News Diggers!
ear to the ground

No 2387 K15 www.diggers.news Tuesday November 17, 2026




# Civil servants must declare gifts above K200 - Govt

*Story on page 2*

## Esther Lungu theft case resumes on Dec 16

*Story on page 11*

# LAZ OBJECTS ...vows to defend two-term presidential limit

*By Shadreck Jere*

THE Law Association of Zambia (LAZ) says it will defend the two-term presidential limit and is prepared to take legal action if necessary to stop any move to remove it.

*Story on page 11*

## Airtel apologises for poor network, blames power

*Story on page 7*

## Over 50 SDA members hospitalised after consuming 'bad' Chibwantu

*Story on page 4*

## We need taxes, but not punitive – Kakubo

*By Ivy Mwansa*

KAPIRI Mposhi West UPND MP Stanley Kakubo says tax is important for the development of the country, but it should not be a punishing tool for people who are already in a difficult situation.

*Story on page 2*



*Arnold Kaluba*

## Report health facilities that turn patients away – NHIMA

*Story on page 5*



# Mundubile to know his fate on constitutional bail next week

*By Precious Daka*

**THE Lusaka High Court has set November 24, 2026, for ruling on a constitutional bail application filed by Brian Mundubile, Makebi Zulu and 16 others, who are detained at Mukobeko Maximum Correctional Facility over treason-related allegations.**

And lawyer Sakwiba Sikota has described the security arrangements in the treason case as over-dramatised, despite the case involving only three former commandos, unlike the Captain Solo treason case, which he says had over 70 serving commandos.

Meanwhile, the court has set November 20, 2026, to rule on a preliminary issue raised by the State in a separate bail application involving Mundubile and Zulu, who are also facing charges of seditious practices.

In the constitutional bail matter, the 18 applicants are seeking release pending trial, arguing that their continued detention without being brought before court violates their constitutional rights.

The applicants include Mundubile, Zulu, George Chisanga, Patrick Mwansa, Bishop Trevor Mwamba, Francis Mulenga, Brazil Soko, Jackson Mutyoka, Bernard Chewe, Richard Banda and Emmanuel Mulenga.

Others are Darius Mwila, Simon Phiri, Valden Findlay, David Chisopa, Ezra Tolopa, Dickson Tembo and Victor Muzyamba.

The applicants were arrested over allegations that they possessed high-grade military weapons intended to threaten State security.

Speaking to journalists after the constitutional bail matter was heard in chambers, Monday, one of the applicants' lawyers, Milner Katolo, said the court had concluded hearing arguments and reserved its ruling for November 24 at 09:00 hours.

He said the defence had argued that the State had unduly delayed presenting the applicants before court, while the prosecution maintained that treason investigations were complicated and required more time.

"Today, we have come to the conclusion of all the arguments on the bail application. The court has ordered that the ruling on the bail application will be delivered on November 24, 2026, at 09:00 hours. There were competing, convincing arguments as to why constitutional supremacy must be respected over administrative convenience by the government. The gist of the State's arguments was that treason is a very complicated case. It involves a lot of factors and requires a lot of time to investigate. Our arguments were simple and clear, that this is a constitutional matter involving the liberty of individuals. So, only those things that the Constitution allows as derogations can be used as justification," said Katolo.

"In the present circumstances, the Constitution has not said that where it is treason, then you can take all your sweet time in the world. Neither has it said that if the investigations are complicated, you can detain people for as long as you want. The overriding factor is whether there is an undue delay in presenting the people to court, and we were able to demonstrate that there was an undue delay from the time they were arrested to the time when the application was made. Even up to now, as we were sitting today, no effort has ever been made to present them to court, even just for an explanation of the charge. So, to us, that clearly showed a settled intention that the State is only bent on detaining them and not presenting them to court"...

***Continues on P11***

# Hire workers you can afford to pay, Labour Minister advises employers

*By Ivy Mwansa*

**LABOUR Minister Misheck Nyambose has urged TV and radio stations to abide by labour laws and pay their employees the prescribed wages.**

Nyambose has also advised employers not to hire workers they cannot afford to pay, adding that it is better to have a small, well-paid workforce than having a big number of employees that get low salaries.

Speaking during a stakeholders' meeting in Chipata, Monday, Nyambose said employers should abide by labour laws and ensure that workers who have been employed for more than six months are given employment contracts.

"Coming to the private sector, the private sector is a main culprit, and today in Chipata, I hope all the radio stations are represented here, we have so many radio stations and I told my staff yesterday, we have a challenge, do not force this government to invoke the laws. I'm giving this opportunity to all TV stations, radio stations to abide by the labour laws in terms of wage structure. You have these radio stations here, and I'll be visiting them, when I come to the office today, I want to find contracts for your staff. Some of you are giving three months contracts, workers have worked for 10 years, same radio station, same TV station, they don't have contracts. Someone is fired today, they walk out as if they are walking…that should not be the case," Nyambose noted.

"These things are not being created by myself, these are universal laws. Zambia is a member of the International Labour Organisation, if you look at the conventions that deal with minimum wage, with the rights of the worker, these things are enshrined. Today, I'm going round, what I'm going to check is merely adherence, I'm not creating anything, compliance, you cannot, a filling station, you give contracts for three months, you give contracts for six months, this is our own country, these are Zambians. Same people working for 10 years but six months, the last day, they terminate, the following day, the same person, another new contract, re-engaged, another six months, running away from gratuity and pension contributions. I'm merely asking all employers, now, if we have been doing wrong things, today, now, across the nation, [do the right thing]".

He added that government would rather close a company than allow workers to be subjected to poor working conditions.

"How can you live with K400, this should come to an end. It's better you employ four security guards, pay them well, than you want to have 20, 15, whom you are paying K400, that will come to an end. It's better that company is closed, you are not ready, you are enslaving people. This is a person who risks his life, you are in your homes, sleeping, enjoying, them they are outside guarding property, at the end of the month, you pay them K400, where are we taking our country? I know we have labour officers here in Chipata, they are a team of six but I'm not ashamed to say they've done nothing, I'm not ashamed. A wrong is a wrong. We are asking for the minimum basic living wage. Within your means, come up with conditions of service that are above the minimum wage, minimum wage is a basic, it doesn't mean that you pay exactly as it is," said Nyambose.

# We need taxes, but they should not be punitive – Kakubo

*By Ivy Mwansa*

**KAPIRI Mposhi West UPND MP Stanley Kakubo says tax is important for the development of the country, but it should not be a punishing tool for people who are already in a difficult situation.**

Kakubo, who is former Foreign Affairs minister, adds that citizens should also focus on the positive side of taxes, saying that without taxes, government cannot implement programmes such as free education.

Commenting on the proposed increase in the mobile money levy in the 2027 National Budget, Saturday, Kakubo said he was not against taxes and that taxes must be channelled back into improving people's livelihoods.

"The phenomenon of taxes is an old thing [from] way back. Even when you look at the Bible, the idea of taxing is that the taxes must not be punitive, and taxes must be poured back into the livelihoods of the people. So let's see how we administer this. I'm generally not against taxes myself and I would encourage citizens to look at the positive side of taxes. Without taxes, we will not be able to afford free education for the children. I'm a rural MP myself, I'm relying on your tax and my own tax to ensure that the child that is in the village in my own constituency has the same opportunity as the child that is going at Kabulonga Boys, in terms of life, generally, for them to have a better future for themselves, and we'll not be able to achieve that if we don't do tax and levies. It's an old phenomenon and the idea is don't make the tax a punishing tool to the people that are already in a difficult situation. We must tax but mbichana [lowly]," Kakubo explained.

Kakubo noted that the Grow Zambia Agenda should translate into practical opportunities for citizens.

"With regards to Grow Zambia Agenda, we need to go beyond the actual phrasing, we must now look at opportunities in the value chain for Zambians. I'll give an example, if the Grow Zambia Agenda is focusing on cotton, we must now see how we can place our citizens from the farmer to the transporter, from the transporter to the ginnery, from the ginnery to our own cloth being worn by Zambian people. That's how the Grow Zambia Agenda will actually make sense for everybody because in the value chain, that's where the jobs are and that's where the little taxes for government are at every level to ensure that we develop our country," he highlighted.

"So, my general assertion is that we'll have to go beyond its pronunciation. We want to see our ministers now actually talking about the processes, the to-do list of the Grow Zambia Agenda, the actual to-do list, so that we begin to tick the progress that we are making by the hour, if I must say. The processes must be established and we must begin to tick the to do list, that is the only way we'll realise the reality of a better Zambia because if we talk about it every day, we'll leave our people behind, and I know for sure, that's the last thing the President wants. He wants to carry everyone along".

Asked about the importance of not politicising the Grow Zambia Agenda, Kakubo said it was impossible to separate politicians from the growth agenda.

"I don't think it's possible to remove politicians from this process. Zambians vote [for] politicians for economic emancipation. So it has two sides, it's got the political side because politicians drive the agenda, that's the way we chose as Zambians to be led, through politicians. We are not a monarch per se, so you can't separate politics from it. It's the politicians that drive the agenda for economic emancipation together with the private sector. So it should be left to be the way it is. The key thing there is for us to go beyond just it making headlines as a pronunciation, it must go with the things that I've already mentioned. So politics has to be there," said Kakubo.

# Govt orders declaration of gifts above K200

*By Elijah Munkombwe*

**DEPUTY Secretary to Cabinet Dr Oliver Kalabo says gifts valued above K200 must be declared, while cash gifts remain prohibited regardless of the amount involved.**

Meanwhile, Dr Kalabo says gifts worth more than K500 are prohibited and must be surrendered to the Integrity Committee for donation or disposal.

He was speaking during the launch of the Zambia Correctional Service Commission Service Delivery Charter, Gifts and Benefits Policy, Conflict of Interest Policy and Whistleblower Policy.

During the launch on Monday, Dr Kalabo called for clarity on whether the common practice of spraying money at celebrations falls within the policy.

"All gifts above K200 must be declared, gifts above K500 are prohibited and must be surrendered to the integrity committee for donation or disposal. Now here is the thing, cash gifts are totally prohibited regardless of the amount. So you need to guide us whether we are to spray money during celebrations or not because clearly, cash is prohibited. So, I hope the policy addresses such grey areas so that we don't commit crimes openly because you might be captured by the camera people and they will say 'there he was giving money,'" Dr Kalabo said.

Addressing the Whistleblower Policy, Dr Kalabo said officers who report wrongdoing in good faith would be protected from harassment or transfers, while their identities would be kept confidential.

"Let me be very clear on its key provisions: Protection, no officer shall be transferred or harassed for reporting in good faith, the identity of the whistleblower will be kept strictly confidential. Channels: reports can be made through the designated integrity committee, the dedicated hotline, email or the suggestion box and anonymous reporting is allowed. Zero Retaliation: management is encouraged to enforce zero retaliation, any act of retaliation against the whistleblower will be treated as a serious misconduct. Feedback: every report will be acknowledged within 48 hours and investigated within 14 days, that is our commitment to the people of Zambia. I urge all officers that if you see something wrong, say something. Silence protects wrong wrongdoing, so you can't keep quiet," said Dr Kalabo.



