

THE WEEKEND TABLOID

excel

BUSINESS & LIFESTYLE MAGAZINE

BUSINESS | INDUSTRY | MINING | ECONOMY | SPORTS

VOL 1 ISSUE NO. 5 OCT 10, 2026



PRESIDENT
HICHILEMA

Grow Zambia: From stability to prosperity

PRESIDENT Hakainde Hichilema has outlined an ambitious economic agenda aimed at transforming Zambia's macroeconomic stability into inclusive growth, investment and job creation under the theme "Grow Zambia, An Agenda for Inclusive Growth and Opportunity for Every Zambian." **TO PAGE 3**

\$1.5bn health funding deal sealed

A whopping US\$1.5 billion health funding agreement between Zambia and the United States is underway following the two countries successfully resolved key concerns surrounding the proposed deal, Minister of Health Professor Roma Chilengi has disclosed.

The funding, to be provided over five years, is expected to support Zambia's health sector, including programmes aimed at improving service delivery and strengthening health systems.

Professor Chilengi said the agreement had undergone extensive negotiations to ensure that its conditions protect Zambia's interests while supporting the country's long-term health priorities.

He said one of the key issues resolved was a requirement for biological specimens to be shared outside Zambia, which Government rejected.

The Minister said the US\$1.5 billion would be released in stages over the five-year period, with the level of funding expected to decline each year.

As part of the agreement, Zambia has committed to gradually increase its own health expenditure to sustain programmes and interventions established through the US funding after the agreement expires. **TO PAGE 6**

Zambia hits 1,000 MW solar mark

Zambia has surpassed its 1,000MW solar generation target, with installed solar capacity reaching 1,027MW in 2026, President Hakainde Hichilema has announced.

Speaking through Vice President Mutale Nalumango at the 2026 Energy Forum for Africa in Lusaka, the President said Zambia's total installed electricity generation capacity had increased from 3,777MW in 2024 to 4,722MW, driven largely by investment in solar.

The growth is part of efforts to diversify the energy mix and reduce reliance on hydropower amid climate-related challenges.

Government is targeting 10,000MW of generation capacity by 2031, but President Hichilema stressed that investment in transmission and distribution infrastructure

must match growth in generation.

Acting Energy Minister Dr Situmbeko Musokotwane said Zambia was confident of reaching the 10,000MW target through partnerships and urged investors with signed Power Purchase Agreements to move projects into implementation.

Zimbabwe's Energy Minister July Moyo called for stronger cross-border electricity infrastructure, including the planned Zambia-Zimbabwe interconnector, to strengthen regional energy security and support industries such as mining and agriculture.

The forum, held under the theme "Driving a Borderless Energy Future for Africa," emphasised regional power integration, investment and stronger cooperation across Africa's energy sector. - EXCEL



Mwaka Mukubesa: Permanent Secretary for Budget and Economic Affairs (and Budget and Resource Mobilisation) in the Ministry of Finance and National Planning of Zambia.

Govt targets K333bn resources by 2029

"Total resources are projected to increase by K18.7 billion, or 7.4 percent, in 2027, largely driven by growth in domestic revenue"

GOVERNMENT is projecting total resources of K333 billion by 2029, with domestic revenue expected to rise to K290.1 billion as it prepares the 2027 National Budget and 2027-2029 Medium-Term Plan.

Permanent Secretary Mwaka Mukubesa said total resources are projected to increase by K18.7 billion, or 7.4 percent, in 2027, largely driven by growth in domestic revenue. She said the medium-term fiscal framework is anchored on 6.9 percent economic growth and single-digit inflation, while expenditure is also projected to increase by 7.4 percent

in 2027 to support development programmes and strengthen domestic financing under the Grow Zambia Agenda.

Secretary to the Treasury Felix Nkulukusa said the planning process must prioritise prudent use of public resources amid pressures from the wage bill, expanded constituencies, maize arrears and the forecast El Niño conditions.

He said the 2027 Budget and Medium-Term Plan consultations will help identify key economic and service-delivery challenges and ensure public resources are directed towards improving living standards and supporting inclusive economic growth. - EXCEL

\$498m approved for KCM's Nchanga tailings plant

ZCCM Investments Holdings Plc has approved a US\$498 million Tailings Leach Plant at Konkola Copper Mines (KCM)'s Nchanga operation in Chingola.

