# THE WEEKLY TABLOID

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## ‘We’ve 16,000MW in power project proposals but...’

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## 3 million tonnes copper production within reach, says CBU Don

A Copperbelt Mine Expert Professor, Peter Chileshe, says that Zambia’s journey to three million metric tonnes of Copper production by 2031 looks promising with the current production levels.

Professor Chileshe says that even though the country’s copper output has experienced a modest increment of about 1.9 percent in the first seven months of 2026, its copper production output is getting better.

He says that some of the mining companies contributing to the growing copper production levels are Barrick Lumwana, Kansanshi Mine and FQM Trident.

Professor Chileshe says that this is thanks to projects such as the 1.2 billion United States dollar S3 Kansanshi Expansion project and the 2 billion United States Dollars Barrick Lumwana Super pit project.

He says the S3 project alone has increased the annual copper output at Kansanshi Mine from around 450,000 to 500,000 tonnes whereas the super pit is expected to boost annual copper production at Barrick Lumwana from approximately 120,000 to 150,000 tonnes to an average of 240,000 tons per year.

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## Govt moots gold trading agency

Government is planning to establish a gold trading agency to centralise the buying and trading of gold, particularly from small-scale miners, in a move aimed at curbing informal mineral trade and ensuring greater economic benefits from the country’s natural resources.

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## ‘We’ve 16,000MW in proposed power projects but..’

Zambia has received proposals for electricity generation projects with a combined capacity exceeding 16,000 megawatts (MW), reflecting growing investor interest in the country’s energy sector. However, despite the significant pipeline of proposed investments, converting these commitments into operational power plants remains a major challenge.

The proposed capacity is considerably higher than Government’s target of achieving 10,000MW of electricity generation capacity by 2031. While the figures suggest that Zambia has attracted substantial interest from potential investors, the key concern is whether these projects can secure the necessary financing, approvals and infrastructure required to move from proposals to actual electricity production.

Speaking during a familiarisation visit to the Energy Regulation Board (ERB), Minister of Energy Peter Kapala said Government was determined to address the obstacles delaying the implementation of power generation projects.

Kapala identified difficulties in securing financial close for Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) as one of the major challenges affecting project development. He explained that Government was keen to understand the concerns facing renewable energy developers and find practical solutions that would allow viable projects to progress.

The Minister has since called for a meeting with renewable energy developers to discuss the difficulties they are encountering, particularly those relating to financing and the process of concluding agreements for the purchase of electricity.

ERB Board Chairperson James Banda said the proposed generation capacity of more than 16,000MW demonstrated strong investor confidence in Zambia’s electricity sector. However, he acknowledged that access to financing remained a significant obstacle to translating investment interest into completed projects.

Beyond financing, Kapala emphasised the importance of expanding the country’s electricity transmission infrastructure to accommodate additional generation capacity. This is particularly important because constructing power plants alone will not guarantee reliable electricity supply if the national grid lacks sufficient capacity to transport the electricity to consumers and businesses.

He also called for faster development of the Independent System Operator framework, which is expected to strengthen the management and coordination of electricity generation and transmission within the sector.

Meanwhile, Zambia’s net metering programme has reached approximately 32MW against a target of 100MW, indicating that more work is required to accelerate participation and implementation. The programme allows eligible electricity consumers with renewable energy systems, particularly solar installations, to feed excess electricity into the national grid.

The developments highlight an important distinction in Zambia’s energy ambitions: attracting investors and receiving project proposals is only the beginning. The real test lies in securing financing, strengthening infrastructure and ensuring that proposed investments reach construction and commissioning stages.

With Government targeting 10,000MW by 2031, overcoming these bottlenecks will be critical to increasing electricity supply, supporting industrial growth and improving the country’s long-term energy security.- EXCEL






CHRTOVA

# Czech Embassy hails pace of MWAZACO project

***...the project has moved to the second phase of electing a site in Kitwe for the construction of a portable water treatment plant...***

The Czech Republic Embassy in Zambia head of Cooperation Michaela Chrtova has hailed the pace of the mine water project MWAZACO.