*Deputy Secretary to Cabinet Dr Oliver Kalabo*

HIGHER EDUCATION AUTHORITY

*"Ensuring Quality in Higher Education"*

# HIGHER EDUCATION AUTHORITY CLARIFIES REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS GOVERNING THE AWARD OF DOCTORAL DEGREES, APPOINTMENT TO PROFESSORIAL POSITIONS AND AFFILIATION WITH FOREIGN HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

**The Higher Education Authority (HEA)** has noted with concern reports involving an institution operating in Northern Province and purporting to have the status of a university college, including claims of affiliation with a foreign Higher Education Institution and the conferment of honorary doctorates and professorships.

The Authority wishes to clarify that there is currently **no Higher Education Institution (HEI) registered by HEA as a university college in Northern Province.**

The Authority further wishes to clarify that its records do not indicate an approved affiliation between a private Higher Education Institution in Northern Province and a foreign higher education institution in relation to the matter that has come to its attention.

Under **section 39A** of the **Higher Education Act, 2013,** as amended by the **Higher Education (Amendment) Act, 2021**, a private Higher Education Institution intending to affiliate a college or another private Higher Education Institution is required to apply to the Authority for approval.

Further, section 39B provides for the Authority to approve, subject to the requirements prescribed by law, an affiliation involving a college or another private Higher Education Institution situated within or outside the Republic of Zambia.

Therefore, **Higher Education Institutions** and members of the public are advised that the mere existence of an agreement, collaboration, partnership, memorandum of understanding (MoU) or other arrangement between a local institution and a foreign institution does not, on its own, constitute an affiliation recognised under the Higher Education Act.

The Authority further wishes to emphasise that affiliation does not confer upon an institution the right to operate above the level at which it is registered or established.

**Section 39C** of the Higher Education Act expressly provides that an affiliated college or other private Higher Education Institution shall not offer any type of education outside the level at which that institution is registered or established.

Accordingly, an institution registered as a college remains limited to the level prescribed for a college, regardless of any affiliation it may enter into. Under **section 2** of the Higher Education Act, a college provides tertiary education up to certificate and diploma level. An affiliation with a university or any other institution, whether within or outside Zambia, does not elevate the registered status of that college.

Similarly, an institution cannot lawfully present itself or operate as a university, university college or other category of Higher Education Institution unless it has been registered or established as such in accordance with the Higher Education Act.



***Bribal Boniface Musoba***

In this regard, **section 49** of the Higher Education Act prohibits a person who does not hold the requisite certificate of registration from establishing or operating a private Higher Education Institution or using the title "university" or "college" in a manner contrary to the Act.

The Authority also wishes to clarify the position regarding **honorary professorships.**

In the Zambian context, a professorship is an earned academic rank in line with the Authority's Guidelines for Promotion of Academic Staff in Higher Education Institutions, not an academic qualification. The Higher Education (Amendment) Act does not recognise honorary professorships or provide for the conferment of professorial positions on an honorary basis. Therefore, an honorary professorship cannot be represented as an earned professorial rank or an academic qualification in the Republic of Zambia.

This should be distinguished from honorary degrees and other similar awards that may be conferred by a duly established Higher Education Institution in accordance with its statutes and the applicable law.

Members of the public are encouraged to verify the registration status and classification of any institution purporting to provide higher education in Zambia, as well as the accreditation status of its learning programmes, before relying on any representations made by that institution. For the avoidance of doubt, colleges and university colleges are not authorised to confer doctoral degrees, whether earned or honorary.

The Authority further calls upon institutions to ensure that any local or international affiliations are undertaken strictly in accordance with the Higher Education Act and that such arrangements are not used to circumvent registration, accreditation or classification requirements.

HEA remains committed to protecting the integrity, credibility and quality of Zambia's higher education system.

For verification and further information, members of the public may visit www.hea.org.zm, email info@hea.org.zm or call (+260) 976 936 658.

**Issued on Behalf of the Authority By**
Mr. **Birbal Boniface Musoba**
Corporate Communications Officer
**Higher Education Authority**

Higher Education Authority (HEA) | 2nd Floor, Engineering House | Stand No. 2374, Kelvin Siwale Road | P.O. Box 50795, Ridgeway, Lusaka | +260 950 470 444 | info@hea.org.zm | www.hea.org.zm

**@HEAZambia**

Channels

**#HEAZambia #HigherEducationZambia**

***3409-01-17/11/26***

# We'll conduct quarterly audits to ensure teachers remain at their posts – Govt

*By Ivy Mwansa*

**EDUCATION Minister Harry Kamboni says the ministry will conduct an audit to address the issue of teachers abandoning their rural posts, admitting that the system has been very weak.**

Kamboni adds that the ministry will be conducting an audit every three months to ensure that teachers remain where they are posted, cautioning that teachers who don't want to work where they have been posted should leave those positions for others.

Asked on Diamond TV, Sunday, what concrete steps the ministry would take to stop teachers from abandoning rural posts, Kamboni said the ministry would ensure that teachers who had abandoned their posts returned once an audit was conducted.

"We are going to do a meaningful audit, the system has been very weak, very weak, deliberately, and there will be changes. I started [by] first talking to one teacher, and this teacher told me [that] no, some headmasters protect teachers who are absent even for the whole year. Not all of them, some, protect and report that this teacher is around when he's not available, and he's drawing a salary. So, what we are going to do now is create a form where teachers can fill in their details and sign, those who are not there should report to the DEBS' office. From there, there will be random auditing. A group will go, go to this school at random and check whether those teachers are there, and those who'll be found wanting will be posted to where they are supposed to go," Kamboni noted.

"Teaching is a noble profession and when we are looking for employment, we sign that you are willing to be sent anywhere, we are willing. But it surprises me, people look for work but when they find work, they don't want to work, so what were you looking for? I'm looking for work, you get work [but] you don't want to work. After the auditing, those who'll be found, they'll be posted. The President put it very clear, if you are sent to a school, and you don't want then leave space for those who want. We have a very good President who loves education, and we are taking that opportunity, he has really tried to improve the education system, so when you have that opportunity, it is our time now to produce the correct learner".


Harry Kamboni

Asked if it was possible for some schools to have teachers in excess of what they needed, Kamboni responded in the affirmative.

"We will do the auditing, we are starting, we are going to do the auditing. It's possible, there are some schools, even here in Lusaka, some people will come, no, I'm married, my wife is in what, so there's concentration in town. We have a policy that for marriage purposes, you are supposed to be together with your wife. Then you come, no, my wife works at Zamtel, can't be transferred, I want to join my wife in Lusaka, it's quite common. Even despite that policy, there are some that are in town for wrong reasons, there are some, genuinely, yes, we don't want to bring in moral decay but we have a number of teachers that need to be posted. The audit is going to happen, that audit will be done every after three months. Because you also have a situation where you have teachers that are put at this school but they are not there, they are working somewhere else. Even Ministry of Health is the same," he explained.

The minister added that government was spending about K2.1 billion on free education annually and that K1 million would be spent on the school feeding programme this year.

"What we get under Ministry of Education, let's remove skills and higher education, we are getting K30.9 billion, and you are asking what goes to emoluments, it's 78 percent, which is about K24 billion. Free education, we are spending about K2.1 billion, that's what we are spending on free education. School feeding programme, we are spending about K1 billion this year, what's budgeted for, about K1 billion. When we said free education, a lot of people were doubtful, where are you going to get the money, oh this is not true, now we are talking about [teacher-pupil] ratio; teacher pupil-ratio is going to reduce tremendously, mark my words," said Kamboni.

# Over 50 SDA members hospitalised after consuming 'bad' Chibwantu

*By Womba Kasela in Ndola*

**MORE than 50 Seventh-day Adventist (SDA) Church members have been hospitalised in Chingola on the Copperbelt with suspected food poisoning after they consumed Chibwantu, a traditional drink made from maize.**

In an interview, Monday, Chingola Mayor Nelius Mumba said the church members started experiencing diarrhoea after consuming the drink.

Mumba said several of those admitted to Nchanga North Hospital were now in stable condition and responding well to treatment.

He urged members of the public to be cautious about what they eat and drink.

"They consumed the same drink made from maize and it was after consuming it that they started experiencing diarrhoea. As I am speaking, more than 50 people from the SDA church in Kasompe have been admitted but as of yesterday (Sunday), when I visited the hospital, I found that a number of them had started becoming stable. They are responding very well at Nchanga North Hospital. My message to the people is that they should be very cautious about what they eat and drink. They should be very careful not to consume anything they come across because like what has happened, if it had been something poisonous, we could have lost lives," said Mumba.


Global Gateway

Co-funded by the European Union

Sweden Sverige

**INVITATION TO SUBMIT PROPOSALS FOR THE INTEGRATED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE SERVICE CONTRACT FOR THE LEAF PROJECT (AID 13552/01/0)**

*Publication reference: CIG BD9F952673*

**The Italian Agency for Development Cooperation, Maputo – Lusaka Office (AICS Maputo) intends to award a contract for the provision of integrated technical assistance services under the LEAF Project – Improved Livelihoods through Enhanced Access to Forest Products, Services, Finances and Value Chains (AID 13552/01/0), implemented in Zambia and funded by the European Union.**

**The tender file is available at the following address:**
https://trasparenzamaputo.aics.gov.it/pagina952_bandi.html
**The deadline for the submission of proposals is 19 January 2027.**

**Any additional information, clarifications or answers to questions raised by interested parties will be published on the same AICS Maputo webpage referred to above.**

Implemented by AGENZIA ITALIANA PER LA COOPERAZIONE ALLO SVILUPPO · CZECH AID

In Partnership with

*6497-03-18/11/26*



JTI

## JTI Leaf Zambia – Notice of Change of Registered Office

Notice is hereby given to the general public, stakeholders and business partners that, with effect from 16th November 2026, the registered office of JTI Leaf Zambia will relocate to the following address:
**Mikwala House, Stand No. 11059**
**Off Brentwood Lane, Longacres**
**Lusaka, Zambia**

From the effective date, please direct all correspondence, deliveries and visits to the new registered office address and update your records accordingly.
We appreciate your continued support and look forward to welcoming you to our new office

**Telephone: +260 762172062**
**Email:** CorporateAffairsZambia@jti.com
Website: www.jti.com

*3405-05-18/11/2026*

# ZPPA suspends 3 contractors over failed borehole projects

*By Mable Chala*

**THE Zambia Public Procurement Authority (ZPPA) has suspended three contractors from participating in public procurement for two years, for failure to complete borehole rehabilitation projects.**

The suspended companies contracted by the Ministry of Water Development and Sanitation to drill and equip boreholes are Capricon Innovation Limited, Nkanmu Investments Limited and Totten Infrastructure Limited.

Speaking during the 2026 Third Quarter Press Briefing, Monday, ZPPA Director General Gloria Ngoma said ZPPA instituted investigations into the contracts following a complaint from the Ministry of Water Development and Sanitation.



*Gloria Ngoma*

"In the third quarter of 2026, ZPPA undertook five investigations on various procurement matters. Of the five, investigations undertaken, two were on underperformance of contractual obligations, one was on non-performance of contractual obligations, one was on the submission of documentation that was not genuine in a bid, while the last one was on alleged irregularities in the procurement process. Three investigations were concluded, while two were ongoing as at 30th September, 2026. One investigation undertaken by ZPPA in the third quarter of 2026 is as follows: the Ministry of Water Development and Sanitation signed contracts under various lots with Capricon Innovation Limited, Nkanmu Investments Limited and Totten Infrastructure Limited for the drilling and equipping of boreholes in Central, Western, Northwestern and Muchinga Provinces," she said.

