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MONEY DAILY

GOVERNMENT OWES FARMERS OVER K521 MILLION

Minister of Agriculture has revealed that Government owes small scale farmers countrywide a total of K521.93 million for the maize supplied to the Food Reserve Agency (FRA), during the ongoing crop marketing season... Page 3

KASOMENO-MWENDA TOLL ROAD, BRIDGE PROJECT PROGRESSING WELL-RDA

Page 4

ZAMBIA CALLS FOR GLOBAL SUPPORT TOWARDS PROVISION OF DECENT HOUSING

Page 5

ZRA SETS 31ST DECEMBER AS DEADLINE FOR TAXPAYERS TO CLEAR OUTSTANDING ARREARS

Page 5

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NATURAL MINERAL WATER

ECONOMIST ATTRIBUTES LOW COPPER EXPORT EARNINGS IN SEPTEMBER TO POWER DEFICIT

By Elias Mwenda



An Economist has attributed the reported 6.4 percent reduction in Zambia's copper export earnings in September 2024, to the current power deficit which has negatively affected production in the mining sector.

Speaking in an interview with Money FM News, Emmanuel Zulu said the reduction also gives a true picture that the reopening of Mopani and Konkola Copper Mines (KCM) is yet to take a full scale of production.

Mr. Zulu further charged that the country has failed to take advantage of the increase in copper prices on the London Metal Exchange (LME), a situation that is worrying.

"This is quite worrying but it reveals a true picture that that the reopening of Mopani and Konkola Copper Mines (KCM) is yet to take full scale in terms of benefiting the

country in output volumes." "The reduction also is worrying and mostly it could be attributed to power outages that reduce output hours and we haven't taken advantage of the increase in prices of copper on the London Metal Exchange," Mr. Zulu stated.

He said this entails that it will take some time for the country to realize the full benefits of Mopani and KCM coming on board.

"This translates to the notion that production in these two giant mines may take longer. Probably we may start seeing the full benefits in the second half of 2025," Mr. Zulu said. Mr. Zulu hopes that copper prices will remain high up to the time when Zambia increases its copper production.

Zambia's export earnings from refined

copper decreased by 6.4 percent from K16.4 billion in August 2024 to K15.4 billion in September 2024.

According to Zambia Statistics Agency (ZamStats), refined Copper export volumes decreased by 2.0 percent from 64.3 thousand metric tonnes in August 2024 to 63.0 thousand metric tonnes in September 2024.

The Agency said the cumulative volume of refined copper exported from January to September 2023 was 594.7 thousand metric tonnes, while exports during the same period in 2024 stood at 574.5 thousand metric tonnes, representing a 3.4 percent decrease.

Copper prices on the London Metal Exchange market for the corresponding months increased by 3.2 percent from US\$8,963.7 per metric tonne in August 2024 to US\$9,254.5 per metric tonne in September 2024.

KWACHA LIKELY TO BE STABLE THIS WEEK

By Cecilia Chiluba



Zambian Kwacha is likely to remain stable this week due to Bank of Zambia's injection of United States Dollars into the interbank market in the previous week.

According to Trading Economics, the US dollar-Kwacha rate increased by 0.05% to K26.84 yesterday Monday November 4, from 26.82 in the previous trading session.

Historically, the exchange rate reached an

all-time high of 27.40 in May of 2024.

And Economist Gerald Soko told Money FM News in an interview that the local is however expected to be slightly weaker with a bias towards appreciation, but the overall performance will be stable.

"The Kwacha is expected to continue trading stable. Last week we saw a bit of demand strengthening on the market."

"So, in terms of the

bias, there is a likelihood that the Kwacha will trade with a weaker bias but still in a very tight range in terms of the exchange rate," Mr. Soko stated.

Mr. Soko added that the Central Bank is likely to continue supporting the interbank market this week to ensure stability in the Kwacha's performance against the US dollar.

"In terms of stability, what we have seen

especially last week, the Central Bank was back in the market trying to provide supply support just to make sure that the Kwacha does not run away. We expect the same thing to continue happening this week," he added.

According to Trading Economics global macro models and analysts' expectations, the Zambian Kwacha is expected to trade at K27.32 by the end of this quarter.