The project, awarded to China NERIN Engineering Company under a US\$498 million EPC agreement, will process 546 million tonnes of historical tailings from the TD5 dam, with an average copper grade of 0.54%.

The plant is expected to produce about 70,000 tonnes of LME Grade A copper cathode annually, processing approximately 53,500 tonnes of tailings per day.

Using solvent extraction and electrowinning technology, the project is

expected to achieve a 74% commercial copper recovery rate. Construction is scheduled to take 24 months.

KCM will finance the project from internally generated resources, with no capital contribution required from ZCCM-IH, which holds a 20.6% stake in KCM. The project is also outside Vedanta Resources' initial US\$1 billion investment programme for KCM.

The development is expected to increase copper recovery from existing resources and support Zambia's target of 3 million tonnes of annual copper production by 2031, while contributing to KCM's ambition of reaching 300,000 tonnes of annual copper output. - EXCEL

Seize 'Grow Zambia' opportunity, Maule urges entrepreneurs

Zambians have been urged to embrace entrepreneurship and position themselves to benefit from business opportunities arising from the Grow Zambia Agenda, particularly in agriculture, mining and supporting industries.

Zambia International Trade Fair Trust (ZITFT) Chief Executive Officer Norman Maule said the country's economic ambitions offered opportunities for entrepreneurs to establish businesses and contribute to national development.

He was speaking when he featured on the new Trailblazers show hosted by Excel Magazine during the week.

Mr Maule said the target of increasing maize production to 10 million metric tonnes would create demand for fertiliser, agricultural chemicals, tractors, spare parts and transportation services.

He encouraged entrepreneurs to look beyond farming and explore businesses supporting the agricultural value chain.

Mr Maule also cited the ambition to increase annual copper production to three million tonnes as an opportunity for small and medium enterprises to supply mines with food, personal protective equipment and other essential goods.

"You should not just focus on the main business. Focus on the other side businesses

that are needed," he said.

He urged Zambians to start small businesses, leverage technology, embrace discipline and seek mentorship, adding that entrepreneurship could offer alternatives to formal employment. - EXCEL



MAULE

Wheat: Grow Zambia wants ambitious harvest

GOVERNMENT is targeting 1 million tonnes of wheat annually by 2031, as Zambia seeks to reduce import dependence and build an exportable surplus. The strategy combines irrigated commercial production with rain-fed wheat for smallholder farmers, supported by irrigation infrastructure, improved seed, mechanisation, financing and market development.

Government allocated K1.9 billion in the 2026 Budget towards irrigation and farm-block development. Since 2022, six dams have been completed, 10 rehabilitated and 791 maintained, while plans for 2026 include constructing nine new dams, completing seven and maintaining 300. The infrastructure is expected to expand the area available for wheat and other irrigated crops. The rain-fed wheat programme has also

recorded progress, with 1,011 kilogrammes of new Tyetye and Mpheta seed varieties distributed to 161 smallholder farmers across seven provinces during the 2024/25 season. The drought-tolerant varieties have reported yield potential of 3.3–3.4 tonnes per hectare, while more than 2,586 farmers participated in field demonstrations.

Financing is another key pillar, with the Sustainable Agriculture Financing Facility providing K777.3 million in loans to 8,841 farmers by June 2025. Government sees Zambia's land, freshwater resources, winter production window and proximity to markets such as the DRC as advantages for expanding wheat production, with farm blocks, seed networks, storage, milling and transport expected to support the 1-million-tonne target by 2031. MoA/Grow Zambia



Grow Zambia: From stability to prosperity

FROM FRONT PAGE

The President cited progress in reducing inflation from above 24 per cent to 6.1 per cent, strengthening the Kwacha and restructuring external debt, saying the next phase must translate these gains into improved living standards.

Zambia is targeting annual production of 10 million tonnes of maize, three million tonnes of soya beans and one million tonnes each of wheat and sugar. The country also aims to achieve three million tonnes of annual copper production, US\$1 billion in beef exports and 10,000 megawatts of electricity generation capacity.

