

ISSUE 12 | JAN 2026

excel  
MAGAZINE



**NORMAN MAULE, CEO –  
ZAMBIA INTERNATIONAL  
TRADE FAIR TRUST.**

**LYDIA LUBOBYA,  
POST MASTER GENERAL -  
ZAMPOST**

**CHRIS CHIPIMO, MD -  
C. STEINWEG BRIDGE**

# POWERHOUSE



# Sunshine Millers

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Eating well has never been more convenient. Our products are crafted not just for taste, but for optimal nutrition, helping you maintain a balanced diet. We offer meals and condiments packed with essential nutrients to fuel your busy day. Furthermore, we are proud to feature a diverse and growing range of nutritionally beneficial vegan products, ensuring delicious and healthy options that cater to every lifestyle and dietary preference.

## THE ZAMBIAN STORY:

The brand journey is deeply woven into the fabric of Zambia. With the recent partnership with Roan Foods and Brands limited to manufacture and distribute products under the Meraki trademark, a collaboration built on shared values and a commitment to local growth. Together, we actively support Zambian agriculture by sourcing ingredients directly from local farms, ensuring fresh, quality produce for our delicious range of convenient foods and condiments. This partnership isn't just about business; it's about giving back to our communities. By creating vital jobs across the supply chain, from farm to factory, we are fostering economic empowerment and contributing to a thriving, prosperous Zambia, one meal at a time.



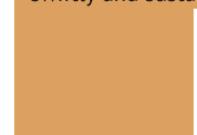
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## THE CONVENIENT FOOD INDUSTRY THRIVES

Zambia's culinary landscape is undergoing a remarkable transformation, with the convenience food industry experiencing significant growth. Modern lifestyles demand solutions that save time without sacrificing quality, and the market is responding with innovative options. This dynamic shift reflects a nationwide embrace of more efficient and diverse food choices that fit seamlessly into busy schedules, making quality, accessible food a staple in every home.

## GOURMET CONVENIENT FOOD REVOLUTION

The Meraki brand is at the forefront of this exciting culinary revolution in Zambia. We are redefining what 'convenient food' means, moving beyond traditional perceptions to offer inspired, healthy, and delicious solutions for every modern Zambian household. By combining our commitment to home grown quality ingredients, nutritional value, and diverse options (including our popular vegan range), we are not just selling food – we are empowering a lifestyle, making it easier than ever to enjoy wholesome, delightful meals, swiftly and sustainably.





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## Mukuba Hotel – Gaining Traction Through Excellence and Experience

Mukuba Hotel reflects the “POWERHOUSE” theme of Excel Magazine Issue 12 by showcasing growth, innovation, and excellence within Zambia’s hospitality industry. Built on a strong legacy of resilience and exceptional service, the hotel has established itself as one of the Copperbelt’s most distinguished destinations.

Located in the serene surroundings of Ndola, Mukuba Hotel blends modern elegance with natural beauty, creating a calm and inviting environment for both business and leisure travelers. Guests enjoy thoughtfully designed rooms with modern amenities, relaxing rain showers, and a sparkling swimming pool that enhances the overall experience of comfort and tranquility.

The hotel offers a rich culinary experience through its fusion of local and international cuisine, served with warmth and creativity. Its expansive event spaces cater to large corporate and social gatherings, supported by a professional events team. A unique highlight is the hotel’s close connection to nature, with impalas and peacocks roaming the grounds—symbolizing the perfect harmony between luxury and the natural environment.

Each of these offerings, captured in our feature photo, reflects the full scope of Mukuba Hotel’s brand promise: **“YOUR PERFECT STAY”**.

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## About Us

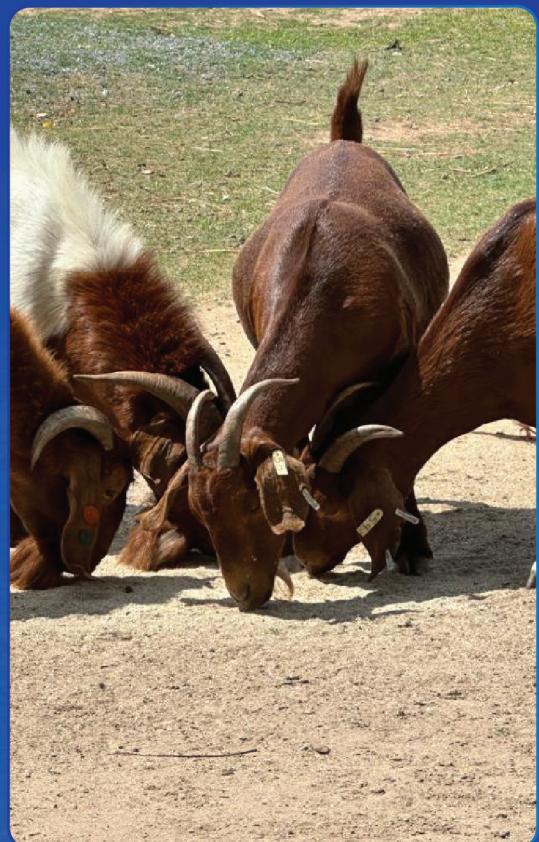
With over 13 years of experience, Chepros General Dealers has built a strong reputation in transport, construction, and the supply of mining and related consumables, serving individuals, private companies, and state enterprises.

## Our Commitment

We prioritize quality vehicles, skilled staff, and reliable after-rent services, ensuring value for money and complete customer satisfaction.

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### Our Values

At Pangaea ADD Capital, we value working together to realise full potential for your business.

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We buy receivables from Pre Vetted Off Takers under our agreed terms and conditions, to enable suppliers and contractors improve their cash cycle.

### Order Financing:

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# POWERHOUSE



By Diana Kabaila Chief Editor

Warm greetings esteemed readers. Wish you a fantastic and prosperous 2026. Theme for Issue 12 is “POWERHOUSE”; it’s a page turner read – welcome.

## 2025 ECONOMIC HIGHLIGHTS

**Energy:** Zambia experienced tough drought years and 2025 required innovative initiatives by both government and the private sector to achieve economic rebound. Notable gains in the energy sector are the expansion of solar energy projects across the country by government and the private sector. The energy

mix stabilized power supply in Q4 and eased chronic load management that had stifled manufacturing and business expansion.

**Petroleum:** Prices in 2025 fluctuated but were generally high compared to the previous year. This was majorly due to global oil prices and the exchange rate. The open access policy that was introduced earlier in the year, and the issuance of new licenses for fuel distribution has stimulated competition and strengthened the overall supply chain.

**Infrastructure development:** Government has successfully been using the Public Private

Partnerships model for major road, railway, border posts and corridor construction works to strengthen Zambia's land linked position for regional logistics.

**Mining:** Production appetite for Copper was increased driven by demand for the commodity and high price. On the London Metal Exchange, Copper prices surged and averaged at 12,000 US dollars per ton in the trading year.

**Agriculture and Livestock:** Agri processing and livestock production for export was on the increase in 2025, the inaugural beef export to the DRC in metric tonnes was recorded and resulted in a substantial forex earn. Zambia recorded a maize bumper harvest and more than 500,000 tonnes was exported. Mealie meal, tobacco, coffee, raw sugar and soya bean oil were exported as well. This increased diversification and reduced the over reliance on copper production for forex earnings.

**SME Support:** Notable support for SMEs in 2025 was the credit guarantee scheme that is designed to help SMEs secure loans more easily by sharing risk with lenders; another government initiative in this space is the Growth Investment Partners (GIP) that will be funded by Napsa, the British International Investment (BII) and the Swedfund that will give SMEs access to long term affordable funds to support business growth and sustainability.

The local content bill having been signed and coming into effect this January of 2026, will encourage and build capacity for Local SME's operating in the mining value chain.

#### POWERHOUSE CHIEF

#### EXECUTIVE OFFICER's

Excel Magazine congratulates **Mrs Lydia Luboya** on her appointment as Post Master General for Zampost Services. She is the first female to helm the organisation. In an interview with Excel Magazine, Lydia shares her journey to prominence and overcoming the women in leadership challenge by reinforcing her belief that women do not need permission to lead, they only need opportunity to make a lasting impact. She is on a mission to transform and modernize the postal services.

**Mr Norman Maule** the new Chief Executive Officer for the Zambia International Trade Fair (ZITF) – in his own words - has taken up leadership of the iconic institution with humility and a deep sense of mission to transform and reposition ZITF into a modern, digitally enabled, globally competitive trade powerhouse ecosystem that fuels Zambia's economic ambitions. Congratulations to you Mr Maule and we look forward to you actualizing your vision.

**Mr Chris Chipimo** Chief Executive Officer for C.Steinweg Bridge is a powerhouse logistician with over 30 years of experience in the sector. He gives an insight into the need

for significant investments in the road and rail networks to support government's target of 3 million metric tonnes copper production by 2030, and adds that the country's strategic location and expanding mining output present meaningful opportunities for investment in trucking, rail operations, warehousing, and transshipment services.

#### BUSINESS NEWS

The Ndola Chamber of Commerce and Industry held the inaugural Invest in Ndola Business Forum themed "Repositioning the City as a Commerce, Logistics, and Clean, Green Industrial Hub." The event was held on the 4th of November at Protea Hotel in Ndola. The chamber's president in her speech titled a case for Ndola, stated that the chamber commended government's development agenda across all sectors countrywide. And that as private sector they stood ready to complement government's efforts to take advantage of Ndola's strategic position, as a commerce and logistics capital of the region to fast track industrial clean green investments and infrastructure.

#### EXCEL FOUNDATION

The recipient of the Innovators seed fund for Issue 12, is Mary Mwaku whose invention is local foods value addition. Excel Magazine wishes you success in scaling your business Mary.

Enjoy the read.

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- ↗ JAYDEN OILS
- ↗ MUKUBA HOTEL
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- ↗ CHEPROS GENERAL DEALERS
- ↗ MADIZEN ENERGY SOLUTIONS LIMITED
- ↗ NDOLA DISTRICT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

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- ↗ Dr. Abidan Chansa - Contributing Writer



# LYDIA SIMAKANDO LUBOBYA POST MASTER GENERAL

Interview By Luyando Mooya and Ephraim  
Mufaya

**P**ersonally, it is the fulfillment of years of hard work, perseverance and aspirations to be a transformational leader and my journey has only started.

It is an affirmation that value can't be hidden. Professionally, it is an opportunity to harness my skill set and inspire the team at ZAMPOST towards the much-needed transformation and modernisation of ZAMPOST.

## BECOMING POST MASTER GENERAL

My upbringing instilled in me a deep sense of responsibility, discipline, and service qualities that have become central to my work in public leadership. I was raised in an environment where hard work was not merely encouraged but expected, and where integrity was non-negotiable. From an early age, I learned that service to the community is both a privilege and a duty. I witnessed firsthand the value of empathy, listening, and standing up for others, traits that later became essential in my roles across different sectors, and now national service at ZAMPOST. These early lessons taught me to approach leadership with humility and a readiness to understand diverse perspectives.

## FORMATIVE YEARS

I was born in Lusaka, specifically at UTH, on 22 June 1983, and raised in Lusaka, Zambia, where my roots remain firmly grounded. Spent my childhood in Lilanda up to early teens then Roma township and Avondale where I got married from. So basically, born and bred in Lusaka.

I come from a closely-knit family. My father [ now late] was Mr Harry Mungela Simakando, and my mother is Elizabeth Simangolwa Simakando and lives in Ibex, Lusaka. My father was a Chemist and Mathematician by training who later pursued programming and was a Systems' Development

Manager when he retired from National Provident Fund (NPF), while my mother was and though retired is a teacher who at retirement was a School Manager at Chibelo Secondary School, and they both graduated from the University of Zambia. Both my parents hail from Kalabo, Western Province, and I am grateful to God for them. I come from a family of seven, (7) three have since passed and am the second eldest of those surviving, i.e. 2 males and 2 females.

I am married to Professor Charles Smart Luboya and together we have 4 lovely children with two in university, 1 in secondary school and the last born in grade 4.

## EDUCATION

I attended Harry Mwanga Nkumbula Primary School in Chunga township then moved to Kabulonga Girls and Rephidim Secondary Schools for my junior Secondary School. I was then selected to David Kaunda Secondary Technical School where I completed my grade 12.

I went on to pursue my career in Accountancy at ZCAS and ZABMAC where I obtained my certification as a chartered Accountant. i.e. ACCA in 2009. 3 years later, I pursued my post graduate studies at Herriot-Watt University, Edinburgh Business School, where I obtained my MBA. In the spirit of continuous learning and self-improvement, I enrolled for the Certified Enterprise Risk Management program from the International

Academy of Business and Financial Management based in Chicago. I have since obtained a number of certifications including one in Performance Management and strategic planning. Let me just say there is no end to learning. Am in the process of enrolling for my Doctorate while pursuing other short courses such as Artificial Intelligence.