SOME PARTNERSHIPS WITH MULTINATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS CAN BE DISASTROUS TO ECONOMIC GROWTH-PSDA

By Elias Mwenda



Private Sector Development Association (PSDA) says there is no need for the World Bank to partner with Zambia on strengthening private

sector participation on the country's economy.

The World Bank has announced a five-year Country Partnership

Framework (CPF) for Zambia which will focus on sustainable private sector led economic and resilience development and social security.

But Association Chairperson Yusuf Dodia tells Money FM News in an interview that some of Zambia's partnerships

with multinational organisations can be disastrous to the economic growth of the country.

Mr. Dodia states that the

partnerships do not take advantage of the opportunities which lie in the country and focus on trying to strengthen revenue collection from small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

He notes that that the focus is also directed towards giving a set of skills to Zambians and forget the big problem of how and where does Zambia get its major economic resources.

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ZESCO OWES ERB K613 MILLION IN UNPAID LICENSE FEES

By Cecilia Chiluba



Minister of Finance and National Planning has disclosed that ZESCO Limited owes the Energy Regulation Board (ERB) K613 Million in unpaid licenses fees.

Over K1 billion due in non-tax revenue had not been collected by Energy Regulation Board and Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources as of June 2024.

Speaking in Parliament during the question for oral answer session, Dr. Situmbeko Musokotwane revealed that during the period under review, ZESCO was owing ERB a total of K617.9 million out of which K4.4 million had been paid as at 4th

November 2024, leaving a balance of K613 Million.

Dr. Musokotwane also disclosed that Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources is owed K442.6 million, relating to amounts owed by those that have been offered land in concession fees under the National Land Titling Programme and Property owners, who have not paid their ground rent.

“We have established that a total of K617.9 million owed to ERB and a total of K442.6 million is owed to the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources, bringing the total

uncollected revenue to K1,060,486,591.83.” “Out of the K617 million unpaid licenses attributed to ZESCO, K4.4 million was paid leaving a balance of K613 million as at 4th November, 2024,” Dr. Musokotwane disclosed.

He said ZESCO and ERB have since into a Time to Pay Agreement in order to liquidate the balance of K613 million in six monthly instalments, which started in October 2024 and will end in march, 2025.

“Further, to ensure that the fees amounting to K443 million, relating to National Land Titling and Ground Rent under

the Ministry of Lands are recovered, the following is being done.”

“Intensifying Sensitization; Targeting High Value Properties; Bill Distribution; Collection of Ground Rent owed by the Councils; Community Engagements and Distribution of Titles; and, Review of the Lands Act,” he added.

Dr. Musokotwane was responding to Kantanshi Member of Parliament Anthony Mumba, who wanted to know why over K1 billion in non-tax revenues, had not been remitted to the Treasury, as of June, 2024, and what urgent measures are being taken to ensure that the revenue is recovered

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ANDD HAILS MOPANI'S INCREASED EMPLOYMENT LEVELS

By Cecilia Chiluba



Advocates for National Development and Democracy (ANDD) says the expansion of the labour force at Mopani Copper Mines from 10,365 to 12,684 as of October 2024, is critical in boosting copper production, which is essential to meeting the targeted 3 million metric tonnes per year by 2031.

Responding to a press query sent by Money FM News, Organization Executive Director Samuel Banda said the increase in employment levels will also play a key role in improving the living standards of Zambians.

Mr. Banda commended Mopani, under the management of International Resources Holding (IRH), the

equity partner, for their commitment to providing employment opportunities to Zambians.

“We wish to acknowledge this as a significant and progressive development. This increase in employment will play a key role in improving the living standards of Zambians, particularly those employed by the mine, and contribute to reducing poverty levels.”

“As the Advocates for National Development and Democracy, we strongly support such initiatives aimed at empowering Zambians. We believe that job creation is crucial in addressing unemployment and

fostering sustainable economic growth,” Mr. Banda stated.

He however observed that despite progress in job creation and improving working conditions, Mopani has not sufficiently prioritized corporate social responsibility (CSR) programs that support community development.

“In this regard, we call on Mopani Mines to allocate a dedicated budget for the implementation of CSR initiatives. This is vital for fostering positive development in the communities where the company operates,” he said.