"ZPPA instituted an investigation into the contracts following a complaint from the Ministry of Water Development and Sanitation. The Ministry alleged that Capricon Innovation Limited, Nkanmu Investments Limited and Totten Infrastructure Limited underperformed in the said contracts. ZPPA established that Capricon Innovation Limited failed to fulfill its contractual obligations as it did not drill, equip, or complete the boreholes in Central, Western, North Western and Muchinga Provinces as required under the contract, despite having been paid an advance payment of 25 percent amounting to K8,220,804.71. Further, ZPPA established that Nkanmu Investments Limited did not fully fulfill its contractual obligations in the contract for rehabilitation and maintenance of 95 boreholes in Western Province, as it only rehabilitated 11 of the boreholes despite being paid a 25 percent advance payment of K1,255,009.45. Furthermore, ZPPA established that Totten Infrastructure Limited dismantled existing boreholes in Muchinga Province that were previously providing water to communities. However, the contractor failed to complete rehabilitation and equipping. The works were abandoned despite having been paid an advance payment of K98,430.64".

Ngoma said the suspension of the three contractors was effective July 14, 2026.

"Therefore, pursuant to section 96 (g) of the Public Procurement Act No. 8 of 2020, ZPPA suspended Capricon Innovation Limited, Nkanmu Investments Limited and Totten Infrastructure Limited from participating in public procurement for a period of two years, effective 14th July, 2026, for underperformance of contractual obligations. [ZPPA] directed the Ministry of Water Development and Sanitation to recover the advance payment made to the three suppliers through the Office of the Attorney General," she said.

Meanwhile, Ngoma said ZPPA considered 18 appeals from aggrieved bidders arising from various procurements, with 17 appeals being concluded in the period under review.

On the other hand, Ngoma said ZPPA flagged irregular contract extensions and construction quality defects in 26 CDF projects monitored across 11 local authorities.

"ZPPA monitored 26 Constituency Development Fund (CDF) projects in 11 local authorities covering education, health, water, sanitation and public infrastructure projects. The monitored activities focused on assessing contract implementation progress, quality of works, compliance with contractual obligations and adherence to procurement requirements. The following were the common issues observed: irregular contract extensions and variations; inadequate contract documentation; poor record management; lapses in the management of performance and advance payment securities; and various construction quality defects requiring corrective action by implementing entities. The audit findings were communicated to the audited procuring entities. The Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development and the Ministry of Infrastructure, Housing and Urban Development were also informed of the audit findings so that remedial action can be taken," said Ngoma.

# I'm not silent due to fear, I'm putting my house in order – Kalaba

*By Ruth YambaYamba*

**CITIZENS First leader Harry Kalaba says his silence should not be mistaken for fear of criticising the UPND government, insisting that his party is strengthening its structures ahead of the 2031 elections.**

In an interview, Saturday, Kalaba said Zambia was a democratic country where political parties should be free to operate without intimidation.

He added that his party was not afraid to offer credible checks and balances to the ruling party but was simply putting its house in order.

"Afraid of what? Afraid of who? When we choose silence, it's not because we are fearing anything. We choose silence because we are putting our house in order and nobody is going to intimidate us in the process. So people can do whatever they want to do, they can plan anything they want to plan. Whatever it is, no one will intimidate the C-Force. Our growth is organic, our growth is deliberate and our agenda is very focused. So nobody is going to shake us or paralyse our intentions as a result of whatever tactics they might want to use to scare off people. They should remember that Zambia is a democratic state. We chose this ourselves in 1990. The decision is determined by the resolution that was made, regardless of the consequences," he said.

He said the party was enhancing its operations ahead of the 2031 general elections in order to become more effective and organised.

"We are putting in measures, and in the next few days, we are having an induction for the newly appointed members of the Central Committee. All this is meant to enhance our operations as a political party. We don't want to go into this period just after the [election ]... we want to go in there and be an effective political party with effective alternative solutions. We have members of parliament in the House, we have councillors across the country, so definitely we are the party of choice going into 2031. Many have agreed that we are putting in measures to ensure we become more effective and more organised than before," he said.

Meanwhile, Kalaba cautioned members of parliament against practising politics of patronage, saying their responsibility was to represent the interests of Zambians.

"Yes, it is true that the UPND holds Parliament, but at the end of the day, the representatives in there represent the interests of the nation. That is reality, and so when they are doing things, they should never do them for the sake of pleasing an individual or pleasing themselves because they have the arrogance of numbers. They should always remember, 'what do our constituents want?' What do they want? If they answer that question genuinely, they will do the right thing. They will do the right thing because they have contacted their people and they will have their true positions. But this is politics of patronage. We have seen politics of patronage play out in Malawi, we have seen politics of patronage play out in Zimbabwe, we have seen it in Botswana, we have seen it in Kenya, we have seen it in Uganda and we have seen it in Namibia. They don't last long. They last for a while, but ultimately, the will of the people will remain victorious," said Kalaba.



*Harry Kalaba*

# Report health facilities that turn patients away – NHIMA

*By Elijah Munkombwe*

**THE National Health Insurance Management Authority (NHIMA) says accredited health facilities are not supposed to turn away members due to inadequate drug stocks, urging affected patients to report such incidents.**

However, when asked whether members should expect the return of dental services and the provision of spectacles following the increase in NHIMA contributions, NHIMA Head of Public Relations King Syacika says the authority would only comment on the matter when it reaches that point in 2027.

In May 2024, NHIMA revised its benefit package and removed dental services and the provision of spectacles effective July 1, 2024.

Since then, questions have persisted over whether the scheme will restore the withdrawn benefits.

Last week, Health Minister Prof Roma Chilengi announced that NHIMA contributions would increase to two percent of gross pay, effective January 2027.

Asked in an interview, Monday, whether the planned increase in NHIMA contributions from 2027 would lead to improved services, including adequate drug stocks in hospitals and the reinstatement of some removed benefits, Syacika said such questions were best directed to the Minister, who made the pronouncement...

*Continues on P6*

# ACC postpones Antonio Mwanza questioning

*By Shadreck Jere*

**THE Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) has postponed the questioning of Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) leader Antonio Mwanza to Thursday, November 19, 2026.**

Mwanza confirmed to News Diggers! that he was scheduled to appear before the Commission on Monday for questioning over allegations that he is in possession of proceeds of crime.

"I'm not sure what the details are, but I can just confirm that I've been summoned for interrogations by the ACC. I don't really have the details, but I hear it's something to do with proceeds of crime, whatever that is supposed to mean. But I will be there, I will go there, I will present myself," said Mwanza.

The Commission, however, denied summoning him, saying the information should be treated as a rumour.

Asked for an update on the matter in a press query, Monday, Mwanza said the questioning had been postponed to Thursday at 14:00 hours.

Further asked if he had been given further details for the summons, Mwanza responded saying, "Let's have a detailed conversation after my appearance".

# Foreign mining suppliers must partner with local firms – Govt

*By Sherry Chabala*

**GOVERNMENT says foreign-owned mining suppliers operating in Zambia must establish strategic partnerships with local firms to comply with the local content law, which came into effect in January 2026.**

Government has also disclosed that Zambia's copper production is set to surpass 900,000 metric tonnes this year, breaking the all-time record since independence.

Speaking during a courtesy call by a Swedish delegation, Monday, Ministry of Mines and Minerals Development Permanent Secretary Dr Hapenga Kabeta emphasised that certain goods and services were now reserved exclusively for Zambian entities.

"Zambia was a greenfield and people would come and make investments as they saw fit. We have introduced a local content law, and that local content law requires that if a company is going to consistently be seen as a foreign company, it may need to look at the fine lines of the local content regulations and ask themselves the question as to how they can fit in. And we would want a situation where, yes, companies are foreign-owned, but when they come to Zambia, they maintain their global flair, but they must also be local. And to be local, they need to create strategic partnerships within the country. There are certain activities, obviously, under the local content law that prescribe that 100 percent of a set of goods and services must be supplied by Zambian entities. 100 percent! And it's important that your companies based in Zambia must comply with that law. It's a new law, but implementation has been effective since January 2026. So it is important that that happens," he said.

He warned that without value retention and environmental rehabilitation, increased copper production would mean little for Zambia.



*Ministry of Mines and Minerals Development Permanent Secretary Dr Hapenga Kabeta*

"We believe that if we are going to produce copper, we reach three million and it's all going out, the only value we shall see is trenches at the places where the mines have been dug out. We want to ensure that there is compliance with the ESG standards and ensure that all mines have proper closure guidelines and consistent remediation of those mines. And we know that to do that, you require significant levels of technology, which you may have, and I think we're also developing some kind of technology around that within the country," he said.

Dr Kabeta disclosed that Zambia's copper production was set to surpass 900,000 metric tonnes this year, breaking the all-time record since independence.

"We are very excited. I think you have mentioned three numbers. The first number is 890,000 that you made reference to. In 2021, the President made a pronouncement that we need to ramp up our production of copper to three million metric tonnes of copper. And at the time, our level of production was 732,000 metric tonnes of copper. And we have been increasing production to where we are now, at 890,000 as at the close of last year. And this year, we may not accurately at this stage, talk about what our closing figure is going to be, but it will be above 890,000, probably above 900,000 metric tonnes of copper. Now, these are figures which, basically, from Zambia's nationhood, we have not reached that level of production. So these are new, we are breaking new ground at every stage," he said.

He said a significant amount of the copper would come from both greenfield and brownfield mines, adding that achieving the three million metric tonnes copper production target would depend on technology and capital.

"Three million metric tonnes of copper is very ambitious. A country without ambition is a country that must die. We must have an ambition and aspire for something to achieve. You may recall that in history, there is one American president who said, 'we want to land a man on the moon'. And the man landed on the moon. And we get inspired by such historical developments, and we are determined and committed that we need to strive to follow with a view to achieving that target. Yes, I agree with you that a significant amount of that copper will come from the greenfields and similarly, it will also come from the brownfields. And we agree with you that what will make it possible for us to achieve most of those targets is technology. And we attract and we want to encourage people and partners who have the technology to help us transform our country. And obviously, we also want capital, as it were," said Dr Kabeta.

Meanwhile, Swedish Ambassador to Zambia Per-Ola Mattsson said Sweden would hold a mining roadshow, which would provide an opportunity for Zambia to explore how Swedish expertise could support its ambitions for a modern and competitive mining sector.

Swedish Commissioner for Business Joacim Ek said there was a strong match between the challenges and ambitions of Zambia's mining sector and the technologies Swedish companies could offer.

# Report health facilities that turn patients away – NHIMA

*From P5*

"I think to start with that pronouncement didn't come from NHIMA, it came from the Minister. So, such questions are appropriate to be directed to the Minister because the Minister is still exhausting what had been approved by Cabinet. For us we are just implementers and that's a policy pronouncement. Then the second is that as far as we are concerned, the accredited facilities are not supposed to send out anyone. When they give our members a prescription, we expect that the medicine is there in the pharmacies and that our members are supposed to be given the medicine. Because the contracts we sign with these accredited facilities, we sign agreements and everything which is in our benefit package is supposed to be found either at the hospital as a one stop shop, meaning treatment, consultation, and drugs are supposed to be given. But in an instance that they don't have the drugs, this is where they give a prescription to take to a standalone accredited pharmacy," Syacika said.