Government plans to expand irrigation to 500,000 hectares, revitalise key mines, develop renewable energy and improve roads, railways and regional trade corridors.

The agenda includes expanding high-speed internet, data centres and artificial intelligence skills, alongside establishing skills training centres in every district. Tourism is targeted to reach five million international visitors annually.

Further commitments cover healthcare, education, housing, water and sanitation, and social protection.

The President's message was that achieving these ambitions requires effective implementation, private-sector investment and cooperation across society, with the ultimate goal of creating jobs, increasing exports and improving the livelihoods of Zambians.-EXCEL



The event brought together university students, school pupils, and representatives from different industries, creating an opportunity for young people to learn directly from professionals.

Northrise University brings students, Industry together at first Business Career Expo

NORTHRISE University has introduced a new platform for career exploration and business engagement through its inaugural Business Career Expo, held in Ndola on Friday, 9 October 2026.

The event brought together university students, school pupils, and representatives from different industries, creating an opportunity for young people to learn directly from professionals and discover how their education can translate into careers and business opportunities.

Northrise University Vice-Chancellor Dr Lameck Mwewa said the initiative was designed to serve two key purposes: helping school pupils understand the realities of the workplace and giving university students practical guidance on developing business ideas into viable enterprises.

Education Standards Officer for Open and Distance Learning, Joakim Mulenga, emphasised the importance of closer

cooperation between learning institutions and the business community. He noted that preparing graduates for the demands of the workplace remained a concern and welcomed initiatives that allow students to interact directly with industry players.

Representatives from sectors including finance, agriculture, technology, media, manufacturing, and regulatory institutions took part in the engagement, exposing students to different career paths and perspectives on the world of work.

Beyond career exploration, the expo highlighted the value of combining academic knowledge with practical experience.

By creating opportunities for students to engage with industry professionals, Northrise University aims to encourage entrepreneurship, strengthen industry partnerships, and help young people develop the skills and confidence needed to pursue their ambitions.-EXCEL

Barrick, Zambeef donate shoes to learners in Kalumbila

Barrick Lumwana Mining Company and Zambeef Products PLC have donated 800 pairs of school shoes to Early Childhood Education (ECE) learners at Masulwila and Shinda Primary Schools in Kalumbila District under the "Walk a Mile in My Shoes" initiative.

The initiative, implemented in partnership with the Government through the Ministry of Education, seeks to promote school attendance, restore dignity and improve learning conditions for vulnerable children as part of efforts to support the Grow Zambia Agenda.

Speaking during the handover ceremony, District Education Board Secretary, Thompson Lungu, said the donation will boost learners' confidence and encourage them to attend school regularly.

Mr Lungu said many children from vulnerable households walk long distances to school barefoot, exposing them to harsh weather conditions and potential health risks.

He commended the two corporate entities for complementing the Government's Free Education Policy, which seeks to ensure that no child is left behind regardless of their social or economic

status.

Mr Lungu said education remains a key equaliser and that investing in learners is an investment in Zambia's future human resource.

He disclosed that the district's school-going population has increased to 72,000 over the past five years, placing additional demands on education infrastructure and support services.

Mr Lungu also urged teachers to ensure that the donated shoes are properly cared for, while encouraging learners to wear them with pride, attend school consistently and work hard to achieve their aspirations.

Meanwhile, Barrick Lumwana Country Manager, Anthony Malenga, said education remains a key pillar of national development and reaffirmed the company's commitment to supporting communities in its area of operation.

Mr Malenga said the "Walk a Mile in My Shoes" initiative is part of Barrick's efforts to improve the welfare of vulnerable children and complement Government's education programmes.

He said the company will continue partnering with Zambeef and other stakeholders to support education in Kalumbila and beyond.-LT

PUBLIC NOTICE

2nd October, 2026

MIGRATION OF HISTORICAL TAX ACCOUNT TRANSACTIONS TO TAXONLINE

The Zambia Revenue Authority (ZRA) is migrating historical tax-account transactions from its decommissioned legacy systems to **TaxOnline**. These transactions include returns, payments, offsets, assessments, penalties, fines, interest, and refunds.

