



The Desert Foxes mauled Chipolopolo Boys

Zambia 1 Algeria 3: What next?

ZAMBIA’S road to the 2027 Africa Cup of Nations has started with a setback after the Chipolopolo suffered a 3-1 defeat to Algeria in their opening Group I qualifier in Tizi Ouzou on Friday night.

The result leaves Zambia without a point after the opening round, but with five qualifying matches still to play, the campaign is far from over. The immediate focus now turns to Tuesday’s home meeting with Togo at Levy Mwanawasa Stadium in Ndola.

Algeria took control of the contest almost immediately, with Jaouen Hadjam putting the hosts ahead in the second minute. Zambia struggled to impose themselves during the opening stages as Algeria enjoyed the greater share of possession and controlled the tempo.

The Chipolopolo, however, showed a response after the break.

Fashion Sakala produced Zambia’s moment of quality in the 57th minute, beating defenders before finding the back of the net to bring the visitors level and briefly raise hopes of a comeback.

That hope was short-lived. Ibrahim Maza restored Algeria’s lead in the 67th minute before substitute Anis Hadj Moussa added a third seven minutes later, leaving Zambia with a 3-1 defeat.

For interim head coach George Lwandamina, the result highlights the work still required as Zambia attempt to secure qualification for the

tournament to be hosted by Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda in 2027.

The defeat also makes the next fixture particularly important because Zambia will immediately have an opportunity to respond in front of home supporters.

Zambia face Togo at Levy Mwanawasa Stadium on Tuesday, September 29, with the match forming the second round of Group I qualifying. Togo will arrive in Zambia after their opening fixture against Burundi, while Algeria will face Burundi in the other Group I match.

CAF’s qualification format means the pressure is significant but there is still plenty of football remaining. The 48 teams in the main qualifying stage are divided into 12 groups of four, with the top two teams generally advancing to the 2027 finals. The qualifiers are being played over six matchdays, with the remaining rounds scheduled for November 2026 and March 2027.

That means Zambia cannot afford to dwell on the Algeria defeat.

The immediate task is to turn Levy Mwanawasa Stadium into a difficult venue for Togo and secure the first points of the campaign.

The home fixture also gives Lwandamina an opportunity to assess what worked in Algeria and what needs to change. Zambia showed enough attacking quality to score through Sakala, but conceding three goals raises questions about defensive organisation and the team’s ability to withstand pressure against a strong opponent.

The response from the players will therefore be just as important as the result itself.

Sakala’s goal is one positive that Zambia can build on. The forward showed individual quality to bring the Chipolopolo back into the game, while the second-half reaction demonstrated that Zambia were capable of causing Algeria problems once they became more aggressive going forward.

However, the challenge will be converting that response into a complete 90-minute performance.

Zambia will also need to take advantage of home fixtures because the qualification campaign includes three home matches, beginning with Togo and later including Burundi and the return fixture against Algeria.

The Algeria result does not decide Zambia’s AFCON fate, but it does mean the Chipolopolo have little room for another disappointing result in the early stages.

A positive response against Togo would put Zambia back on the board and provide momentum heading into the November international window.

The wider objective remains clear: qualify for AFCON 2027 and return to the continental stage.

For now, the message from the Algeria defeat is simple — the campaign has started badly, but it is only one match into a six-match qualification journey.

The next opportunity comes at home, and Zambia will have to respond. -ZAMFOOT/ZED GOSSIP/FAZ

“For now, the message from the Algeria defeat is simple — the campaign has started badly, but it is only one match into a six-match qualification journey.”

Position	Team	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	GF	GA	GD	Points
1	Algeria	1	1	0	0	3	1	+2	3
2	Togo	1	1	0	0	1	0	+1	3
3	Burundi	1	0	0	1	0	1	-1	0
4	Zambia	1	0	0	1	1	3	-2	0

THE WEEKEND TABLOID

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VICE-PRESIDENT Mutale Nalumango (right) with Chinese Ambassador to Zambia Han Jing.