"So, in the contracts we sign, we expect everything to be found there. So, that issue of turning away patients is not in our language because what we know is that those who are accredited are doing what is supposed to be right because NHIMA exists to provide a service to our members or Zambian citizens. So, when we accredit these facilities, they are also supposed to provide a service to our members and that's the primary purpose. We have not received anyone saying that they don't want to provide a service to NHIMA members, 'hence I'm withdrawing our partnership as an accredited facility'. Also, we advise members to help us when they undergo such situations where you are being turned away that there is nothing. Otherwise on our side, we're not everywhere, you know NHIMA is only seven years old, so you are our eyes and ears. When you experience such, you report and if you can't report at our offices, dial 8000 which is a toll-free number".

He urged NHIMA members to report any accredited facility that turns patients away.

"Just tell us that this facility is turning away patients and then we do our own investigations and once they are found waiting, we take action. Then as you heard the Minister also said that these pronouncements will take effect January 2027, as an implementer we can only know when we get there. As at now it would be too premature for us to start commenting, unless it's us who had agreed with accredited facilities to say since there are low deductions, please can you be chasing away members. On other services being brought back, we can only say something about it when we get there and when we cross the bridge in 2027," said Syacika.

# Police nab 10 over copper theft, pursue 4 others

*By Elijah Munkombwe*

**POLICE have arrested 10 suspects in connection with the alleged hijacking of a truck transporting copper in Kafulafuta on the Copperbelt.**

Police Public Relations Officer Chipo Kaitisha says preliminary investigations indicate that the truck driver was allegedly promised US$200,000 in exchange for facilitating the theft of the copper consignment.

In a statement, Monday, Kaitisha said police were also looking for four other suspects believed to be linked to the theft of the copper consignment.

"The Zambia Police Service has launched a manhunt for four suspects believed to be linked to the theft of a truckload of copper blisters in Kafulafuta District, Copperbelt Province. The incident was reported on November 9, 2026, following the alleged hijacking of a truck transporting copper. The truck and its trailers were later found abandoned near Kafulafuta Police Checkpoint. So far, police have arrested 10 suspects in connection with the incident, among them the truck driver and four employees of Zam Fastest Bonded Warehouse in Ndola. Preliminary investigations indicate that the stolen copper was allegedly offloaded at Jollis Haulage Yard in Twapia, Ndola, before being transported using two tipper trucks. The four suspects currently being sought by police are: Bally, a Tanzanian national suspected of having masterminded the alleged theft. Patrick Muzigo, a Congolese national suspected of recruiting the truck driver. Joseph Mwelwa, the alleged owner of Jollis Haulage Yard, where the copper was reportedly offloaded. Moses Mulenga, reported owner of one of the tipper trucks allegedly used to transport the stolen copper," stated Kaitisha.

"Preliminary investigations further indicate that the truck driver was allegedly promised US$200,000 for his suspected role in facilitating the theft. The Zambia Police Service is appealing to members of the public, particularly residents of Kafulafuta, Ndola, Kitwe and surrounding areas, to provide any information that may assist in locating and apprehending the four suspects, as well as recovering the stolen copper. Anyone with information that may assist in the investigation is urged to report to the nearest police station. The Service assures members of the public that all information received will be treated with strict confidentiality. Investigations into the matter are ongoing, and further updates will be provided as necessary. The Zambia Police Service remains committed to combating crime, protecting property and ensuring that all individuals suspected of involvement in criminal activities are brought before the courts of law".

# DEC nabs 9 Asians for importing medicines without permit

*By Ivy Mwansa*

**THE Drug Enforcement Commission (DEC) in collaboration with Zambia Medicines Regulatory Authority (ZAMRA) has arrested six people of Asian origin for importing medicines without an import permit.**

DEC Public Relations Officer Allan Tamba says in a separate matter, the Commission has also arrested three people who were identified as facilitators and intended recipients of a consignment of assorted pharmaceutical products.

In a statement, Monday, Tamba said the pharmaceutical products for which the suspects have been charged and arrested, together with two motor vehicles linked to the matter have since been seized to facilitate further investigations.

"Through a series of joint operations conducted by the Drug Enforcement Commission (DEC) and the Zambia Medicines Regulatory Authority (ZAMRA) at Kenneth Kaunda International Airport and other places within Lusaka Province, the State has jointly charged and arrested six persons of Asian origin identified as Bharuchi Huzef Iqbal, male aged 31, Patel Abdul Aziz, male aged 40, Patel Nadim Umarji, male aged 31, Rethda Rehmatullah, male aged 36, Saeedullah Mohammad, male aged 30 and Tailor Sarfaraz Abdulsamad, male aged 28. The said persons have been arrested for importing medicines without an import permit, pursuant to Section 35 of the Medicines and Allied Substances Act, No. 3 of 2013 of the Laws of the Republic of Zambia. Also jointly charged and arrested for a similar offence but in a separate matter is Hamze Abou Khalil, male aged 36, together with a couple involving Nasar Mohamed Nazih, male aged 41 and Ahmed Mariam, female aged 36, both residents of Makeni area, who were identified as facilitators and intended recipients of a consignment of assorted pharmaceutical products found with Hamze," stated Tamba.

"The pharmaceutical products for which the suspects have been charged and arrested, together with two motor vehicles being; a Mazda CX – 8, bearing Registration Number CAK6070 ZM and a Mazda CX-3, bearing Registration Number CAN 2033 ZM linked to the matter, have since been seized to facilitate further investigations. The DEC remains committed to dismantling drug trafficking networks, curbing the illegal movement of controlled substances and safeguarding public health through collaborative intelligence-led operations. Individuals and entities involved in the illegal importation of medicines are hereby warned, that crime will not be tolerated, as perpetrators will be arrested and prosecuted without fear or favour. Citizens are further encouraged to continue reporting suspicious activities to the authorities so that by acting together, we can effectively prevent, detect and combat crime".

# Our ambition is to become a $7bn company by 2035 – ZCCM-IH

*By Sherry Chabala*

**ZCCM Investments Holdings Plc (ZCCM-IH) has launched its 10-year strategy for 2026 to 2035, with an ambition to grow from a US$1.2 billion company today into a US$7 billion company by 2035.**

The strategy was launched at its Shareholder Day in Lusaka.

The strategy builds on the company's role as a strategic anchor of Zambia's mineral and energy wealth, with an ambition to reach a market capitalisation of US$7 billion by 2035 and to grow revenue 3.5 times, from around US$211 million to US$738 million a year.

In a statement released by Corporate Affairs Manager Loisa Mbatha, Monday, ZCCM-IH Chief Executive Officer Kakenenwa Muyangwa was quoted as saying that over the last three years, the company had shown it could deliver by securing the Kansanshi royalty, paying a dividend every year and surpassing US$1 billion in market value.

He said the next 10 years would be about earning more from existing mines, capturing more value from what the country produces and discovering its next mines.

"ZCCM Investments Holdings Plc (ZCCM-IH or the Company) today launched its ten-year strategy for 2026 to 2035, at its Shareholder Day. The strategy builds on the Company's role as a strategic anchor of Zambia's mineral and energy wealth, with an ambition to reach a market capitalization of US$7 billion by 2035, and to grow revenue 3.5 times, from around US$211 million to US$738 million a year. The strategy is built to support the Government's Grow Zambia agenda, which sets targets for 2031 of 3 million tonnes of copper a year and 10,000 MW of generation capacity," the statement read.

"ZCCM-IH holds stakes in nine copper assets, and its planned 3,022 MW portfolio contributes directly to the national energy target. Kakenenwa Muyangwa, Chief Executive Officer of ZCCM-IH, said: 'Over the last three years, we showed we can deliver. We secured the Kansanshi royalty, paid a dividend every year and passed US$1 billion in market value. That was the foundation. The next ten years are about scale. We will earn more from what we own, power Zambia's growth, capture more of the value of what the country produces and discover its next mines. Our ambition is a US$7 billion company, and we expect to be measured against it. When ZCCM-IH grows, Zambia grows'".

He said the company would grow recurring income from royalties, dividends and trading, anchored by the Kansanshi royalty, which was expected to bring in more than US$990 million over the 10 years.

"The strategy is organised around four words. Under Earn, the Company will grow recurring income from royalties, dividends and trading, anchored by the Kansanshi royalty, which is expected to bring in more than US$990 million over the ten years. It will seek royalty agreements with other investees, work with its partners on consistent dividend policies, market its share of the copper its investees produce and raise its stake in Mingomba from 20 to 25 per cent. It is targeting US$2.45 billion in royalties and dividends from its investees by 2035. Under Power, the Company will build a 3,022 MW generation portfolio by 2035," the statement read.

"This includes the 600 MW Ever Great project, a large solar project and 312 MW of solar across the constituencies under the Presidential Constituency Energy Initiative. An Energy Holding Company will be established for the energy business, while dividends from Copperbelt Energy Corporation and Maamba Energy continue. Under Capture, the Company will trade copper, gold, manganese and energy from mine to market, starting with gold and manganese buying centres with traceability and expanding to a stockyard and copper and energy trading".

Muyangwa said that by 2035, the company aimed to handle 20 per cent of Zambia's formal gold trade and 35 per cent of its manganese trade, serving more than 30,000 artisanal miners.

"By 2035, it aims to handle 20 percent of Zambia's formal gold trade and 35 per cent of its manganese trade, serving more than 30,000 artisanal miners, and to process more in Zambia, including phosphate into fertiliser with Sino Great. Under Discover, the Company will explore priority areas to find the next generation of Zambian mines, with a ring-fenced, multi-year exploration budget, a five-gate decision framework, AI-enabled geoscience and partners sharing risk through joint ventures and farm-ins," read the statement.

"The plan runs in three phases and involves investment of US$2.7 billion: about US$750 million in the Foundation phase from 2026 to 2028, US$1.2 billion in the Growth phase from 2029 to 2031 and US$736 million in the Optimisation phase from 2032 to 2035. It will be funded from the Company's own cash generation, partner capital at project level, corporate debt and equity, subject to Board and shareholder approvals. The Company is also working to close the gap between its share price and its net asset value, through its Listing Optimisation Project, a free float moving towards 25 per cent, the restoration of trading in London, clear and consistent investor communication. The targets set out in the strategy depend on funding, resource confirmation, approvals and execution".

# 70% of our network problems are power-related - Airtel

*By Sherry Chabala*

**AIRTEL Networks Zambia has apologised to customers for poor internet and inconsistent network coverage, saying the company is hearing their complaints and actively working to address them.**

Airtel has attributed 70 percent of the poor network and internet connectivity to power-related issues such as fuel and vandalism at their tower infrastructure.

Meanwhile, Airtel has assured that it is working to address issues of fraud, adding that the rise in the vice is a concern for the Company.

Speaking when he featured on ZNBC's Sunday Interview, Airtel Managing Director Hussam Baday said the Company was in close discussions with Zesco and the Ministry of Petroleum on how it could deliver quality service to customers.

