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ZAMBIA, US SIGN US\$491-MILLION SECOND COMPACT TO STRENGTHEN AGRICULTURE SECTOR

Zambia has signed a US\$491-million Compact with the United States Government through the Millenium Challenge Corporation, to strengthen the agriculture and agro-processing sectors. The Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) is an independent foreign assistance Agency of the United States Government mandated to assist low to middle income countries in reducing poverty through sustainable and inclusive economic growth... *Page 4*

K2.5 MILLION SAMFYA ROAD TO BE CONSTRUCTED WHEN GOVERNMENT SECURES FUNDS *Page 2*

ACTION-AID ZAMBIA NOT OKAY WITH GOVERNMENT'S DECISION TO MAINTAIN THE CURRENT STRUCTURE FOR WATER TARIFFS *Page 2*

ZP RECORDS K6 MILLION INCREASE IN ADMISSION OF GUILTY FINES *Page 3*





K2.5 MILLION SAMFYA ROAD TO BE CONSTRUCTED WHEN GOVERNMENT SECURES FUNDS

Minister of Infrastructure, Housing and Urban Development says works on the construction of Samfya road in Lubuto Ward of Kabushi Constituency, at an estimated cost of K2.5 million will commence once funds are available.

Speaking in Parliament during the question for oral answer session, Charles Milupi however said Ward Development Committees are free to use the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) to finance the project, provided all the procedures are followed.

Engineer Milupi stated that the road condition survey which was conducted by Road Development Agency (RDA) in 2009, revealed that 6 percent of the urban and township roads were in a very bad state. He added that the Government came up

with the Pave Zambia 2,000 project which was conceptualized by RDA to improve the state of the urban road network, while creating employment opportunities for young people in the country.

“The project was officially launched in September 2013, under the implementation and supervision of RDA. This was expected to be implemented over a period of 5 years at an approximate cost of K6.9 billion.”

“The project was targeted to pave approximately 2,000 kilometers of urban and township roads, and associated public areas using segmented paving bricks and cobblestone technology between 2015 and 2019,” Engineer Milupi stated. Engineer Milupi further said the construction works commenced in 2014 on

basis in Lusaka’s Chawama Township and some selected public squares.

“Works at the Embassy Park and Freedom Statue were constructed in 2016 at a total contract value of K19.71 million and K11.7 million respectively.”

“However, in 2017, no significant progress in works had been recorded due to funding challenges. The total cumulative paved sections have remained a paltry 7.4 kilometers achieved between 2015 and 2016,” he added. Engineer Milupi was responding to Kabushi Member of Parliament, who wanted to know when the construction of Samfya road in Lubuto Ward of Constituency will commence and what the cost of the project is.

By Cecilia Chiluba



ECONOMIST BACKS BOZ PLANS TO PHASE OUT USAGE OF CHEQUES FOR PAYMENTS

By Elias Mwenda

An Economist has backed Bank of Zambia's plans to phase out the use of cheques for payments by 31st December, 2025.

Speaking in an interview with Money FM News, Shabdin Mweemba notes that cheques have lost relevance since the coming of digital banking and money

transfer systems. Mr. Mweemba observes that the amount of money that could be transferred using cheques, has significantly reduced over the years from K100,000 to K25,000, hence people were bouncing cheques when the limit is exceeded. He further states that a cheque has an expiry

date which poses a negative effect on the people that are using them to transact. Bank of Zambia has disclosed that it plans to phase out the use of Cheques as a payment instrument by 31st December 2025, following an 80 percent decline in usage, among other factors.

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ACTION-AID ZAMBIA NOT OKAY WITH GOVERNMENT'S DECISION TO MAINTAIN THE CURRENT STRUCTURE FOR WATER TARIFFS



Action-Aid Zambia says it does not support government's decision to maintain the current structure for water tariffs.

Speaking in an interview with Money News, association Country Director Faides TembaTemba says

government should have reduced water tariffs, in view of the rising poverty levels in Zambia. Ms. TembaTemba has since bemoaned the inconsistency in adjustment of electricity tariffs, as this makes it difficult for people to plan.

She adds that unemployment levels in the country are still high with the significant portion of the employed failing to meet their basic needs.