Benefits of the Migration

- Provide taxpayers with a more complete view of their tax account history on TaxOnline;
 - Improve the accuracy and accessibility of taxpayer records;
 - Reduce reliance on decommissioned legacy systems; and
 - Support faster account verification, reconciliation and resolution of taxpayer queries.
- Legacy and current TO2 records are combined so businesses and taxpayers can query all periods from a single system.

How have your records been prepared?

Before migration, ZRA reviewed the records and, where necessary, corrected tax periods, removed duplicates, and resolved posting errors. Transactions already recorded in TaxOnline will not be migrated to prevent duplicate charges or credits.

What you may notice on your statement

After migration, you may notice the following on your TaxOnline statement:

- Your balance may change – Older transactions are now included, so your account balance may go up or down.
- New payment reference numbers – A migrated payment may show a new TaxOnline reference number. Your original PRN appears in the description as "legacy PRN". Keep your original receipt.
- Clear legacy identification – Legacy transactions carry a Legacy tag that provides a short summary and highlights the original legacy narration and references.

What should you do?

1. Keep your records – Retain payment receipts, return acknowledgments, assessment notices and refund letters.
2. Check your statement – Log in to TaxOnline and review your account statement.
3. Report any discrepancies – If a transaction is missing or incorrect, contact ZRA with supporting documents. Do not repay or re-file a transaction you have already completed. Quote your TPIN, PRN or receipt number, payment date, and amount.
4. Continue meeting your obligations – Filing and payment due dates remain unchanged.



Call Centre
4111
advice@zra.org.zm
www.zra.org.zm



CONNECT WITH US

ADVERTISE HERE

Airtel Money lists on London Stock Exchange at £5.3bn valuation

AIRTEL Money, the digital financial services arm of Airtel Africa, has commenced conditional trading on the Main Market of the London Stock Exchange, with a market capitalisation of approximately £5.3bn.

The company's ordinary shares began trading on Friday under the ticker symbol AMC, following an offer priced at £1.96 per share.

According to a statement by the Growth, Trade and Investment, all shares offered are being sold by existing shareholders, meaning Airtel Money will not issue new shares or raise fresh capital from the transaction.

The listing marks a new phase for the digital financial services business, which has expanded its mobile money operations across 13 African countries since its launch in 2011.

Airtel Money currently serves approximately 53 million monthly active users and operates through a network of more than 2.3 million local agents across its markets.

Its services include domestic and

international money transfers, payments, virtual debit cards, credit, savings, investments, and insurance. The platform also provides payment collection and disbursement services to businesses and institutions.

The Chief Executive Officer of Airtel Money, Ian Ferrao, said the listing would support the company's next phase of expansion and its efforts to deepen financial inclusion across the continent.

"Over the past 15 years, we have built one of Africa's leading digital financial services platforms, connecting millions of customers and businesses to an increasingly broad range of financial services. Yet we believe the opportunity ahead of us is even greater," Ferrao said.

He added that the company would focus on expanding its digital financial services ecosystem and accelerating Africa's transition to a more connected digital economy.

The listing also highlights London's role in connecting Africa-focused businesses with international investors and capital markets.-PUNCHNG

\$1.472 BN IMF programme secured

New 36-month financing deal targets 5.6% economic growth, fiscal discipline and private-sector investment

Zambia has reached a staff-level agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on a proposed US\$1.472 billion, 36-month financing programme aimed at consolidating economic stability and supporting private-sector-led growth.

Finance and National Planning Minister Dr Situmbeko Musokotwane has welcomed the agreement, describing it as an important step towards expanding investment, production and employment. The programme remains subject to IMF approval and the implementation of agreed conditions.

The IMF projects Zambia's economy to grow by 5.6% in 2026, supported by agriculture, mining and exports. Inflation declined to 6.1% in September, while

international reserves stood at US\$6.1 billion, according to the announcement.

Government plans to increase the primary fiscal surplus to 3% of GDP by 2029 through stronger revenue collection, improved tax compliance and more efficient public spending. Reforms will also target public debt management, state-owned enterprises and outstanding payment and VAT refund arrears.

The programme aligns with the Grow Zambia agenda, prioritising agriculture, mining, manufacturing, tourism, energy and infrastructure to boost exports and diversify the economy.

