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ZNS WORKING TO MEET MEALIE MEAL DEMAND

By Elias Mwenda

Zambia National Service (ZNS) says the current load shedding has negatively affected production of the Eagle's mealie meal amidst heightened consumer demand.

Speaking in an interview with Money News, ZNS Director Marketing, Colonel George Lukonde says the institution is working at interventions to ensure

that it meets the mealie meal demand.

Colonel Lukonde notes that being the cheapest on the market, the commodity has created high demand, therefore a lot needs to be done to improve supply.

He however reveals that there has been improvement in the production of the brand as alternative energy

sources such as diesel generators have been installed.

Colonel Lukonde has also advised contracted retailers to adhere to the terms and conditions of pricing to avoid being removed from selling Eagle's mealie meal brand.

GOVERNMENT PLEDGES TO ADDRESS LOW CDF PERFORMANCE RATE

Minister of Local Government and Rural Development says government is putting in place measures to address the low performance rate of the Constituency Development Fund (CDF).

Speaking in an interview with Money News, Gary Nkombo indicates that there is no underutilization of CDF as others have suggested but low

uptake levels due to a number of challenges that are being addressed.

Mr. Nkombo notes that there are a number of factors that are currently affecting the absorption of the fund in most constituencies, which include legislation.

He adds that the Public Procurement Act had also created issues with electronic government procurement (EGP)

system which caused delays in implementing CDF projects.

Mr. Nkombo further says Government has resorted to having CDF projects being approved at the provincial level rather than at the Ministry in Lusaka in order to ensure timely implementation of community development initiatives.

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N.W: 11.2KG



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EU OBSERVES NEED TO DEVELOP ZAMBIA'S MINING SECTOR WITH ENVIRONMENTAL MEASURES IN PLACE

By Cecilia Chiluba



European Union Ambassador to Zambia and COMESA has noted Zambia's celebration of 100 years of mining and the importance of developing the sector with social and environmental measures in place.

Speaking during the 2024 Environmental Protection Dialogue (EPD) event organized by the Centre for Environment Justice (CEJ) in Lusaka, Karolina Stasiac,

reaffirmed the EU's commitment to promoting environmental justice in Zambia through their funded projects. Ms. Stasiac emphasized the importance of sustainable development, protecting communities and natural resources, as well as the EU's efforts to promote a circular economy, protect nature, and aim for zero pollution.

She mentioned the new directive requiring

companies to address adverse environmental impacts both within and outside the EU, including in Zambia. Ms. Stasiac noted that the directive complements existing regulations on business and human rights, such as the regulation of deforestation-free supply chains.

She reiterated the EU's commitment to ensuring economic growth is accompanied by

community, and the private sector under the UN guiding principles on business and human rights.

Ms. Stasiac also called for laws, policies, and practices to prevent and address human rights abuses and ensure victims receive redress and compensation.

started on 2nd October, 2024.

The patient's report states that he returned to Central Province in October 2024.

On the second of October he reported to Mukando Clinic in Chitambo where he was diagnosed chickenpox and suspected Mpox by an alert health worker.

This shows that our primary healthcare workers have been well trained and are able to suspect a case of Mpox."

"On 8th October, 2024, the Zambia National Public Health Reference Laboratory (ZNPRL) reported that the samples had tested positive for Mpox.

The patient was located in Chitambo District and is currently admitted at a Rural Health Centre along Tuta Road," Dr. Muchima stated.

He assured the public that health workers and all public health facilities are equipped to handle suspected Mpox cases, with

enhanced infection prevention and control measures in place.

"Although Zambia has recorded only one confirmed Mpox case that was imported, it is important to continue active case searches and monitoring possible local and cross-border transmission."

"In light of the confirmation of a case of Mpox in Zambia, it is imperative that we all do our part to ensure that we stay safe and protect our communities," he said.

The World Health Organisation declared the Mpox outbreak a public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC) on 14th August 2024, under the International Health Regulations of 2005, and this is the second declaration in the two years since the outbreak began; the first declaration was done in 2022. Mpox, is a viral disease caused by the Mpox virus and it is transmitted from one person to another by close contact with sores on the body, contact with other body fluids, respiratory droplets and contaminated materials such as beddings, clothing or articles the infected person has held. Symptoms of Mpox include fever, headache, muscle aches and swollen lymph nodes.