Ms. TembaTemba also states that it is inhumane for government to be changing electricity

tariffs every year and mostly upwards coupled with monthly fuel pump price adjustments.

ZESCO has maintained the current tariff structure for water pumping stations to support the provision of clean water and sanitation services during the current crisis period. *By Elias Mwenda*

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LCC EVICTS 67 FAMILIES FOR ILLEGALLY USING SHOPS AS HOMES AT KAMWALA SOUTH MARKET

By Cecilia Chiluba



Lusaka City Council has evicted 67 families for illegally occupying shops at Kamwala South Market and using them as homes.

Council Public Relations Manager, Chola Mwamba said the families were making the trading place to be environmentally unfriendly.

Ms. Mwamba stated that the eviction follows an operation conducted by a team of Council and State Police as one of the measures to bring order and sanity to the trading area.

She explained that during the exercise, 14 shops used as homes were closed as this was promoting illegal

settlements and contributing to poor sanitary conditions at the market.

"The eviction of the families has been done in accordance with The Markets and Bus Stations Act (Cap 119) of the Laws of Zambia that prohibits illegal activities and occupancy within the trading

areas."

"The Local Authority is committed to implementing Government's efforts towards eradicating illegal settlements in the city," Ms. Mwamba stated.



ZP RECORDS K6 MILLION INCREASE IN ADMISSION OF GUILTY FINES

By Cecilia Chiluba

Zambia Police Service says it collected over K18.2 million as admission of guilty fines during the third quarter of 2024.

Police Public Relations Officer, Rae Hamoonga revealed that this is compared to K11.6 million collected in the same period last year, representing an increase of about K6.6 million.

"A total of K18, 241, 710 was collected as admission of guilty fines during the third quarter of 2024, compared to K11, 625, 496 collected in

the same period in 2023, representing an increase of K6, 616, 214," Mr. Hamoonga revealed.

Meanwhile, Mr. Hamoonga revealed that during the third quarter of this year, the country recorded a reduction in the number of road traffic accidents to 8, 970 accidents from 9,888 in 2023, with Lusaka resting the highest number at 4, 714, representing 52.6 percent.

"Copperbelt followed with 1, 155 at 12.3%, Central Province registered 835

"North-northwestern province 459 at 5.1%, Muchinga 300, Eastern 288, Luapula 287, Northern 205, and Western 171," he added.

He attributed the reduction to several interventions such as strict law enforcement, Education and awareness campaigns, targeting drivers, pedestrians and cyclists, vehicle inspections and promotion of public transport among others.

AI STRATEGY, STARTUP BILL WILL CREATE SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS FOR ZAMBIA-HH

President Hakainde Hichilema says Artificial Intelligence (AI) Strategy and the Startup Bill which Ministry of Technology and Science is finalizing, will form a legal basis for innovators to utilize their ideas and create sustainable solutions for the country.

In a speech read for him by Education Minister Douglas Syakalima, at the 2024 Tech Expo and Copperbelt University Challenge held in Kitwe, President Hichilema, stated that the two documents will also provide policy direction for innovation in the country.

He further said the two policy documents will

help in promoting solutions that young people have as ideas, stating that government is committed to investing in research and innovation.

The Head of State also paid tribute to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for choosing Zambia to host the Minetech, a Center of Excellence in mining technology.

"The Minetech will help in finding solutions to the challenges the mining sector is facing in Africa," President Hichilema said.

Speaking at the same event, Technology and Science Minister Felix

Mutati revealed that government has invested \$3 million and UNDP \$6 million in setting up the Minetech in Zambia.

"The Minetech will be a continental center where solutions to the mining sector will be provided to the rest of Africa," Mr. Mutati stated.

Meanwhile, UNDP Resident Representative James Wakiaga disclosed that the Minetech hub will soon be launched in Zambia.

Mr. Wakiaga thanked the Zambian government for promoting innovation and investing in youths who are working on sustainable solutions. "Government's decision

to invest in Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) schools is a worthwhile investment which will increase the number of girls in sciences. Very few girls are into science courses and the STEM schools will help a lot," Mr. Wakiaga noted.

And Copperbelt University (CBU) Vice Chancellor Professor Imasiku Nyambe disclosed that the institution needs K304 million to modernize its infrastructure and improve operations.