Its ultimate test will be whether economic reforms translate into more jobs, stronger businesses, reliable electricity and higher household incomes.- EXCEL



Zambia advances Ai career guidance for youth

THE Ministry of Technology and Science has demonstrated Zambia's use of technology to address the youth skills-to-employment gap through the presentation of the AI-powered career guidance pilot, Njila.ai, to World Bank Managing Director of Operations, Anna Bjerde, in Lusaka.

The pilot is being implemented within the TEVET system under the Skills Training for Results and Industry-Valued Employment (STRIVE) Project.

Njila.ai is designed to help young people identify their skills, explore career opportunities, understand employer requirements, prepare for employment and connect with available jobs.

The initiative focuses on aligning training with labour-market demand in key sectors

including mining, agribusiness, tourism, energy and technology, while strengthening collaboration between Government, training institutions and employers.

Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Technology and Science, Eng Dr Brilliant Habeenzu, said increased access to training must be matched by stronger pathways into productive employment.

He said curricula must continuously respond to workplace needs and that the success of Njila should be measured by how effectively it shortens the distance between learning and employment.

The STRIVE Project targets more than 35,000 young people in advanced TEVET programmes and a further 150,000 through trades and short courses. - EXCEL

\$1.5bn health funding deal sealed

From FRONT PAGE

The agreement is also expected to strengthen the Government's efforts to improve efficiency in the health sector, as authorities review systems within the Ministry of Health and its statutory bodies to address waste, duplication and other weaknesses.

The Minister said Government wanted to ensure that existing resources were being used prudently and translated into better healthcare services, medicines, equipment and functioning health facilities.

The proposed \$1.5 billion package represents a major external financing commitment to Zambia's health sector, while the Government's increasing financial contribution is intended to provide a pathway towards sustainability beyond the five-year funding period.

This version puts the 1.5bn value, five-year period, annual funding reduction and Zambia's sustainability commitment at the centre, rather than making the specimen issue the main story.-EXCEL

9th October 2026

Gainers		Decliners	
ATEL	224.001 +0.83 +0.37%	CECZ	15.241 -0.011 -0.06%
RAT7	12.85 +0.46 +3.68%	CHIL	62.00 -0.41 -0.66%
CCAF	0.68 +0.01 +1.49%	ZNCO	8.971 -0.02 -0.22%
		ZFCO	6.89 -0.18 -2.55%
		REIZUSD	0.12 -0.01 -7.69%

ALL SHARE INDEX 25,669.88 -0.11%

Tel: +260 211 228391
Email: info@luse.co.zm

Indicative Forex Rates

Weekend Rates | 9TH - 11TH October, 2026

Currency	Buying	Selling
USD	19.7211	20.0761
GBP	26.0713	26.5406
EUR	22.0719	22.4692
ZAR	1.1923	1.2138
CNY	2.9467	2.9997

Visit any Zanaco Branch to buy and sell foreign currency over the counter. This service is also available to non account holders. Rates are subject to change without prior notice depending on market conditions.

YOU FIRST

Pangaea ADD Capital

SHORT TERM FINANCE SOLUTIONS

HEAD OFFICE: FNB Building/ZMART CITY Suite 3, 1st Floor, Offices/Stand No. 279, President Avenue, Ndola Zambia.

BRANCH: ECL Business Park, 1st Floor, Block No. 2 Freedom Avenue, Kitwe Zambia.

We Are THE INNOVATIVE SUPPLY CHAIN FINANCE SPECIALISTS

Why Pangaea?

- We believe that we have a responsibility to support a sustainable future and a more inclusive world.
- We are committed to making a positive impact, and embrace modern technology to work not just faster, not just better, but more environmentally friendly.

Our Vision

We aim to be the leading supply chain finance specialist in Zambia and beyond our borders. Be employers of choice and view our clients.

Our Mission

We aim to meet our client's needs swiftly, with a professional and flexible touch to create value for both our businesses and theirs. We also aim to provide access that will enable individuals and communities to invest in their future.

Our Values

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

Business Overview

Pangaea ADD Capital is your innovative supply chain finance partner, specializing in Invoice Discounting and Selective Order Finance for Prevetted Off Takers/Lechors. We offer more than just funding; we provide financial consultancy and technical support, viewing our clients as partners and deeply investing in their growth. Our bespoke investment strategy is geared towards sustainable growth for SMEs, aligning with the Sustainable Development Goals, benefiting not only our primary targets but creating a ripple effect that enhances the quality of life for the ordinary citizen and provides sustainable livelihoods.