## CAREER ASPIRATIONS

As a child, I dreamt of roles where I could make a meaningful impact and service. Some times imagining myself as a teacher, rightly so because my mother was a teacher “Ba Mistress” they would call her. Other times as a doctor. My resolve to be an Accountant came when I was in secondary school after an encounter with a woman whose confidence, demeanour and authority within her family made me to wonder what she was doing and everything about her. I looked at her and told myself I want to be like, when I grow up. A shout out to Mrs Susan Wambulawaye who is retired but a respectable name in the sphere of Accounting, Internal audit and Risk Management.

## TRANSITIONING FROM ENTREPRENEURSHIP TO PUBLIC SERVICE

My turning point was the decision made to slow down on my role as Managing Consultant for Metic Risk Solutions, A consultancy firm that I had founded, to heed to a call to join ZAMPOST as Director of Finance, (Basically

sacrificing for the greater good of society). By that time I was working very closely with the Institute of Risk Management Zambia and I had facilitated some high-level Governance, Risk and Control workshops with the likes of Workers Compensation, I struggled with that decision given the apparent miserable state of the brand with all its reputational issues and visible struggles. Lots of voices whispered the risk of denting my reputation as a professional as the failures of the Corporation could reflect on my competencies.

After several engagements, the following statement “You are the exact kind of person possessing the skills set needed to make an impact at ZAMPOST” this statement from a person I profoundly respect had a resounding effect and I think that was my turning point. Signing off that Contract as Director of Finance knowing it was time to roll up my sleeves and work, not like a regular CFO but on a mission to make lasting impact to save my reputation.

Exactly 2 years and we managed to achieve great milestones such as changing the accounting system, covering a backlog of 7 years of unaudited Financial statements (2016 – 2022). As we end the year, we are concluding the March 2025 - rendering ZAMPOST current despite the challenges. It often seems impossible until it's done. It's just unbelievable what can be achieved when you put

your mind to it and are able to influence and motivate a team towards an objective.

### OVERCOMING THE WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP CHALLENGE

As a woman in leadership, I have often had to overcome preconceived notions about gender and authority, constantly proving my competence in environments where women are still underrepresented. I've also had to navigate the double standard where decisiveness can be judged harshly, and collaboration can be misunderstood.

My title as "Postmaster General" has a male connotation which is testament that from inception, years back at the Universal Postal Union (UPU) convention in 1874 when Postal services were established, nobody ever imagined that a woman would be in this position.

I address these challenges by focusing on excellence in my execution thus allowing my work to speak for itself. Building strong, capable teams and mentoring others has also helped create inclusive spaces where diverse voices are valued. Every obstacle has reinforced my belief that women do not need permission to lead, we only need opportunity, and when it is given, we need to run and make lasting impact.

### LEADERSHIP STYLE

Am a strong believer in candid conversation that drive

decisions that are progressive. Inclusivity and team work because often times, individual brilliance does not cut it. I move from a liberal delegator to a micro manager when its needed.

### TRANSFORMING ZAMPOST

I believe that innovation is the only option for transformation and that remodeling the culture towards an innovative and customer-centric corporation is the enabler for the transformation that we will achieve. In my 5-year mandate, ZAMPOST will turn into a logistics powerhouse at the centre of e-commerce, financial and digital inclusion by continuously being innovative and customer-driven amid great expectations from different stakeholders. It will be great to get ZAMPOST to deliver some dividends to the Shareholders, the government.

### CHANGING BUSINESS MODEL AT ZAMPOST

Unfortunately, in the endeavor to transform ZAMPOST, there is no place for tradition because sticking to models that have become redundant is basically why the postal service is on its knees with a desperate need to rise and soar above the things that could have killed it. While keeping true to our mandate as a designated operator providing universal access, the guiding ethos and principle will be that innovation is our only option for transformation and innovate we must and we are.

### CREATING LEGACY

A legacy that screams

transformation and impact. A postal service that would have reclaimed its past glory, being an integral part of the Government's delivery framework leveraging its unmatched physical infrastructure to offer a diverse suit of services from financial services to simply beautiful shared working spaces that work to mitigate and close the digital divide offering opportunity to all especially for rural Zambia.

### ADVISE TO THE GIRL CHILD

To young girls out there, it's important to believe in yourself and be unapologetically authentic, continuously improving yourself and delivering meticulously so that your shine cannot be dimmed.

### DEFINING SUCCESS

For me, success is not measured by titles but by impact. Leaving every institution stronger than I found it, creating systems that outlive my tenure, and opening doors for others to rise. It means leading with integrity and using every opportunity to build something meaningful for the people I represent.

But beyond work, success in life is about living with purpose, staying true to my values. I should be able to look back and know that I lived authentically, served diligently, and used my gifts to transform lives and create a legacy of courage, excellence, service and transformation.

# ZITFT VISION 2030

## RE-POSITIONING ZAMBIA INTERNATIONAL TRADE FAIR TRUST AS A REGIONAL TRADE POWERHOUSE.



**By Norman Maule, CEO – Zambia International Trade Fair Trust.**

For nearly six decades, the Zambia International Trade Fair Trust (ZITFT) has served as a vital platform for industrial exchange, commercial partnerships, and national development. It is a place where entrepreneurs find markets, innovators find collaborators, and countries exchange solutions that shape our shared economic futures.

As I take up the responsibility of leading this iconic institution, I do so with both humility and a deep sense of mission: to transform ZITFT into a modern, digitally enabled, globally competitive trade ecosystem that fuels Zambia's economic ambitions.

This vision is not aspirational; it is actionable and grounded in the realities of today's economic landscape. The world is moving fast. Regional integration is accelerating. The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) is unlocking unprecedented opportunities. Businesses are re-engineering supply chains, governments are digitising services, and the future of commerce is being re-written. ZITFT must not only adapt to these dynamics, it must lead in them.

## 1. RE-INTRODUCING ZITFT FOR A NEW ERA

ZITFT is more than an annual event; it is a national asset with the potential to shape manufacturing competitiveness, encourage investment, and connect Zambia to continental and global markets. My mandate is to reposition ZITFT as:

### A year-round trade and investment hub

- ✓ We will transform from a once-a-year showcase into a 365-day business facilitation platform, offering market intelligence, training, matchmaking, and digital trade services.

### A continental meeting point for industry leaders

- ✓ Through targeted partnership missions, ZITFT will actively attract investors, technology providers, and multinational exhibitors from Africa, Europe, Asia, and the Middle East.

### A catalyst for SME growth and innovation

- ✓ Zambia's economic future depends heavily on SMEs. ZITFT will provide them with access to buyers, financiers, and global value chains. These opportunities have traditionally been difficult to reach for SMEs.

## 2. A MODERNISED, DIGITALLY ENABLED ZITFT

Digital transformation will be at the core of the new ZITFT. We are implementing a multi-phase programme with the following components:

- ✓ Digital exhibitor onboarding

and virtual showrooms

- ✓ Exhibitors will be able to apply, book space, build online profiles, and upload catalogues through a modern digital platform. Virtual booths will help global companies participate even when physical travel is not possible.

### A permanent online trade marketplace

- ✓ After the fair ends, exhibitors will continue receiving leads, and buyers will still be able to engage suppliers via an always-on digital marketplace powered by Artificial Intelligence-assisted matching tools.

### Data-driven event management

- ✓ Insights from visitor flows, exhibitor interactions, and industry demand will help us design smarter events that respond to real market needs.

Digitalisation is not merely an up-grade, it is a re-definition of how ZITFT will be creating value.

## 3. STRENGTHENING STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

ZITFT's success depends on collaboration. Under my leadership, we will build strong, mutually beneficial partnerships with:

- ✓ Government Ministries and agencies to ensure alignment with industrial and investment priorities
- ✓ Local and international chambers of commerce to broaden exhibitor bases
- ✓ Universities and innovation

hubs to promote research, technology, and entrepreneurship

- ✓ Regional and global trade fair bodies for benchmarking and co-hosting international events
- ✓ Private sector sponsors to enhance the quality and reach of our programs
- ✓ These partnerships will allow ZITFT to scale faster, attract higher-quality participants, and remain competitive in a rapidly evolving trade environment.

## 4. ENHANCING THE EXHIBITOR AND VISITOR EXPERIENCE

One of my core priorities is raising the standard of service delivery so that ZITFT becomes synonymous with professionalism, efficiency, and excellence.

Our focus areas include:

### Upgraded infrastructure

- ✓ We are undertaking phased improvements to pavilions, utilities, exhibition halls, parking, and onsite logistics to ensure a seamless experience.

### Enhanced hospitality offerings

- ✓ ZITFT will collaborate closely with Ndola's tourism and hospitality ecosystem to create attractive packages for both local and international visitors.

### New thematic zones and specialty exhibitions

- ✓ These include technology and innovation, green energy, mining solutions, agro-processing, manufacturing machinery, creative industries, and

youth entrepreneurship.

### A premium, world-class VIP protocol system

- ✓ Head-of-state delegations, investors, and diplomatic missions will experience an elevated standard of coordination and hosting.

### 5. BUILDING AN INCLUSIVE, YOUTH-CENTRED FUTURE

No institution can be future-ready without the involvement of young people. Zambia's youth are talented, innovative, and globally aware. ZITFT will create structured opportunities for them through:

- ✓ The Youth Innovation Expo Corridor, highlighting start-ups and digital solutions
- ✓ Pitch competitions with investor panels, to give an opportunity to express themselves in front of potential investors.
- ✓ Skills workshops on e-commerce, branding, manufacturing, and exports
- ✓ Internship programmes that expose students to international trade dynamics
- ✓ Empowering youth is not only good economics but it is good leadership.

### 6. A REGIONAL PLATFORM FOR AfCFTA PARTICIPATION

The African Continental Free Trade Area is the most transformative opportunity of our time. ZITFT is uniquely positioned to serve as a major AfCFTA trade node by:

- ✓ Hosting AfCFTA-focused trade missions
- ✓ Facilitating B2B and B2G engagements across African

markets

- ✓ • Highlighting export-ready Zambian products
- ✓ • Bringing in new investment aligned with the country's industrialisation strategy

Our goal is to make Zambia and ZITFT one of the most important trade gateways in Southern Africa.

### 7. A LEADERSHIP COMMITMENT

As CEO, my leadership philosophy is anchored on integrity, service excellence, accountability, and transformation. I am committed to:

- ✓ Professionalising every aspect of the organisation
- ✓ Building a motivated, empowered workforce
- ✓ Ensuring financial sustainability
- ✓ Delivering measurable value to exhibitors, visitors, partners, and the nation

My promise is simple: ZITFT will rise to its fullest potential.

### CONCLUSION

ZITFT is entering a defining chapter. Our mission is clear, to evolve from a traditional trade event into a modern, integrated trade and investment ecosystem with regional influence and global relevance.

With the support of government, industry, partners, and the Zambian people, I am confident that we will deliver a Trade Fair that not only reflects the aspirations of today but boldly anticipates the opportunities of tomorrow. The future of ZITFT is bright, and it is unfolding now.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Norman Maule is a Chartered Accountant, a Fellow of both the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) and the Zambia Institute of Chartered Accountants (ZICA). With over 20 years of distinguished experience in business leadership, financial management, and institutional transformation, he has built a reputation as a forward-thinking executive committed to operational excellence and sustainable growth.

Before his appointment as Chief Executive Officer of the Zambia International Trade Fair (ZITF), Mr. Maule served as Postmaster General of the Zambia Postal Services Corporation, where he led significant reforms, strengthened governance structures, and championed digital innovation across the institution and spearheaded operational efficiency.

His career spans multiple senior financial management roles in prominent organisations, where he provided strategic direction, drove efficiency initiatives, and supported long-term organisational development.

Mr. Maule brings to ZITFT a strong blend of financial expertise, strategic insight, and transformational leadership; qualities that continue to guide his vision of positioning the Zambia International Trade Fair Trust as a modern, globally competitive platform for trade, innovation, and investment.

# UNDERSTANDING TRANSPORT AND LOGISTICS IN ZAMBIA



By Chris Chipimo

## Evolution of Copper Transport and Logistics in Zambia

In the 1970s, copper haulage in Zambia was predominantly managed by Government-owned parastatal transport companies, complemented by a small number of private operators. During this period, the Zambia Consolidated Copper Mines (ZCCM) relied heavily on its logistics subsidiary, which coordinated the movement of copper from the Copperbelt to regional ports through contracted transporters. However, limited government funding led to its closure, creating a logistics vacuum in the sector.