Professor Nyambe urged university alumni to help the institution improve its operations. **By Cecilia Chiluba**

PAY TAZARA WORKERS' THREE MONTHS SALARY ARREARS IN FULL- MP

By Cecilia Chiluba

Mpika Member of Parliament has implored government to pay in full the three months' salary arrears owed to Tanzania-Zambia Railway Authority (TAZARA) workers.

Francis Kapyanga revealed that out of six months of unpaid salaries, government has only paid for three months.

Mr. Kapyanga also advised government to consider putting the workers on payroll as promised. He recalled that in October 2019, the ministerial council comprising of ministers from Zambia and Tanzania agreed to place TAZARA workers on government payroll as the recapitalization process unfold, and the two countries had begun engaging China in financing the recapitalization.

Mr. Kapyanga however noted that the promise remains unfulfilled on the

Zambian side, and the workers continue to suffer even when the country will be celebrating 60 years of independence this month.

"These hardworking individuals face an uncertain future, out of six months of unpaid salaries weighing heavily on their minds and families, the government has only paid for three months."

"As a representative of the people of Mpika which houses TAZARA Regional Headquarters, I urge the government to honor its commitment and pay the remaining three months of the six months of salary arrears in full."

"The recent release of funds, covering only three months, fell short of addressing the crisis at hand. These workers have obligations such as loans, school fees, and family needs which

puts them in a difficult position," Mr. Kapyanga said. Mr. Kapyanga further said the plight of TAZARA workers has far-reaching implications for the economy and regional trade, therefore the need for government to urgently address the matter.

"As a nation, we must prioritize the welfare of our workers who are the backbone of our industries. I call upon the government to expedite the recapitalization process for TAZARA, injecting new capital, expertise, and efficiency into the railway authority."

"Before that is done, the government should place all TAZARA workers on government payroll until it can stand on its own. As I stand in solidarity with TAZARA workers, I urge the government to take swift action."

"Our workers cannot wait any longer. They deserve to be paid, and they deserve to work with dignity. Let us work together to make this a reality," he added. Efforts to get a comment from Ministry of Transport and Logistics failed.

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The Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) is an independent foreign assistance Agency of the United States Government mandated to assist low to middle income countries in reducing poverty through

sustainable and inclusive economic growth, while strengthening good governance, economic freedom, and investments in people in eligible countries.

MMC provides assistance through grants and not loans, which support investments in partner countries, and the grant programs must be implementable over a fixed five-year timeframe. Officiating at the signing ceremony in Lusaka, President

Hakainde Hichilema has emphasized the need to accelerate investment in all sectors of the economy including micro, small, medium and large scale.

Mr. Hichilema notes that the Compact is aimed at improving the agriculture sector such as the implementation of the Farmer Input Support Programme (FISP), which has a lot of inefficiencies. He reveals that there is a lot of cheating under the FISP as people who are not eligible are benefiting

from the initiative, including civil servants.

President Hichilema says the E-voucher is already catching up with ineligible beneficiaries who get the fertilizer and sell it in markets.

Meanwhile, Finance Minister Dr. Situmbeko Musokotwane for Zambia to be selected as being eligible to develop the Compact, it had to pass eligibility criteria based on a scorecard of 20 independent and

transparent indicators of policy performance.

He says the Compact development process was undertaken through a consultative process with various stakeholders including government institutions, private sector, cooperating partners, civil society, and academia.

Dr. Musokotwane stated that the consultations included identifying factors that were

constraining growth in the economy and five constraints were identified out of which three were prioritised by government and they include inadequate agricultural inputs and policies, inadequate roads and transport, and low access to, and reliability of, electrical power.

By Cecilia Chiluba



The worst thing to have happened in our country is that we no longer view each other objectively; instead, we see one another through political lenses.

This shift is not only disturbing but also deeply destructive, as it is being fueled by our leaders. Politicians have managed to dictate how we feel and behave toward one another, turning us into pawns in a game of political rivalry.

Nowadays, whatever you say or do is scrutinized through a political lens, and people label you based on their own biases. Criticize the current administration, and you're instantly branded an opposition sympathizer or, more specifically, PF (Patriotic Front).