Mr. Banda also applauded Konkola

Copper Mines (KCM) for its proactive support of national events, such as the recent Mining Insaka and Kwacha Music Awards.

“These initiatives reflect the positive role that investors can play in supporting our nation’s development. We encourage all stakeholders to support KCM’s efforts, as they align with our shared goals of promoting sustainable development in Zambia,” Mr. Banda said.

Recently, Mines Minister Paul Kabuswe disclosed in Parliament that Mopani Copper Mine has increased employment opportunities from 10, 365 to 12, 684 as of October, 2024, following the injection of about US\$1.1 billion into the mine by the investor, International Resources Holding (IRH).

KASOMENO-MWENDA TOLL ROAD, BRIDGE PROJECT PROGRESSING WELL-RDA

By Cecilia Chiluba



Road Development Agency (RDA) says works on the construction of Kasomeno-Mwenda Road and Bridge Project in Luapula Province under the Public Private Partnership (PPP) Financing Model are progressing well.

The project is being jointly undertaken by the Government of Zambia and Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

Groupe Europeen de Development (GED)

Africa is the Concessionaire, while the project sponsor is Duna Aszfalt.

According to RDA, GED Projects has signed a Concession Agreement with the Zambian Government to finance, design, build, operate, maintain and Toll the Kasomeno-Mwenda Road including a One Stop Border Post and bridge across the Luapula River.

The Agency said the Concessionaire has also signed another

Concession Agreement to undertake similar works on the DRC side.

“The project scope includes construction of 92 kilometres road on the Zambian side and 94 kilometres on the DRC side, construction of a 345 metres cable stayed bridge across the Luapula River, construction of the OSBP with associated parking and warehousing facilities and construction of Toll Plazas and Weighbridges,” it said.



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ZAMBIA CALLS FOR GLOBAL SUPPORT TOWARDS PROVISION OF DECENT HOUSING

By Cecilia Chiluba



Zambia has called for Global support towards addressing challenges of informal human settlements with a focus on provision of decent housing, municipal services and social amenities in informal settlements.

Zambia is participating at the 12th Session of the World Urban Forum (WUF12) in Cairo, Egypt, which was officially opened on Monday 4th November 2024, by the host President, Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, under the theme "It All Starts at Home: Local Actions for Sustainable Cities and Communities."

President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi called for strengthened partnerships among Nations in implementing the New Urban Agenda, and achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) relating to human settlements and sustainable cities.

Zambia is being represented by Minister of Infrastructure,

Housing and Urban Development, Eng. Charles Milupi, and Minister of Local Government and Rural Development, Gary Nkombo.

Speaking when he paid a courtesy call at the Zambian Mission, Mr. Nkombo called on stakeholders, including private financiers to partner with Government through the Ministry in providing finances for the upgrading of unpanned settlements using the Private-Public Partnerships (PPP) models.

"We are calling for more stakeholders to partner with us in providing more decent access to housing, municipal services and social amenities in informal settlements using the triple P models," Mr. Nkombo stated.

He underscored Government's commitment to providing sustainable human settlements as demonstrated in the development of 116

Integrated Development Plans (IDPs) in all the 116 Districts.

Mr. Nkombo said the development and implementation of IDPs is in line Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) No. 11, which seeks to promote resilient and sustainable cities and human settlements.

"Zambia's participation is also informed by its commitment to realizing the objectives of the New Urban Agenda, whose aim is a well-managed urbanization by 2030."

"In line with SDG No. 11, Government has embarked on the Urban Renewal Programme aimed at upgrading unplanned settlements with Kanyama Compound in Lusaka being first among many other unplanned settlements," he added.

He further said Government is accelerating the implementation of the decentralization agenda through devolution by moving both functions and fiscal capacity to

Local Authorities, in a quest to reduce development inequalities between the rural and urban development.

Mr. Nkombo highlighted how Government had significantly increased the allocation of resources to communities through the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) in order to encourage a locally driven development agenda.

And Eng Milupi said Zambia is looking for more investors to partner with the Government in putting up more decent housing units to address the Country's housing deficit currently standing at 1.5 million.

Meanwhile, Zambia's Ambassador to Egypt, Retired Major-General Toppy Lubaya stated that the WUF12 is an important platform for the country to attract potential investors to leverage Government policy on PPP models for promoting infrastructure development, including providing decent housing units.

