- Japan has implemented food recycling systems that convert food waste into livestock feed and organic fertilizers.
- Sweden uses biogas plants that process food and agricultural waste into renewable energy for transport and households.

Opportunities for Zambia
Zambia possesses strong potential to expand circular agriculture because of its large agricultural sector and abundant biomass resources. Promising opportunities include:

- Commercial compost production from market and farm waste.
- Biogas generation from dairy, poultry, and pig farms.
- Crop residue utilization for livestock feeding.
- Biomass briquette production from maize cobs and sawdust.

- Irrigation water recycling in commercial farming.
- Agro-processing by-product recovery for new products.
- Carbon credit generation through regenerative agricultural practices and methane reduction.

Supporting these opportunities with financing, farmer training, stronger extension services, and market development can stimulate rural enterprise, improve food security, and reduce environmental degradation.

Challenges to Overcome
Despite its promise, circular agriculture faces several barriers:

- Limited access to finance for green technologies.
- Low awareness among farmers.
- Weak waste collection and processing infrastructure.
- Limited technical skills.
- Inadequate policy incentives.
- Poor market linkages for recycled agricultural products.

Addressing these constraints requires coordinated action by government, financial institutions, research organizations, universities, and the private sector.

Conclusion
Circular agriculture is no longer simply an environmental concept; it is an economically viable business strategy. Successful models around the world demonstrate that farmers and agribusinesses can increase profitability while conserving natural resources and reducing waste. For Zambia, adopting integrated farming, biogas production, composting, by-product valorization, precision agriculture, and water recycling offers practical pathways to build a more resilient, competitive, and climate-smart agricultural sector. With the right policies, investment, and innovation, circular agriculture can become a major driver of sustainable rural development and green economic growth.

ABOUT AUTHOR:

Prof Bupe Getrude Mutono-Mwanza is an Associate Professor in Sustainable Supply Chains and Circular Economy and also serves as the Associate Director at the Graduate School of Business, University of Zambia.

She is also Professor Extraordinarius at the University of South Africa. She has over ten years of experience in academic leadership, teaching, and research.

THE CHURCH'S ELECTION MESSAGE DESERVES MORE THAN APPLAUSE—IT DEMANDS ACTION

With less than a month before Zambia heads to the polls on August 13, the Zambia Conference of Catholic Bishops (ZCCB) has delivered a timely and measured pastoral statement that goes beyond religious guidance. It is, in many respects, a civic roadmap for preserving peace, protecting democracy and strengthening public confidence in the electoral process.

Rather than endorsing political parties or personalities, the Church has chosen to focus on principles—peace, justice, accountability, integrity and respect for the rule of law. These are not abstract ideals. They are the very foundations upon which credible elections are built. The challenge now is whether political leaders, state institutions and ordinary citizens will heed that call.

Perhaps the strongest message in the statement is its unequivocal rejection of political violence. Zambia has largely enjoyed peaceful political transitions compared to many countries in the region. That record should never be taken for granted.

The bishops correctly warn that elections must not become seasons of intimidation, hatred or bloodshed. Unfortunately, recent months have witnessed isolated incidents of political clashes, inflammatory rhetoric and threats exchanged between rival camps. Such

developments risk normalizing behaviour that has no place in a democratic society.

The Church rightly reminds political parties that there is no victory worth the loss of a single human life. Winning an election through fear is not democratic leadership; it is political failure.

Equally important is the bishops' appeal to political leaders to control their supporters.

Too often, senior politicians distance themselves from violence while remaining silent when their own supporters are responsible. Silence can easily be interpreted as approval. Leadership requires publicly condemning violence regardless of which side commits it.

The statement also places significant responsibility on state institutions, particularly the Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ), the Zambia Police Service and other law enforcement agencies. Their neutrality will be under intense public scrutiny throughout the campaign and on polling day.

This is perhaps the greatest test facing Zambia's democratic institutions. Elections are not judged solely by whether people vote, but whether every stakeholder believes the process was free, fair and impartial. Any perception that public institutions favour one political side over

another can quickly erode trust and fuel unnecessary tension.

The bishops are therefore correct to insist that the ECZ must operate independently and transparently while security agencies must enforce the law equally, without fear or favour.

Another notable aspect of the

commendable, translating them into reality will require more than moral persuasion.

Political parties must move beyond signing peace pledges and demonstrate discipline within their own ranks. Candidates should publicly discourage inflammatory language, misinformation and online abuse by their supporters.

information before sharing it and reject messages designed to divide communities.

The bishops' appeal for national unity is particularly relevant in a country whose greatest strength lies in its diversity. Zambia has long prided itself on being "One Zambia, One Nation." That slogan should not become an empty political phrase repeated only during election campaigns. It should guide how citizens debate, disagree and ultimately accept the outcome of the vote.

No election is perfect, and disagreements over results are inevitable. What matters is whether disputes are resolved through constitutional institutions rather than violence.

The Catholic Church has presented Zambia with a thoughtful blueprint for peaceful elections. It is now up to political leaders to exercise restraint, institutions to demonstrate professionalism, the media to report responsibly and citizens to vote wisely.