The Mine Water Atlas of the Zambian Copperbelt is a Czech funded project to help Zambia reduce contamination and mismanagement of water in mining areas.

Ms Chrtova says that the project has moved to the second phase of electing a site in Kitwe for the construction of a portable water treatment plant.

She also reiterated the Czech government's commitment to working with the Zambian government in improving access to quality water in communities at risk of mining pollution in the country.

Ministry of Mines and Minerals Development Assistant Director Jackson Kafwanka says that ten projects have been identified so far for the installation of a portable water treatment plant in communities affected by Mining activities on the Copperbelt.

Mr Kafwanka says the major shift in the project currently is that the team is now working with stakeholders to secure land in Kitwe for the building of a portable water treatment plant near Mopani Copper Mines operations.

He says that the treated mine water will be given to the community through the local water utility.

And Future Resources Development Association (FRDA) Founder and Director, MICHAL ZAK, says that the Mine Water Atlas of the Zambian Copperbelt project –MWAZACO- will play a pivotal role in mitigating the negative impact of mining activities on communities.

Earlier, Copperbelt University Assistant Dean in the school of mines Dr Kenny Nyirenda says that the team is now in consultation with stakeholders like ZEMA, Kitwe City Council and Mopani Copper mines on the proper placement of the first water treatment plant.

Later, Czech University of Life Sciences Dean in the Faculty of Tropical Agri-sciences, Hynek Roubik, says the planning for the construction of a model farm that will feature aqua farming and agro forestry is underway.-EXCEL

# Shoddy engineers face sack

Central Province Permanent Secretary Milner Mwanakampwe has called for the dismissal of engineers who certify substandard works that fail within five years of completion.

Dr Mwanakampwe said substandard works are a burden on the government, stressing that contractors responsible for such projects should be blacklisted, while government engineers who certify the defective works should be dismissed.

He was responding to Chibombo District Commissioner Lloyd Kayeka who said a whole classroom block at Shifwankula Primary School was last week blown off following a heavy downpour, barely three years after it was built.

The Permanent Secretary indicated during a courtesy on the District Commissioner that a number of newly built structures across the province continue to experience damage while those built in the Kaunda era are still standing saying the quality of the works should be questionable.

"There must be a quality audit after so that all those involved in the construction and certification of the works are identified after which necessary punitive measures should be taken," said Dr Mwanakampwe.

Earlier, Mr Kayeka announced that a number of schools had their roofs blown off following last week's heavy rains, with Shifwankula being the worst hit.

He stated that the infrastructure was constructed by a well-wisher about three years ago.

Mr Kayeka said a team of engineers was sent to assess the extent of damage and to quantify the materials needed for the blown off classrooms.LT









# 'Zambia to establish Development Finance Institution next year'

Zambia is planning to establish a new Development Finance Institution (DFI) in 2027 to address the shortage of affordable, long-term financing for businesses and industries, as Government seeks to accelerate private investment, industrialisation and job creation.

Bank of Zambia Governor Dr Denny Kalyalya says the country's commercial banks generally provide loans with maximum repayment periods of approximately six years, making it difficult for businesses to secure financing for large-scale projects that require eight years or more to become financially viable.

Speaking at the 2027 National Budget Symposium, Dr Kalyalya explained that the proposed institution would provide an alternative source of long-term capital to support productive investments and strengthen the private sector.

The institution is expected to mobilise financing through Government resources, cooperating partners and private investors. Its funding mechanisms will include concessional financing, blended finance, guarantees, credit lines and patient capital.

Priority areas will include industrial development, value addition, export expansion, enterprise growth, employment creation and climate resilience.

Specialised regulations will also be developed to ensure strong governance, transparency, financial sustainability and measurable development outcomes.

The proposed institution is further expected to provide a coordinated platform for directing development financing towards national economic priorities, particularly projects that conventional commercial banks may be reluctant or unable to finance because of their long repayment periods.