GWEMBE MP IMPLORES ZICTA TO EXPEDITE COMPLETION OF TWO COMMUNICATION TOWERS

By Cecilia Chiluba



Gwembe Member of Parliament has implored Zambia Information and Communication Technology Authority (ZICTA) to speed up completion of the two communication towers that were allocated to the district.

Tyson Simuzingili is elated that one of the two towers has already been completed and is only waiting for final touches to become operational.

Mr. Simuzingili notes that the delay to operationalize the completed tower is causing serious anxiety among residents who currently cover long distances to access network services.

He is hopeful that the once operational, the tower will be a major relief for the district as it will make it easy for residents to connect with the rest of the country.

Mr. Simuzingili however reveals that he has engaged ZICTA and is impressed that the Authority has promised to complete the remaining works in the shortest possible time.

ZICTA has allocated two communication towers in Kalelezyi and Hamatuba areas of Gwembe District with the view of improving communication in the district.

ZAMBIA CONFIRMS FIRST CASE OF MPOX

Zambia has confirmed the first case of Mpox (formerly called Monkey Pox) from a Tanzanian national, in Chitambo district, Central province. The 32-year-old patient was diagnosed with chickenpox and suspected Mpox on 2nd October, 2024, by an alert health worker at Mukando Clinic in Chitambo district.

Health Minister Dr. Elijah Muchima, revealed that the patient presented to the health facility with complaints of muscle aches, fatigue and sore throat, adding that the symptoms were followed by a rash that started on the face and spread to other parts of the body. Addressing Journalists in Lusaka,

Dr. Elijah explained that the patient had travelled from Tanzania to Nakonde border post on 2nd September 2024, and later travelled to Mukambo Border where he stayed until 23rd of September 2024, after which he returned to Central Province in October 2024. "The patient disclosed that his symptoms

FRA PAYS OUT K3 BILLION TO MAIZE SUPPLIERS

By Cecilia Chiluba



Food Reserve Agency (FRA) has disclosed that it has paid out over K3 billion to farmers who supplied non-genetically modified Grade A white maize during the 2024 crop marketing season. FRA Public Relations Coordinator, John Chipandwe revealed that the Agency has so far purchased 588,354 metric tonnes of maize from the local market, which is equivalent to more than 11 million by 50 Kg bags.

Mr. Chipandwe explained that the total cost of the maize that has been purchased is K4.1 billion and as at 9th October, 2024, the Agency had paid out over K3 billion to farmers, representing a 73% achievement rate. "FRA has purchased 588,354 Metric tonnes of non-genetically modified Grade A white maize from the local market during this year's crop marketing season. The purchased quantity is

equivalent to 11,767,093 x 50 Kg bags of white maize." "The cost of the purchased maize is K4,186,708,686 and as at 9th October, 2024, a total of K3,072,475,846.80 was paid out to maize suppliers representing a 73% achievement rate," Mr. Chipandwe disclosed. He added that payments are currently on-going based on the principle of first-come-first served basis and assured that all

farmers will soon be cleared.

Mr. Chipandwe emphasized that the crop marketing season is still in progress, therefore farmers should continue to deliver maize to any depot and play their role in making Zambia food secure.

"In the meantime, the Agency wishes to thank farmers that sold their maize to Government through its FRA depots countrywide as their decision is impacting positively on efforts aimed at replenishing National Strategic Food Reserves."

"Eventually, their decision will result in sustained National Food Security and the Agency uses such stock in future to mitigate risks of food insecurity during droughts or floods among others," he stated.

Meanwhile, Mr. Chipandwe said FRA has been implementing various strategic

methods of buying maize from the local market beyond the traditional mode of buying using satellite depots, as a way of responding adequately to the drought situation in the country.

"These include among others buying through main depots countrywide; buying from grain traders and engaging commercial farmers under the Early Maize Programme."