This gap enabled various foreign forwarding companies—such as African Cargo Services, Walford Meadows, and Manica Africa—to take on a central role in the forwarding, handling, and export logistics of Zambia's copper. Following the privatization of the mines in the 1990s, foreign-owned transport and forwarding companies

increased their presence even further, while participation by Zambian-owned firms remained relatively low due to limited access to affordable financing.

## Growth and Diversification of the Logistics Sector

Over the past two decades, the logistics and forwarding industry has experienced significant growth. This expansion became especially noticeable around 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic, when Zambian companies began making greater investments in truck fleets and diversified their operational routes.

Instead of relying primarily on the traditional North–South corridor through South Africa, transporters began adopting alternative export corridors such as:

- ✓ Dar es Salaam Corridor – currently handling approximately 60% of Zambia's copper exports
- ✓ Walvis Bay Corridor
- ✓ Beira Corridor

This diversification has strengthened Zambia's regional trade integration and improved the resilience of copper export logistics.

## Infrastructure Investments and Government Policy Support

The UPND Government has set an ambitious target to increase national copper production to 3 million metric tonnes by 2030.

Achieving this goal requires substantial improvements in the transport network, as such several major infrastructure projects are underway. These include the rehabilitation of:

- ✓ The Ndola–Lusaka dual carriage way
- ✓ The Nakonde–Serenje section of the Great North Road
- ✓ The Mutanda–Kasempa–Kaoma road
- ✓ The Ndola–Sakania–Mufulira road
- ✓ Several other strategic road corridors

These works are being implemented in anticipation of increased mining output and higher freight volumes. Furthermore, there is strong encouragement for the introduction of affordable financing mechanisms to help Zambian-owned logistics companies compete more effectively with foreign operators. We have seen the introduction of Statutory Instrument 35 of 2021 which stipulates at least Fifty per cent of specific cargo should be given to Zambian transporters basically encouraging Zambians to invest in the road transportation sector.

## Railway Transport: Decline and Revitalization

Historically, the railway sector was a central pillar of Zambia's copper export system. From the 1960s through to the late 1970s, the national rail network transported roughly 60% of the country's copper output. Mines were directly linked to the rail line, allowing

efficient block-train operations to major ports. Transit times were significantly shorter than today—approximately:

- ✓ 5 days from the Copperbelt to Dar es Salaam
- ✓ 7 days from the Copperbelt to Durban

By contrast, decades of underfunding and minimal rehabilitation have resulted in transit times of 14–18 days and 20–25 days respectively by parastatal rail operators. Currently, rail accounts for only 3–5% of Zambia's copper production.

#### **The Government has initiated several interventions to revive the sector:**

1. Opening the rail network to private operators, leading to increased cargo movement since 2021.
2. Allowing private sector-driven innovations to improve efficiency and transit times. The transit time has dramatically improved as a result.
3. Partnering with China to rehabilitate the TAZARA railway and acquire new locomotives and wagons through a US\$1.4 billion investment. Upon completion, the corridor is expected to increase its haulage capacity from 600,000 tonnes to over 4 million tonnes annually on the Tazara corridor.
4. Collaborating with the European Union – The European Union has released Fifty Million Euro grant to Zambia Railways for infrastructure rehabilitation

of the rail track to modernize the Zambia Railways network and enhance operational speeds.

#### **Achieving the 3 Million Tonne Copper Target**

With the successful completion of the ongoing road and rail rehabilitation projects as tabulated above, Zambia is well-positioned to achieve its 2030 copper production target. Enhanced infrastructure will enable:

- ✓ Up to 50% of production to be transported by rail
- ✓ Balanced and efficient use of road transport
- ✓ Increased utilization of new trade corridors such as the Lobito and Nacala routes

Transport and logistics remain the backbone of Zambia's mining sector, and a modernized, multi-corridor system will be essential for sustainable export growth.

#### **Investment Opportunities in Transport and Freight Forwarding**

Rising copper output in both Zambia and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) is expected to generate substantial demand throughout the transport and logistics value chain. Key investment opportunities include:

- ✓ Trucks for inter-mine services within the Copperbelt
- ✓ Trucks for cross-border haulage between Zambia and the DRC
- ✓ Trucks for export transport to regional ports and return cargo

- ✓ Rail freight services domestically and regionally
- ✓ Warehousing and storage facilities for increased production and mining inputs
- ✓ Depots and transshipment hubs to service the DRC, Lobito, and other emerging corridors

#### **Conclusion**

Zambia's copper transport and logistics sector is undergoing a significant transformation driven by infrastructure rehabilitation, growing private-sector participation, and renewed interest in rail transport. With the Government targeting a substantial increase in copper production by 2030, the modernization of road and rail networks—coupled with diversified export corridors—will be essential for meeting future demand.

The country's strategic location and expanding mining output present meaningful opportunities for investment in trucking, rail operations, warehousing, and transshipment services. Ensuring access to affordable financing for Zambian-owned companies will be critical in strengthening local participation and building a competitive, resilient logistics industry. Ultimately, an efficient and integrated transport system will form the backbone of Zambia's mining growth trajectory, enabling the nation to fully harness its mineral wealth and enhance its position as a regional logistics hub.



## ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT ZAMBIA'S OIL MARKETING INDUSTRY.

### INSIGHTS FROM MR GOMELI LITANA

**A**ccording to Industry expert Mr Gomeli Litana, the petroleum industry in Zambia presents a complex yet promising landscape for entrepreneurs and investors. In this issue of Excel Magazine, Mr Litana shares valuable insights on navigating what he terms as a challenging yet rewarding sector.

#### Challenges and Opportunities

On setting up an oil marketing business in Zambia, Mr Litana

reflects that it is no easy feat. The requirements are stringent, and establishing a market footprint can be daunting. He advises that acquiring an existing reputable Oil Marketing Company (OMC) can be a strategic move, offering a shortcut to getting ahead in the game.

#### The Key to Success

With margins being extremely low, success in the petroleum industry hinges on achieving high sales volumes and

maintaining strict discipline on expenditure. As Litana puts it, "this is one of the businesses that really test your discipline."

#### Thinking Bigger

While fuel demand is constant, ensuring a steady market, Zambian entrepreneurs should think beyond mere trading. Litana advises considering upstream and downstream opportunities, such as refining and distribution networks, to position themselves for long-term success.

#### The Role of Government

Litana calls on the Government of Zambia (GRZ) to implement policies supporting local OMCs, such as utilizing the strategic reserve fund to offer low-interest loans, enhancing their financial capacity.

#### A Vision for the Future

Litana proposes reconsidering the Indeni model, suggesting it could be managed by Zambians under a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) or lease arrangement, leveraging the pipeline to produce low-sulfur diesel, petrol, and other products.

#### Conclusion

The petroleum industry in Zambia demands resilience, discipline, and vision. With the right approach and support, it can be a game-changer for local entrepreneurs and the economy. As Litana advises, "stay humble, stay focused, and dream big" – the future of Zambia's oil marketing industry looks promising.



# Driving National Development Through Private Sector Innovation

By Luyando Mooya

The Public Private Dialogue Forum (PPDF) hosted the 4th Private Sector Day (PSD) on 12th December 2025 under the theme: "Driving National Development and Building Economic Resilience: Innovative Private Sector Solutions for Job Creation and Sustained Economic Growth." More than a ceremonial gathering, the event that was graced by the Republican President Mr Hakainde Hichilema was a strategic milestone, showcasing how Zambia's private sector is responding to government reforms and contributing to the nation's transformation.

**Key Highlights of the Event**  
The day began with a vibrant networking breakfast at the

Mulungushi International Conference Centre in Lusaka, where delegates exchanged laughter and stories while reconnecting with familiar faces. The event drew a wide range of stakeholders: senior government officials, Mozambique's Minister of Economy, private sector leaders, civil society organizations, and international development partners.

**Presidential Endorsement**  
In his keynote address, President Hakainde Hichilema underscored the vital role of the private sector in Zambia's economic transformation. He urged government officers to shift from being controllers to facilitators, creating an environment where businesses can thrive. The President called for a

mindset shift from consumption to production, stressing the importance of dialogue and constructive grievance expression. He highlighted the PPDF's role in attracting significant investments, particularly in the mining sector. He cited Barrick Lumwana and First Quantum Minerals as examples of companies expanding operations and creating jobs due to the PPDF.

To institutionalize the importance of this day, the President directed the Secretary to the Cabinet, Mr. Patrick Kangwa, to gazette Private Sector Day as an official national observance dedicated to networking, collaboration, and business development. And in his welcoming remarks, PPDF Director General Mr. Andrew Chipwende, thanked

the President for setting aside this day as a platform for government and businesses to review progress and set reform priorities. He noted that the Private Sector Day bridges the gap between government and the private sector, urging businesses to use the forum to present challenges and propose solutions for building a better Zambia.

### Stories of Impact: Meraki and Ignite Energy

#### *The Meraki Story*

The Meraki Story is a powerful testament of how government reforms and platforms like the PPDF and PSD are shaping Zambia's entrepreneurial landscape. Born from a childhood passion for food, Meraki has grown into a proudly Zambian confectionery, restaurant, catering, and FMCG brand employing 92 people—most of them youth and women while supporting over 100 local businesses in its ecosystem.

Through the PPDF and PSD, Meraki has benefited from reforms in infrastructure, tax systems, and investment licensing, which make it easier for them to expand their operations, access government contracts, and tap into incentives such as the Zambia Credit Guarantee Scheme. The interactions have created an enabling environment where SMEs like Meraki can still thrive despite challenges of high costs, power shortages, and limited access to affordable finance.

At the heart of Meraki's story

is resilience and a mindset shift from consumption to value addition, reaffirming the President's call for Zambians to invest in production. With reforms opening doors, Meraki is scaling into value-added agriculture, processing vegetables for ShopRite, and creating opportunities for small-scale farmers. This expansion strengthens the local supply chains, reduces imports, and positions Zambia to compete regionally with frozen and organic products.

#### **The Ignite Energy Story**

The Ignite Energy Story illustrates how reforms are transforming lives through innovation in rural electrification. Ms. Helen Zulu, Managing Director of Ignite Energy, shared how the company has erected 31 mini-grids across Zambia, supplying electricity to over 30 rural health centers and schools that had gone decades without power. The impact is profound: communities are now extending school hours, health centers are operating more effectively, while households are gaining access to modern energy solutions.

Ms. Zulu indicated that recent policy reforms, particularly the deregulation of mini-grids up to five megawatts, simplified licensing and reduced barriers for new entrants. This has encouraged more private players to join the government's ambitious agenda of electrifying the majority of Zambians by 2031.

Ignite's model emphasizes sustainability by pairing mini-grids with productive use of energy. Partnerships with asset financiers allow villagers to access equipment such as maize de-hullers, pumps, and shellers on pay-as-you-go terms, while smart meters ensure efficient usage. Training programs help communities mechanize agriculture, and irrigation systems enable year-round farming. By linking farmers to off-takers for crops like sunflower and maize, Ignite is building strong rural value chains that generates income and resilience even in times of drought.

Ms. Zulu concluded that with the right reforms, partnerships, and innovations, Zambia can achieve inclusive electrification, empower rural communities, and strengthen the nation's economic foundation. Ignite's story demonstrates that energy reforms are not just about power, they are about transforming lives, livelihoods, and communities.

### Technical Working Groups (TWGs)

Over the past year, 39 reforms have been enacted, unlocking growth in mining, agriculture, finance, digital infrastructure, and manufacturing, each contributing to job creation. To strengthen dialogue, three additional technical working groups were formed: the Gender and Women Technical Working Group, the Health Technical Working Group, and

the Media Technical Working Group. The Media TWG, co-chaired by Costa Mwansa, President of MOAZ, was elevated from a sub-group under Health to a standalone entity in recognition of the media's potential as a business sector. In his address, Mr Mwansa thanked the PPDF and government for acknowledging their role, stressing that the media can drive job creation and absorb youths into the labor market. He noted that while the media in Zambia has long been viewed mainly as an information tool, in countries like Nigeria, South Africa, and Kenya it significantly contributes to the GDP.

The group is now working on the statutory instruments to promote local content which include proposals for tourism advertisements featuring Zambian faces and backdrop -positioning the media as a growth industry within the private sector.

#### Anchor Sponsor Address

Zambia Sugar, the anchor sponsors of the event, reaffirmed their commitment to private sector-led national development. In his address, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Mr Oswald Magwenzi highlighted ongoing investments worth US\$132 million, including projects to expand production and power generation capacity. By sponsoring the event, Zambia Sugar demonstrated how agribusiness can drive resilience, job creation, and sustained growth.

He noted that recent government reforms have created a more conducive environment for business, aligning perfectly with the event's theme of innovation, sustainability, and inclusive growth.