Under the Grow Zambia Agenda, the initiative forms part of broader efforts to address structural financing gaps, increase domestic production and attract greater private-sector participation.

Dr. Kalyalya emphasised that development financing must translate into higher production, expanded business opportunities and sustainable economic transformation.-BoZ

# 3 million tonnes copper production within reach, says CBU Don

**From Front Page**

Professor Chileshe says that the Kansanshi mine alone has surpassed the 135,000 tons of copper production in the first, second and third quarters of 2026 due to its S3 expansion project which was able to process 27 million tons of ore in 2026 exceeding its design capacity of 25 million tons.

He says that if one mine can record such levels more is expected production wise from Barrick Lumwana,Konkola Copper Mine ,and Mopani Copper Mines towards the end of this year.

Professor Chileshe says the government's target for three million metric tons of copper production by 2031 is now becoming more of a reality.

Professor CHILESHE says that increasing copper production may not move faster, but it is moving steadily.

He, however, says that there is still room for improvement in the extractive industry for Zambia to accelerate the 2031 Copper production target.-EXCEL



# WeForest looks to ZAFFICO for outgrower scheme partner

WeForest is pushing for a deal with ZAFFICO PLC for its pine tree out grower scheme in Masaiti and Lufwanyama.

Organization's Country Manager Fainess Lumbwe says that if the deal goes through Zaffico will become an off taker in this agricultural scheme.

Dr Lumbwe says that the project is supplementing government efforts to empower charcoal dependent communities with alternative sources of income to combat deforestation on the Copperbelt.

She says that the pine out grower scheme has potential thrive as it seeks to cut out Zaffico's increasing appetite to import pine trees from Vietnam and other countries.

Dr Lumbwe says this project is all about supporting Zambia's timber and forestry sector.

She says that the project currently involves one thousand five hundred farmers in Masaiti and Lufwanyama.

Dr Lumbwe also highlighted the organisation is working with the same farming communities in improving honey production levels in the province.

She says that this time the focus has shifted towards adding value to honey that is being produced in Masaiti and Lufwanyama.

Dr Lumbwe says that promoting value addition in honey production will improve profit margins for communities that are involved in beekeeping.

She says that so far the farmers in the two districts are able to produce one hundred metric tons of honey per annum supported by a growing customer base on the Copperbelt.

Dr Lumbwe says that there are also other alternative sources of income being pursued in the province to tackle deforestation such as goat rearing.



LUMBWE

She says that the organization believes this is another way of improving the livelihoods of communities who for a long time depended on the charcoal business.

Dr LUMBWE says that the organisation wants to help the farmers attain a diversified alternative livelihood through sustainable and diversified business ventures.

She says doing so will have a positive impact on the country's fight against climate change.-EXCEL









# EU plans mineral exploration initiative

The European Union under its flagship Global Gateway is planning to undertake a mineral exploration project in North-Western and Eastern Provinces in Zambia.

The project will comprise a team of EU investors who are playing the role of implementers in the project.

These investors are coming from Slovakia, Germany, Poland and Czech Republic, the team lead.

Future Resources Development Association (FRDA) chairman Michal Zak estimates that the project could cost up to one hundred million Euros.

Mr Zak, who will be representing Czech investors in the project, says that the actual cost of the project may change depending on the mineral deposits that will be found in the two provinces.

He says that should the project lead to proven mineral deposits, the next step will be to develop sustainable environmentally and socially responsible mining companies.

Mr Zak says the project could create investment opportunities for both local and EU investors in a joint venture.

He also announced that Czech investment is growing in Zambia in the mining sector with mining operations already happening in Luano of North-Western Province and the planned opening of a tantalite mine in Eastern Province.

Later, the Copperbelt University Assistant Dean in the School of Mines, Dr Kenny Nyirenda, described the EU exploration project as something that has potential to help Zambia achieve its three million ton target for Copper production by 2031.

Dr Nyirenda says that mineral exploration projects are important as they can lead to new investment opportunities in the country's mining sector.