"As a result, the Agency has been able to buy the above stated quantity of maize that has been added to the old stock in the National Food Reserves for sustained National Food Security," Mr. Chipandwe added.

Recently, Agriculture Minister Reuben Mtole told Parliament that Government owes K1.5 billion to farmers who supplied maize to the FRA.



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The tripartite Electricity Supply Agreement was signed on the sidelines of the inaugural Presidential Delivery Unit (PDU) Forum in Lusaka, and it was

followed by the signing of the Power Supply Agreement between FQM and GreenCo.

The collaboration will start with 125 Megawatts of additional power imports, with potential to increase to 250 Megawatts and expand to other GreenCo clients. GreenCo and FQM will fully finance these emergency imports.

Of the 125 Megawatts, 40 Megawatts will be allocated to FQM, with

85 Megawatts supplied to Zambia's national grid to support households, hospitals, and businesses, and ZESCO has committed to gradually returning this electricity to GreenCo once hydropower capacity is restored, expected in 2025

Speaking at the signing ceremony, zesco Managing Director ZESCO Engineer Victor Mapani, expressed gratitude to the Southern African Power Pool

(SAPP) and neighboring utilities for their cooperation in ensuring regional energy stability.

"We thank Eskom for their critical support during this challenging period, and GreenCo and FQM for their financial assistance," Engineer Mapani said.

And GreenCo's Head of Business Development and Executive Director, Wezi Gondwe said the partnership demonstrates how the public and private sectors can collaborate to secure vital energy supplies for both industrial and residential users.

"By supporting ZESCO, we're ensuring stable power for Zambian industries and residents," Mr. Gondwe stated.

Meanwhile, FQM Zambia Director Anthony Mukutuma, underscored mining giant's dedication to the country's economic and energy stability. "FQM, a major mining company and power

consumer in Zambia, will maintain its operations while contributing to domestic energy supply, reducing the impact of load shedding for the country. This agreement supports our operations while easing pressure on the national grid.

"This initiative aligns with FQM's broader commitment to Zambia, including its \$1.35 billion investments in projects like the Kansanshi mine S3 Expansion and Enterprise nickel mine. These developments strengthen Zambia's role in global copper and nickel production, crucial for renewable energy supply," he noted.



AFRICA NEEDS COMPREHENSIVE TRANSITION IN ITS FOOD SYSTEMS, ENERGY SOURCES- GREENPEACE



Greenpeace Africa says the African Continent needs a comprehensive transition in its food systems, energy sources, and development models, which have historically hindered progress.

Speaking during the 2024 Environmental Protection Dialogue (EPD) organized by the Centre for Environment Justice (CEJ) in Lusaka, Organization Director of Communications Nanfadima Cisse is concerned that Africa is being overlooked despite the leave no one behind mantra.

Ms. Cisse stated that as COP29 in Azerbaijan approaches, there is need for affluent industrialized nations to embrace their moral responsibility and commit to creating an ambitious and expansive climate finance framework. She pointed out that the global conversation is focused on transition, referencing COP28 in Dubai where nations committed to moving away from fossil fuels.

"This framework should empower African nations to implement mitigation and

adaptation strategies to avert further loss of life and property," Ms. Cisse stated.

Ms. Cisse highlighted the ongoing climate crisis in vulnerable communities, noting the loss of land and resources.

She urged African leaders to establish a common goal and agreement for a global system shift, insisting that polluters must be held accountable. Ms. Cisse also called for the creation of specialized environmental courts

and tribunals to help communities seek redress to environmental harms, noting that justice must be at the forefront of addressing current global challenges.

She emphasized the importance of international collaboration, because they work closely with climate justice movements and people from around the world towards achieving social justice and integral ecology.

Ms. Cisse commended CEJ for their efforts and expressed her eagerness to continue working together to protect the environment and demand justice for communities across Africa.

AUDITOR GENERAL'S REPORT NEEDS PROPER ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK TO ENABLE IT FUNCTION PERFECTLY!

Almost all the times we are grappled with some sort of financial irregularities being reported each calendar year, and this has not helped this country at all especially with the case of correcting this bad financial trend despite some sentiments citing reduction in the scourge.