ZRA SETS 31ST DECEMBER AS DEADLINE FOR TAXPAYERS TO CLEAR OUTSTANDING ARREARS

By Cecilia Chiluba



Zambia Revenue Authority (ZRA) has urged taxpayers to pay off all outstanding tax arrears by 31st December, 2024 to avoid penalties and interest associated with non-compliance.

Authority Corporate Communications Manager Oliver Nzala, emphasized the need for taxpayers to respond to the call, warning that those who fail to comply by the 31st December, 2024, deadline risk accumulating interest on their existing liabilities.

Mr. Nzala also advised taxpayers who are facing cashflow challenges in settling the arrears at once, to

engage ZRA to enter a Time to Pay Agreement (TPA) which enables them to pay their principal tax in monthly instalments.

"The financial year is coming to an end, as you know, and there are some obligations that as a taxpayer, you must fulfil. That is submitting tax returns and payment of outstanding taxes to avoid being penalized. Therefore, ZRA will ensure that there is enough support for the taxpayers as we draw closer to 31st December, 2024."

"However, taxpayers are urged to file tax returns and make payments now to avoid last minute rush that

comes around on the 31st December deadline," Mr. Nzala stated.

He also reminded traders that they will need to be tax compliant for them to renew their trading license or permit from the Local Councils in 2025.

"To provide extra support to taxpayers, ZRA service centres and the contact centre are available and taxpayers can reach out for services."

"The Authority would like to thank taxpayers for tirelessly contributing taxes for national development, a cause that uplifts the lives of all Zambians," he said.



President Hakainde Hichilema (HH) assumed leadership in one of Zambia's most difficult periods, taking on the burdens of a debt-ridden, mismanaged economy. The challenges he faces are immense, and his task is not one that can yield results overnight. For Zambia to truly recover, it is crucial for Zambians to extend their support, patience, and understanding as his administration lays the groundwork for long-term prosperity.

To understand the weight of President HH's responsibility, we must look back. Zambia has been here before, facing down severe economic crises in the 1980s and 1990s. Under President Mwanawasa, Zambia experienced a period of recovery, highlighted by debt relief in 2005 and a renewed development focus.

Yet, this progress was eroded in the years that followed. Financial mismanagement, reckless borrowing, and a lack of economic discipline plunged Zambia back into debt and recession by 2020. This was compounded by the COVID-19 pandemic, creating a crisis that President HH inherited but did not cause.

PRESIDENT HH NEEDS OUR SUPPORT FOR LONG-TERM SUCCESS

President HH's administration, while still finding its footing, has a clear vision. His focus on economic stability, debt restructuring, and investments in critical sectors like education and healthcare shows a commitment to foundational change. Initiatives like free education, increased educational resources, and a commitment to local development through Constituency Development Funds (CDF) reflect a forward-thinking approach. These initiatives may not yield immediate results, but they are the bedrock of a more prosperous Zambia.

However, President HH's journey is marred by impatience. Zambians are understandably eager for quick results after years of hardship, but economic rebuilding requires time. In fact, this recovery, given the scale of the debt crisis and the impact of climate-induced droughts, is

projected to take between seven and ten years. There is no quick fix for a recovery of this magnitude, and attempts to rush would likely lead to even greater instability.

Additionally, those who were once at the helm of Zambia's economic

mismanagement are now calling for swift political change, positioning themselves as champions of reform. This irony is a challenge for Zambians who seek genuine progress. As a nation, we must discern between constructive criticism and politically motivated disruption. True progress will come not from abandoning the path we are on, but from steadfastly supporting it.

Yet, this administration is

not without its flaws. President HH has centralized power in his office, limiting the capacity of other leaders to act independently. This approach, though intended to avoid the chaotic leadership seen in previous regimes, has stifled

communication and transparency. For citizens to understand the direction Zambia is taking, President HH's team must better communicate the rationale and goals behind each policy.

The temptation to be cautious and avoid mistakes can paralyze progress, but progress is inherently messy. President HH and his team must be willing to act decisively, even if that means risking occasional missteps. Mistakes are part of

governance, and Zambians will support leaders who show a willingness to learn and adapt from those mistakes.