He says the country needs as many mineral exploration projects as possible to identify new mineral deposits that will support the Grow Zambia Agenda.

The Global Gateway is a European Union flagship strategy to raise over 300 billion. EXCEL

# Govt moots gold trading agency

Government is planning to establish a gold trading agency to centralise the buying and trading of gold, particularly from small-scale miners, in a move aimed at curbing informal mineral trade and ensuring greater economic benefits from the country's natural resources.

Minister of Finance and National Planning Dr Situmbeko Musokotwane said the proposed agency would aggregate gold and formalise its trade, strengthening Government oversight, transparency and accountability in the sector.

Dr Musokotwane said the initiative was part of the broader Grow Zambia agenda aimed at strengthening the mining industry and ensuring that more revenue generated from mineral resources benefits the national economy.

He also reaffirmed Government's ambition to increase copper production to three million metric tonnes annually by 2031, projecting that output would reach a record 930,000 metric tonnes in 2026.

The minister attributed the anticipated growth to improved relations among key mining industry players and expansion programmes at major operations, including First Quantum Minerals, Barrick Lumwana, Konkola Copper Mines and Mopani Copper Mines.

He said Government was also supporting the rehabilitation of old mines, including Kalengwa and Luanshya, alongside new projects such as Kitumba in Mumbwa District, which is expected to strengthen the district's position as an emerging copper-producing area.

Dr Musokotwane further highlighted Government's commitment to maintaining a stable and competitive mining fiscal regime to attract investment and support sector expansion.

He said Government would also accelerate the digitalisation of mining licences and permits while strengthening regulation through the fully functional and decentralised Minerals Regulation Commission.

The measures are expected to improve accountability, attract investment, expand mineral production and increase the mining sector's contribution to national economic development.-EXCEL

## Musokotwane assures on Foreign Direct Investment

Minister of Finance and National Planning, Situmbeko Musokotwane, says that attracting more foreign direct investment is important to Zambia's growth agenda in the next five years.

Dr Musokotwane says that contrary to the fear of many local enterprises, FDIs will help to build the country's economy.

He says that foreign direct investment, as bad as it may look in sectors like mining, will lead to the creation of a business environment where local enterprises can also thrive.

Dr Musokotwane says that no economy has thrived without accommodating foreign direct investment.

He cited China as a country that has enjoyed massive economic transformation over the years by attracting both foreign and local investments.

Dr Musokotwane, during an address to the business community at the Zambia Chamber of Commerce and Industry 2027 budget symposium in Kitwe, assured local enterprises that the 2027 budget will support their growth as that is the vision of President Hakainde Hichilema.

He added that the government in the 2027 budget will reduce the mineral royalty tax for artisanal and small scale miners by half from six to three percent as a way supporting the formalisation and the growth of the gold sector in the country.

Minister of Mines and Minerals Development, Brenda Tambatamba, says that building a mining industry that creates broad economic opportunities for local enterprises will be a key focus in the 2027 budget.

Ms Tambatamba also announced that the UPND Administration is now addressing the grey areas in the implementation of the SI on local content to support local players in the mining sector while ramping up mineral exploration projects to expand investment opportunities in the extractive industry.-EXCEL

# ZESCO RETURNS TO PROFIT AFTER YEARS OF FINANCIAL LOSSES

ZESCO has recorded a significant financial turnaround after posting a K6.3 billion profit after tax for the 2025 financial year, marking a major recovery for the state-owned power utility following years of financial difficulties.

According to the company's 2025 Integrated Report, ZESCO recorded an operating profit of K11.2 billion, representing a remarkable improvement from the K8.7 billion operating loss reported in 2024.

The utility's revenue also increased from K30.8 billion in 2024 to K32.7 billion in 2025, reflecting improved business performance and increased electricity sales.

The improved financial results were attributed to several factors, including higher electricity sales, reduced operating costs, lower expenditure on power imports and foreign exchange gains. These developments helped strengthen the company's financial position and improve its overall operational performance.