Conversely, if you criticize the opposition, especially PF, you're labeled a UPND (United Party for National Development) supporter or a "Praise Singer." It feels like neutrality no longer exists.

Even more concerning is how this labeling has seeped beyond social media into workplaces and academic circles. Many people, eager to contribute to national discourse, are now scared of being labeled and inadvertently finding themselves on the wrong

USING POLITICAL LENSES TO SEE EACH OTHER

side of the political spectrum. It's sad that individuals have to censor themselves, whether in school or at work, for fear of political retaliation. Politicians have succeeded in creating a "them versus us" environment.

What is particularly alarming is that even respected, level-headed individuals now ask, "Why do you seem to support those people?" This divisive mentality is disheartening.

A friend recently shared how their workplace, once dominated by people from certain regions, is now filled with individuals from previously underrepresented areas. This shift is not confined to lower levels; it reaches the highest levels of society, with institutions that were once led by people from certain regions now being headed by those from others.

This isn't just a political issue; it's a societal one, a double-edged sword that has cut through our social fabric for many years. We warned the previous administration that the divisive path they were treading would eventually

backfire. They ignored these warnings, labeling those of us who raised concerns as envious or jealous. Now, we are all reaping the consequences.

Politicians will often claim that appointments are based on merit, but in reality, political correctness takes precedence. Merit is only considered once an individual's political alignment is deemed acceptable.

in power after a change in administration — it simply wouldn't happen. And when this administration leaves, it too will take its executives with it.

This is why our development as a nation remains stagnant. Each time we approach a point where experience and expertise could propel us forward, a new administration takes over,

them? Disagreeing with PF policies doesn't make someone a UPND supporter, just as disagreeing with UPND policies doesn't make someone a PF sympathizer.

Many Zambians simply want to be objective and open-minded, without being dragged into partisan politics.

As we approach the National Day of Prayer, Fasting, Repentance, and Reconciliation, let's take time to pray for our

leaders. Let's pray that they will lead by example, showing that we are all one people, regardless of our backgrounds.

Let's pray that they will lead the way in forgiveness and reconciliation, because if our leaders can forgive one another, the rest of the nation will follow.

Zambia deserves a fresh start — one free from grudges and retribution.

We come with a message of peace and reconciliation, though we know some will

discards the old, and we start from scratch.

Zambia is like a university constantly losing its seniors just when they are ready to contribute at a higher level. As a result, we perpetually operate at a freshman level, never progressing beyond the basics. Can we allow people to express their opinions objectively and honestly, without labeling

This vicious cycle will never end because we've never had a leader magnanimous enough to rise above petty politics and personal grudges.

What we need is a leader willing to start afresh, without holding onto past grievances. Imagine allowing top executives from the previous administration to remain

misunderstand and twist our words for political gain. Nevertheless, like the prophets of old, we must deliver this message to the leaders of our nation.

We are passionate about Zambia's success, and we believe that by looking at each other with brotherly love, rather than as competitors or enemies, we can build a brighter future for all.

ASSOCIATION CALLS FOR FORMALIZATION OF ARTISANAL SMALL-SCALE MINERS

By Cecilia Chiluba



Small Scale Miners Association of Zambia has called for formalization of artisanal small-scale miners who have for a long time been scavenging slag dumps.

Speaking during the Sustainability Conference, held in Germany, Association Board Chairman Simon Njobvu notes that small scale artisanal miners have potential to bring economic stability because the money generated will not be externalized.

Mr. Njobvu states that apart from scavenging slag dumps mined by large scale mines, small scale miners are also exposed to health hazards and mostly operate illegally, therefore formalizing their operations will reduce risks.

"Mining activities result in deforestation but if miners are properly equipped and funded, they can be encouraged to plant trees on land equivalent to the area they are mining on, to mitigate the impact of mining activities on the environment," Mr. Njobvu stated.

He added that Europe stands to benefit by supporting small scale miners and ensuring that the supply chain for critical minerals is more transparent, sustainable and free from exploitation that is currently rampant in Africa, as this will allow western countries to certify that their products are sources ethically.

"With support to address the challenges that small scale miners are facing, the sector can be a key driver of local and global economic growth" he added.