Zambia's recurring problem is an inability to see through long-term development projects due to frequent leadership changes. Each shift in administration has reset our progress, leaving projects half-finished and visions unrealized. If President HH is forced out prematurely, Zambia risks returning to square one, prolonging the cycle of underdevelopment.

In the end, President HH's success is Zambia's success. His administration's investments in education, healthcare, and local development are the seeds for a brighter future. The journey will be slow, but if we, as citizens, show resilience, patience, and unwavering support, we can create a Zambia that thrives for generations to come

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SOUTH AFRICA, CHILE COLLABORATE TO ADVANCE SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES, AQUACULTURE



Governments of South Africa and Chile have signed a memorandum of understanding to cooperate on fisheries and aquaculture.

ensure ongoing cooperation.

The agreement is aimed at strengthening bilateral relations and collaborative efforts between the two countries in promoting sustainable fisheries and aquaculture, as both Chile and South Africa recognize the significance of these sectors to economic growth, employment

and food security.

The primary areas of cooperation will include research and supporting scientific advancements in sustainable practices; the exchange of technology and best practices, particularly on responsible farming methods; capacity building and knowledge sharing, including for small-scale and industrial fisheries management, regulatory approaches and enforcement

measures; and combatting illegal and unregulated fishing that impact on marine resources.

Both countries have committed to engage with relevant international forums and regional fisheries management organisations to uphold best practices and sustainable resource management principles.

All Africa reports that the countries will soon establish a joint technical committee to oversee the implementation of initiatives and coordinate regular bilateral meetings to

VOTING UNDER WAY IN KEY STATES WITH TRUMP AND HARRIS NECK AND NECK

By BBC

Election day voting has begun in the United States, with Donald Trump and Kamala Harris vying to become the next president.

Harris has advocated for abortion rights and pledged to lower food

and housing costs for working families.

Trump has vowed to seal the border and has proposed tax cuts worth trillions.

Americans aren't just choosing the president -

they're also picking members of the US Congress, and some states are voting on abortion rights.

When will we know the winner? It could take days - or it could be soon after polls close.



EXCHANGE RATES



Indicative Foreign Exchange Rates

Rate Sheet no.

545

	International Cross Currency Rates				Kwacha Local Currency Rates			
		Buying	Selling		Buying (Cash)	Buying (TT/TCa/BN)	Selling (Cash)	Selling (TTa/TCa/BN)
United States Dollars	USD	1.0000	1.0000	USD	26.8048	26.8048	27.2228	27.2228
British Pounds Sterling	GBP*	1.2705	1.3159	GBP*	34.7509	34.7509	35.2930	35.2930
Euro	EUR*	1.0680	1.1042	EUR*	29.1594	29.1594	29.6143	29.6143
South African Rand	ZAR	17.1815	17.7816	ZAR	n/a	1.5304	n/a	1.5542
Swedish Kroner	SEK	10.5089	10.8859	SEK	n/a	2.4997	n/a	2.5387
Swiss Francs	CHF	0.8470	0.8774	CHF	n/a	31.0113	n/a	31.4951
Danish Kroner	DKK	6.7180	6.9589	DKK	n/a	3.9099	n/a	3.9709
Norwegian Kroner	NOK	10.7756	11.1649	NOK	n/a	2.4373	n/a	2.4753
Japanese Yen	JPY	149.3422	154.6860	JPY	n/a	0.17589	n/a	0.1786
Chinese Yuan Renminbi	CNY	6.9643	7.2135	CNY	n/a	3.7718	n/a	3.8306
Tanzanian shilling	TZS	2636.2000	2750.6500	TZS	0.00993	0.00993	0.01006	0.01006
Kenya Shilling	KES	125.9300	131.4425	KES	n/a	0.2078	n/a	0.2110
Botswana Pula	BWP*	0.0734	0.0762	BWP*	n/a	2.0103	n/a	2.0417

*Base currencies

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PANGEA DAILY MARKEY NEWS

Zambia Reportedly Cuts Border Clearance Times For Goods And Travelers By 60% – Zambia Monitor

Zambia has significantly reduced border clearance times for goods and travelers, claiming a 60 percent improvement due to strengthened inter-agency cooperation. This is according to the third Time Release Survey. The survey, conducted at Chirundu and Kazungula One-Stop Border Posts by the Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry and the Zambia Revenue Authority, with support from the Japan International Cooperation Agency, reportedly found average clearance times had fallen from over 48 hours in 2022 to just under 14 hours in 2024.