The return to profitability is an important development for ZESCO, which has faced financial pressures associated with the high cost of electricity imports, operational expenses and challenges in maintaining a reliable power supply. The improved results could also strengthen the company's ability to invest in infrastructure, maintain existing power generation facilities and support future electricity projects.

Newly appointed Minister of Energy Peter Kapala welcomed the development during a familiarisation visit to ZESCO on November 11, 2026, recognising the importance of strengthening the financial sustainability of the national power utility.

However, despite the positive financial performance, electricity consumers will be looking beyond the reported profits. For many households and businesses, the bigger expectation is whether the improved financial position will translate into more reliable electricity supply, fewer power interruptions and better service delivery.

ZESCO's financial recovery therefore presents an opportunity for the utility to strengthen its operations, improve infrastructure and restore consumer confidence.

While returning to profitability is a significant milestone, the ultimate measure of success will be the company's ability to turn improved financial performance into tangible benefits for electricity consumers and Zambia's wider economy.-EXCEL

# Zambia Police to go digital

Minister of Home Affairs and Internal Security Clement Andeleki has disclosed that Government plans to digitalise Zambia Police Service operations to strengthen crime prevention, detection and national security.Zambia economic news

Dr Andeleki says this will involve the deployment of surveillance cameras in strategic public places, enabling the Police to respond to crime more effectively.

He was speaking at the 2026 Lusaka Division Superior Officers' Annual Ball, held under the theme "A Peaceful Nation, Our Shared Responsibility".

The Minister also commended Police officers for their professionalism in maintaining law and order and ensuring a peaceful electoral process during the 2026 general elections.

Dr Andeleki said the planned digital transformation forms part of the government's broader development agenda aimed at modernizing public institutions and improving service delivery.

And speaking earlier, Lusaka Province Police Commissioner Ronald Zaambo pledged to intensify efforts to reduce crime levels in 2027.

Mr Zaambo added that security remains critical to national development and attracting investment.

He reaffirmed the Police Service's commitment to supporting the government's efforts to maintain law and order, safeguard life and property, and foster national unity. -LT





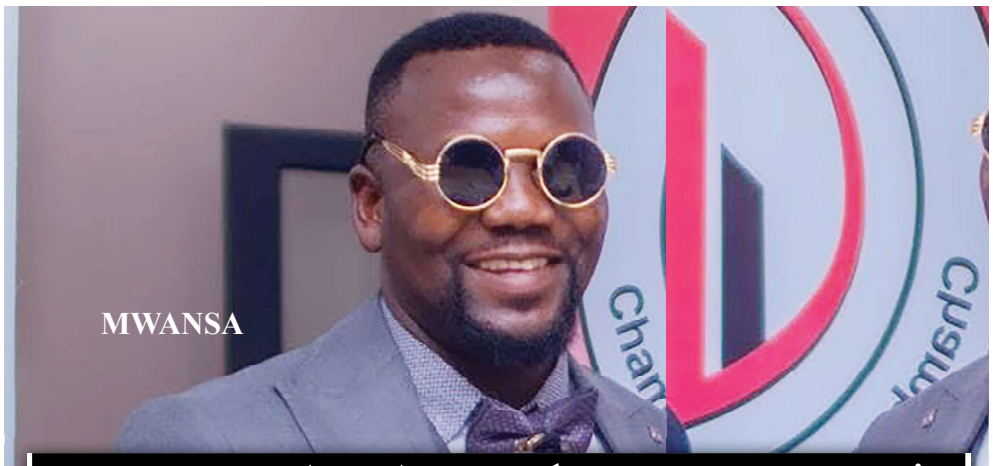











# Mwansa, AKA Hard K, says trust is the backbone of any business

With just K750 in his pocket, businessman Mr Kerries Mwansa took a gamble on his future in 2004, turning modest terminal benefits into the foundation of what has grown into a thriving business.

What started as a small shop selling overalls, gumboots and safety shoes in Masala, Ndola, has evolved into Hard K General Dealers, a business that has expanded into liquor, beverages and real estate.