CHINA and Zambia have reaffirmed their commitment to expanding economic and business cooperation, with agriculture, mining, green energy, infrastructure and climate resilience identified as key areas for deeper collaboration.

The commitment was highlighted when Chinese Ambassador to Zambia Han Jing paid a courtesy call on Vice-President Mutale Nalumango on 24 September 2026.

Ambassador Han said the China-Zambia Comprehensive Strategic and Cooperative Partnership continues to grow under the strategic guidance of President Xi Jinping and President Hakainde Hichilema.

He said China is ready to work with Zambia to carry forward the TAZARA

Spirit while strengthening practical cooperation in sectors with potential to drive economic growth and investment.

Vice President Nalumango welcomed stronger Chinese business participation as Zambia implements the Grow Zambia Agenda, stressing the importance of working with China to advance development.

The two sides also identified emerging areas of cooperation, including artificial intelligence and climate change, alongside established sectors such as mining, agriculture, energy and infrastructure.

Zambia reaffirmed its commitment to the one-China principle, while both countries expressed readiness to further strengthen bilateral dialogue and economic cooperation.

Sources; Chinese Embassy to Zambia

Barrick, Lumwana inject \$1.466BN into Zambia

Barrick Gold Corporation paid US\$5 billion in taxes and royalties across its global operations in 2025, with \$266 million coming from its Lumwana copper mine in Zambia.

According to Barrick’s 2025 Tax Contribution Report, Lumwana’s tax and royalty payments rose from \$145 million in 2024.

The mine made a total \$1.2 billion economic contribution to Zambia through taxes, royalties, salaries, dividends and local procurement.

Lumwana also paid \$41 million in taxes

collected on behalf of employees and other parties, up from \$26 million in 2024.

The mine employed 3,162 people by December 2025, compared with 2,838 in 2024.

Globally, Barrick spent \$7.1 billion with more than 7,400 suppliers in host countries, representing 75% of its total procurement.

The company is also advancing the approximately \$2 billion Lumwana Super Pit Expansion, aimed at transforming the mine into a Tier One copper asset.



The company says follow-up engagements will be undertaken to address key issues and track progress, with the objective of ensuring that its investments continue to deliver tangible economic benefits to Zambians.

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ZAMBIA REVENUE AUTHORITY



KCM Deputy Chief Executive Officer Satish Kumar (left) with China NERIN Engineering representative after the signing ceremony. (Picture courtesy of KCM PR UNIT)

KCM CHINESE FIRM SIGN \$498M COPPER RECOVERY DEAL

KONKOLA Copper Mines (KCM) has signed a US\$498 million contract with China NERIN Engineering to develop a new Tailings Leach Plant (TLP) in Chingola, with capacity to produce an additional 70,000 tonnes of copper annually.

The plant will recover copper from existing mine tailings using advanced wet-leaching technology, allowing KCM to unlock additional value from its existing resources and infrastructure. The project will operate alongside KCM’s existing TLP at Nchanga and forms part of the company’s strategy to increase production and improve resource recovery.

The contract covers design, engineering, procurement, construction and erection, as well as technical support for commissioning, performance testing and training. The project

is also expected to create employment during construction and operations while providing opportunities for local suppliers and contractors.

KCM Deputy Chief Executive Officer Satish Kumar said the project marks a major milestone in the company’s growth journey and will contribute to Zambia’s ambition of producing 3 million tonnes of copper annually. The investment forms part of Vedanta’s broader US\$1 billion investment programme in KCM, including the Konkola Deep Mining Project.

KCM says the new facility will strengthen its integrated mining and processing operations and support its target of increasing copper production to 300,000 tonnes per year by 2030.

Reporting for Excel Business and Lifestyle Magazine.



CHIBESAKUNDA

Zanaco launches \$100m sustainability bond

ZAMBIA National Commercial Bank (ZANACO) has launched a US\$100 million Sustainability Bond, creating a new financing avenue for businesses and projects focused on environmental sustainability, social inclusion and long-term economic development. The bond will be issued in two tranches of \$50 million each, with the first \$50 million tranche already issued through private placement.