"Firstly, let me apologize for all the customers that are facing poor networks in certain parts of the country if they have any issues. We are really hearing their complaints, and we are actively working on addressing all these complaints. But let me just put two things in perspective on what is causing most of the problems. There are two big lines of issues that we are dealing with now. Number one is network availability. The tower itself needs to have energy, needs to have power. This source of power could be either electricity, or fuel, or part of its solarization," he said.

"So with 56 percent electricity access, that means you are divided: some of the sites have electricity, others don't have electricity, and both categories have their own issues. If one has electricity and in one site you have maintenance work happening, or there is migration to prepaid meters, that could create some challenges on that site. And if it's an off-grid site, fuel logistics can be a problem sometimes, and also fuel theft might be another issue. So there are operational challenges that we are working on with our TowerCo and different partners on how we can get that under control. We are having very close discussions with Zesco and the Ministry of Petroleum on how we can make that operation smoother to the customer".

Asked what the biggest challenge the telecommunication sector was facing in the country, Baday flagged power and geopolitics.

"Power. Electrification rate is at 56 percent, creating heavy dependency on diesel, and diesel logistics and high diesel costs increase operating expenses. Also highlighted in the ZICTA report are supply chain constraints due to global geopolitics. All our hardware and advanced technology comes from outside, and supply chain delays can take up to six months when expanding the network," he said.

He said the Company was however working on a solar plan with 300 solar towers, as well as mobilizing over $100 million to solve capacity issues.

"If there is one site down, that impacts your accessibility. That means you will be connected to a further site, which can create congestion on the other site. That's why you'll find sudden call drops. Maybe this site has no power or fuel, your signal goes to a different site, creating congestion on the other side, and that makes slow data. But we are working on that. We are putting a solarization plan where on our own sites, we added 300 towers with solar. Apart from availability problems, there is another problem we are dealing with: capacity issues. You might have in certain areas that capacity has become congested. That's why we are expanding. We are adding more towers, upgrading our infrastructure, adding 5G to unlock that congestion. This year itself, we are mobilizing more than $100 million to solve these capacity issues," he said.

Asked on public claims that the poor network and internet connectivity was as a result of oversubscription, Baday said 70 percent of the problems were power-related issues.

"Not really, because if I mention, most of these problems if you look at a scale of 100 percent, you'll find 70 percent of the issues are related in one way or another to power, either fuel, theft, vandalism issues. Even if one tower is down, this is going to affect the other tower even if there is stable power there, because it creates congestion there. So that's why I think we are working on how we can really stabilize our infrastructure in terms of power, while also adding more capacity because this is a growing demand, and we need to anticipate traffic growth before it happens," he said.

Baday said Zambia had affordable access to internet by global standards.

And addressing complaints of quick data bundle depletion by consumers, Baday insisted that the company's billing was accurate.

He further argued that quick depletion of data bundles was due to usage behaviour.

"That's true, there are complaints about that, but I just want to give you assurance, the billing and charging is 100 percent accurate and that has been spot-checked by ZICTA and there is no doubt about the accuracy of the billing. The problem comes from different reasons when we interact with customers. Number one is about usage behavior, depending on how you use data, light user, moderate user, heavy user and what content you are using [such as] texting, images, or videos. Video consumes more than images, and video itself depends on the quality of the video. If you want to view 1GB on YouTube at SD [Standard Definition], you will spend two hours watching that video. Same video, if the video quality moves from SD to HD [High Definition], the viewing time reduces by half from two hours to one hour," he said.

"The third reason is running apps: apps running in the background that you are not aware of, Google doing automatic updates, software updates, system updates, cloud backups going in the background. Customers can disable automatic background updates when using mobile data. The fourth reason is hotspotting: many customers go home, open their hotspot, and think consumption is only for themselves, but they find relatives, kids, and even colleagues are hotspotting from your data. More education needs to be done from our side, and we are working to give visibility to customers so they know what they are using data for".

Meanwhile, Baday assured that the company was working to address issues of fraud.

"I think definitely scamming is a big concern and is on the rise. It is one of the things we are working on. But just to give you assurance, Airtel platform is very secure. If the customer does not take action, nothing will move from their wallet. It's very secure, there is no doubt here. What is happening is quite a lot of scamming and phishing activities. That's why in Airtel we developed an AI spam alert that reads in the background the pattern and content, and after that tells the customer, 'This is a spam alert.' Most customers don't look at this spam alert written before the message. We are catching millions of spam messages using that AI tool. Also, the national digital ID will really help eliminate fake NRCs," said Baday.


## NOTICE

**NOTICE OF INTENTION TO APPLY FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION IN**
THE ESTATE OF THE LATE **NACHILALA NGOZA NKOMBO**

I, **Margaret Ngoma Nkombo,** of **F2882 Mission Drive,** Waterfalls in Lusaka, being the mother of the late **Nachilala Ngoza Nkombo** who died on the 3rd day of April 2025, HEREBY give notice of my intention to apply to the High Court for Zambia, Family and Children's Division (Probate Jurisdiction), holden at Lusaka, for the grant of Letters of Administration in the estate of the late **Nachilala Ngoza Nkombo.**

ANY PERSON having an objection to the grant, or any claim against or interest in the estate of the **Nachilala Ngoza Nkombo** should lodge the same in writing with the Principal Probate Registry at Lusaka.

*3384-01-17/11/26*

## PLOT FOR SALE

**HIGH-COST RESIDENTIAL PLOT FOR SALE**
**1. KAZUNGULA – (SOUTHERN PROVINCE)**
**LOCATION OPPOSITE OASIS FILLING STATION (BORDER TURNOFF JUNCTION TO BOTSWANA)- ON TITLE, PLOT SIZE - 112.19 X 83.11, PRICE- K500,000 (All inclusive)**
**FARM FOR SALE**
1. LOCATION: **LUANSHYA / MASANGANO ROAD**
**2KM FROM LUANSHYA/ MAANGANO TURNOFF AND 1KM FROM MAIN ROAD**
STATUS: **ON TITLE**
SIZE: **49,5874 HECTARES**
PRICE: **K7,000,000**
CONTACT: **0979337298/0966601347**

*3384-01-17/11/26*

## NOTICE

**NOTICE TO APPLY FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION RELATING TO THE ESTATE OF THE LATE CHIMBOFU MANDALENA**

WE, **JOHN NG'ANDU** OF THE NRC NO **319046/11/1** AND **EXELDAH KATONGO** OF THE NRC NO **595105/11/1** INTENDS TO OBTAIN LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION IN THE HIGH COURT OF ZAMBIA RELATING TO THE ESTATE OF THE LATE **CHIMBOFU MANDALENA**

SWORN BY
**JOHN NG'ANDU**
**EXELDAH KATONGO**

*3384-01-17/11/26*

## NOTICE

**NOTICE TO APPLY FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION RELATING TO THE ESTATE OF THE LATE CHARITY BANDA**

WE, **CHARLES MULENGA** OF THE NRC NO **223569/43/1** AND **EMMANUEL MULENGA** OF THE NRC NO **748373/10/1** AND **NATASHA MULENGA** OF THE NRC NO **91637710/1** INTENDS TO OBTAIN LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION IN THE HIGH COURT OF ZAMBIA RELATING TO THE ESTATE OF THE LATE **CHARITY BANDA**

SWORN BY
**CHARLES MULENGA**
**EMMANUEL MULENGA**
**NATASHA MULENGA**

*3384-01-17/11/26*

# When Khama loses diplomacy, State House should take moral high ground

**WE have said before that Zambia must be very careful about how it responds to criticism from the international community concerning our democracy. Our stance on these post-election issues has to be very well calculated. We cannot afford to respond emotionally to every person who questions what is happening in our country.**

We say this in light of the scathing accusations made a few days ago by former Botswana president Ian Khama against President Hakainde Hichilema and the subsequent response from State House. When Mr Khama describes President Hichilema as Africa's newest dictator, that is a very serious attack on our Head of State. It is not an accusation that should be made carelessly, especially by someone who once occupied the highest political office in a neighbouring country.

The first question we must ask is whether Mr Khama is justified in making such a sweeping statement about the President of another sovereign country. Is he in order, and what evidence does he have to support his accusation? Are there no other channels through which Mr Khama could have raised his concerns about the developments in Zambia? As a former Head of State, is he not expected to appreciate the importance of the regional protocols and principles under SADC and COMESA, which promote cooperation and dialogue among member states? Surely, someone who once occupied the highest office in Botswana should understand the importance of respecting the sovereignty of another country when raising such serious accusations.

And these are the issues State House should have raised when responding to Mr Khama's remarks. You cannot respond to such serious accusations by bringing up his private life and relationships with women. What does Mr Khama's marital status have to do with the accusations he has made against President Hichilema? Such personal attacks only make Zambia look ridiculous in the eyes of the international community.

We also wonder how Mr Khama would have reacted if a Zambian president had issued similar accusations against him while he was serving as Botswana's Head of State. Would he have been happy to hear a foreign leader describing him as a dictator? Would he not have questioned why a president of another country was making such serious accusations against him? He would have equally been unhappy and demanded that his country's sovereignty be respected. This is why we should have taken higher moral ground.

But when we say that Mr Khama actually financed a militia group in Zambia, do we have evidence to support that allegation? Again, if indeed that evidence exists, Zambia has proper channels through which it can raise the matter. Government can present its concerns and supporting evidence to the relevant SADC security structures and say, "These are the issues that we have uncovered." Government can also demand an explanation as to why a former foreign Head of State would allegedly be financing militia activities in our country.

Those are not issues that you simply put in a statement to lash out or throw into the public domain just because Mr Khama has commented on your post-election issues. If there is credible evidence, let the relevant authorities investigate the allegations. We cannot afford to turn matters of national security into a war of words. You have to be more reasonable, more strategic and smarter than that.

Zambia and Botswana have enjoyed longstanding relations built on cooperation and mutual respect. These ties must be maintained. A disagreement with a former president should not be allowed to create unnecessary tension between two countries whose people have enjoyed cordial relations for many years. Our response must therefore protect not only the dignity of the presidency but also Zambia's wider diplomatic interests.

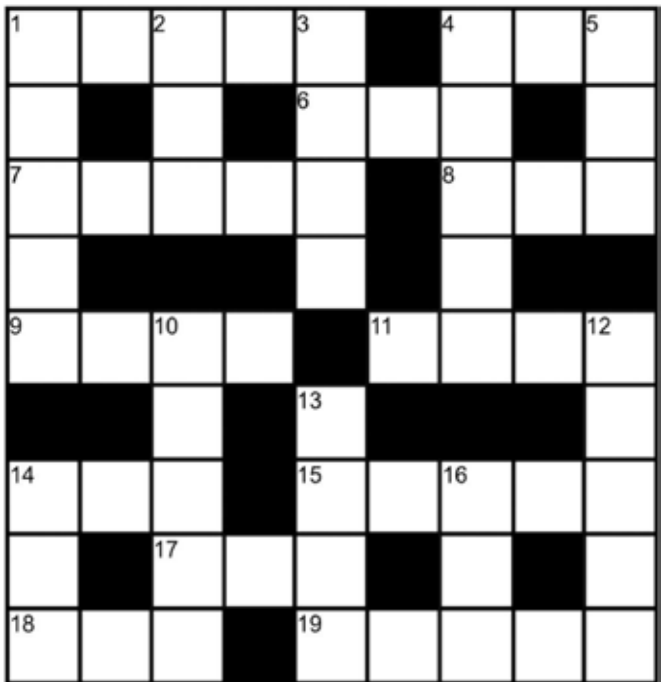
There is nothing wrong with dismissing accusations that are false or misleading. In fact, government has a responsibility to correct false information about our country. But let us dismiss such accusations with facts. Let us dismiss them with evidence. Let us dismiss them with logic. Dignity demands restraint, diplomacy demands tactic.