Mr Mwansa, the company's proprietor and Chief Executive Officer, says the secret behind his journey has been discipline, hard work, trust and the willingness to change direction when business conditions demand it.

Featuring on Excel Magazine's Trailblazers talk show, he recalled how he ventured into business after the company he worked for closed, leaving him with a small terminal package which he decided to invest rather than wait for another job.

"I started with something as little as K750. That was my initial capital," he said.

His journey was not without setbacks. After briefly venturing into boutique business, he returned to industrial supplies before cheaper imported safety products forced him to reconsider his business model and venture into liquor and beverages.

With business continuing to grow, Mr Mwansa diversified into real estate, investing in apartments and commercial properties.

The businessman, who recently received the Social Impact Award from the Ndola Chamber of Commerce, attributed part of his success to the Masala community, where he began his entrepreneurial journey.

"All my businesses have been built from Masala. It is the people of Masala who built me, so whatever I am doing, I want to stick with Masala," he said.

He described trust as the backbone of business, recalling how he once travelled to Lusaka to repay a supplier after closing his industrial supplies business.

"Trust is something you don't tell a person to have in you. It is something someone has to see in you," he said.

Mr Mwansa urged young entrepreneurs to start with what they have, conduct market research and exercise financial discipline.

He hopes to build a business empire that his children can inherit while eventually devoting more time to supporting orphans.

He was honoured as the Trailblazer of the Week during the programme.-EXCEL






# Chappelle faces backlash over remarks on Charlie Kirk's killing

American comedian Dave Chappelle is facing widespread criticism after making controversial remarks about the assassination of conservative activist Charlie Kirk, saying he felt better following his death.

Chappelle made the comments during a performance at Madison Square Garden in New York on November 7, 2026, while discussing the risks associated with being a public speaker.

Kirk was assassinated in September 2025, an incident that sparked widespread condemnation and political debate across the United States.

During the performance, Chappelle told the audience that he sometimes found himself in a good mood before remembering Kirk's death.

"Ever since that guy Charlie Kirk got murdered, and I shouldn't say this publicly, but, I feel better," he said.

The comedian's remarks quickly attracted criticism from prominent public figures, with many questioning whether making jokes about political assassination crosses the boundaries of comedy.

Kirk's widow, Erika Kirk, condemned the treatment of political violence as entertainment, while billionaire entrepreneur Elon Musk criticised Chappelle, saying, "Chappelle is just not funny anymore."

British broadcaster Piers Morgan also weighed in, criticising the comedian and referencing his own experience of being attacked on stage in 2022.

