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Dangote eyes Zambia fuel market

Plans to expand fuel distribution across Africa, with Zambia potentially benefiting from the pipeline network

AFRICAN industrialist Aliko Dangote is planning to expand his petroleum distribution network across Africa, with Zambia among the potential beneficiaries of a proposed pipeline corridor through Zimbabwe.

The expansion plan includes pipelines, storage facilities and transport infrastructure aimed at improving fuel distribution across the continent.

Dangote recently announced that his

Group had acquired a 25% stake in Kenya's petroleum pipeline network, alongside plans to develop additional distribution routes. The proposed Southern African network would link Namibia, Botswana and South Africa, with another corridor extending through Zimbabwe and Zambia towards the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The expansion forms part of an investment programme estimated at US\$50 billion between 2026 and 2030. -EXCEL

ZAMMSA Audit: K290m medical supplies unverified

Government has revealed that medical supplies worth K290 million could not be verified during a forensic audit of the Zambia Medicines and Medical Supplies Agency (ZAMMSA).

Health Minister Roma Chilengi told Parliament that the audit uncovered 4,096 missing shipments, K42 million in unexplained distribution discrepancies and procurement contracts worth K1.4 billion awarded despite internal audit objections.

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\$1.6BN FERTILIZER PROJECT TAKES OFF



President Hakainde Hichilema (right) gestures during a tour of the United Capital Fertiliser plant

US\$1.6BN FERTILISER PROJECT TAKES OFF

President Hakainde Hichilema has broken ground for the US\$1.6 billion Phase II expansion of United Capital Fertilizer's ammonia and urea plant in Chilanga District, a major investment aimed at boosting local fertiliser production, creating jobs and strengthening food security. Speaking during the groundbreaking ceremony, President Hichilema said the facility has already created 7,400 direct jobs, with employment expected to rise to 10,000 upon completion of the expansion.

The project is expected to increase Zambia's capacity to manufacture essential agricultural inputs locally, reduce reliance on imports and improve fertiliser supply for small-scale and commercial farmers.

The investment supports the Government's

Grow Zambia Agenda, which targets annual production of 10 million metric tonnes of maize, three million metric tonnes of soya beans, and one million metric tonnes each of wheat and sugar by 2031.

Beyond the domestic market, Zambia's growing fertiliser manufacturing capacity presents opportunities to expand regional exports, generate foreign exchange and stimulate economic activity in transportation, logistics and distribution.

The expansion reinforces the role of private-sector investment in transforming agriculture into a major driver of economic growth, employment creation and national food security.

SOURCE: MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, ZAMBIA

AG report flags financial, accountability gaps

The Ministry of Mines and Minerals Development failed to collect K626.64 million in penalties from mining licence holders, according to the latest Auditor-General's report.

The report, covering Government accounts for the financial year ended December 31, 2025, highlights weaknesses in revenue collection, financial management and asset protection across public institutions.

Acting Auditor-General Patricia Malaila said the shortcomings had resulted in revenue losses and inefficient use of public resources, affecting service delivery.

The report also found K30.48 million in outstanding annual mining area charges, while US\$433,820 collected by the Department of Immigration had not been remitted to the Treasury.

The Zambia Revenue Authority could not account for K41.97 million in customs duties and

temporary imports valued at K9.03 million due to missing documentation.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Health had accumulated K3.56 billion in outstanding obligations, including unpaid suppliers' bills and employee-related liabilities.

The audit further uncovered irregularities exceeding K72 million under the Farmer Input Support Programme, involving inactive and unapproved beneficiaries.

Auditors also found that 5,568 of 5,595 confiscated mukula logs could not be physically accounted for.

Despite the findings, unresolved audit issues declined from 33 in 2024 to 27 in 2025.

Ms Malaila urged controlling officers to strengthen internal controls, recover public funds and implement audit recommendations promptly. -EXCEL

Botswana, Zambia want stronger mining ties

Botswana and Zambia are exploring strategic partnerships to boost mining investment, local manufacturing and industrialisation, with a focus on mineral processing and job creation.

Speaking at the Zambia Mining and Investment Insaka (ZAMII) 2026 in Lusaka, Botswana President Duma Gideon Boko, represented by Minerals and Energy Minister Bogolo Joy Kennewendo, urged African countries to move beyond exporting raw minerals and prioritise value addition.

Proposed areas of cooperation include mining equipment manufacturing, engineering, skills development and regional supply chains to reduce reliance on imported industrial services.