**Impact and Future Outlook International Finance**

Corporation Senior Operations Manager Mr. Peter Nuamah commended President Hichilema's leadership in establishing the PPDF, noting that it has become a regional model being emulated by countries such as Mozambique, DRC, Lesotho, Malawi, and Ethiopia.

Since its inception in April 2022, the forum has achieved over 120 reforms, with 54 incorporated into the national budget between 2023 and 2026.

Key impacts include:

- ✓ **Tourism:** Visa waivers and increased marketing boosted visitors from 1.3 million in 2022 to an estimated 3 million in 2025, generating \$700 million in revenue.
- ✓ **Mining:** Fiscal reforms made royalties deductible, preventing double taxation. New legislation improved licensing, geological surveys, and promoted local content.
- ✓ **ICT:** Reforms reduced communication costs, expanded access, and made ICT the largest contributor to GDP in 2024 at 17.4%. Stronger cyber security laws raised

Zambia's index from 60 to 92%.

- ✓ **Capital Markets:** Approval of the Capital Market Master Plan enabled Zambia's first oversubscribed \$200 million green bond indicating investor confidence.

Mr. Nuamah concluded that Zambia's PPDF is not a "talk shop" but a results-driven platform that has made the country a benchmark across Africa.

#### Conclusion

The 4th Private Sector Day underscored the critical role of public-private partnerships in Zambia's development journey. As the President noted in his closing remarks, "Processes are only of value when they lead to deliverance." This day was proof that dialogue, reforms, and partnerships are delivering. By aligning private sector innovation with government reforms, the event demonstrated how collaboration can enhance economic diversification, strengthen resilience against global shocks, and promote sustainable growth and inclusive prosperity.

Looking ahead, the gazetting of Private Sector Day will institutionalize this dialogue, ensuring that the private sector remains at the forefront of Zambia's economic transformation agenda. The message is timeless: when government and businesses work together, Zambia moves forward resilient, inclusive, and ready to thrive.



# CLIMATE FINANCE TAKES CENTER STAGE AT COP30 IN BELEM BRAZIL

By Chatula Kangali

The 30th United Nations Climate Conference (COP30) in Belém, Brazil, concluded with a major swing in climate negotiations, prioritizing financial logic and market control over global solidarity.

According to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the summit saw participation from 193 countries, plus the European Union (EU), with a total of 56,118 delegates registered.

This makes COP30 the second-largest climate summit in history, behind only COP28 in Dubai, which had over 80,000 attendees.

The largest delegation came from host country Brazil,

with 3,805 people registered, followed by China (789), Nigeria (749), Indonesia (566), and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (556).

Notably, the United States did not send an official delegation, joining Afghanistan, Myanmar, and San Marino as the only countries not attending.

Zambia was among the almost 193 countries that took part in this year's climate discussion with Green Economy and Environment Minister Mike Mposha leading the Zambia delegation consisting of government departments, agencies and Civil Society Organizations.

The conference's outcomes reflect the growing influence of economic interests in shaping

climate policy. The following were the outcomes:

## Climate Finance: A Market-Based Approach

The New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) agreement sets two financing targets: US\$300 billion per year in public finance until 2035 and US\$1.3 trillion per year to be leveraged through private sector and multilateral banks.

Developed countries secured a limited fiscal commitment, shifting the responsibility to private investors and increasing financial risk for Global South countries.

“Developed countries have effectively passed the buck to private investors, leaving Global South countries vulnerable to financial risk,”

said a representative from the G77+China bloc.

#### Fossil Fuels: Economic Interests Prevail

The final UN text did not include the term “phase-out” of fossil fuels, thanks to Saudi Arabia and Russia’s efforts. The outcome preserves their long-term revenue interests and prevents regulatory progress at the multilateral level.

“Saudi Arabia and Russia have once again demonstrated their commitment to protecting their fossil fuel interests, even if it means compromising the planet,” said a climate activist.

#### Amazon as an Asset: The Tropical Forests Forever Facility (TFFF)

Brazil launched the TFFF, a financial mechanism compensating forest preservation based on performance. The initiative changes the power dynamics in climate finance, giving local communities direct access to climate capital and a central role in land stewardship.

“The TFFF is a game-changer for forest conservation,” said Brazil’s Minister of Environment. “We’re putting a price on the Amazon’s carbon sequestration capacity, and creating a new revenue stream for local communities.”

#### Trade Policy: Conflict Between Global South and EU

The BASIC group challenged the European Union’s Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism

(CBAM), denouncing it as green protectionism. The final text formally acknowledges “unilateral trade measures” as a legitimate area of climate negotiation, linking climate policy to trade and industrial policy disputes. “The EU’s CBAM is a protectionist measure that will harm Global South economies,” said a representative from the BASIC group. “We will not accept it.”

#### Carbon Markets: New Regulation under Article 6.4

COP30 approved the legal and operational framework for Article 6.4, establishing a global carbon credit market under UN oversight. The rules create legal certainty for transactions and investor liability, aiming to attract speculative capital to carbon removal and forest conservation projects.

“The new carbon market rules will unlock billions of dollars in investment for climate projects,” said a representative from the International Emissions Trading Association.

#### Final Assessment

COP30 confirms that climate transition depends primarily on capital allocation. The approved funding represents only a fraction of what is needed, leaving poorer countries facing higher debt or remaining underfunded. The fossil fuel sector retains political and institutional power, and the global energy transition will occur selectively, where it is financially viable.

“The Belém Declaration on Green Industrialization signals a shift in strategy by the Global South, seeking to develop local processing capacity for critical minerals and biomass,” said a climate expert. “But will it be enough to address the climate crisis?”

#### Zambia Stake at COP 30

Zambia’s participation in COP30 was quite significant. President Hakainde Hichilema has been emphasizing the need for global unity and urgent action on climate change, highlighting Zambia’s own efforts to address the issue. Some key outcomes of Zambia’s participation include; Expanded National Determined Contributions (NDCs): Zambia expanded its NDCs sectors from three to ten and maintained a 25 percent emissions reduction target, with plans to increase it to 47 percent with external support.

#### Endorsement of the Future Fuels 4X Pledge:

Zambia joined the coalition, aiming to quadruple global sustainable fuel use by 2035 and promote green industrialization.

#### Membership in the Coalition on Growing Carbon Markets (CGCM):

Zambia joined the CGCM, focusing on high-integrity carbon markets and climate finance.

Support for the Tropical Forests Forever Facility (TFFF): Zambia backed Brazil’s TFFF

initiative, aiming to protect tropical forests and promote sustainable development.

The Zambian government and the government of Switzerland signed a bilateral agreement under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement, for enhanced cooperation on climate change mitigation and sustainable development.

This agreement will focus on reducing greenhouse gas emissions and promoting green economic transformation. The agreement is part of Zambia's efforts to deliver on its NDC and contribute to the global effort to combat climate change.

Zambia's climate targets span ten key sectors, including agriculture, forestry, energy, water, infrastructure, transport, waste management, coal, industrial processes and product use and tourism.

The Minister at the COP30 held a crucial bilateral engagement

with Mr. Ibrahima Cheikh Diouf, the Executive Director of the Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage (FRLD).

The bilateral engagement focused on the urgent need for predictable financing to help Zambia cope with escalating climate disasters, even as the country works to operationalize its green transition policies. Mr. Mposha emphasized Zambia's critical vulnerability, stating that climate change continues to cause devastating economic and social damages across the nation.

Mr. Diouf indicated that the debut call for proposals, launched at COP30 in Belém, would make US\$250 million available for projects seeking to address a wide range of climate related losses from damaged infrastructure to the loss of community displacement, or cultural heritage among others.

The initial call for funding requests will help test, learn and shape the fund's long-term

model and sends an important signal to least developed and developing countries that support is available for them because they are not the major causes of climate change.

Zambia and other African countries must leverage the Fund by developing national response plans and identifying priorities through processes like NDCs.

### Next COP

COP30 has wrapped up, and now the focus shifts to COP31, happening in 2026. Turkey will host the event in Antalya, while Australia will lead the negotiation process, with Climate Change Minister Chris Bowen serving as COP President for Negotiations.

This unique arrangement aims to balance Turkey's hosting duties with Australia's expertise in climate negotiations. A pre-COP meeting will be held in a Pacific Island country, focusing on climate financing and resilience in the region.





# Invest in Ndola Business Forum:

## “Repositioning the City as a Commerce, Logistics, and Clean, Green Industrial Hub.”

By Ephraim Mufaya

**N**dola, long regarded as the industrial heartbeat of Zambia's Copperbelt, is stepping into a new chapter of renewal. On 4th November 2025, the Ndola Chamber of Commerce and Industry (NDCCI) hosted the inaugural Invest in Ndola Business Forum at Protea Hotel, under the theme “Repositioning the City as a Commerce, Logistics, and Clean, Green Industrial Hub.”

The forum brought together an influential assembly of

government leaders, diplomats, Ndola's captains of industry executives, investors, and 23 companies from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

The event was graced by Minister of Small and Medium Enterprise Development Elias Mubanga, Copperbelt Province Minister Elisha Matambo, Ndola Mayor Jones Kalyati, Ambassador of the DRC to Zambia Serge Didier Bapaga Tepupileka, and the DRC Consul General Jean Claude

Kalunga Twite.

Their collective presence signaled more than protocol, it embodied a shared vision to unlock Ndola's industrial potential and reposition the city as a catalyst for regional trade, investment, and sustainable growth.

The Business Forum set out to spotlight Ndola's competitive edge, its strategic logistics corridor, industrial promise, and growing role in regional trade. It championed green industrial

growth, encouraged new waves of investment, and sought out to deepen collaboration with the DRC, and empower SMEs, collectively charting a bold path toward Ndola's renewed economic future.

#### **Keynote Address: Hon. Elias Mubanga**

Against the backdrop of anticipation and ambition, a keynote address by Hon. Elias Mubanga, Minister of Small and Medium Enterprise Development, set the tone for the day's deliberations.

In his address, Minister Mubanga reminded participants of Ndola's proud industrial legacy and its potential to reclaim prominence as a regional value-addition hub. He emphasized government's commitment to building a more supportive business environment through infrastructure upgrades, the development of industrial parks, and deliberate policy reforms aimed at reducing barriers faced by entrepreneurs. Acknowledging the financing challenges that continue to hinder SMEs, the Minister announced a landmark initiative: the Bank of Zambia's ZMW 5 billion SME fund, a guaranteed facility designed to make credit more affordable and accessible.

This, he explained, will empower entrepreneurs to scale their businesses and contribute meaningfully to economic diversification.

Minister Mubanga urged both

local and foreign investors to seize opportunities in manufacturing, mining value chains, and agro-processing. He highlighted the importance of joint ventures between Zambian and Congolese entrepreneurs, noting that such partnerships are key to strengthening regional integration and unlocking broader economic growth across the Copperbelt.

#### **A Case for Ndola: NDCCI President's Vision**

Central to the forum, Mrs. Diana Kabaila, President of the Ndola and District Chamber of Commerce and Industry, delivered a compelling address titled "A Case for Ndola: Vision for Medium- to Long-Term Development." She painted a bold vision of Ndola as a clean, green industrial hub powered by innovation, renewable energy, and efficient transport corridors linking the region to global markets. Highlighting the city's population of over 600,000 and its strategic locations supported by the Simon Mwansa Kapwepwe International Airport, major road networks, and DRC border access, she outlined opportunities in revitalizing manufacturing, agro-processing, industrial parks, and modern logistics and warehousing facilities.

Mrs. Kabaila also proposed practical solutions to spur investment, including special economic zones, targeted tax incentives, a Ndola Investment Fund, and a One-Stop Investment Centre

to streamline business processes. She emphasized strong collaboration between government and the private sector, calling for a Ndola Economic Revival Council and underscoring the critical role of SMEs in driving diversification through incubation centers, financial support, and "Buy Local" initiatives. Concluding on a unifying note, she urged collective action to reposition Ndola as a leading industrial and logistics capital, affirming, "The time to act is now; together, we are stronger."

#### **VIP Contributions: Copperbelt Minister and Congolese Ambassador**

Several VIP speakers delivered remarks emphasizing the importance of cooperation and regional integration. Hon. Elisha Matambo, Minister for the Copperbelt Province, underscored the urgency of reviving dormant industries and restoring mining operations that had slowed regional growth. He stressed that private sector involvement remains essential for sustainable economic activity, job creation, and expanded trade within the region.

From an international perspective, the Congolese Ambassador to Zambia highlighted the deep political, cultural, and economic ties shared between Zambia and the DRC, noting that the two countries share more than 2,000 kilometers of border. He encouraged investors to pursue joint ventures anchored

in peace, stability, and collaboration, emphasizing that economic progress flourishes where cooperation between nations is strong.