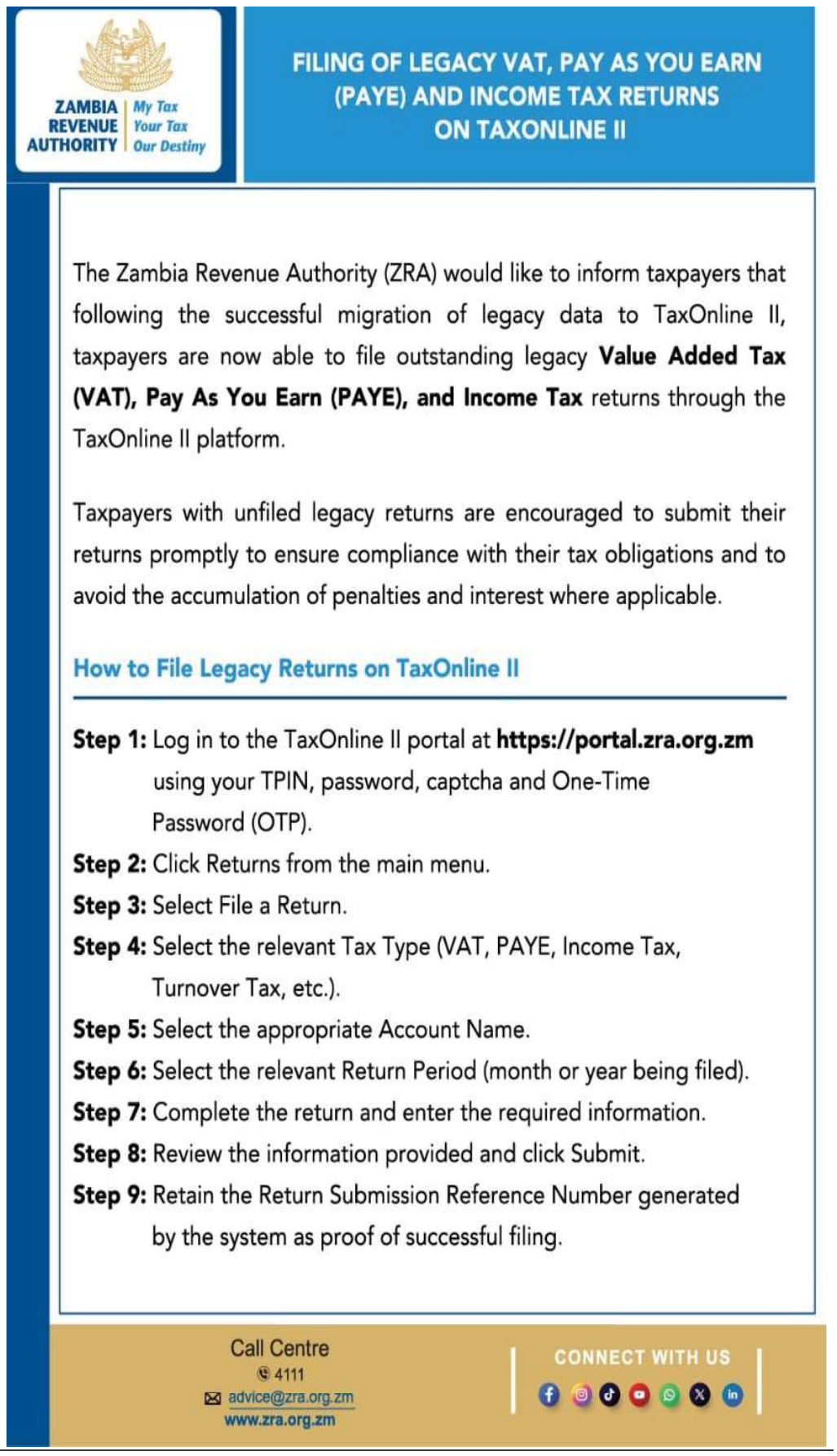
The controversy has attracted additional attention because Chappelle had previously addressed Kirk's assassination in his Netflix comedy special, The Unstoppable, describing the killing as an incident that had deeply shaken him.

His latest comments have therefore raised questions about the comedian's position on the tragedy and the responsibility that comes with public influence.



CHAPPELLE

The incident has once again highlighted the tension between freedom of expression and public sensitivity, particularly when comedy touches on political violence and the loss of human life.



## Promoting impact and relevance

EDITORIAL NUGGETS



Attitude in leadership is everything. What do I mean by that? Own your actions, wrong or right. Handle the tough conversations that come as a consequence of your lapse in discernment. Remember to not take personal the tough conversations, stay strong and resolute. Learn your lessons. Move on with a positive attitude to do better next time.

Entrepreneurship and Personal Leadership Nuggets by DIANA KABAILA








Is Chipolopolo going through a Manchester United spell?

# Chipolopolo's Man United moment

The 1-1 draw against Burundi at Levy Mwanawasa Stadium should be a moment of serious reflection for Zambian football. And perhaps, for Chipolopolo supporters, the experience is beginning to feel familiar to followers of Manchester United.

Like the English giants, who have endured frustrating seasons despite having talented players at their disposal, Zambia appear to be struggling with a problem that goes beyond individual ability: building a team that plays with a clear identity, purpose and consistency.