The countries are also considering an industrial campus linked to a 300-megawatt solar project, alongside systems to identify regional procurement opportunities and improve mineral traceability. -EXCEL

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Ndola Mayor Kennedy Kasaba (in mayoral rob) gets his installation as father of the city. Picture courtesy of NCC PR UNIT

Ndola Mayor Kasaba shares economic revival blueprint

NDOLA Mayor Kennedy Kasaba says he wants to transform the city into a major investment, logistics and tourism hub through industrial revival, youth empowerment and improved environmental management.

ZAMMSA Audit: K290m medical supplies unverified

From Front Page

The audit also revealed procurement price inflation of up to 1,613 per cent, an unregistered supplier awarded a K16.1 million contract, missing procurement documents and suspected deliberate deletion of electronic records.

Prof. Chilengi said the findings exposed serious weaknesses in governance, procurement and supply chain management, prompting Government to dissolve the agency's board and remove its chief executive and other directors. Law enforcement agencies have launched investigations, with some arrests already made.

He said the restructuring would strengthen transparency, accountability and efficiency, while introducing integrated electronic systems to track medicines from procurement to delivery.

Government has completed a new organisational structure for ZAMMSA, with the separation of 481 employees underway. About K100 million has been set aside to meet their dues.

Meanwhile, funding for medicines and medical supplies has increased from K1.6 billion in 2021 to K6.4 billion in 2026, although the allocation remains below the health sector's requirements.

Source: Ministry of Health- EXCEL

Mr Kasaba said Ndola's strategic location, railway connections and Simon Mwansa Kapwepwe International Airport presented opportunities to attract investors and stimulate economic growth.

He was speaking when he featured on the Excel Magazine Trailblazers Talk Show.

Mr Kasaba said the council intended to engage the central government on possible tax incentives to attract investors and encourage companies to establish operations in the city.

"We need to work with central government ... to do some rebates in the city of Ndola so that companies would come on board," he said.

He cited the proposed oil refinery investment and the development of industrial areas as opportunities to create jobs and expand business activities.

Mr Kasaba said the council also planned to promote fish cage farming along the Kafubu River to empower young people and boost fish production.

He said Ndola had potential to become a tourism destination through investment in boating, camping and other recreational activities along the river.

On community development, Mr Kasaba pledged to revive dormant recreational facilities and called on companies to support youth programmes and sports clubs through corporate social responsibility.

He also urged residents and businesses to keep the city clean, warning that indiscriminate waste disposal and blocked drainages could increase the risk of cholera during the rainy season.

"Ndola can only be kept clean by ourselves. No one will come and clean our city," he said.

Mr Kasaba called for partnerships among residents, investors and the council to realise his vision of a cleaner, more prosperous Ndola.-EXCEL

Japan commits \$6bn to Zambia's railway revival

The Government of Japan has committed ¥999 million, equivalent to approximately US\$6.17 million, to support railway maintenance in Zambia, in a move aimed at strengthening transport infrastructure and boosting economic activity.

The grant will help improve railway maintenance and operational efficiency, making it easier to transport goods, connect businesses to markets and facilitate trade. A more efficient railway system is also expected to improve transport connectivity and support the movement of goods across the country.

The funding supports Zambia's ambition to become a regional transport and logistics hub by strengthening railway connectivity and creating

opportunities for investment in the transport sector. Improved railway services could also support business expansion, employment creation and economic diversification.

The assistance forms part of continued development cooperation between Zambia and Japan and complements the Government's broader economic transformation agenda.

Speaking during the grant signing ceremony in Lusaka, Minister of Finance and National Planning Dr Situmbeko Musokotwane expressed appreciation to the Government and people of Japan for their continued support. Zambia reaffirmed its commitment to ensuring successful implementation of the project.-EXCEL

Final James Bond screen tests to take place this weekend, reports say

Callum Turner, Jack Lowden and Josh O'Connor are among the actors thought to be taking part in final auditions to play James Bond, according to reports.

Screen tests are said to be taking place this weekend, possibly as early as Friday, according to the Hollywood Reporter, with between three and five actors understood to have reached the last stages of the process.

The finalists are said to be taking part in auditions with three components - stunts, camera presence and dialogue.

Deadline reported the screen tests had been due take place in early October, but had been delayed by scheduling conflicts, while Variety said Turner and Lowden "appear to be in the mix" to replace Daniel Craig.

British actors Aaron Taylor-Johnson and James Norton were previously connected to the role, while Irish actor Paul Mescal's name had also been thrown into the mix.

Other actors now appear to be in the frame, but reports on the current casting situation vary.

Variety suggested Slow Horses star Lowden may now be edging ahead, while Masters of the Air star Turner was speculated about earlier this year, with some fans suggesting his wife Dua Lipa could sing the Bond theme song.