#### Consul General's Remarks

Adding an international perspective, His Excellency Jean Claude Kalunga Twite, Consul General of the Democratic Republic of Congo in Ndola, highlighted Ndola's strategic role as a gateway for regional trade.

He emphasized the deep cultural and economic ties between Zambia and the DRC and stressed that strengthening logistics, customs, and transport infrastructure is essential to boost trade and attract bilateral investment. His remarks underscored regional integration as a key driver of shared prosperity, reinforcing the forum's vision of cross-border collaboration and Ndola's growing position as a hub for sustainable economic growth.

#### Mayor of Ndola's Remarks

Reaffirming the city's commitment to industrial growth and investment, His Worship, The Mayor Jones Kalyati, highlighted ongoing improvements in infrastructure, urban renewal projects, and reforms designed to ease the cost of doing business. He emphasized that strategic urban planning, combined with coordinated action between the public and private sectors, is key to unlocking Ndola's full potential. "A thriving Ndola

requires shared responsibility," he noted, affirming that the city council remains fully committed to supporting investors and ensuring development initiatives deliver tangible benefits for residents.

#### Committee Chair's Remarks

Expressing appreciation, Mr. Steven Sikobela, Chairperson of the organizing committee, thanked the forum's partners, sponsors, and collaborating chambers of commerce from both Zambia and the DRC. He highlighted the forum's role as a practical platform for mobilizing investment, facilitating knowledge exchange, and aligning public and private sector priorities.

Mr. Sikobela emphasized that such engagements are critical for creating an enabling environment that fosters innovation, sustainable economic activity, and long-term industrial growth.

Building on this vision, a panel moderated by Mr. Joseph Malisawa featured CEOs and senior executives from Zanaco, Sanlam, FNB, Access Bank, Zaffico, Kafubu Water and Sanitation, Zampost, and C.Steinweg Bridge, who shared insights on sustainable financing, SME credit access, and policies to de-risk investment.

Discussions showcased Ndola's commitment to sustainable industrial growth, emphasizing renewable energy, low-carbon manufacturing, and

innovative waste management solutions.

#### Conclusion

Through interactive Q&A sessions, and networking, participants exchanged ideas and forged actionable partnerships, reinforcing key themes of private sector-led development, regional collaboration, value addition, and strategic use of local resources to strengthen Ndola's industrial and commercial potential.

The event demonstrated that government collaboration with private sector, and international partners is pivotal to unlocking new economic opportunities. The forum marked a significant step toward revitalizing Ndola and positioning it as a driving force in Zambia's economic transformation.

Echoing NDCCI President Mrs. Diana Kabaila's own words, she stated: "As Ndola and District Chamber of Commerce and Industry, we commend government's development agenda across all sectors countrywide. And as private sector we stand ready to complement government's efforts to take advantage of Ndola's strategic position as a commerce and logistics capital of the region, and fast track industrial clean green investments and infrastructure. The time to act is now. Let us together unlock our city's development potential and build the future, we are indeed stronger together."



# A PEEK AT CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT BILL NO. 7

By Nakiwe Simpungwe

**H**istory was made on 18th December 2025 when President of the Republic of Zambia Mr Hakainde Hichilema signed into law, constitutional amendment Bill No. 7 of 2025 at an auspicious ceremony held at the Mulungushi International Conference Centre, in Zambia's capital city, Lusaka.

3 days prior, on December 15, the National Assembly had convened to vote on the bill with the entire nation on its toes, waiting with bated breaths to hear the outcome. Ultimately, 135 members of Parliament out of the 156 voting in favour of the bill, achieving the 2/3rd mandatory majority threshold requirement for any bill to pass in Parliament.

The route to the actualisation of the Amendment Bill No. 7 into law was not an easy one as some sections of society argued that the process had lacked wider

consultation, transparency, and accountability.

Other sections of society stood in support of the Bill, arguing that in and of itself, the Bill was very progressive and should be allowed to see the light of day.

The Constitution of Zambia (Amendment) Bill No. 7 of 2025, now signed into law, contains 13 clauses that amend the Constitution of Zambia. These clauses include

**Increase in Constituency-Based Seats:** The number of constituency-based seats in the National Assembly will increase from 156 to 211, as per the Electoral Commission of Zambia's delimitation report.

**Mixed-Member Proportional Representation:** A mixed-member proportional representation electoral system will be introduced, guaranteeing representation of women, youths, and persons with disabilities in Parliament.

## Harmonization of Terms:

The terms of Parliament and local government councils are harmonized to a unified five-year period.

**Vacancy in Office of Minister or Provincial Minister:** A vacancy in the office of Minister or Provincial Minister within 90 days before a general election is provided for.

**Removal of Term Limit:** The two-term limit for mayors and council chairpersons is removed.

## Composition of Councils:

The composition of councils is revised to include constituency-based Members of Parliament.

**Qualifications for Secretary to the Cabinet:** Qualifications for appointment to the office of Secretary to the Cabinet are updated.

**Election Petitions:** The period within which an election petition must be concluded is clarified.

**Definitions:** Definitions of "child", "adult", "election", and "term" are amended for legal clarity and consistency.

**By-Elections:** By-elections cannot be held within 180 days before a general election.

**Nominations and Vacancies:** Procedures for filing nominations, addressing resignations, and handling vacancies due to death are revised.

**Reserved Seats for Persons with Disabilities:** Five reserved seats for persons with disabilities are provided for in the National Assembly.

Source: Signed Bill 7



# AI as a Business Partner: How Intelligent Software Is Redefining Competitive Advantage

By Sheppa Kalunga

**A**cross Zambia today, business owners are feeling the pressure from all sides. The cost of doing business is rising, customers are more informed and demanding, and competition is no longer limited to the next shop or office down the road. Businesses are now competing with regional players and digital-first companies that operate faster and smarter.

In the middle of this reality, a quiet transformation is taking place. Artificial Intelligence is no longer a distant concept meant for large corporations. It is becoming a practical business partner for everyday Zambian enterprises.

For many years, software in business played a simple role. It recorded transactions, stored information, and produced reports when asked. AI changes this relationship completely. Instead of waiting for instructions, intelligent software learns from daily business activity, identifies patterns, and offers insights. This shift turns software from a passive tool into an active partner that supports decision-making. For a business owner who must balance operations, finances, staff, and customers, this kind of support can be life-changing.

In practical terms, AI helps Zambian businesses make better decisions with less guesswork. Many small and medium enterprises rely heavily on experience and intuition,

which are valuable, but limited. AI-powered systems analyse data continuously and can reveal which products are truly profitable, which customers are likely to stop buying, and when cash flow challenges are approaching. Instead of reacting when problems arise, businesses can prepare in advance. This creates confidence and stability in an environment that is often unpredictable.

Customer relationships are also being transformed. Zambian customers value trust, consistency, and personal attention. AI makes it possible for even small businesses to offer personalized service without increasing staff.

Intelligent systems track customer behaviour, remember

preferences, and prompt timely follow-ups through channels such as WhatsApp, SMS, or email. As a result, customers feel seen and appreciated, while businesses build loyalty and long-term relationships that drive sustainable growth.

There is a common fear that AI will replace jobs, but in most Zambian businesses, the reality is very different. AI mainly takes over repetitive and time-consuming tasks such as data entry, reporting, and routine administration. This frees employees to focus on higher-value work like sales, customer engagement, problem-solving, and innovation. Rather than reducing employment, AI helps teams become more productive and fulfilled by allowing them to use their skills where they matter most.

One of the most powerful changes AI brings is the removal of size as the main source of competitive advantage. In the past, larger companies dominated because they had more resources and systems. Today, a small but well-organized business using intelligent software can compete effectively with much bigger players. Speed, insight, and adaptability now matter more than physical size. Businesses that can analyse information quickly and act decisively gain a strong edge in Zambia's fast-moving market. It is important to understand that AI is not a miracle solution. It cannot fix poor leadership, weak discipline, or unclear

vision. What it does offer is clarity. AI reduces costly mistakes, highlights hidden opportunities, and supports better planning. Think of it as a reliable advisor that works continuously in the background, learning from every transaction and improving over time, while the business owner remains fully in control.

Getting started with AI does not require a large budget or complex infrastructure. Many Zambian businesses begin with simple, practical solutions such as AI-enabled accounting systems, customer relationship management software, automated customer communication, or data-driven inventory and loan management tools.

The key is to start where the biggest challenge exists and grow gradually from there. Beyond efficiency and profits, AI also has an emotional impact on business owners. Behind every enterprise is a person carrying responsibility for salaries, families, and the future of the business. When systems provide clear insights and reduce uncertainty, stress levels drop.

Business owners sleep better, plan with confidence, and lead more effectively. This peace of mind is an often-overlooked benefit of intelligent systems, yet it is one of the most valuable.

AI is not something that is coming to Zambia in the future.

It is already here, quietly reshaping how businesses operate. The real question is not whether AI will affect businesses, but whether business leaders will choose to use it intentionally or be left reacting to those who do. Those who embrace AI as a partner rather than a threat will be better positioned to grow, compete, and survive in challenging economic conditions.

In the end, AI does not replace the vision, experience, or leadership of the entrepreneur. It strengthens it. When human intelligence and artificial intelligence work together, Zambian businesses gain a powerful advantage. Intelligent software becomes a silent partner, working every day to guide decisions, protect resources, and support long-term success in an increasingly competitive world.





# NUGGETS TO LIVE BY

By Diana Kabaila

**A**s a thought leader, avid reader and writer, I have come to appreciate the importance of sharing nuggets on different topics that help build people. I choose to share nuggets as they are brief insights that do not require a lot of explaining and are easy to understand. I am trusting that they will be helpful to our readers.

1. Thought has the power to transform, therefore mind your thoughts, practice the art of positive thinking and project your desired outcome.

2. The seasons your life, business and career are in, are a result of your past choices (good and bad). Make choices

consciously in order for you to achieve positive outcomes.

3. The greatness in you lies in what people come to you for, harness and nature that unique talent because that is where your empire will be built from.

4. Be open to people's divergent views and realise that it is not always necessary to defend your position, letting go is a demonstration of a good level of emotional intelligence and enables you to retain your power position.

5. Be alert to the reality that every problem is an opportunity in disguise. Apply your abilities to transform the problem into a benefit - in simple terms 'make lemonade out of the lemons thrown at you.'

6. Accept people, situations and circumstances as they are, understand that they are the way they are for a reason. Be awake to the reality that not every outcome will be within your control.

7. Worry not when they copy your business ideas and style. Be comforted by the reality that they can not copy how your brain functions: your thoughts, your passion and the energy you invest in your total packaging. A copied idea is not enough to sustain and scale anything.

8. Respect and honour those that you need to learn from, but do not idolize. Do not get discouraged when you make mistakes, mistakes are a temporal setback that your role models too have encountered. Keep learning and growing, believe that you are equal to the task.

9. Avoid thinking you have nothing to give others as you lack financial capacity: time, appreciation, attention, love and care are precious gifts that do not come with a financial cost attached.

10. Avoid feeling entitled to success you have not worked for. Save yourself the heartache of unmet unrealistic expectations of people. Wake up, step out of your comfort zone and make meaningful contributions to your environment.

11. We are all gifted

differently, so practice less judgement but be more kind to others knowing that they may not have the capacity to bring to the table in equal measure as you. Be compassionate and empathetic.

12. Practice active listening and only respond when you understand the full story. Conversations are not easy to carry when you only listen to respond. Be humble, listen and learn from others, you will benefit from the growth realised.

13. To effectively practice patience with others, start with yourself. Be patient and kind to yourself, watch your negative self-talk, love and accept yourself at each step of your

journey and work at changing what you do not like.

14. Do not compare yourself to others - wondering how they seem to always have it together and not you. Reality check, everyone has their own challenges, some have mastered the art of not looking like their million-dollar problems. Be your own competition and strive to be a better version of yourself with each passing day.

15. Go back and finish what you started, you will be better equipped and prepared for tasks ahead. The challenges you encounter along the way will eventually pass but help build your resilience.

16. Do not ignore your problems, find a way of resolving them gradually because they will not magically disappear. Unresolved problems grow and consume, seek help to cure whilst you still have time.

17. Careful whose opinions and advise you take, some opinions do not come from a good place.

18. Psalms 46:10 Be still and know that I am God. Do not lean on your own understanding and strength, but Lean on God's protection and preservation of your good name in the market place.

Peace.