Meanwhile, Zambia's Ambassador to the Federal Republic of Germany, Winnie Chibesakunda said artisanal small-scale miners do not require formalization but need to be equipped with training and geological survey equipment for them to have meaningful stakes in the mineral resources.

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GOVT CALLS FOR COLLABORATION WITH PRIVATE SECTOR ON WASTE MANAGEMENT

By Elias Mwenda

Government has called for collaboration from the private sector and stakeholders to spearhead the environmental policy direction of waste management in the country.

Speaking at a stakeholder engagement dubbed “Transform Through Extended Producer Responsibility,” Ministry of Green Economy and Environment Director of Environment Director, Godwin Gondwe says Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) model has shown that the model is not only physical but also a powerful catalyst for a greener future.

Mr. Gondwe states that the project has demonstrated that collaboration between government institutions, the private sector and other partners can yield tangible results by positioning Zambia as a regional leader in creating circular and sustainable economic systems that will not only reduce waste but also enhance economic growth.

He adds that effective implementation of EPR requires strong governance and active participation from all key partners.

Meanwhile, European Union (EU) Ambassador to Zambia and COMESA, Karolina Stasiak, who was represented by Programmes Manager, Christian Kaziyo, says the EU is committed in corporation with its partners to reverse environmental degradation, recover natural capital, improve resource efficiency and reduce waste and pollution.

Ms. Stasiak, adds that it is for this reason that the European Union joined hands with other partners to look for solutions to tackle waste management in Zambia, as the task calls for collaborative efforts from everyone involved.



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SURPRISE FALL IN INFLATION PAVES WAY FOR INTEREST RATE CUTS



UK inflation fell unexpectedly to 1.7% in the year to September, the lowest rate in three-and-a-half years. It means the annual rate prices are rising at is now below the Bank of England's 2% target, paving the way for further interest rate cuts. Lower airfares and petrol prices were the main drivers behind the surprise slowdown, official figures showed. Separately, September's inflation figure is also normally used to set how much many benefits will rise by next April.

FIRE KILLS 147 PEOPLE AFTER FUEL TANKER CRASH IN NIGERIA



A fuel tanker exploded overnight in northern Nigeria, killing at least 147 people who rushed to the scene of the accident to collect leaking petrol, officials say. The fire engulfed the overturned vehicle, which had been cordoned off by officers after it crashed, the police told the BBC. About 100 other people injured in the explosion have been taken to hospital in the nearby town of Ringim in Jigawa state, many of them are in a critical condition. Officers had warned people not to approach the tanker after the accident late on Tuesday night, but they were unable to contain the growing crowd, said police spokesman Lawal Shiisu Adam.

NESTLE MISSES SALES FORECAST, TO STREAMLINE ORGANISATION

Nestle is revamping senior leadership and its operating structure, as it cut its full-year sales outlook following weaker than expected nine-month underlying sales growth. The packaged food industry has in recent years struggled with soaring costs as everything from sunflower oil and shipping to packaging, grain and energy became more expensive during the pandemic and after Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine. This year, as inflation has eased, many of Nestle's competitors have slowed price increases, hoping to woo back shoppers who turned to cheaper products. The Swiss group, however, did not ease up as quickly and for years cut too deeply into marketing and innovation budgets, analysts said. CEO Mark Schneider was ousted in August following several quarters of weak sales volumes. Nestle said it now expects 2024 organic sales growth to be around 2% and an underlying trading operating profit (UTOP) margin of about 17%. In July, it cut its organic sales forecast to at least 3% and saw a moderate increase in its UTOP margin from 2023's 17.3%.



PETROL IMPORT INTO NIGERIA DROPS SHARPLY IN OCTOBER AS DANGOTE REFINERY RAMPES UP PRODUCTION

Importation of premium motor spirit, commonly known as petrol, into Nigeria, has significantly declined in the first two weeks of October as the Dangote Refinery increased production to meet local demand. However, with the new 650,000 barrels per day refinery operating at around half its capacity and the key gasoline-producing unit, the firm is still unstable as it ramps up production. Traders have warned that Nigeria could still face a substantial fuel deficit in the absence of imported supply.