News Diggers! ear to the ground

Diggers! is published by News Diggers Media LTD
Plot No. 23, Perirenyetwa Road, Rhodes Park, Lusaka.
P.O Box, 32147, Cell: 0779291024/ 0965815078
Email: editor@diggers.news

To advertise in the Diggers! Epaper or website:
Call +260779291025/ +260977708285 or
Email: advertising@diggers.news
For circulation call: 0762971845
Grant projects: 0765143606
Accounts: 0762971815

## Crossword puzzle No 2514

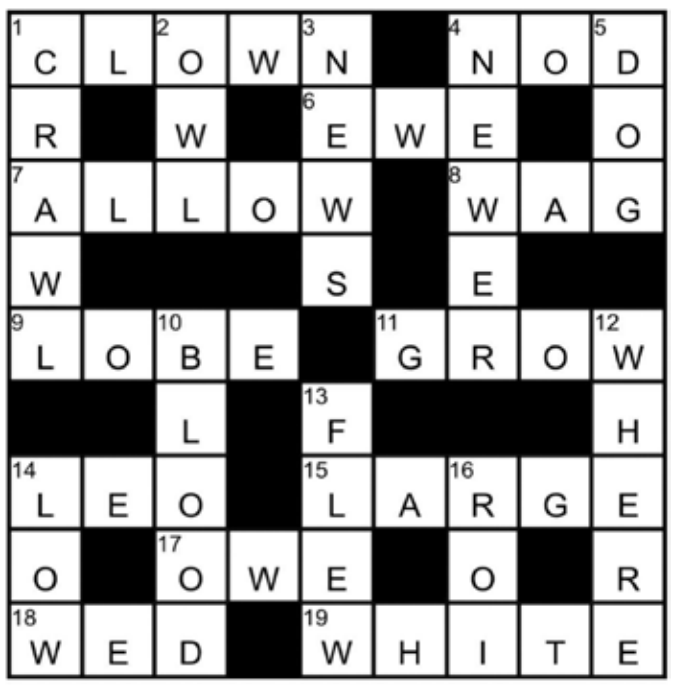


*"Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath away."*
*-Maya Angelou*

**Across**
1. Graceful
4. Dazzle
6. Boxer Laila
7. Choir voice
8. Malleable metal
9. Past due
11. Broadway event
14. Letters before an alias
15. Male relative
17. Man's best friend
18. Casino cube
19. Large bird of prey

**Down**
1. Ruinous
2. Large coffee dispenser
3. Truth or ____
4. Coven member
5. Defeat
10. Swap
12. Reporter's word
13. Olympic sled
14. Do sums
16. Tooth-like edge of a wheel

## Solutions to puzzle No 2513



# Readers' Feedback

## Streets are not markets

Dear Editor,

"So after selling in the street, their poverty ended? And also, those who sell in the markets, are they selling because they're rich? Those who sell in the streets and those in the markets are just the same".
-Dumisani Nene

And those who sell in markets do it for what?
-David Mwaya Kabwe

Let us help our so-called poor on the street to learn to be orderly. Imagine you trained them to sell from organised places, their merchandise will fetch more.
-Munakanzambe Shimoomba

"Well spoken Hon Kampyongo. They were supposed to build markets first before removing them from the streets".
-Wilson Banda

"Streets are not markets. Selling should be in designated areas, shops or markets. Fullstop".
-Lackson Malambo




## Editor's Note

Go to our news Diggers! Facebook or Twitter(Xpage, select a story you like and jot down your comment. We will pick that as your feedback and get you published on this page. The shorter the comment the higher the chance of getting published. NOTE that we block users who use abusive language.

## Which Zambia is HH talking about?

Editor,

"Zambia has made progress in some areas, and that deserves recognition. However, we must also consider the everyday experiences of ordinary citizens. Affordable food and fuel, decent jobs, reliable electricity, accessible healthcare, affordable transport and better living standards are equally important. Development should not only be measured by economic figures, but also by how much people's lives have improved. After all, not everyone experiences progress in the same way".
-TRAIL Accounting Consultant

"I think the President is talking about a different Zambia".
-Sipho Nkomo

"But majority citizens have been in all regimes and they are able to compare and judge which one looked after people nicely because today things are very bad"
-Joackim Chinsempe

"Which Zambia is he talking about that is better than before?"
-Benson Kansumba

## Why is Wynter encouraging the State to convict Mundubile?

Editor,

"So he meant they should be convicted at all cost, despite lack of evidence?"
-Chomba Chanda

"What about if it ends in an acquittal by the courts?"
-Lutabito Mabz

"In simpler terms, Kabimba is hoping that the government didn't arrest Brian Mundubile and 18 others on trumped up charges, otherwise it will boomerang like it happened when the PF arrested HH on trumped up charges. All in all, he has a valid point".
-Nchimunya Mazuba

"So he's encouraging the State to work extremely hard to ensure Mr Mundubile is convicted. Isukulu lya mu Zambia awe"
-Adrian Chalumba

"Kabimba wants Mundubile implicated even when they have nothing".
-Stephen Nyirenda

## HH must clear himself on this third term debate

Dear Editor,

"The opposition think it's HH pushing the agenda to remove the presidential term limit. Let me state clearly here that it's the majority Zambians that want it removed. Once it's removed, then we'll now start begging HH not to retire in 2031. People must decide who should rule them not the Constitution. Presidential term limit must be removed now".
-Bryan Dimbwe

"Let him declare his position. We will think someone is sponsoring those advocating for it".
-Evance Kayz Mulenga

"HH can't be left out, he is a major factor. If he refuses to run for third term, the tension will stop and the Constitution won't be changed".
-Hector Kunda

"He's not the first President to act like he's not involved. We've seen these moves before".
-Lengwe Governor Kabwe

"Let HH clear himself on this issue of third term because his silence is speaking something as well"
-Abraham Hamachila

# 2027 NATIONAL BUDGET

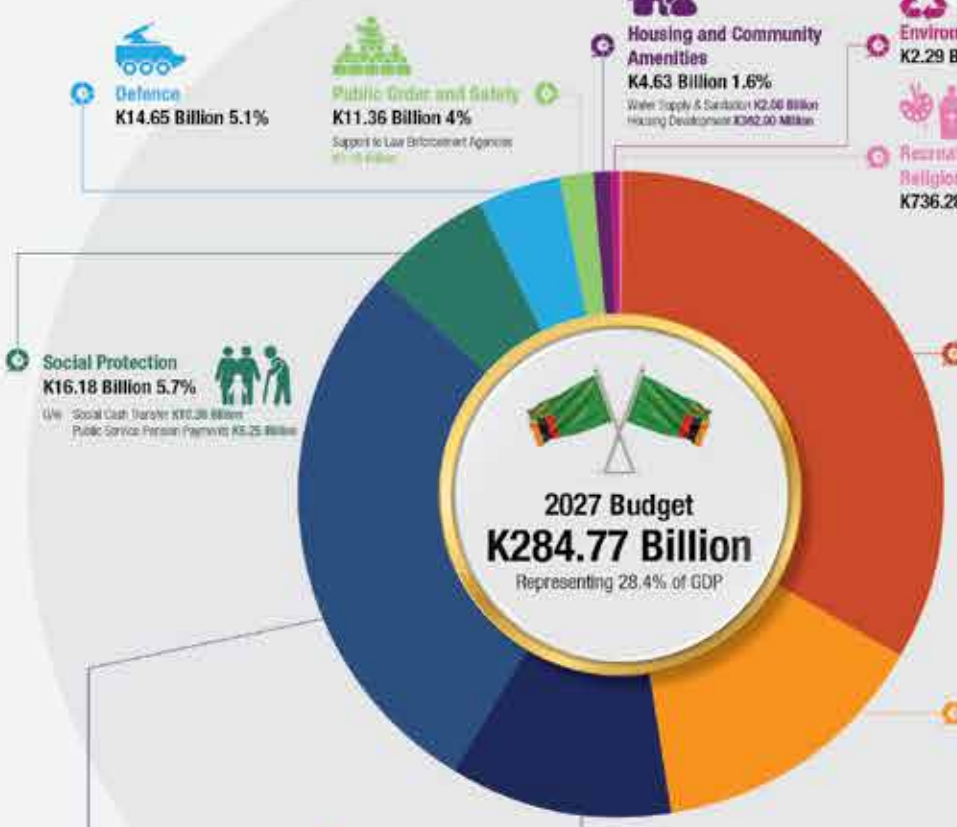
INFOGRAPHIC

**Theme: Grow Zambia: From Stabilisation to Unlocking Opportunities, Creating Jobs and Improving Livelihoods for All**

Ministry of Finance and National Planning — Republic of Zambia

AMOUNTS IN ZAMBIAN KWACHA

## EXPENDITURE ESTIMATES FOR THE 2027 BUDGET




**Defence**
K14.65 Billion 5.1%

**Public Order and Safety**
K11.36 Billion 4%
Support to Law Enforcement Agencies

**Housing and Community Amenities**
K4.63 Billion 1.6%
Water Supply & Sanitation K2.68 Billion
Housing Development K362.00 Million

**Environmental Protection**
K2.29 Billion 0.8%

**Recreation, Culture and Religion**
K736.28 Million 0.3%

**Social Protection**
K16.18 Billion 5.7%
Of which: Social Cash Transfer K10.36 Billion
Public Service Pension Payments K5.25 Billion

**General Public Services**
K90.53 billion (31.8%)
Domestic Debt Service K50.02 Billion
External Debt Service K16.70 Billion
Dismantling of Arrears K4.66 Billion
Digitalisation of Government Services K1.71 Billion
Including Digital National Identity-INRIS K367.5M
Land Administration System K205.45M
Local Government Equalisation Fund K1.55 Billion

**Education**
K38.24 billion (13.4%)
School & University Infrastructure K3.17 Billion
School Operations K2.26 Billion
Student Loans and Scholarships K1.95 Billion
Home-Grown School Feeding Programme K1 Billion

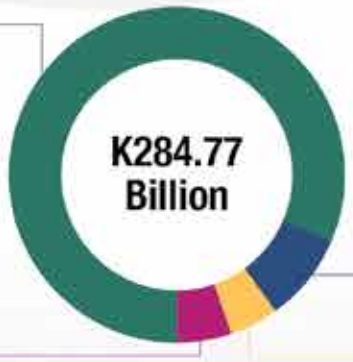
**Economic Affairs**
K75.90 Billion 26.7%
Agriculture, Fisheries & Livestock Interventions K22.70 Billion
Of which: Farmer Input Support Programme K9.05 Billion
Road Infrastructure K16.15 Billion
Constituency Development Fund K9.05 Billion
Provincial Airports K2.35 Billion
Mining K1.21 Billion
Geological Mapping K487.25M
Artisanal & Small-Scale Mining K450.66 Million
Mines Standards & Regulation K171.72 Million
Tourism K1.36 Billion
PPP Viability Gap Financing Fund K507.3 Million
Development Finance Institution K400.0 Million
Grid Resilience Project K391.3 Million