The transaction provides Zanaco with additional capacity to mobilise long-term capital and channel funding towards sustainable economic activities. The bank says the initiative is intended to support projects and businesses that contribute to environmental protection, inclusive growth and Zambia’s broader economic development agenda.

Zanaco Chief Executive Officer Ms Mukwandi Chibesakunda said the issuance demonstrates the bank’s commitment

to expanding sustainable financing opportunities and supporting investments that can create lasting economic impact. The bank has positioned the bond as an important step in strengthening its sustainability finance portfolio.

The \$50 million first tranche was placed privately, providing institutional investors with an opportunity to participate in financing activities linked to Zanaco’s sustainability objectives. The remaining \$50 million tranche will be issued separately, bringing the total value of the Sustainability Bond to \$100 million.

The launch brought together representatives from the financial and investment sectors, including the Bank of Zambia, Securities and Exchange Commission, Lusaka Securities Exchange, British International Investment and the British High Commission. Zanaco says the bond reinforces its position as a home-grown bank committed to mobilising capital for sustainable investment and supporting Zambia’s long-term economic development.

NDCCI Reaction To The Signing Of The 450Mw Ndola Power Plant Project

The Ndola & District Chamber of Commerce & Industry (NDCCI) welcomes the signing of the agreement for the development of the 450MW Ndola Vioqua Energy power plant, representing a significant investment in Ndola and the wider Copperbelt.

We view this development as an important opportunity to strengthen Ndola’s economic and industrial base, while addressing one of the key constraints to business growth – the availability of reliable and adequate electricity. Consistent power supply is critical for manufacturers, mining companies, SMEs, transport and logistics businesses, and other productive sectors.

Beyond power generation, NDCCI encourages the project to maximiselocal economic participation by creating opportunities for Zambian and Copperbelt-based contractors, suppliers, transporters, service providers and SMEs throughout the construction and operational phases.

We also welcome the potential for employment and skills development. In addition to the projected jobs, we encourage the development of apprenticeships, technical training and skills-transfer programmes that will equip local people to participate meaningfully in the project and its long-term operations.

At the same time, NDCCI recognises the environmental considerations associated with a coal-based power project. We therefore encourage the development to adhere fully to Zambia’s environmental laws and regulatory requirements, with appropriate measures to manage environmental and community impacts and

promote responsible development.

Overall, NDCCI considers this investment an opportunity to support energy security, industrialisation, local business development, employment and economic growth in Ndola and the Copperbelt. The Chamber looks forward to engaging with the investor and relevant stakeholders to ensure that the local business community is able to participate meaningfully in the opportunities arising from the project.



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NORMAN MAULE, CEO - ZAMBIA INTERNATIONAL TRADE FAIR TRUST.

LYDIA LUBOBYA, POST MASTER GENERAL - ZAMPOST

CHRIS CHIPIMO, MD - C. STEINWEG BRIDGE

POWERHOUSE

www.excelmagazinezambia.com

☎ +260 779 593859 | +260 953 529667 | +260 766 989878
🌐 www.pangaeaadcapital.co.zm ✉ getfinance@pangaeaadcapital.co.zm

Scientists warn Super El Niño could drive 450,000 heat deaths’

A POWERFUL Super El Niño climate event could contribute to about 451,000 additional heat-related deaths worldwide by February 2027, according to projections by the Climate Impact Lab.

Researchers estimate that the event could bring 44 percent more extreme-heat days than normal, with poorer and highly vulnerable regions expected to face the greatest risks. The Sahel region of Africa is projected to record about 66,800 additional heat-related deaths.

The projections are based on temperature and mortality data from more than 24,000 regions worldwide. Researchers say governments can reduce the impact through early heat warnings, cooling centres, stronger health-system preparedness and protection for outdoor workers.

The expected increase in extreme heat could also place additional pressure on health systems, agriculture, water supplies and electricity networks, particularly in countries already vulnerable to climate-related shocks.