Our Top Services

Invoice discounting: 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: We provide funding to businesses with purchase orders to pay their suppliers and smooth out their cash flow.

Trade Financing: We offer trade financing by extending credit to importers.

0960 779 593859 | 0960 953 579667 | 0960 766 989878

www.pangaeaddcapital.co.zm | getfinance@pangaeaddcapital.co.zm

Our Products & Services

ACCESS THE E-COPES ON OUR WEBSITE
www.excelmagazinezambia.com

EXCEL FOUNDATION

Giving Hope

Corporate Social Responsibility Implementing Partners

VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO ACCESS OUR PREVIOUS AND LATEST EXCEL MAGAZINE ISSUES

Visibility Starts Here – Advertise With Us Now

GET IN TOUCH TODAY

+260 770 217 171 | +260 971 844 776
excelmagazinezambia@gmail.com | www.excelmagazinezambia.com
FNB Building/Zmart City Suit 1, 1st Floor, President Avenue, Ndola - Zambia

...as WB says Africa's Ai opportunity hinges on readiness

Africa could unlock up to US\$1 trillion in additional GDP by 2035 through widespread AI adoption, potentially creating 35–40 million digital jobs and nearly US\$150 billion in annual tax revenue. However, the World Bank says the continent's current AI readiness remains far below what is needed to capture these gains.

The main barriers are limited electricity, internet connectivity, digital skills, data and computing infrastructure. About 900 million Africans remain offline, while Africa accounts for only 0.6% of global data-centre capacity, with just about 5% of its data centres AI-ready.

The World Bank says Africa's priority should be to adopt and adapt practical, low-cost AI solutions for sectors such as agriculture, health, education, finance and public services, while investing in the infrastructure and skills needed to scale them. Regional cooperation and shared digital infrastructure will also be critical. - WORLD BANK

ADVERTISE HERE

EDITOR'S ENTREPRENEURSHIP NUGGETS

Do not let your struggles, weaknesses, anxieties and fear define and limit your potential. Find a way of overcoming them if it is within your control, seek help too if you feel the need. You are built to achieve a lot more than you imagine.

Lean on the Bible verse Philippians 4:13 - "I can do all things through him who gives me strength".
#entrepreneurshipandpersonal leadershipnuggetsbyDianaKabaila.



INDUSTRY BRAINWAVE

- 1

In accounting, what is the term for a document that summarises a company's income, expenses and profit over a specific period?
- 2

In marketing, what is the term for a group of people most likely to buy a company's product or service?
- 3

In business, what is the term for the total value of goods and services produced by a company over a period of time?
- 4

In human resources, what is the term for the process of finding, selecting and hiring the right people for jobs in an organisation?
- 5

In project management, what is the term for a written record that lists all the tasks, activities and deadlines for a project?
- 6

In risk management, what is the term for a plan that outlines how a business will respond to and recover from unexpected events such as disasters or system failures?
- 7

In environmental management, what is the term for obtaining authorisation from a regulator to operate under specific environmental standards and conditions?
- 8

In business communication, what is the term for a short, clear and persuasive statement that explains what a company does and why it is valuable?

ANSWER CHECK:

- 1

Income statement
- 2

Target market
- 3

Revenue
- 4

Recruitment
- 5

Project schedule
- 6

Business continuity plan
- 7

Environmental permit
- 8

Elevator pitch

Conspiracy

262GJ3ZC

1. There are 10 guilty people in total.
2. There are 3 guilty people in column #2.
3. There are 7 total guilty people across row #4 and row #5.
4. Irene has exactly as many guilty neighbors as Rhys.
5. Malakai has exactly as many guilty neighbors as Leslie.
6. Gideon is one of Brooks's 2 guilty neighbors.