If every stakeholder embraces those responsibilities, Zambia will not simply conduct another election—it will strengthen its democracy. That outcome would be a victory far greater than any political party could ever claim.

Government institutions must equally demonstrate transparency in every aspect of election administration. Prompt communication, timely responses to complaints and equal treatment of all contestants will be essential in maintaining confidence throughout the electoral process.

The media also carries enormous responsibility. Accurate reporting, balanced coverage and fact-checking are more critical than ever in combating misinformation that can inflame political tensions. Journalists must resist becoming participants in political campaigns and instead remain credible sources of verified information.

Citizens themselves cannot escape responsibility. Social media has become a powerful tool for political mobilisation but also for spreading falsehoods and hatred. Every voter should verify

pastoral letter is its emphasis on voting as both a civic responsibility and a moral obligation. In an era dominated by slogans, social media campaigns and personality politics, the Church urges voters to examine character rather than charisma.

This is an important reminder. Elections should not be popularity contests driven by tribal identity, regional loyalties or emotional promises. Voters are being challenged to evaluate candidates based on integrity, competence, respect for the Constitution and commitment to serving the public interest.

That message deserves wider attention, especially among young voters who make up a significant proportion of the electorate.

However, while the Church's recommendations are

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THINK BUSINESS

MALAWI TO LOSE 90% UK AID

ZIMBABWE SMALL-SCALE GOLD MINING SECTOR SEEKS PATHWAYS TO GROWTH

By The Nation



In yet another growing evidence of donor fatigue, the United Kingdom (UK) Government has announced plans to cut its international development budget to Malawi for 2026/27 fiscal year by 60 percent, but will expand to 90 percent by the 2028/29 fiscal year.

Based on the Foreign and Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) Annual Report and Accounts 2025–2026, the UK supported Malawi with £50.245 million (about K117.6 billion), but will this year reduce to £20 million (about

K46.8 billion). Based on that report, the amount will further shrink to £10m (about K23.4 billion) in the 2027/28 financial year and finally to £5 million (about K11.7 billion) in the 2028/29 financial year.

It reads in part: “The UK has modernised its approach to development and reprioritised Official Development Assistance [ODA] around new development partnership categories, aligning allocations with UK interests and partner needs, introducing a streamlined country offer, and applying the ‘four shifts’ to partnerships as demonstrated in Pakistan, Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe.”

Commenting on the development on its website, Scotland Malawi Partnership (SMP) chief executive officer Stuart Brown said the UK aid for the Africa region falls from £1.449 billion to £693.8 million, a reduction of 52 percent. He said: “Already Malawians face multiple daily challenges, economic fragility and the devastating impacts of the climate crisis. Some of the most vulnerable women, children and families in Malawi will suffer as a result of these cuts.”

By Herald

THE Government, financial institutions, miners and development partners have called for greater access to responsible financing for artisanal and small-scale gold miners (ASGM) as part of efforts to promote formalisation, business growth and mercury-free mining practices.

The dialogue highlighted the sector's significant contribution to livelihoods for more than one million Zimbabweans while acknowledging the environmental and health risks associated with unsafe mining practices, particularly the use of mercury.

The call was made during the planetGOLD Zimbabwe national dialogue held under the theme, “Unlocking Responsible Finance for Formalised ASGM: Pathways to Investment, Business Growth, and Mercury-Free Mining.”

Speaking on behalf of the Deputy Director in the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Management, Mr Abu Matiza, Acting Deputy Director for Environmental Quality Mrs Angella Kabira, said strengthening links between artisanal miners and financial institutions is essential for achieving both economic growth and environmental sustainability.

He said improved access to finance would enable miners to invest in safer, cleaner and more efficient mining technologies.

“Our mandate is not to suppress this vital livelihood, but to green it and the planetGOLD Zimbabwe project sits at the very heart of this mission,” he said.



EXCHANGE RATES

ZMW/USD Commercial Bank Rates for 17/07/2026

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	18.1500	18.2000	18.1000	18.3645	18.1750	18.2250	18.1500	18.4150	18.1750	18.2250	18.1500
ACCESS BANK ZAMBIA LIMITED	18.2200	18.2700	18.2200	18.4500	18.2200	18.2700	18.2200	18.4500	18.2000	18.2500	18.1500
BANK OF CHINA (ZAMBIA) LIMITED	18.2000	18.2500	18.1500	18.4000	18.2000	18.2500	18.1300	18.3800	18.2000	18.2500	18.1300
CITIBANK ZAMBIA LIMITED	18.2500	18.3000	18.1750	18.4500	18.2250	18.2750	18.1750	18.4500	18.2250	18.2750	18.1750
ECOBANK ZAMBIA LIMITED	18.2000	18.2500	18.0500	18.3800	18.1750	18.2250	18.0500	18.3800	18.1750	18.2250	18.0500
FIRST ALLIANCE BANK ZAMBIA LIMITED	18.2500	18.3000	18.2000	18.3500	18.2000	18.2500	18.2000	18.3500	18.2000	18.2500	18.2

Source: Bank of Zambia (BOZ)



ZAMBIA WITHDRAW FROM U-18 YOUTH AFRICA CUP AFTER FUNDING SHORTFALL

By Lucky Chama

Zambia will not participate in the 2026 Under-18 Youth Africa Cup in Nairobi, Kenya, after the Zambia Hockey Association (ZHA) failed to secure the K590,148 required to send the national teams to the continental competition.