**Health**
K30.25 Billion 10.6%
Drugs and Medical Supplies K6.40 Billion
District & Mini Hospitals Infrastructure K966.67 Million
Support to NHIMA K360.0 Million

## RESOURCE ENVELOPE FOR THE 2027 BUDGET

**DOMESTIC REVENUES 82.1%**
**K233.66 BILLION**
Tax Revenue K178.10 Billion
Non-Tax Revenue K55.56 Billion

**FOREIGN FINANCING 4.6%**
**K13.03 BILLION**
Programme Loans/IMF K6.72 Billion
Project Loans K6.30 Billion




**DOMESTIC FINANCING 10.1%**
**K28.85 BILLION**

**GRANTS 3.2%**
**K9.23 BILLION**

## KEY EMPOWERMENT & SOCIAL FACILITIES (ALLOCATIONS / TARGETS)

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Social Cash Transfer Programme | K10.36 billion (covering 1.6M+ households at K450/K650 per month) | Public Service Pension Payments | K5.25 billion |
| Home-Grown School Feeding Programme | K1 billion | Drugs and Medical Supplies | K6.40 billion |
| Farmer Input Support Programme (FISP) | K9.05 billion (Transitioning into an agricultural loan scheme) | Student Loans & Scholarships | K1.95 billion |
| Constituency Development Fund (CDF) | K9.05 billion (Allocation remains at K40 million per constituency to accommodate increased constituencies) | Training & capacity support for artisanal & Small-scale miners | K450.7 million |

## MACROECONOMIC OBJECTIVES

**To build on stability and drive accelerated economic growth under the Grow Zambia Agenda, the 2027 targets are:**

- Real GDP Growth: At least 4.9%
- Inflation: Maintain within the 6–8% target band
- International Reserves: Maintain above 4 months of import cover
- Domestic Revenue: Increase to at least 23.3% of GDP
- Fiscal Deficit: Reduce to 3.0% of GDP
- Net Domestic Borrowing: Limit to 2.9% of GDP

## KEY THEMATIC AREAS & PILLARS (GROW ZAMBIA AGENDA)

### PILLAR ONE: GROWING THE ECONOMY (PRODUCTION & VALUE ADDITION)

- **MINING:** Target of 3 million metric tonnes of copper by 2031. Establishment of a Gold Trading Agency and reduction of mineral royalty to 3% for small-scale miners selling to approved aggregators.
- **AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK & FISHERIES:** Anchored on Grow Zambia targets: 10M tonnes maize, 3M tonnes soya beans, 1M tonnes wheat, 1M tonnes sugar, and $1 billion beef exports. Establishment of a Farm Block Development Agency. Transition of FISP into an agricultural loan scheme starting in 2027. Fish production projected at 300,000 metric tonnes in 2027.
- **TOURISM:** Target of 5 million international tourist arrivals over the next 5 years (up from 2.3M in 2025). Customs duty suspended on safari vehicles, hospitality equipment, and communications infrastructure.
- **MSME DEVELOPMENT:** Bank of Zambia to launch a small business growth initiative, to be managed through a K5 billion guarantee scheme.

### PILLAR TWO: CONNECTING THE NATION (INFRASTRUCTURE & ENABLERS)

- **ENERGY:** Target of 10,000 megawatts generation capacity by 2031. Over 1,400 MW expected to be added to the national grid in 2027 from non-hydro sources. Regional and inland transmission lines ongoing (e.g., Zambia-Tanzania, Zambia-Malawi, Kafue West-Muzuma). New multi-product petroleum pipeline partnership with Tanzania.
- **TRANSPORT & LOGISTICS:** Active development of economic corridors: Lobito Corridor (groundbreaking/construction of Lobito railway in Q4 2027), TAZARA (with dry port at Kapiri Mposhi), and Zambia Railways (60 million Euros secured for Kapiri Mposhi-Ndola section). Construction, upgrade, and rehabilitation of 787 km of roads countrywide. Airport completions: Mansa and Mfuwe in 2027; works start on Choma, Chipata, Mongu, and Solwezi. Smart gate at Kazungula completing in 2027.
- **ICT & DIGITALISATION:** National fibre-optic backbone exceeds 42,000 km; active internet subscriptions at 15.5 million. Fast-tracking integrated national digital identity system (INRIS) and onboarding an additional 35 councils onto the e-Council platform in 2027.

### PILLAR THREE: IMPROVING LIVING STANDARDS (HUMAN & SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT)

- **EDUCATION & SKILLS:** Free education policy backed by new infrastructure (31 secondary schools to be completed in 2027; construction of 6 new public universities in Eastern, Luapula, Northern, Northwestern, Southern, and Western provinces via PPP/Government funding). Home-grown school feeding to cover over 8,800+ schools and 5.6M+ learners. TEVET expansion to accommodate 100,000 additional trainees starting in 2027.
- **HEALTH:** Recruitment of 3,125 frontline medical personnel in 2027. Completion of Ndola Cancer Diseases Hospital and King Salman Bin Abdulaziz Specialised Hospital (Lusaka); construction of Livingstone cancer hospital and mini/level-1 hospitals countrywide.
- **WATER & SANITATION:** Prioritising water harvesting infrastructure (dam construction/rehabilitation) and boreholes/small piped schemes to build climate resilience.
- **SOCIAL PROTECTION:** Social Cash Transfer to cover over 1.6 million households. Monthly transfers increased to K450 (and K650 for households with persons with disabilities). Operationalising a unified national social registry in 2027.

### PILLAR FOUR: BUILDING AN EFFECTIVE, EFFICIENT, AND DELIVERY-ORIENTED PUBLIC SECTOR

- **FISCAL & DEBT POLICY:** Fiscal deficit targeted at 3.0% of GDP in 2027 (moving toward 1.2% by 2029).
- **PENSION REFORMS:** Reopening Public Service Pension Fund and Local Authorities Superannuation Fund to new entrants, targeting a combined income replacement ratio of 65%. Operationalizing the Zambia Deposit Insurance Corporation Act, 2026.
- **ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY:** Digital climate advisory services expanding to 4 million farmers by 2029; scaling up carbon markets and forest conservation.

### PILLAR FIVE: FINANCING OUR FUTURE

- Mobilizing domestic resources, unlocking private investment, deepening capital markets, establishing a new Development Finance Institution, and attracting long-term capital to finance the Grow Zambia Agenda and drive sustainable, inclusive economic growth.

## KEY TAX & REVENUE MEASURES (EFFECTIVE JAN 1, 2027)

- **VAT RATE:** Adjusted upward to 16.5% from 16%.
- **PAYE:** Introduced a top marginal rate of 39.5% for individuals earning above K37,000 per month (incomes of K37,000 and below are unaffected; only the marginal amount above K37,000 is taxed at 39.5%). (Note: Annex table lists threshold context at K34,000/39.5% bracket integration).
- **CORPORATE INCOME TAX (CIT):** Increased by 5 percentage points on all income currently taxed at 20% and below.
- **MINING TAXES:** Withholding tax on dividends paid by mining companies increased to 15% from 0%. Mineral royalty for artisanal/small-scale gold sold to approved aggregators reduced to 3% (50% reduction). Export duty of 5% introduced on zinc concentrates.
- **LOCAL INDUSTRY PROTECTION / CUSTOMS DUTIES:** Increased customs duty on ceramic tiles to 40%; crude soya bean/palm/sunflower oil duty to 15%; selected aluminium products and curtains adjusted. 100% duty and VAT exemption on imported raw materials for sanitary products manufacturing.
- **ENVIRONMENTAL LEVIES:** Single-use plastics excise duty increased to 200% from 100%; specific excise duty of 80 ngwee per bottle on plastic bottles; plastic articles excise harmonised at 30%.

**Visit https://www.mofnp.gov.zm for a copy of the 2027 Budget Speech.**

X: @MOFNPZambia
https://x.com/mofnpzambia

Ministry of Finance and National Planning
P.O. Box 50062 Lusaka, Chimango Road
Call: +260 211 253 512 | 253 786 | 252 121 | 250 544 Email: treasurybriefs@mofnp.gov.zm
www.mofnp.gov.zm | Facebook: zambiafinanceministry

Sponsored by IZB INDO ZAMBIA BANK Supporting You, Developing Zambia

Scan to download the infographic

3404-01-17/11/26

# LAZ vows to defend two-term presidential limit, threatens legal action

*By Shadreck Jere*

**THE Law Association of Zambia (LAZ) says it will defend the two-term presidential limit and is prepared to take legal action if necessary to stop any move to remove it.**

LAZ president Arnold Kaluba has further urged Parliament to look beyond immediate political circumstances and consider the long-term implications of removing presidential term limits for democracy, accountability and stability.

Meanwhile, Kaluba has welcomed Justice Minister Jack Mwiimbu's assurance that the Executive will not interfere with Parliament's handling of petitions seeking the removal of the presidential term limit.

Some stakeholders including Socialist Party leader Dr Fred M'membe had called on LAZ to state its position on the ongoing debate over the proposal to remove the presidential two-term limit.

In a statement, Monday, Kaluba said the two-term limit under Article 106(3) was an important safeguard against the concentration of executive power and promoted regular leadership renewal and accountability.

"The importance of presidential term limits: Presidential term limits are a safeguard in a constitutional democracy. They promote regular leadership renewal, strengthen democratic accountability, limit concentration of executive power and affirm the principle that public office is held in trust for the people and not as a personal entitlement. They also reinforce the principle that no individual is above the constitutional limits governing the exercise of public power. The current Article 106(3) of the Constitution provides that a person who has twice held office as President is not eligible for election as President. This provision is a deliberate constitutional safeguard and should be understood in the broader context of Zambia's democratic evolution and constitutional history. The Association maintains its position on presidential term limits and reiterates that the Constitution is the supreme law of the Republic, and that its protection must be given priority in any constitutional reform process," he stated.

"The role of Parliament and the responsibility of the nation: In considering any proposal affecting presidential term limits, Parliament must look beyond the immediate political circumstances and consider the long-term implications for constitutional governance, democratic accountability and the institutional stability of Zambia. The Association further calls upon all political actors, public institutions and citizens to approach this debate with restraint and with due regard for the constitutional principles at stake. Constitutional reform must be informed by the national interest and the collective aspirations of the Zambian people, and not by the interests of particular individuals or political formations".

Kaluba reiterated LAZ's commitment to preserving presidential term limits, saying the association would continue monitoring developments surrounding the proposed amendment to Article 106(3).

"The role of the Law Association of Zambia in safeguarding the Constitution: The Law Association of Zambia reiterates its long standing commitment to the preservation of constitutional safeguard of presidential term limits as provided for under Article 106(3) of the Constitution. The Association will continue to monitor developments surrounding the proposed amendment to Article 106(3) of the Constitution and any processes undertaken in furtherance of the petitions before the National Assembly. In this regard, the Association reserves the right to take such measures as may be lawfully available to it, including making appropriate representations to relevant constitutional institutions and pursuing legal action where necessary, to safeguard the Constitution and protect the current constitutional order," Kaluba said.