Businesses and communities may also face higher costs as extreme temperatures affect worker productivity, outdoor activities and demand for cooling and electricity. Researchers are therefore urging authorities to strengthen preparedness before the most intense heat arrives.

The Super El Niño is also expected to disrupt weather patterns, increasing the risk of droughts, floods, wildfires and other extreme weather events in different parts of the world.- Aljazeera



“Researchers estimate that the event could bring 44 percent more extreme-heat days than normal ”

‘Private investment key to Zambia’s agro growth’

Agriculture Climate Action Foundation (ACAF) says private investment must play a central role in transforming Zambia’s agriculture into a major driver of economic growth, employment, food security, agro-processing and exports.

ACAF Executive Director Oliver Bulaya says increased production must be matched by investment in aggregation, storage, processing, transportation, financing and marketing infrastructure.

Dr Bulaya warns that expanding production without corresponding market capacity could create a production-market imbalance, leaving farmers struggling to commercialise their output.

He says private investment can strengthen farmer-to-market linkages, reduce post-

harvest losses, expand processing capacity, create jobs, improve logistics and increase access to finance.

Dr Bulaya adds that Government’s ambitious agricultural targets under the 10-10-5-3-3-1-1-1 framework will require equally ambitious investment across the entire agricultural value chain.

Reporting for Excel Business and Lifestyle Magazine.

“Private investment must play a central role in transforming Zambia’s agriculture into a major driver of economic growth ”

Three illegal miners die at mine dumpsite

The incident occurred at night when the three reportedly entered the dumpsite to scavenge for stones

THREE illegal miners have died after being buried alive when loose soil collapsed at the KCM OB-19 dumpsite along the Chingola-Solwezi Road.

The incident occurred at night when the three reportedly entered the dumpsite to scavenge for stones suspected to contain copper ore, after authorised workers had left the site.

Chingola District Commissioner Howard Kamwandi said the deceased were not among the youths officially authorised to operate at the dumpsite.

Mr Kamwandi said the facility closes at 19:00 hours, adding that security measures will be strengthened to prevent unauthorised access and further

loss of life.

The OB-19 dumpsite was established to provide youths with a legal opportunity to recover copper-bearing material from mining waste, while reducing illegal mining activities.

However, the incident has raised concerns over security and compliance with operating hours, particularly the movement of people into the site after authorised activities have ended.

OB-19 Dumpsite Chairman Douglas Bwalya said the facility has generally operated safely and stressed the need for strict adherence to operating procedures and safety guidelines.

The authorities are expected to tighten access controls and



KAMWANDI

enforcement at the site as efforts continue to balance livelihood opportunities from mining waste with the need to protect lives. - Source; Police Press Release



ZAMBIA SET TO JOIN JP MORGAN’S \$330 BILLION GLOBAL BOND INDEX

Zambia is set to be included in JPMorgan’s new GBI-EM Edge Index, which will track nearly \$330 billion worth of local-currency government bonds from 26 frontier-market countries. The index is expected to launch by the end of September.

Zambia was initially at risk of being left out because of the size of its government bonds. However, the country’s recent efforts to issue larger bonds have enabled

it to meet the index requirements.

Inclusion in the index could give Zambian government debt greater visibility among international investors who use major bond indexes as investment benchmarks, potentially increasing international attention to the country’s bond market.

Reporting for Excel Business and Lifestyle Magazine.



President Hakainde Hichilema (centre) has pledged to bring Zambia’s power challenges to an end.

Private firms to gain access to Zambia’s electricity market

ZAMBIA is introducing an open-access electricity market that will allow private power producers and eligible large electricity consumers to participate more directly in the electricity sector.

The reform will enable qualifying businesses and industrial users to source

electricity from generators beyond traditional suppliers, subject to market rules and eligibility requirements.

The move is also expected to attract private investment in power generation, particularly renewable energy, as Zambia seeks to expand electricity supply.

The new framework could increase opportunities for private companies to generate, supply and trade electricity, while giving large consumers more options for securing power.

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