The tournament is scheduled to take place from August 6 to 8 and would have featured both the Zambia Under-18 men's and women's Hockey5s teams.

In a statement, the Association said it had

exhausted all possible avenues to raise the necessary funds but was ultimately unsuccessful, forcing it to withdraw from the competition.

The withdrawal is a major setback for the country's young hockey players, who were expected to gain valuable international exposure against some of Africa's best emerging talent.

ZHA General Secretary Elvis Blwaya described the development as a painful disappointment for

everyone involved in the sport.

"Missing this opportunity is heartbreaking. Zambia hockey has a rich and strong history in the Hockey5s format, and we had hoped our young athletes would compete and gain valuable experience. Unfortunately, we could not secure the required funding in time," Blwaya said.

The Association acknowledged the impact the decision would have on the players and coaching staff, noting that the

tournament represented an important stage in the development of the country's future hockey stars.

Despite the setback, ZHA reaffirmed its commitment to growing the sport and preparing athletes for future regional and international assignments.

The Association also expressed gratitude to the players, coaches, parents, sponsors and supporters for their unwavering dedication and understanding during the preparations.

"The Zambia Hockey Association sincerely thanks the players, coaches, parents, sponsors, and supporters for their dedication and understanding. Our focus remains on developing hockey and preparing our athletes for future regional and international competitions," the statement added.

The withdrawal means Zambia will miss an opportunity to build on its strong tradition in the Hockey5s format, where the country has previously enjoyed considerable success on the continental stage.

HECTOR SAKALA IS A RED



By Nkana FC Media - Nkana Football Club is delighted to announce the signing of 21-year-old winger Hector Sakala on a four-and-a-half-year contract.

Sakala joins Kalampa after spending last season on loan at Mutondo Stars, where he continued his development, having begun his football journey at King Soccer Academy before joining Shamuel Academy.

The exciting wide player becomes the latest addition to the club's squad as preparations continue for the 2026/27 transitional season.

Speaking after completing his move, Sakala expressed his excitement at joining the record Super League champions.

"I am delighted to join Nkana Football Club, it has always been my ambition to play for a big club like Nkana and I am grateful for the opportunity the club has given me. My time at Mutondo Stars helped me grow both as a player and as a person. I learned a lot from the experience and I

believe it has prepared me for this next step in my career," Sakala said.

"I know the expectations that come with wearing the Nkana jersey and I am ready to work hard every day to help the team achieve its objectives. I can't wait to play in front of the supporters and I will give my all to make them proud."

Nkana FC Chief Executive Officer Mwansa Kapyanga welcomed Sakala to the club, describing him as a player with exciting qualities and great potential.

"Hector is an exciting young winger with pace, directness and the desire to improve. We have followed his progress closely and believe he has the attributes to develop into an important player for Nkana Football Club," Kapyanga said.

"His performances over the past season showed maturity and consistency, and we are pleased to provide him with the opportunity to continue his growth in the colours of Nkana. We believe he has the right attitude to succeed here and we look forward to seeing him contribute to the team."



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LUMWANA RADIANTS APPOINT ALLAN KAMWANGA AS HEAD COACH

By Lucky Chama

Lumwana Radiants Football Club have appointed Allan Kamwanga as their new head coach following the departure of Bilton Musonda at the expiry of his contract.

The North Western Province outfit also announced the appointment of Moses Lungu as first assistant coach as part of a restructuring of the club's technical bench ahead of the new season.

In a statement issued on Friday, the club said the changes take immediate effect after Musonda's contract came to an end following the conclusion of the 2025/26 campaign.

"The Club is pleased to announce the appointment of Allan

Kamwanga as the new Head Coach of Lumwana Radiants Football Club," the statement read.

"To strengthen the technical team ahead of the new season, the Club has also secured the services of Moses Lungu, who joins as the First Assistant Coach."

The club said the appointments reflect its determination to build a competitive technical team capable of meeting its ambitions in the forthcoming campaign.

"These appointments reflect the Club's commitment to building a strong technical team capable of achieving its objectives in the upcoming season. The Executive Committee has full confidence in the leadership, experience, and ability of Coach Kamwanga



and Coach Lungu to guide the team to greater success," the statement added.

Lumwana Radiants also paid tribute to outgoing head coach Bilton Musonda for his contribution during his time at the club.

"The Club extends its sincere appreciation to Bilton Musonda for his dedication, professionalism, and valuable contribution during his tenure as Head Coach. We wish him

every success in his future endeavors."

The club has appealed to its supporters, partners and stakeholders to rally behind the new technical bench as preparations intensify for the upcoming season.

"We call upon our supporters, partners, and all stakeholders to give the new technical team their full support as we prepare for the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead," the statement concluded.



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