It is from this background that we surely need to take a holistic view going about this annual reporting in itself and the framework thereof, in which we need to look at this issue tactically and strategically in order to make meaningful progress going forward in the future.

I think it's high time we revisited the policy instruments attach to this country's audit structure and public finance governance models to allow compliance in certain critical areas to foster some improvements.

The irregularities that we keep hearing day in and day out, do not inspire the confidence in public finance management and this further affect taxation systems as well as stakeholders commitment from various funding chambers.

However, there is also a strong need to look at many key aspects as well, with particular interests weighing on the budget implementation processes especially that at times we seem to work with the national budget without allowing the full scale operations run up to the final month of each fiscal year to allow assessing expenditure objectives to be tested with a view

focusing on the policy objectives that were earlier set.

Secondly, we still seem to have some bit of hesitations on the law enforcement sides as sometimes evidence of certain matters are not always watertight to warrant prosecutions and convictions to some of these irregularities that we hear and see.

So, my consolation and preposition is that the Auditor General's report may seriously need to have some proper assessment framework and models attaching strongly on the policy actions in order to enable it function perfectly so that this country can seal up all economic leakages with special interest to making sure that all social welfare interventions such as Farmer Input Support programme, among others are well insulated, tightly protected and safeguarded with critical attention.

I would urge the emolument commission under cabinet office that they should also make necessary amendments if its possible to allow the emolument commission act stand suitable with the changing environments meeting up with the demanding pressure to cater for critical payments outside the salary bracket such as allowances, consultancy fees etc.

By Kelvin Chisanga

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In these critical times, when our nation faces an undeniable divide, the recent call by the Oasis Forum for a reconciliatory meeting between Zambia's 6th Republican President, Edgar Lungu, and the current 7th Republican President, Hakainde Hichilema, offers a beacon of hope.

This proposal is not only timely but crucial for the continued stability and progress of Zambia. All well-meaning Zambians should rally behind this effort, as it embodies the very essence of peace, unity, and patriotism.

The growing chasm between the two leaders is no longer a matter of speculation—it is a fact that has impacted the nation deeply. Anyone concerned with the welfare of Zambia cannot ignore the hostility that has defined the relationship between Presidents Lungu and Hichilema.

The mutual distrust and visible animosity between the two have seeped into the national consciousness, creating an “us vs. them” atmosphere that has fueled divisions among their supporters. The risk of these divisions escalating into broader societal conflict is real, and only dialogue can reverse this dangerous trend.

LET US GIVE PEACE A CHANCE

It is well known that President Lungu, during his tenure, did not always treat his political opponents fairly, with examples of such instances still fresh in the minds of many. The current president, Hichilema, was among those who suffered under this political climate.

However, the weight of history now falls on President Hichilema's shoulders. He is the head of state, and his leadership must rise above personal grievances. True leadership is measured not by how one responds to praise but by how one handles conflict. For the sake of the nation, President Hichilema must demonstrate a commitment to reconciliation by embracing dialogue.

Supporting dialogue is not a sign of weakness; it is a demonstration of strength. It is a patriotic act, one that acknowledges that Zambia's future is more important than the grievances of its leaders. The road to peace is paved with difficult decisions, but it is one we must all walk together.

However, for this dialogue to succeed, it is equally important that former President Lungu approaches these discussions with an open heart and without preconditions. While President Lungu may feel aggrieved by certain issues—such as the status of the Patriotic Front (PF)—he must bring these concerns to the table during the discussions.

The dialogue itself is the platform where these issues should be aired and addressed, not beforehand.

By putting conditions on his participation, President Lungu risks undermining the very purpose of the reconciliation efforts. Instead, he should seize the opportunity to voice his concerns constructively within the confines of the meeting, where both parties can seek resolutions.

Meaningful dialogue is a process of compromise. Neither side will emerge as the absolute victor on all issues, but that is not the goal. The ultimate aim is to find common ground and foster peace.

Concessions must be made in the spirit of nation-building, and both leaders must be willing to give up something for the greater good.