Meanwhile, Kaluba welcomed government's recognition of the constitutional right of citizens to petition the National Assembly on matters of national interest.

"The Law Association of Zambia (LAZ) welcomes the remarks made by the Minister of Justice, Hon Jack Mwiimbu, SC, MP, during a press briefing held on Friday, 13th November 2026, concerning the petitions submitted to the National Assembly seeking the removal of the presidential term limit provision under Article 106(3) of the Constitution of Zambia. The Association particularly welcomes the Minister's assurance that the Executive will not interfere with the consideration of the petitions by the National Assembly and that the matter will be dealt with by Parliament in accordance with the law. The Association further welcomes the government's recognition of the constitutional right of citizens to petition the National Assembly on matters of national interest," he said.

"The doctrine of separation of powers requires that each arm of government operates within its constitutionally prescribed mandate, free from improper interference or undue influence by another. LAZ therefore considers the Minister's assurance an important affirmation of the need to respect institutional independence and the rule of law".

Kaluba noted that successive constitutional review commissions had recommended limiting presidential tenure to two five-year terms.

"The historical and constitutional basis for presidential term limits: Presidential term limits in Zambia are not a recent constitutional innovation. They are the product of a long-standing national discussion on constitutional governance, democratic accountability and the need to guard against the concentration of political power. Successive constitutional review processes have consistently recommended that presidential tenure be limited. In 1972, the National Commission on the Establishment of a One-Party Participatory Democracy, commonly referred to as the Chona Commission, recommended that the tenure of the President be restricted to two terms of five years each. This position was subsequently reaffirmed by the 1990 Mvunga Constitution Review Commission, which recommended that presidential tenure be limited to two five-year terms," stated Kaluba.

"The recommendation was adopted and incorporated into Article 35 of the 1991 Constitution, which ushered in the restoration of multiparty democracy in Zambia. The question was revisited by the 1996 Mwanakatwe Constitutional Review Commission, which reaffirmed the continued desire of the Zambian people to limit presidential tenure to two five-year terms. The subsequent constitutional amendment expressly provided that a person who had twice been elected President would not be eligible for re-election to that office. This history shows that the introduction of presidential term limits were not the arrangement of a particular administration or political grouping. They emerged from successive national constitutional review processes and reflect a considered national position on the limits of presidential power".

Kaluba further said LAZ's opposition to the removal of presidential term limits was not new, recalling that the association had joined religious and civil society organisations in 2001 to promote constitutionalism and protect the two-term limit.

# Mundubile to know his fate on constitutional bail next week

*From P2*

...Meanwhile, in the separate sedition matter involving Mundubile and Zulu, the State has challenged the Lusaka High Court's jurisdiction to entertain their bail application, arguing that the matter was previously before a court in Solwezi, where the applicants did not apply for bail.

The charges arise from Facebook posts made on August 14, 2026, after the general elections.

Mundubile is accused of posting that the NRPUP was leading in the elections, according to the Parallel Vote Tabulation (PVT), and calling on the Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ) to resume counting votes after the process was suspended.

Zulu is accused of posting that Mundubile would address the nation and urging members of the public to remain on standby.

Speaking to journalists after the matter was heard in chambers, one of the applicants' lawyers, Sakwiba Sikota, said the court had reserved its ruling on the State's preliminary objection for Friday, November 20, at 09:30 hours.

He explained that if the objection is dismissed, the court could proceed to hear the substantive bail application.

Meanwhile, Sikota said Bishop Trevor Mwamba and two other applicants were still part of the constitutional bail proceedings.

He questioned why ordinary statements were taken from the three after they had earlier given warn-and-caution statements, arguing that such statements were only taken from individuals who were no longer suspects.

"I am aware that these three who had already given warn-and-caution statements were taken away from the others. And then ordinary statements were taken from them. You do not take ordinary statements from accused persons who are facing charges. You only do that if they are no longer suspects. Now, technically, that means that they have said that these people are no longer suspects by taking those ordinary statements from them. Because what is the justification for that?" questioned Sikota.

"The way that this whole case is being handled by the State is extremely peculiar. Extremely peculiar. There has never been a treason trial which has been handled in this manner. There has never been a treason trial where you have all this drama of all these so-called security arrangements. You had the treason case, the Captain Solo one, which had over 70 actual trained and serving commandos who were there, people who were being charged. And you didn't have this drama. Here you only have three ex-commandos and you have this drama. Which one deserves more drama? The one with 72 active commandos or the one with three ex-commandos? It just shows you that this is being over-dramatised for no reason. We understand that they are still part of it, that they have been brought here".

# Esther Lungu theft case resumes on Dec 16

*By Elizabeth Mabenga*

**THE Lusaka Magistrates' Court has adjourned the theft case involving former First Lady Esther Lungu to December 16, 2026, for continued trial.**

This is a matter in which Esther is jointly charged with two police officers, James Phiri and Lee Chisulo, along with Kapambwe Lungu and late former president Edgar Lungu's niece, Catherine Banda, with theft of motor vehicles and a certificate of title.

In count one, it is alleged that between August 9, 2021 and September 30, 2022, in Lusaka, Esther, Phiri, Chisulo, Lungu and Banda, jointly and whilst acting together, stole a Mitsubishi Canter, registration number BAV 5282, valued at K320,000, the property of Elizabeth Phiri.

In count two, it is alleged that the accused, during the same period in Lusaka, jointly and whilst acting together, stole a Toyota Runx, registration number BLA 9772, valued at K110,000, the property of Elizabeth Phiri.

In count three, the accused are alleged to have stolen a Toyota Allex, registration number BAV 3986, valued at K110,000, the property of Furhana Patel.

In the fourth count, it is alleged that the five, jointly and whilst acting together, stole a certificate of title relating to Stand No. S/LUSAKA/0003/2977, situated in Libala Lusaka Water Works, valued at K1,050,000, the property of Elizabeth Phiri.

In the fifth count, it is alleged that Esther, between August 9, 2021 and September 30, 2022, in Lusaka, had in her possession or concealed US$400,000 reasonably suspected to be proceeds of crime.

The matter has since been adjourned to December 16, 2026, for continued trial.

# Ndola woman arrested for insulting HH on TikTok

*By Elijah Munkombwe*

**POLICE in Ndola have arrested a 35-year-old woman for allegedly posting a TikTok video containing insulting remarks directed at President Hakainde Hichilema.**

In a statement, Monday, Police Public Relations Officer Chipo Kaitisha identified the suspect as Melinda Mwimba of Twapia Township in Ndola.

"The Zambia Police Service wishes to inform the public that it has formally charged and arrested Melinda Mwimba, aged 35, of Twapia Township in Ndola District, for the offence of Use of Computer or Computer Systems to Commit Offences, contrary to Section 20 of the Cyber Crimes Act No. 4 of 2025, as read through with Section 179 of the Penal Code, Chapter 87 of the Laws of Zambia. Brief facts of the matter are that on September 9, 2026, between 18:00 hours and 22:00 hours, the suspect, jointly and whilst acting together with other persons unknown, while using a computer system did post a video on TikTok social media platform through an account bearing the username Tintino and handle @tinakavaza. The video contained insulting remarks directed at the Republican President, Mr Hakainde Hichilema.

The incident is alleged to have occurred in Ndola District of the Copperbelt Province of the Republic of Zambia. The suspect has since been released on police bond and is expected to appear in court soon," stated Kaitisha.

Goal Diggers!
www.diggers.news
No 2387 K15 www.diggers.news Tuesday November 17, 2026

# CHIPOLOPOLO FACE BURUNDI ...as Kangwa returns to squad

*By Ulande Nkomesha*

**ZAMBIA National team will today face Burundi in a game Zambia needs to win to boost their chances of qualifying to the 2027 AFCON tournament.**

A lackluster Zambia on Friday last week failed to get maximum points at home when they drew 1-1 to Burundi to which many fans described as disappointing.

Coach George Lwandamina's team will be boosted by the return of Chipolopolo Vice-Captain Kings Kangwa who had completed his four-match ban arising from an off the pitch incident at the Africa Cup of Nations in Morocco.

Speaking during a press briefing, Lwandamina said the team had prepared well for today's fixture.

He added that the team was in a building process and the players had started understanding each others.

"Tomorrow's game will be totally different. We have already done our part, we have prepared so well. There are 22 players on the pitch, I think it is to understand each and every player. We will start where we ended in the last game. We are in a building process, this team is very young and the players are beginning to understand each other. Yes we dropped points in Algeria, but they have built on it and we are progressing very well," said Lwandamina.

"Coordination seems not to be there, the chemistry in every team which is starting, it cannot be 100 percent but the boys are working [ on it], they have the character. Every two games is different from the other one. We missed two points, instead of getting three we got one".

Meanwhile, Kangwa said he was excited to return to the squad.

"We all understand, we have a young team, we're building something big. We are working hard, everyone is working hard, so we are building as a team. Our target is to win. [I am] very excited and very happy to be back with the team. [To the fans] we always asks for the same situation, for them to keep supporting us and we will continue working hard as a team and we will continue trying to push and get a positive result," said Kangwa.

Zambia plays Burundi in a Group I Africa Cup of Nations qualifier at the Stade Intwari at 15h00 CAT.

Algeria tops Group I on seven points, followed by Zambia, Togo and Burundi on four, three and two points respectively.

Top two teams in each group will qualify to the 2027 AFCON in Kenya-Tanzania-Uganda.



*Kings Kangwa*




*Donyell Malen of Netherlands attempts to shoot against Marc ter Stegen of Germany during the UEFA Nations League 2026/27 group phase match between Germany and Netherlands at Olympiastadion on November 16, 2026 in Berlin, Germany. (Photo by Stuart Franklin/Getty Images)*
*STUART FRANKLIN / GETTY IMAGES EUROPE / Getty Images via AFP*

## Klopp says Infantino worse than Blatter

**Germany head coach Jurgen Klopp says he "didn't think things could get worse after Sepp Blatter, but someone has managed to do just that" as he called for Fifa president Gianni Infantino to be replaced.**

Blatter resigned as Fifa boss in 2015 amid a corruption scandal and was succeeded by Infantino in February 2016.

Infantino plans to stand for re-election in March but has been under pressure since scrapping his Fifa Forward Enterprise (FFE) proposal, which included selling off stakes in the World Cup and other Fifa competitions to private investors.

Infantino apologised to the Fifa Council for the plan but was told he was not fit to lead world football's governing body unless he released all the documents and answered key questions.

"I've been following football for many years. There are people who are much more knowledgeable about this than I am. But I think most people now agree a change would make a lot of sense," said former Liverpool boss Klopp.

"I didn't think things could get worse after Sepp Blatter, but someone has managed to do just that."

Klopp added: "Regarding Gianni Infantino, surely the next person to come along can do a better job."

French Football Federation (FFF) president Philippe Diallo has been named as Uefa's candidate to challenge Infantino.

Diallo received the unanimous support of Uefa's executive committee and formal ratification from the FFF is expected on Tuesday.

***BBC SPORTS***