EXCHANGE RATES

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		Buying	Selling		Buying (Cash)	Buying (TT/TCs/BN)	Selling (Cash)	Selling (TTs/TCs/BN)
United States Dollars	USD	1.0000	1.0000	USD	26.5066	26.5066	26.9201	26.9201
British Pounds Sterling	GBP*	1.2720	1.3176	GBP*	34.4069	34.4069	34.9437	34.9437
Euro	EUR*	1.0632	1.1014	EUR*	28.7596	28.7596	29.2083	29.2083
South African Rand	ZAR	17.3409	17.9653	ZAR	n/a	1.4978	n/a	1.5211
Swedish Kroner	SEK	10.3122	10.6820	SEK	n/	2.5188	n/	2.5581
Swiss Francs	CHF	0.8492	0.8800	CHF	a	30.5816	a	31.0587
Danish Kroner	DKK	6.7383	6.9793	DKK	n/	3.8549	n/	3.9151
Norwegian Kroner	NOK	10.7289	11.1145	NOK	n/	2.4209	n/	2.4587
Japanese Yen	JPY	146.6864	151.9354	JPY	a	0.17708	a	0.1799
Chinese Yuan Renminbi	CNY	6.9803	7.2300	CNY	n/	3.7213	n/	3.7793
Tanzanian shilling	TZS	2660.7000	2776.0250	TZS	0.00973	0.00973	0.00986	0.00986
Kenya Shilling	KES	125.9300	131.4425	KES	n/a	0.2055	n/a	0.2087
Botswana Pula	BWP*	0.0733	0.0761	BWP*	n/a	1.9853	n/a	2.0163

*Base currencies

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SAMUEL MATETE ATHLETICS ACADEMY OPPOSES ZAMBIA ATHLETICS ON ELECTIVE AGM DATE

By Lucky Chama

Samuel Matete Athletics Academy (SMAA) has petitioned Zambia Athletics (ZA) to hold its elective Annual General Meeting (AGM) on December 19, 2024, as planned.

In a letter addressed to ZA, the Academy's General Secretary, Mulenga Kabwe, has opposed the change in date for the elective AGM because the aforementioned date marks the end of the organization's four-year mandate. Kabwe adds that having the ZA executive's decision to hold the election at the end of March next year.

is void and a blatant breach of the Zambia Athletics Article 10.6(g) of the constitution.

Kabwe stated that the executive was elected into the office on December 19, 2020, and December 19, 2024 marks the end of four years of the executive tenure of office.

He further states that, in order to prevent the National Sports Council Zambia (NSCZ) from operating the association until the specified deadline of March 31, 2025, it is vital the elective AGM takes place on the planned date of December 19, 2024



MARGARET BELEMU MAKES FINAL 23-MEMBER 2024 COSAFA WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP SQUAD

By Lucky Chama

Copper Queens assistant coach Florence Mwila named the final 23-member 2024 COSAFA Women's Championship slated for October 22-November 2 in Gqeberha.

Mwila, who will head the South Africa-bound technical bench, has selected an all-local squad from the women's super league that will aim to reclaim the title they won in

2022 and lost to Malawi last year in the finals.

The squad includes some notable faces, such as defender Margaret Belemu, midfielder Evarine Susan Katongo, and Pauline Zulu, plus several players from the Paris 2024 Olympics squad.

Zambia, who are in Group C, will face Angola on 24 October, with a matchup against the Comoros set to be played five days later.



FAZ HANDS OVER US\$75, 000 CHEQUE TO MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

By Lucky Chama



Football Association of Zambia (FAZ) general secretary Reuben Kamanga has presented a \$75,000 cheque to Education Minister Douglas Syakalima.

The Zambia Under-15 Schools team finished as runners-up after losing the final to South Africa on post-match penalties in the 2024 CAF African Schools Football Championship

| COSAFA Qualifiers held in Windhoek, Namibia.

Speaking during the cheque handover this morning in Lusaka, Kamanga said the ministry remains an all-weather friend of the association as they continue to develop capacity among teachers by offering coach and referee training.

Kamanga states that the association remains committed to the ministry for its continued support, adding that the prize money from the school's championship will be reinvested.

Kamanga adds that developing grassroots football remains a top priority of the association; hence, it will continue working with the Ministry of Education in a bid to tap more talent that will in turn represent Zambia at the top level of football.

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