ANCIENT WISDOM



# WHAT TO EAT FOR GOOD WEIGHT MANAGEMENT, WEIGHT LOSS, AND MAINTENANCE

**By Nampaka Munanyimbo,**  
Nutritionist/Dietician, Head of Nutrition  
Department, Monze Mission Hospital

**H**ealthy eating is personal. It's the morning rush, the comfort of nshima, the long days that end with quick choices.

This is a practical guide to help your plate work for you—whether you want to lose weight, keep it stable, or maintain progress after a successful journey. The goal is not perfection; it's small, consistent changes that fit your life in Zambia and don't feel like punishment.

## Why food choices change your story

Food isn't just fuel, it's a tool: Protein and fiber calm constant hunger and help you feel satisfied longer. Vegetables add fullness without adding many calories, making it easier to eat less, naturally. Whole grains steady energy and reduce those mid-afternoon cravings that lead to overeating later. Water is

quiet but powerful—it prevents mistaking thirst for hunger and cuts “empty calories” from sugary drinks. When your meals follow these principles regularly, your appetite becomes easier to manage, your energy levels improve, and progress feels sustainable rather than stressful.

## Eating for weight loss

When the aim is losing excess weight, your plate should gently reduce total calories while keeping you nourished and strong. Anchor every meal with lean protein like fish, chicken, eggs, beans, or soy; it helps you feel full and protects muscle.

Fill half your plate with vegetables—rape, bondwe, pumpkin leaves, cabbage, okra, tomato-onion relish—so you get volume and nutrients without overdoing calories. Choose slow, steady energy from brown rice, millet, sorghum, or wholemeal options instead of white bread and polished rice.

Drink water before meals and replace sugary drinks with unsweetened herbal teas. If alcohol is part of your routine, keep it very occasional and small; cutting it altogether during active weight loss often accelerates progress. These shifts don't require perfection, only consistency.

## Eating for weight management preventing weight gain

If your goal is to keep your weight stable, make your plate predictable. A simple pattern works: half vegetables, a quarter lean protein, and a quarter whole starch. Healthy fats like avocado, groundnuts, and seeds can help regulate appetite and hormones, but portions should be modest because they are calorie-dense. Choose smart snacks such as whole fruit, plain yogurt, or a handful of groundnuts instead of pastries and chips.

Eat regularly—skipping meals often backfires as overeating later. Pay attention to portion creep: even good foods add up. A smaller plate and mindful serving sizes protect your progress without making meals feel scarce.

## Eating for weight maintenance after successful weight loss

Maintenance is where many people struggle, not because the principles change, but because life gets busy. Keep the same meal pattern that helped you lose: protein for fullness, vegetables for volume, whole grains for steady energy, and water as your default drink.

Allow occasional treats with intention—plan them, enjoy them, and return to your baseline without guilt or spiral. Alcohol can quietly add back calories; keep it light and infrequent.

Check small signals weekly: how your clothes fit, energy, sleep, and your weight or waist measurement. Catch changes early and reset with vegetables and protein rather than starting over from zero.

### Alcohol and weight management

Alcohol is often ignored in weight conversations, but it matters at every stage. It adds calories without nutrients and the body burns alcohol first, delaying fat use. Drinking can also lower self-control, leading to overeating or late-night snacking.

During weight loss, abstaining or keeping intake very minimal speeds results. For weight management and maintenance, moderation is essential—small amounts, infrequently, and ideally with food. Choose drier options and avoid sugary mixers. A simple rule that protects your progress: if alcohol starts creeping in, increase vegetables, tighten portions, and add a water-before-meals habit. Your results will follow your routine.

### Seven small actions that prompt behavior change

1. Protein at breakfast: Eggs, beans, or soy with vegetables to reduce late-night cravings.

2. Vegetables first: Serve and eat vegetables before starch to add fullness and cut excess calories.
3. One daily swap: Replace one refined item (bread, rice, porridge) with a whole meal version for steadier energy.
4. Water trick: One glass 10–15 minutes before each meal to prevent automatic overeating.
5. Fruit replaces dessert: Whole fruit satisfies the sweet tooth with fiber and fewer calories than juice or cake.
6. Limit alcohol to rare, small amounts: Protects fat-burning and decision-making.
7. Carry a safe snack: Groundnuts, plain yogurt, or fruit to avoid emergency junk food buys.

### Culturally grounded plates that work in Zambia

Healthy eating doesn't mean abandoning local foods; it means using them wisely. A balanced nshima meal includes a small portion of nshima, generous vegetables (rape, okra, pumpkin leaves), and beans or fish for protein.

A beans-focused plate, beans stew with mixed greens and a small whole starch delivers fiber and fullness that lasts. Fish night grilled or baked fish with tomato-onion relish, cabbage or okra, and brown rice keeps calories controlled without sacrificing taste. Busy evenings benefit from quick meals like boiled eggs

or stir-fried soy with sautéed greens and millet porridge fast, affordable, and satisfying.

### A note from practice

In community challenges and hospital programs, the biggest wins came from repeatable plates, not perfect days. Participants who anchored meals with protein, loaded vegetables for volume, chose whole grains, and drank water as a rule achieved visible progress, often 5–10% weight loss within a month, then maintained it by keeping the same habits. When alcohol was reduced, progress accelerated. Your plate can shape your routine, quiet cravings, and rebuild confidence. Start where you are, with what you have, and repeat what works.

### Your next step

Choose one change today, protein at breakfast, vegetables first at dinner, or water before every meal and repeat it for a week. Then add a second change. Momentum beats motivation. Remember that lasting change is built from small, daily choices that respect your culture, your schedule, and your tastes.

Food can be your ally: it can give you energy, calm your hunger, protect your health, and help you keep the progress you earn. If you commit to simple, repeatable plates and moderate alcohol, you will not only change your weight but also strengthen your health and confidence for the long term.



# ANCHOR SUMMARY GOD GAP EDITION

By Jenipher "Gina" Mhlanga

There is a season many people recognize but rarely name — a space where life has already broken something open, yet clarity, resolution, or direction has not fully arrived. It is not chaos, and it is not arrival. It is a pause held by God.

In *Enabling Emotional Trauma*, Jenipher "Gina" Mhlanga names this space the God Gap — the sacred interval between what breaks us and who we are becoming.

The God Gap, as held in this work, is not explained

exhaustively. It is simply understood as:

- a waiting space
- a refining space
- a faith space
- a becoming space

This book is written from within that gap — not after it.

A Book Written from the Middle  
*Enabling Emotional Trauma* does not arrive with tidy conclusions or rehearsed answers. It speaks from the middle of lived experience, where faith is practiced quietly, growth unfolds slowly, and meaning is formed without

applause.

Rather than offering a formula for healing, the book offers companionship. It acknowledges that emotional trauma does not disappear simply because one survives, believes, or keeps going. Healing, in this telling, is not portrayed as erasure. It is portrayed as learning how to live honestly while God continues to work.

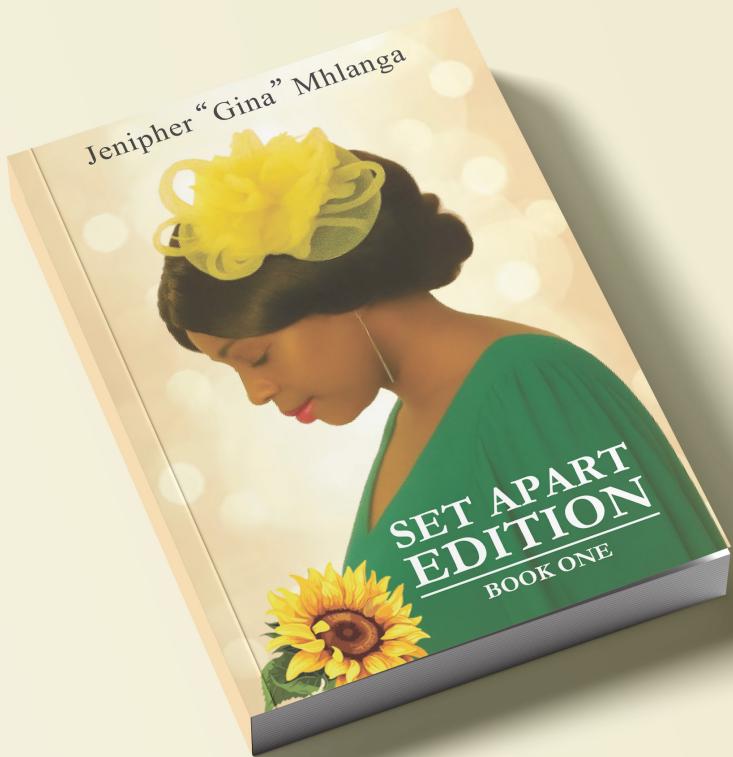
The voice guiding the reader is calm, reflective, and grounded. It does not rush toward solutions or demand emotional performance. Instead, it honors the reality that becoming often happens in silence — long before it becomes visible.

## Faith as Presence, Not Performance

Faith in this book is not loud. It is not weaponized, and it is not presented as proof of arrival. Faith is shown as presence — the steady awareness of God holding space when answers remain delayed.

The God Gap is not described as punishment, failure, or spiritual absence. It is portrayed as a season of formation, where obedience matters more than explanation and patience carries its own weight. Waiting, in this telling, is not wasted time. It is sacred time.  
 Culture, Wisdom, and Quiet Formation

Cultural memory and inherited wisdom flow gently through the narrative. Lessons learned in everyday spaces — kitchens,



conversations, pauses, and silences — provide moral grounding and emotional clarity. Humility, discipline, patience, and discernment are treated not as personality traits, but as survival tools passed down through generations.

#### Who This Book Speaks To

This book is written for readers who recognize themselves in quiet seasons — those who are waiting without certainty, becoming without visibility, and remaining faithful without immediate reward.

**Access, Timing, and Dignity**  
This story understands that not every reader encounters it at the same time or through the same means. Waiting is treated with dignity.

This book is on its way. It will be available in local stores soon.

**Closing Reflection**

Not everything that matters arrives loudly. Some of the most important work happens in the pause God holds.

#### About Author

Jenipher "Gina" Mhlanga is a Zambian author, storyteller, healing advocate, and founder of the Forever Young Sipho Initiative, a community-centered platform rooted in honoring life, healing delayed grief, and supporting those navigating unseen seasons of loss and becoming.

Her voice is shaped by lived experience — by lifelong seasons that break you, pause you, and quietly remake you. Her writing emerges from faith-held spaces of waiting and reflection, where grief is not rushed and becoming is allowed to unfold with

dignity. Rather than centering trauma itself, Gina's work gives language to what often follows it: unresolved sorrow, delayed mourning, and the sacred work of learning how to live forward while carrying what has not fully healed.

Gina holds a Bachelor of Science in Applied Psychology and brings a lifelong practice grounded in psychosocial and eclectic counseling. Through daily therapeutic work, training, and community engagement, her focus centers on human behavior and behavior modification, guided by a refined professional lens for pattern recognition, emotional dynamics, and human response. This depth of practice informs her grounded, human-centered approach to healing and becoming.

Informed by her upbringing, global exposure, and many years of international community and volunteer engagement, Gina brings a nuanced understanding of how personal healing and collective responsibility intersect. Through both her writing and the Forever Young Sipho Initiative, she remains committed to expanding conversations around faith, healing, and access — while honoring lives and stories that continue to shape her becoming.

**Enabling Emotional Trauma**  
marks the beginning of her broader body of work centered on faith, becoming, and legacy.

# YOUNG INNOVATOR SPOTLIGHT: MARY MWAKU'S JOURNEY WITH LOCAL FOODS



## Interview By Nakiwe Simpungwe

**M**eet Mary Mwaku, a grade 10 pupil who's turning the tables on food innovation in Zambia! With a passion for food science and a drive to uplift her community, Mary is transforming local staple foods like sweet potatoes, moringa, and rosella buds into nutritious snacks and products that are both delicious and empowering. We dove into her inspiring story

### Questions and Answers

1. *Can you tell us about yourself, your background, and what inspired you to become a young innovator?*

**Ans:** I'm Mary Mwaku, grade 10 pupil at Chitokoloki Day Secondary School. I create projects in food science, hospitality, and technology. Am Inspired by my community's needs and desire to help people access healthier food options.

2. *What does value addition mean to you, especially in the context of local foods?*

**Ans:** Value addition means improving local products to make them more useful, attractive, or profitable. Example: turning sweet potatoes into crisps or cookies.

3. *What in your view is the importance of using local products in innovation?*

**Ans:** Local products are cheaper, easier to find, and support the local economy. They also protect culture and traditional knowledge.

4. *What motivated you to create sweet potato and banana flakes?*

**Ans:** The abundance of sweet potatoes and bananas in my community. I wanted to create a nutritious snack and reduce reliance on imported products.