Sources told Deadline that at least four final screen test offers have been made, and while unconfirmed, "three of the four expected to test are Jack Lowden, Callum Turner and Josh O'Connor".-BBC

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Trade maize, not soldiers: Hichilema challenges Great Lakes region

President Hakainde Hichilema has told Great Lakes countries to stop spending their time on conflict and start using it to create wealth. He said the region should one day be "swapping maize" instead of rotating soldiers. He was officially opening the 20th Ordinary Session of the Regional Inter-Ministerial Committee of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) in Lusaka today. The session coincides with the 20th anniversary of the Pact on Security, Stability and Development in the Great Lakes Region. The President said the reasons the bloc was formed two decades ago remain valid, and may be more urgent now than when it was created.

Zambia stepped in to host the meeting after the Democratic Republic of Congo, which faces what the President called a disease burden, was unable to. He said Zambia and other members would always be ready to keep the region's work going whatever challenges any one country faces. He said 20 years of meetings run in the same way had produced too little progress. He told delegates he was deliberately stepping outside the routine to provoke a different conversation.

"How much progress have we made by running our meetings the same way for 20

years? It's time to step outside the box," the President said.

His central argument was that the region must move from resolving conflicts to preventing them, and that economic growth is the most effective form of prevention. He said many conflicts are rooted in the exclusion of groups of citizens from economic activity. When people are shut out at home, he said, they cross borders and compete for resources in neighbouring countries, exporting problems to sister states. He noted that the same pressures push Africans towards Europe, even though the region is, in his view, wealthier than its northern neighbours. He said time is a fixed resource, and every year spent fighting is a year lost in turning natural wealth into value for citizens.

The centrepiece of his address was mining, which he described as a recurring source of instability in the region. He set out four rules Zambia is applying and urged neighbours to adopt them. First, every mining activity must be legal, and where it is not, governments should work to legalise it. Second, mining must be safe, both for the young miners dying in collapsing pits and for rivers poisoned by mercury used to process gold. -LT

Zambians in South Africa living in fear

More than 250 Zambians living in South Africa are in hiding after a wave of violent attacks on foreigners spread across the country. Families say they have lost their jobs and homes, and they are appealing to Government to bring them back to Zambia before lives are lost.

The Zambians raised the alarm through a flood of phone calls and WhatsApp voice messages. They asked that their plight be brought to the attention of authorities in Lusaka, describing a situation that has worsened steadily since June.

Mr Michael Musonda, who lives in Durban, said about 50 Zambian families were stranded in KwaZulu-Natal alone. Many have been forced into hiding because the attacks are aimed at foreigners generally, not at any single nationality.

"They are not attacking Nigerians only. Even us Zambians," Mr Musonda said. "We no longer send our kids to school since June this year. We are not working and well-wishers are the ones keeping us." -LT



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Unemployment rate falls to 9.9%

Zambia's unemployment rate declined from 12.9% in 2024 to 9.9% in 2025, with 4.76 million people employed, according to the 2025 Labour Force Survey released in Lusaka.

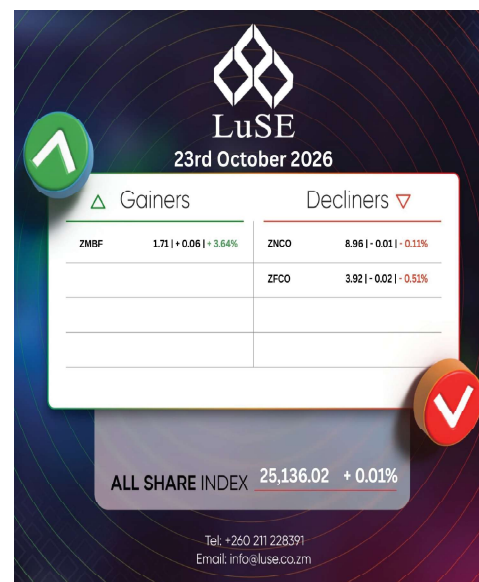
The survey shows that labour force participation increased from 38% to 41.2%,

while the employment-to-population ratio rose from 33.1% to 37.1%, reflecting improved participation in economic activities.

However, youth unemployment remains a concern, standing at 23.9% among people aged 15-24 and 14.2% among those aged 15-35. About 2.09 million young people aged 15-24 were not in employment, education or training.

Informal employment accounted for 3.02 million workers, representing 63.4% of total employment, highlighting the need to expand formal job opportunities and improve access to social security.