Cross-figure puzzle 2

	A	B	C	D	E		F	G
	H						I	
	J				K	L		
	M		N	O		P		
		Q		R				
	S	T		U		V	W	
	X		Y			Z		
AA			AB	AC	AD			
AE			AF					

©2026 krazydad.com

ACROSS

- A. The reverse of a prime number
- F. Z across minus seven
- H. Its digits total D down
- I. Three times G down
- J. A prime
- K. L down times the sum of digits in AD down
- M. F down times the sum of digits in F across
- P. G down plus eight
- Q. A square
- S. A third of K across
- U. A multiple of seven
- X. Mean of W down and G down
- Z. A prime
- AA. A prime
- AB. Product of its digits is four hundred and eighty
- AE. J across minus three
- AF. The second digit is the second digit of π after the decimal point

DOWN

- A. All digits are different
- B. Has the same digit sum as F down
- C. AA down reversed
- D. A eighth of AE across
- E. K across reversed
- F. All digits are odd
- G. The square of the sum of digits in AA across
- L. P across reversed
- N. One and a quarter of AA down
- O. Q across reversed
- R. Eight times F across
- S. All digits are different
- T. A prime
- V. M across scrambled
- W. Year *The Sound of Music* movie was released
- Y. Same as Q across
- AA. P across minus five
- AC. All digits are even
- AD. A prime number with the same digit sum as G down



The talent is still there. What is needed now is selection based on zeal, not reputation.

Copper Queens must find their hunger again!

THE 2-1 defeat to Uganda in Kampala is not just a loss, it is a warning for the Zambia Women's National Football Team.

For a team that has flown Zambia's flag at the Tokyo 2020 and Paris 2024 Olympics, to surrender a lead so early and so cheaply against Uganda raises serious questions about preparation, mentality and desire.

Interim Coach Charles Haalubono was honest: "We didn't have that hunger to keep the ball." That admission is telling.

The Copper Queens have never lacked talent. With Barbra Banda, Prisca Chilufya and Rachael

Kundananji, we have one of the most feared attacks on the continent. What we lacked on Thursday was fight.

Uganda fought for every ball. Zambia, by the coach's own admission, did not. That is unacceptable at this level.

Coming off a disappointing Women's Africa Cup of Nations (WAFCON), this Olympic qualification was supposed to be redemption. Instead, we have started with a setback that now puts immense pressure on the return leg at home.

But all is not lost. The second half performance, the woodwork hit by Eneless Phiri, shows this team can respond. The talent is still there. What is needed now is selection based on zeal, not reputation, as Haalubono himself has promised.

FAZ and the technical bench must be ruthless. Zambia need players who want to play for the badge.

Zambia need better ball retention, better game management, and more respect for opponents who are no longer minnows.

The Copper Queens have made us proud before. They can do it again. But they must remember that qualification for Los Angeles 2028 does not come easily — it must be fought for.

The return leg is now a final.

The return leg will be played next Tuesday at the Levy Mwanawasa Stadium in Ndola, starting at 18h00.

Zambia, which competed at the Tokyo 2020 and Paris 2024 Olympic Games, is seeking a third successive appearance at the Olympics. LT



Ronaldo, Messi among 66 players with over 1,000 career games

Lionel Messi, Cristiano Ronaldo (left) and Luka Modric are among 66 footballers who have made more than 1,000 career appearances, highlighting the remarkable longevity required to remain competitive at the highest level.

While many players enjoy brief periods of success, reaching the 1,000-game milestone requires years of consistency, fitness and dedication.

As reported by Planet Football, the list features legendary goalkeepers, midfielders, defenders and forwards who have enjoyed lengthy careers across club and international football.

Brazilian goalkeeper Fabio tops the ranking with 1,449 appearances.

Former England goalkeeper Peter Shilton ranks second with 1,387 appearances between 1966 and 1997. Cristiano Ronaldo is third with 1,343 appearances, making him the highest-ranked outfield player on the list. The Portuguese forward has featured for several clubs, including Manchester United, Real Madrid, Juventus and Al Nassr, while continuing to add to his career total. - PUNCHNG

Messi occupies sixth place with 1,215 appearances. The Argentine recorded 778 games for Barcelona, 75 for Paris Saint-Germain and 117 for Inter Miami, alongside his appearances for Argentina.

Croatian midfielder Luka Modric is ninth with 1,178 appearances, including 597 for Real Madrid and 160 for Tottenham Hotspur. -Punchng