This is the nature of reconciliation: a shared journey toward healing, where the past is

Peace is a process, not an event. It requires sustained efforts, not just from the leaders, but from all Zambians. Each of us has a role to play in fostering an environment where peace can thrive.

Zambia cannot move forward if we are constantly looking backward, fixated on settling old scores. The time and energy spent on vengeance and retribution could be better used to address the pressing challenges facing our nation: poverty, unemployment, education, and healthcare.

Where there is tension, no one wins. Where there is mistrust and hatred, progress stalls. As Zambians, we must realize that our collective future is far more important than the grievances of the past.

Our history shows a disturbing pattern—each president from Kenneth Kaunda to the present has sought to punish or undermine their predecessor. This cycle of retribution must end. We need a political culture

where former and current leaders can share ideas and collaborate on how to transform our country, rather than engage in destructive rivalries. Vindictiveness and vengeance are distractions from the real work that needs to be done. The Oasis Forum has taken an important step in initiating this dialogue, but they cannot do it alone. We call upon the church, civil society, and all Zambians to support this noble cause. As a Christian nation, we are called to uphold the virtues of love, compassion, forgiveness, and peace. These values must guide us in our national discourse, especially at this critical juncture.

When our leaders choose forgiveness and reconciliation, they set an example for the entire nation. By diffusing the tensions between them, they pave the way for a new era of peace and cooperation. Zambia needs this more than ever. We urge Presidents Lungu and Hichilema to heed the call for dialogue. We urge them to put Zambia first. The road to reconciliation may not be easy, but it is a journey worth taking. Let us give peace a chance—for the sake of our children, for the sake of our country, and for the sake of our future.

Zambia deserves peace, and it begins with dialogue.

MONEY EDITORIAL

ERB APPROVES ZESCO'S APPLICATION FOR EMERGENCY ELECTRICITY TARIFF ADJUSTMENT *By Cecilia Chiluba*

Energy Regulation Board (ERB) has approved ZESCO's application for emergency electricity tariff adjustment for a period of three months, effective 1st November, 2024, to 31st January, 2025.

In its application, ZESCO aims to raise US\$15 million monthly from retail customers to contribute towards the importation of 788 Megawatts of power to mitigate the current load shedding.

Speaking at a media briefing, Board Chairperson James Banda said ERB's decision is based on assurances by ZESCO of a proposed reduction in the tariffs for residential R1, R2

and Commercial C1 Customers, which will provide relief for low-income households as well as Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), and ensure that the tariffs are affordable to this category of consumers.

Mr. Banda added that in its application, ZESCO also committed to reducing load shedding hours and publishing predictable load management schedules.

“The review of the application also took into consideration ZESCO's financial performance and viability, and projected incremental revenue from the emergency tariff.”

“Further, the review considered the impact of load shedding and affordability of the tariffs by the consumers, as well as Government's desire for security of supply,” Mr. Banda noted. He however directed the power utility company to prioritize power purchases provided it is cost reflective when compared with Southern Africa Power Pool (SAPP) and other sources.

“The ERB has also directed ZESCO to adhere to load management schedule and ensure a maximum of 17 hours of loadshedding.”

“In the event that the utility experiences challenges in adhering to the load shedding schedules, the ERB and the public must be notified immediately using real time methods,” he added. He further encouraged ZESCO to explore sourcing extra revenue from other sources and other financially prudent options for power imports.



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TESLA TO UNVEIL CYBERCAB, ITS BIG BET ON SELF-DRIVING CARS



Tesla boss Elon Musk is to unveil the firm's long-awaited robotaxi prototype, the Cybercab, at the Warner Bros Studios in Burbank, California on Thursday.

BBC reports that Self-driving cars have long fascinated Mr Musk and he has made a

series of bold predictions about them - including that they will save lives or earn their owners money, through being rented out for rides or even overnight stays.

But when he takes to the stage for the event - which the company has billed We, Robot,

he will be under pressure to quell persistent doubts about the electric vehicle maker's ability to execute on his ambitions.

The project has undergone delays, having been originally slated for release

in August before being moved to October.

Mr Musk explained away the latest delay by saying it was down to some last minute changes from him.