Statistician General Sheila Mudenda said the findings underline the importance of translating economic growth into productive jobs and better livelihoods, particularly for young people, women and persons with disabilities. -EXCEL



Indicative Forex Rates

07:17 | 23rd October, 2026

Currency	Buying	Selling
USD	20.0400	20.3806
GBP	26.8325	27.2887
EUR	22.4678	22.8498
ZAR	1.2137	1.2343
CNY	3.0032	3.0543

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- Step 2. Register for TPIN and relevant tax-type (New Applicants)
- Step 3. Login using e-services credentials
- Step 4. On the taxpayer profile (left side of window), access the link "Tax Relief"
- Step 5. Select new application
- Step 6. Update Demographic information through a pop-up window
- Step 7. Select "taxtype", system will provide feedback (no outstanding liabilities or submit returns)
- Step 8. Complete application
- Step 9. Receive acknowledgement
- Step 10. Make payment where applicable

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When your business starts to struggle to meet customer, employee, statutory and other obligations, seek support for it, do not wait until it is too late, because your business may not be retrievable. And keep your business environment and records clean, your business and yourself should not look like the problems you are facing.

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SUDOKU # 2

	2	4	3	8				
					6			7
	5	8				4		
4				1				
			7		5			
				2				8
		1				6	7	
3			5					
				4	9	2	1	

Fill in the blank squares so that each row, each column and each 3-by-3 block contain all of the digits 1 thru 9.
If you use logic you can solve the puzzle without guesswork.
Need a little help? The hints page shows a logical order to solve the puzzle. Use it to identify the next square you should solve. Or use the answers page if you really get stuck.

DROP SUMS PUZZLE

Drop Sums		FC485S4R						
			9			5	1	
5		7						
		2			6	3	1	
		1	6	3	4		2	
					9	5		8
19	28	14	27	26	31	25	18	37



UEFA gives FIFA Nov 2 ultimatum

WE’LL GET IT BACK, SAYS CARRICK

Under-pressure Manchester United boss Michael Carrick delivered a passionate and emotional address lasting five minutes and 30 seconds as he battles to save his job. And he refused to rule out dropping skipper Bruno Fernandes for Sunday’s Premier League meeting with Bournemouth at Old Trafford. Instead of taking his seat and answering questions as normal in Friday’s scheduled pre-match media conference at Carrington, Carrick said he wanted to start himself. It was a strategy former boss Sir Alex Ferguson used, although the legendary Scot rarely spoke at such length. After a run of seven games without a win, culminating in Wednesday’s shocking 4-1 Champions League defeat by Como, and attacks on the club’s hierarchy by defender Lisandro Martinez and then Fernandes’ condemnation of his own tactics in Italy, Carrick wanted to reaffirm his view of what United stood for.-BBC

European football governing body UEFA has given FIFA until November 2, 2026, to release key documents and answer 42 questions concerning its governance and decision-making. In a letter seen by BBC Sport, UEFA General Secretary Theodore Theodoridis said FIFA had failed to address fundamental questions, despite FIFA President Gianni Infantino apologising for his World Cup sell-off plan at a recent FIFA Council meeting. The eight-page letter raises concerns over the FIFA Forward Enterprise private investment, the FIFA Peace Prize and the controversial suspended ban involving USA striker Folarin Balogun at the World Cup. UEFA says FIFA’s withdrawal of the investment proposal and promises of governance reforms do not explain how decisions were made or why the FIFA Council was not involved at the appropriate stage. The European body has warned that the questions require immediate answers and cannot be postponed until the next FIFA Council meeting. Although UEFA has not outlined the consequences of failing to meet the deadline, the move increases pressure on Infantino ahead of the November 18 deadline for candidates to declare their intention to challenge him in next year’s FIFA presidential election. FIFA has been approached for comment.-BBC

Ronaldo leads Ballon D’or fan vote with 73%, Messi is at 9%



CRISTIANO Ronaldo is leading a special Ballon d’Or fan competition to determine the greatest winning season in the award’s history, reportedly securing 62% of the votes for his 2008 triumph. Launched in early October on the official Ballon d’Or platform, the competition features 10 football legends who have won the prestigious award at least twice, including Lionel Messi, Ronaldo Nazário, Johan Cruyff, Michel Platini and Franz Beckenbauer. Unlike traditional fan polls, participants are voting for specific Ballon d’Or-winning seasons rather than simply selecting their favourite players. Ronaldo’s 2008 victory, achieved while playing for Manchester United, is currently leading the contest. The Portuguese superstar won his first Ballon d’Or that year after an outstanding season in which he helped United win the Premier League and UEFA Champions League. Voting comes at a cost of €1 per vote, with fans permitted to vote multiple times, including repeatedly for the same player. Consequently, the results reflect paid fan participation rather than a traditional expert jury, and the percentage of votes does not necessarily represent the number of individual supporters.- Derek Katey Caesar

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