5. *How do your products compare to ordinary crisps or cereals?*

**Ans:** They are healthier because of the use of natural ingredients and local resources.

6. *Why moringa powder and homemade peanut butter for moringa cookies?*

**Ans:** Moringa is rich in vitamins and minerals. Homemade peanut butter is healthier, with no added salt or oil.

7. *What inspired you to make rosella orange jam?*

**Ans:** Abundance of rosella buds in my community. I wanted to create something unique and nutritious.

8. *What unique value does shivi jam bring to consumers?*

**Ans:** Unique flavour and texture, using underutilized local ingredients.

9. *How did you come up with these ideas?*

**Ans-** Experimentation, research, and inspiration from my community.

10. *What challenges if any do you face while developing these products?*

**Ans:** Mostly limited resources (machinery, equipment) which

I overcome with creativity and help from friends.

**11. How do you ensure products are healthy and appealing?**

**Ans:** Mostly proper packaging, labeling makes them appealing. As for ensuring they are healthy, i go to great lengths to ensure proper storage.

**12. You have had the opportunity to receive a K7,500 seed fund from Excel foundation. How will this money be used?**

**Ans.** It will help me increase production, distribute to wider markets, and employ help.

**13. How do you balance school and innovation?**

**Ans:** Thats a good question. Its all about time management for me. I use spare time, and holidays for business whilst I use school periods to focus on my studies .

**14. What support do you need?**

**Ans:** Mainly assistance in

sales, marketing and financial support.

**15. How will your innovation benefit the community?**

**Ans:** Promotes local economy, reduces food waste, and inspires other youths.

**16. What role can young innovators play in food security?**

**Ans.** We can promote nutrition, reduce waste, and make food accessible.

**17. What are your future plans?**

**Ans;** To expand supply to community markets, supermarkets, and exports.

**18. What would you say is your proudest product thus far?**

**Ans:** well, all products really, as they promote local ingredients and nutrition.

**19. Finally, could you tell us your biggest dream as a young innovator?**

**Ans:** I have big dreams But mostly, they can be summed up into,.growing more



ideas, improving nutrition, and empowering my community.

Indeed the future is bright for our young innovator Mary.

Her journey is a testament to the power of youthful innovation and determination. With her sights set on making a difference, she's proving that even the smallest ideas can grow into something big.

As she continues to innovate and inspire, one thing's fairly certain - Zambia's food scene is in good hands and Excel foundation is proud to support and be associated with her .



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# PROGRESS REPORT: EXCEL FOUNDATION SEED FUND RECIPIENTS

## EXCEL FOUNDATION

### Giving Hope

#### Progress Report: Nashi Charcoal Briquets

**M**y work focuses on producing charcoal alternatives from neglected materials that would otherwise harm the environment if left unattended, this initiative has been truly transformative.

The Excel Foundation seed fund that I received enabled me to build a small shelter that now serves as both a production space and a sales outlet.

This has given me the stability to store my briquets safely, expand production, and reach more customers. Beyond the business growth, the feature in the magazine has inspired my children - showing them that with dedication and hard work, great achievements are possible.

Seeing their mother recognized and supported has motivated them to dream bigger and strive for excellence in their own lives.

Thank you, Excel Magazine Foundation, for believing in my vision and for empowering me to turn challenges into

opportunities. Your support has not only strengthened my business but also uplifted my family and community.

Namushi Sitali +260 778 241 519

#### Progress Report: RailWatch Technology Project (Issue 10 - Excel Foundation Seed fund recipient)

RailWatch Technology is an automated level crossing safety system that I have been developing since 2016, aimed at enhancing safety at railway level crossings in Zambia.

The project was initiated in response to the continued occurrence of accidents at level crossings, often resulting from lack of automated warning systems and poor signages. Over the years, the project has progressed from an initial concept into a structured safety solution designed with practical railway operating conditions in mind.

Key development milestones include the refinement of the system architecture, focus on automation and reliability, and adaptation to existing rail infrastructure.

A significant recent milestone was an official virtual meeting with the management of Zambia Railways Limited (ZRL), during which I formally presented the RailWatch Technology concept.

The discussion focused on level crossing safety concerns, the rising trend of accidents, and the potential role of automation in improving operational safety. The engagement provided valuable insight and marked an important step toward aligning the project with institutional safety priorities.

At its current stage, RailWatch Technology is positioned for deeper technical engagement and stakeholder collaboration. I anticipate further discussions with Zambia Railways and other rail authorities to explore pilot implementation opportunities, technical evaluation, and possible integration within existing railway safety frameworks.

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# PAIN - A VITAL SIGN THAT IS OCCASIONALLY EVERY PATIENT'S AND HEALTHCARE WORKER'S NIGHTMARE

By Dr Abidan Chansa

**A**mong the most common reasons for seeking healthcare services is pain. Individual patients perceive it differently, their experiences differ and the causes are too many.

## But what is pain?

Pain has been broadly defined as "An unpleasant sensory and emotional experience associated with, or resembling actual or potential tissue damage" - (International Association for the Study of Pain).

Pain is very subjective, varies from individual to another

and it is what the person experiencing it says it is. It therefore, makes the discussion around experiences of pain in the health facility by patients who seek health services quite diverse and half a time emotive.

There are, however, means of grading the pain by healthcare workers using tools that mostly depend on the report of the intensity of the pain by the sufferer. For children, these tools involve pictorial representation of the mood of the model child. What is obtained is called initial pain score. The subsequent pain

scores is guide of how effective or ineffective the therapy is.

## But what are the different types of pain in medical terms?

The various types of pain can be categorized based on the time the pain has been there and by the mechanism (medical term 'pathophysiology') that brings about the pain.

### A. By Duration

**Acute Pain:** This is by sudden onset with a short duration lasting from minutes to less than 6 months. Acute pain results from injury which can be from cuts, surgery, needles, fractures, or accidents. It could also result from other problems like heart attacks, pneumonia, obstruction of the intestines, inflammation of internal organs etc.

**Chronic pain:** this is pain that lasts over six months. This pain may persist way beyond normal healing of the initial medical

or surgical condition. The good examples are pain that results from chronic arthritis, cancer, amputation of a limb, or entrapment of the nerves.

### B. By Mechanism

**Nociceptive Pain:** results from body tissue damage. This process stimulates the pain receptors in the part of the body that is injured or damaged and the signal is sent to the brain.

**Somatic pain:** is pain from the skin, muscles or bones. It is sharp, aching and throbbing.

**Visceral pain:** is pain from internal organs and is dull, deep and vague.

**Neuropathic Pain:** is pain that comes from damage or disease of the nervous system (nerves, spinal cord, brain).

Sufferers describe this as burning, electric shock, tingling and numbness. It can also occur as a result of certain chemicals and drugs altering the internal physiological processes of the body (side effects of drugs). This can result from diseases like herpes zoster (shingles), diabetic neuropathy etc. The commonest drug that brings about this type of pain is in the TB treatment regimen. That is the reason that patients taking TB treatment are given Vitamin B6 to prevent the pain.

**Mixed Pain:** is pain that has elements of both nociceptive and neuropathic pain (common in conditions like low back pain). Lower back pain is common in most individuals and can have a number of causes. It is imperative that

those who suffer from lower back pain seek medical attention so that they are thoroughly evaluated; the correct cause identified and appropriate treatment is commenced or given.

### What are the common causes of pain?

There are so many medical conditions that can cause pain. Basically, when someone is unwell, they have some level of pain. The concept of TOTAL PAIN explains the feelings that patients may have at the time of illness.

This concept was first described by one of the pioneers and prominent figures of the practice of Palliative Care Dame Cicely Saunders. She used the term “total pain” to suggest that pain can be understood as having physical, psychological, social, emotional, and spiritual components.

The combination of these elements is believed to result in a “total pain” experience that

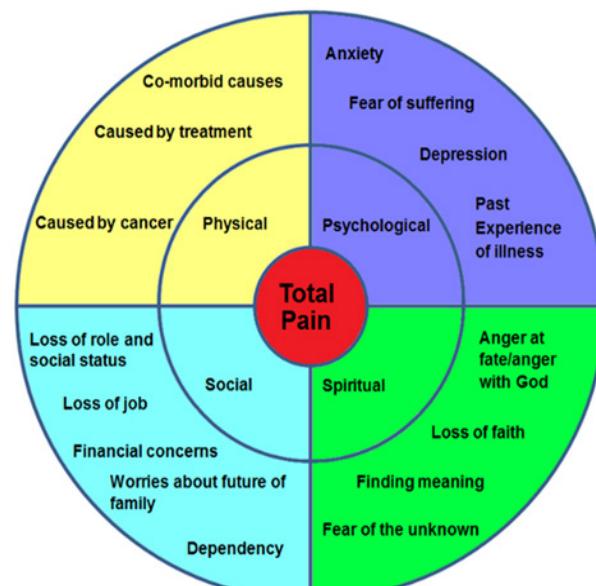
is individualized and specific to each patient’s particular situation. Most times in the practice of medicine, healthcare workers tend to find that patients that have conditions like cancer, for example, have many aspects of their lives that may influence the way they cope with the physical pain, that is a major component of the pain experience.

Unresolved psychological, spiritual and others may compound physical pain to the point that physical pain may not be alleviated by conventional strong prescribed pain killers. It thus is imperative that the concept of total pain is understood by all (health practitioners, patients and their families and carers).

### How is pain treated or managed

A general guide is the comprehensive assessment of the patient. After the patient is assessed, then the plan of management is made and implemented.

### Concept of Total Pain (Cicely Saunders, 1978)





## MUKUBA HOTEL SHINES AT THE INAUGURAL MUKUBA AWARDS GALA 2025

**By Luyando Mooya & Ephraim Mufaya**

The Copperbelt's hospitality gem, Mukuba Hotel, on the 26th of December 2025 ushered in a new tradition with the Inaugural Mukuba Awards Gala 2025 - a night of elegance, gratitude, and cultural pride. The gala brought together leaders, partners, and community members to celebrate excellence and loyalty, marking a milestone in Mukuba's journey of transformation.

### Distinguished Guests and Atmosphere

The evening was graced by notable dignitaries, reflecting the significance of the occasion. The Guest of Honour, Provincial Minister Hon. Elisha Matambo, represented by District Commissioner Ms. Precious Njekwa, His Worship, the Mayor of Ndola, Mr. Jones Kalyati, and Senior Chief Chiwala, whose presence carried profound cultural significance.

Guests were welcomed into an atmosphere of sophistication, complemented by red-carpet moments, live music, and a headline performance by

renowned Zambian Afro-pop artist Danny Kaya, setting the tone for a night of celebration and reflection.

### Mukuba Hotel's Transformation

Acting General Manager Mrs. Irene Mukosiku opened the gala with a heartfelt speech, reminding guests that Mukuba's story is one of partnerships and shared journeys.

She highlighted the hotel's major refurbishment in 2022, with the support of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (IDC), giving new life into the infrastructure which has defined the Mukuba experience through comfort and elegance.

Today, Mukuba offers 52 modern en-suite rooms, serviced flats, a guest house, vibrant dining spaces, conference facilities, a gym, and a swimming pool. She emphasized, "Beyond the buildings and amenities, the true strength of Mukuba lies in the people who support us."

### Words from the Guest of Honour

In his speech, delivered by Ms.

Njekwa, Hon. Elisha Matambo underscored the significance of the Mukuba Awards in Zambia's hospitality and development journey. His speech touched on three powerful themes:

- ✓ **Development and National Vision** "Mukuba Hotel's transformation is a shining example of how investment in infrastructure and service excellence contributes to national growth. By aligning with the Industrial Development Corporation, Mukuba has become part of Zambia's broader vision for economic diversification and sustainable development."
- ✓ **Culture and Heritage** "This hotel is more than a place of comfort; it is a custodian of our cultural identity. Through its tribute to Lamba heritage in spaces like Imbalasa Conference Hall and Chondwe Restaurant, Mukuba reminds us that progress must walk hand in hand with tradition."
- ✓ **Partnerships and Community** "The Mukuba Awards celebrate the loyalty of clients, organizations, and community members

who have stood by this institution. It is through these partnerships that Mukuba thrives, and it is through collaboration that we will continue to build a stronger Copperbelt and a stronger Zambia."

His words resonated deeply, reinforcing the gala's spirit of unity and shared progress.

### **Honoring Senior Chief Chiwala**

A highlight of the evening was the special recognition of Senior Chief Chiwala, whose generosity and vision laid the foundation for Mukuba Hotel. By granting the land on which the hotel stands, he enabled growth, employment, and service to the Copperbelt community.

Mukuba has honored Lamba heritage through cultural tributes such as Imbalasa Conference Hall, Mutomboko Bar, and Chondwe Restaurant. In his award citation, it was noted: "Your leadership demonstrates that true development is achieved when tradition and progress walk hand in hand." He was also given an award in recognition of his efforts in combating gender-based violence, child marriage and preserving cultural heritage.