FUEL PRICE HITS N998 IN LAGOS

Petrol pump prices rose to 998 Naira and 1,030 Naira per litre on Wednesday at various outlets of the Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited (NNPC Ltd) in Lagos and Abuja, respectively.

The recent development comes after the Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited (NNPC) decided to terminate its exclusive purchase agreement with Dangote Refinery.

Earlier on Monday, PREMIUM TIMES reported that the Petroleum Company is ending its exclusive purchase agreement with Dangote Refinery, opening up the market for other marketers to buy petrol directly from the refinery.

This means the NNPC will no longer be the sole off-taker, and marketers can now negotiate prices

directly with Dangote Refinery. The development aligns with the current practices for fully deregulated products, where refineries can sell directly to marketers on a willing buyer, willing seller basis.

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United States Dollars	USD	1.0000	1.0000	USD	26.3774	26.3774	26.7890	26.7890
British Pounds Sterling	GBP*	1.2809	1.3267	GBP*	34.4766	34.4766	35.0145	35.0145
Euro	EUR*	1.0718	1.1102	EUR*	28.8503	28.8503	29.3004	29.3004
South African Rand	ZAR	17.2822	17.9048	ZAR	n/a	1.4955	n/a	1.5189
Swedish Kroner	SEK	10.1840	10.5552	SEK	n/	2.5374	n/	2.5770
Swiss Francs	CHF	0.8429	0.8734	CHF	a	30.6607	a	31.1391
Danish Kroner	DKK	6.6830	6.9223	DKK	n/	3.8678	n/	3.9282
Norwegian Kroner	NOK	10.5551	10.9358	NOK	n/	2.4486	n/	2.4868
Japanese Yen	JPY	146.2062	151.4380	JPY	a	0.17680	a	0.1796
Chinese Yuan Renminbi	CNY	6.9261	7.1740	CNY	n/	3.7321	n/	3.7903
Tanzanian shilling	TZS	2660.7000	2776.0250	TZS	0.00968	0.00968	0.00981	0.00981
Kenya Shilling	KES	125.9300	131.4425	KES	n/a	0.2045	n/a	0.2077
Botswana Pula	BWP*	0.0735	0.0764	BWP*	n/a	1.9823	n/a	2.0132

*Base currencies

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THREE RED ARROWS RUGBY CLUB PLAYERS SET TO PLAY IN THE KENYA SAFARI 7S TOURNAMENT

By Lucky Chama



Red Arrows Rugby Club players Israel Kalumba, Edmond Himayuwa, and David Chimbukulu have been selected to play in the prestigious Kenya Safari 7s tournament set to be played on Saturday, 12 October, and Sunday, 13 October 2024.

The trio will play for Lions 7s Rugby Club, a UK-based club that

participates in various international tournaments around the world.

Kalumba, Himayuwa, and Chimbukulu have represented Zambia at major international events, including two Commonwealth Games in Australia and the United Kingdom in 2008 and 2022, respectively.

Red Arrows has

expressed gratitude to Lions Club for selecting the trio for the tournament, stating that they will gain the much-needed international exposure that will be key for the rest of the club's development.

"Red Arrows is grateful to Lions Club for giving the boys an experience of a lifetime. We are confident that the

experience at this international stage will have a positive impact on the players and trickle-down effect," the club stated.



WE WILL NOT UNDERRATE CHAD - KAMPAMBA

By Lucky Chama

Zambian midfielder Kelvin Kampamba has revealed that the team is targeting to collect three points over Chad in Friday's Group G Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) qualifier at Levy Mwanawasa Stadium in Ndola.

In an interview, Kampamba said the team's main focus is on securing all three points to put their foot in front in the qualifiers.

Kampamba adds that there is no need to underrate Chad, urging the team to convert the chances that will be created in Friday's match.

"The most important thing for Friday's game is to just give the fans the three points, and as players, we want to give the Zambian fans the six points that will take us to the AFCON," Kampamba said.

There are no small teams in Africa or the world because every team can beat any team; football has changed a lot; we are not going to underrate any team, which we'll face in our AFCON qualifiers."



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