What was particularly concerning about Friday's performance was not simply the late equaliser but the difficulty the Chipolopolo experienced in taking control of a match they were expected to win at home.

Edward Chilufya's 65th-minute goal should have provided the foundation for a disciplined finish. Instead, Zambia allowed Jean-Claude Girumishiga to equalise in the 82nd minute, exposing weaknesses in game management and defensive concentration.

This is where the Manchester United comparison becomes interesting. United have repeatedly demonstrated that recruiting talented individuals does not automatically produce a successful team. Without tactical cohesion, intelligent movement and collective responsibility, even expensive and gifted players can look ordinary.

Zambia must guard against falling into the same trap.

The absence of Patson Daka, Lameck Banda and Gamphani Lungu also exposed the team's dependence on key individuals. A national team with ambitions of competing at the highest level cannot afford to lose its attacking identity whenever established players are unavailable.

The technical bench must therefore look beyond selecting familiar names and concentrate on building a balanced squad with genuine competition for places.

Midfield creativity, attacking efficiency and defensive organisation require urgent attention. Zambia need players who can dictate the tempo, unlock compact defences and protect leads without retreating into panic.

The November 17 return fixture against Burundi in Bujumbura will provide an opportunity to demonstrate whether lessons have been learnt. The Chipolopolo must show tactical flexibility, greater urgency and the confidence to impose their football on opponents.

More importantly, Zambia must develop a recognisable playing philosophy that survives changes in personnel.

Manchester United's struggles have shown that changing players without addressing structural weaknesses rarely solves the problem. Zambia should take that lesson seriously.

The Chipolopolo have talent, history and a passionate following. But those attributes alone cannot guarantee success.

Ultimately, the country needs a team built around a system, not a system that depends on individual stars to rescue it.

Like Manchester United, the Chipolopolo must rediscover their identity before expectations turn into another cycle of disappointment.-EXCEL




## Ndola City – Regaining Iconic Trans-era buildings

Most famous cities in the world were established because of either its strategic unique geographic position coupled with the availability of natural resources. Ndola is not different.

Its establishment was motivated by the need to expand the British Administration northwards towards the rich Katanga copper belt and future aspirations to develop a regional railway network and transport logistics linking Northern Rhodesia and the vast Congo.

Over time, the city became a major location for iconic infrastructure development motivated by the quest to develop a livable city to attract professionals and investors. And so iconic colonial buildings popped up in the city.

One of the major ones was the Savoy Hotel as part of the grand vision of making Ndola a logistics and business travel hub. This landmark social staple of Ndola, named after the famous Savoy Hotel in England, was officially opened in 1952. It became the pride of Zambia. In 1972 following the watershed Mulungushi reforms, the Savoy was nationalized by the UNIP government. This was the beginning of the decline of its glory.

The Savoy has gone through different stages of acquisition, (re)development and ruin. During a long legal battle, it became a ruin and sorry sight until recently when it was acquired by a local group that has done fantastic world-class total facelift of this iconic building and acquiring a befitting name: the Grand Savoy Hotel, because it is indeed grand and glamorous.

This revamped 10-story 126 room hotel has become the first and only 5-star hotel on the Copperbelt and perhaps second to none in terms of its luxury amenities and choice of finishes in Zambia. Same location c/o Moffat/Buteko Avenues, rebranded name but world-class exquisite hospitality, with a friendly invitation. This is our Ndola, regaining its beauty one building at a time.

## Tearful Pochettino in 'difficult' decision to leave USA for Man U

Mauricio Pochettino says the decision to leave his role as boss of the USA national team to become Manchester United head coach was "one of the most difficult" of his career.

The Argentine was announced as Michael Carrick's successor at Old Trafford on

Friday, with sources telling BBC Sport he has signed a two-and-a-half-year contract.

United paid a release clause in the region of £7.4m to extract Pochettino from his USA contract, with a further payment being made for his backroom staff.

Pochettino only signed a new four-year deal with the USA in the summer, but will depart for Manchester after leading the national team in matches against Haiti on 14 and 18 November.-BBC