### **Celebrating Partnerships**

Over 35 organizations have consistently supported Mukuba Hotel since its inception. The Mukuba Awards were created to recognize these loyal partners, sponsors, and clients whose contributions have

sustained the hotel's growth.

- Zaffico, Zittf, Ndola chamber of Commerce, Indeni Energy, Napsa, Sunfm, Excel Magazine, Tolcon, Natsave, Shoprite, Dangote, Agricrop Services Ltd, Cutting Edge Office Solutions, Grovenor Resources Zambia Limited, and Mission Press were acknowledged for their commitment to Mukuba's vision.

The awards celebrated a diverse group of individuals and organizations for their contributions and support. Mr Mulongoti Jr received recognition for his consistent patronage and support, while Dangote Cement Zambia, Shoprite Zambia, Tolcon, Ndola Chamber of Commerce, and NAPSA were each acknowledged for their outstanding partnerships and corporate support. Mission Press was also honoured in recognition of Fr. Mia's lasting legacy, underscoring the impact of faith-based institutions. Together, these awards highlighted the importance of leadership, cultural preservation, corporate responsibility, and enduring partnerships in fostering community development.

### **A New Tradition Begins**

As the evening drew to a close, it became clear that the Inaugural Mukuba Awards Gala marked more than a single celebration it signaled the beginning of an enduring tradition. The inaugural Mukuba Awards Gala is set to become an annual tradition, celebrating

excellence and strengthening relationships across the Copperbelt. In her closing remarks, the general manager Mrs. Mukosiku said: "The Mukuba Awards will continue to honor the people who make this hotel more than a building; they make it a community, a home, and a place of shared memories and lasting impact."

Further more, Mukuba Hotel recognised the women who are selling at the SLAVE TREE for their resilience, entrepreneurship and dedication in preserving an important heritage site. This recognition came as Mukuba Hotel commemorated the revamping of the SLAVE TREE which the hotel adopted as part of its community and heritage support initiatives. The women conducting their businesses at the same site and playing a key role in its daily care were awarded a total of k6000 as part of Mukuba Hotel's corporate social responsibility (CSR) reaffirming its commitment to empowering women and supporting livelihoods.

Sales and Marketing Manager Ms. Alice Chola Banda) concluded that, the Inaugural Mukuba Awards 2025 was a resounding success both operationally and strategically. The event strengthened Mukuba hotel's corporate image, built meaningful partnerships and demonstrated strong potential for growth in future editions.



# 2025 NOTABLE SPORTING HIGHLIGHTS

By Paul Simpelwe

From boardrooms to boxing rings, swimming pools to tennis courts, Zambia's 2025 sports season was a rollercoaster—defined by painful lessons, historic breakthroughs, and a renewed belief in the nation's athletic future. It was a year that demanded resilience, rewarded excellence, and reminded the world that Zambia's sporting spirit never fades.

## Football

A dramatic regime change at Football House to painful lessons on the pitch and flashes of brilliance from the youth and women's teams, 2025 unfolded into an emotional year for the country's biggest sport. The biggest football story of 2025 began off the pitch. After nine years at the helm, Andrew Kamanga was unseated by

Keith Mweemba in a highly contested FAZ election. Held on May 9 in Kabwe, the reconvened AGM ended with Mweemba collecting 45 votes, defeating Kamanga (20), Adrian Kashala (17), and two candidates who failed to gain support. The vote followed court injunctions, political tension and direct oversight from FIFA, CAF and COSAFA.

Mweemba now leads FAZ until 2029 with the mandate to rebuild trust and restore competitiveness.

But as leadership changed hands, the national team's fortunes continued to spiral. The Chipolopolo endured a bruising year. The warning signs flashed early. In March, Avram Grant's charges traveled to Moscow for a friendly that ended in a humiliating 5-0 defeat to Russia. It was meant to be a test of character.

Instead, it foretold the bleak months ahead.

At the COSAFA Championship, Chipolopolo's attempt to reclaim the title slipped away quickly, 1-0 loss to Comoros, followed by a 3-3 draw with Botswana signaled Zambia's early return from the tournament. The team hoped to bounce back in the next tournament.

Then came the catastrophic CHAN campaign, a tournament so disappointing it made national headlines for all the wrong reasons. The tournament that was a catalogue of misery. Chipolopolo started with a 2-0 defeat against Democratic Republic of Congo followed by a 2-1 loss to Angola before going down 3-1 against Morocco. The team ended the group stage with a 1-0 defeat against co-hosts Kenya to be sent packing back home.

Attention again shifted to the next assignment, the World Cup qualifiers. Already mathematically out, Zambia's final run of 2026 World Cup qualifiers became an exercise in damage control. But even then, relief was minimal. The team suffered a 1-0 home defeat to Morocco who had already qualified, then managed a 1-0 win away to Tanzania but were back to default setting with a 1-0 loss to Niger at home.

When the tally was complete, the numbers told a brutal story with the Africa Cup around the corner, 12 matches, 10 losses, one win, one draw in all competitions this year. And so, after months of pressure, Avram Grant and the newly-elected FAZ agreed to part ways. His assistant, Moses

Sichone, stepped up, charged with guiding Chipolopolo into the Africa Cup of Nations in December. A poisoned chalice if ever there was one. But FAZ was hit by another big blow immediately after sacking Grant when the Ministry of Sports withdrew its funding to the national team demanding for answers due to poor performance.

While the men's camp wrestled with a crisis of confidence, the women's national team delivered a more hopeful performance.

Under newly appointed Swiss coach Nora Hauptle, the Copper Queens entered the Women's Africa Cup of Nations (WAFCON) with renewed belief. For the first time, superstar duo

Barbara Banda and Racheal Kundananji were both available. The Copper Queens did not disappoint in the group stages as they had a thrilling 2-2 draw with the hosts Morocco before beating Senegal 2-1 and later saw off DRC 3-2 to sail through to the quarter finals.

But Nigeria had other plans. Driven by vengeance from their 2022 third-place playoff defeat, the Super Falcons unleashed a ruthless 5-0 quarterfinal demolition that ended Zambia's run.

Still, the Copper Queens closed the year on a brighter note, winning a three-nation tournament with a 1-1 draw against Malawi and a 3-1 win over Zimbabwe. With only four losses out of fifteen matches, they remained one of Zambia's few sporting lights in a dim year.



Image By: African Aquatics

### Swimming

In a year dominated by football headlines and Olympic build-ups, it was the splash of water—that quietly carried one of Zambia's most inspiring sporting stories.

The nation's swimmers transformed 2025 into a landmark season. From historic qualifications to record-breaking runs, Zambia's swimming programme stood taller than ever before.

In May, 17-year-old Mia Phiri stood shoulder to shoulder with sporting giants Barbara Banda and Leah Hygate as one of three finalists for the Zambia Sports woman of the Year Award.

It was a rare recognition for a swimmer in a football-loving nation, but the accolades didn't stop there.

Weeks later, Mia became the first Zambian swimmer ever to qualify for the World Aquatics Championships, hitting the required standard in the 50m backstroke, one of the sport's most challenging sprint events. If Mia set the tone, the national team amplified it in Angola in June during the 50th Anniversary Celebrations Swimming Championships, Zambia fielded a small but explosive squad that amassed seven medals.

The notable medals came from Sianne Wilson who won gold in the 50m breaststroke and Johanna Coates who bagged a silver in the 100m freestyle. Meanwhile, across East Africa, young warrior Melissa Muyambango took on nine races at the Kenya Aquatics Championships, coming home with silver in the 100m backstroke and bronze in the 200m breaststroke.

In July, Zambia travelled to the Region Five Championships with a balanced squad, five boys, five girls and returned with a catalogue of medals and one undeniable star, Zach Moyo. Zach struck gold in the 50m breaststroke, becoming the first Zambian to win a gold in the Region Five Games in this category.

If any event summed up Zambian swimming, it was

the Africa Aquatics Zone IV Championships in Eswatini. Team captain Jade Phiri was everywhere, winning gold in the 50m butterfly, 200m freestyle and 100m butterfly.

By the end of the meet, she was named Victrix Ludorum (Best 17 & Over Girl), the championship's most prestigious female award. Urshlla Gomes stole hearts and headlines with multiple masters golds, proving that experience is a weapon while federation president Guy Phiri also won masters gold.

### Tennis

Zambian tennis has over the years been known for stagnation and heartbreaks but in 2025, the sport finally rediscovered its heartbeat. It was a year that delivered institutional redemption and the most transformative seasons in recent memory. For over a decade, Zambian tennis existed in a frustrating limbo, shut out of international events, sidelined from global developmental programmes and constrained by an outstanding US\$9,000 affiliation fee debt to the International Tennis Federation (ITF).

After years of negotiation and an intense period of administrative clean-up, ZTA finally paid its debt allowing the ITF to reinstate the association as a full member thereby restoring privileges lost for 12 long years. The decision followed a fact-finding mission by ITF

Development Officer Tapiwa Masunga, whose meetings with ZTA president Lighton Musonda, the National Sports Council of Zambia, the National Olympic Committee of Zambia, and various facility tours painted a picture of a federation ready to rebuild.

Her visit formed Zambia's renewed ambition, a return to international competition, a revival of junior development and the bold proposal to build a National Tennis Centre in Lusaka.

Zambia also signed onto the ITF World Tennis Number, putting its players on the global rating grid from grassroots to elite events.

Fifteen-year-olds Kombe Mabo Jr and Mukangwa Siame broke into the ITF Junior World Rankings after encouraging performances in J3 tournaments.

For the first time since around 2009 or 2010, Zambia will compete in the Davis Cup. The return to the Davis Cup is more than symbolic, it is proof that the country is back on the international map.

### Boxing

Zambia's boxing history is decorated with legends such as Lottie Mwale, Joseph Chingangu, Kennedy Kanyanta and the trailblazing successes of Esther Phiri and Catherine Phiri.

But 2025 belonged to a new icon, David "Sniper" Mwale who in June, achieved what no

Zambian boxer before him had, winning a World Boxing Council (WBC) title.

Facing Ghana's Michael Decardi-Nelson in a bantamweight showdown, Mwale showcased calculated aggression, immaculate technique, and the composure of a champion. He dismantled the Ghanaian with a performance that grew in authority each round, ultimately claiming the belt via unanimous points decision.

#### Athletics

In athletics Zambian athletes left a mark on the region Five Games in Namibia winning nine medals in total.

Niddy Mingilishi led the way with a gold medal in the women's 200m race, followed by two more gold medals by Nayayo sisamu in javelin and Bernard Kalale in long jump. Zambia won silver from 4X100, 4X400 women and 4X400 relay teams while bronze medals came from Frank Nkhata in the 1500m race and 100m race by Sitali Kakene.

Zambia's flag carrier Muzala Samukonga had a tough year

with his best achievement a semi-final berth at the Tokyo World Championships.

But the year saw a number of local events being held, especially the marathons across the country, showing the growth of long distance running in the country.

#### Golf

Zambian golf also enjoyed some successes especially on the international scene with standout performer Michael Chuma stealing the headlines. One of the year's defining highlights came in Botswana, where the national team delivered a spirited performance to secure silver at the 2025 Africa Golf Confederation (AGC) Region 5 Championship.

Competing against traditional regional powerhouses like South Africa, Zimbabwe and Namibia, Zambia stood tall to finish second behind South Africa.

If 2025 had a headline act, it was undoubtedly Michael Chuma. The Nkana Golf Club young golfer enjoyed an extraordinary year, becoming

one of the continent's top amateur performers.

The year also introduced fans to Zambia's emerging generation where Aamiya Mpolele (10 years old) earned second prize at the SADC Delta Botswana Junior Golf Championship in Gaborone and James Mapalo Anscombe was widely recognized as Zambia's newest rising star, with steady progress across junior circuits earning him national attention. Zambia's golf calendar was packed throughout 2025, with tournaments designed to foster development, promote unity, and strengthen corporate partnerships.

In a heartfelt moment for the country, the government launched the Kenneth Kaunda Day Golf Tournament, an annual event aimed at honoring Zambia's founding president. The tournament successfully blended sport, heritage, and national unity, making it one of the year's most symbolic additions to the calendar. Ends...



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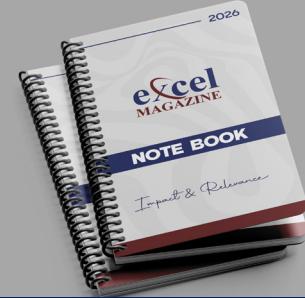
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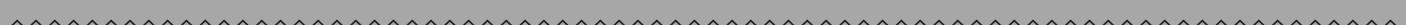
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