IMF Raises Ethiopia's International Reserves Target After First Review – Reuters

The International Monetary Fund (“IMF”) has raised Ethiopia's net international reserves target to facilitate payments of upcoming hard currency bills, the Fund said. The East African nation secured a USD3.4 billion, four-year financing program from the IMF in July after carrying out a series of reforms including floating its birr currency. It is also in the midst of a fresh push to put its debt restructuring back on track.

Copper Extends Gains On Signs Chinese Economy In Recovery Mode – Bloomberg

Copper rose for a third day on positive Chinese economic data and hopes Beijing will unveil more economic support measures. The industrial metal has rallied more than 2% since the close on Thursday. China's services activity expanded last month at the fastest pace since July, following better-than-expected indicators from official and private factory gauges last week. Taken together, the reports suggest that recent stimulus measures may be having some impact.

Zambia Bonds Trading Summary

A total of 9 Government Bond trades with a total quantity of ZMW27,685,000 and turnover ZMW26,159,890 were processed today.

Lusaka Securities Exchange Trading Summary

In 140 trades recorded today 41,461 shares were transacted resulting in a turnover of ZMW408,770.38. The following price changes were recorded today: -ZMW0.01 in CECZ, -ZMW0.03 in SCBL and +ZMW0.01 in ZNCO. Trading activity was also recorded in AECI, ATEL, BATA, CHIL, MAFS, NATB, PUMA, ZABR, ZCCM, ZMBF, ZSUG and CCAF on the quoted tier. The LuSE All Share Index closed at 15,999.49 points 0.07% lower than the previous trading day close. The market closed on a capitalization of ZMW188,649,056,254.27 including Shoprite Holdings and ZMW81,583,602,634.27 excluding Shoprite Holdings.



PARA-ATHLETE, COACH IN MAURITIUS FOR GAPS CAMP

By Lucky Chama

Para-athlete Esnart Makumba and her coach, Winnie Longwe, have safely arrived in Mauritius to represent Zambia at the Gather, Adjust, Prepare, Sustain (GAPS) Global Mauritius Camp 2024 for Para-athletics.

in the program has been made possible facilitated by the Commonwealth Games Association of Zambia, in partnership with the National Paralympic Committee of Zambia.

The GAPS program is Commonwealth Sport's dedicated pathway for para-sport development and inclusion offering para-athletes and coaches access to vital skills, knowledge, and resources to boost their training and prepare them for competition.

The intensive camp has been organized by Commonwealth Sport, and brings together fifty-one inspiring Para-athletes and coaches from 21 Commonwealth nations and territories.

Makumba and Longwe's participation



'ALL WANT TO BEAT CHAMPIONS' - ARROWS COACH

By Lucky Chama

Red Arrows Assistant Coach Kalililo Kakonje is optimistic about the Airmen's bounce back to winning ways following a defeat last weekend in the Super League.

Kalililo was speaking in a post match interview after suffering a 3 - 1 defeat at Nkana in week 10.

Arrows took the lead through Akim Mumba but Nkana responded with two goals from Chinga Chitoshi and own goal by defender Michee Malonga.

In the second half, a defensive lapse saw Harrison Chisala outpace the Airmen defence and calmly finish to extend

Kalampa's lead to 3-1 at the packed Nkana Stadium.

"Nkana played well and took their chances early enough and utilised them. This is not what we expected though. We are coming from back to back wins against Nkwazi and Kabwe Warriors, so we wanted to solidify our

momentum but sometimes plans do not go your way and that is how football is. Moreso, everyone wants to beat the Champions so games become trick. However, this loss does not disrupt in anyway our season objectives," Kakonje said.

'Everyone including players

at Red Arrows know what we want. We have just lost three games out of 10 played. What is important is to continue preparing the team, learn from our mistakes and very soon we will strike our balance and start winning and winning,"

Red Arrows' next match will be against Green Eagles.

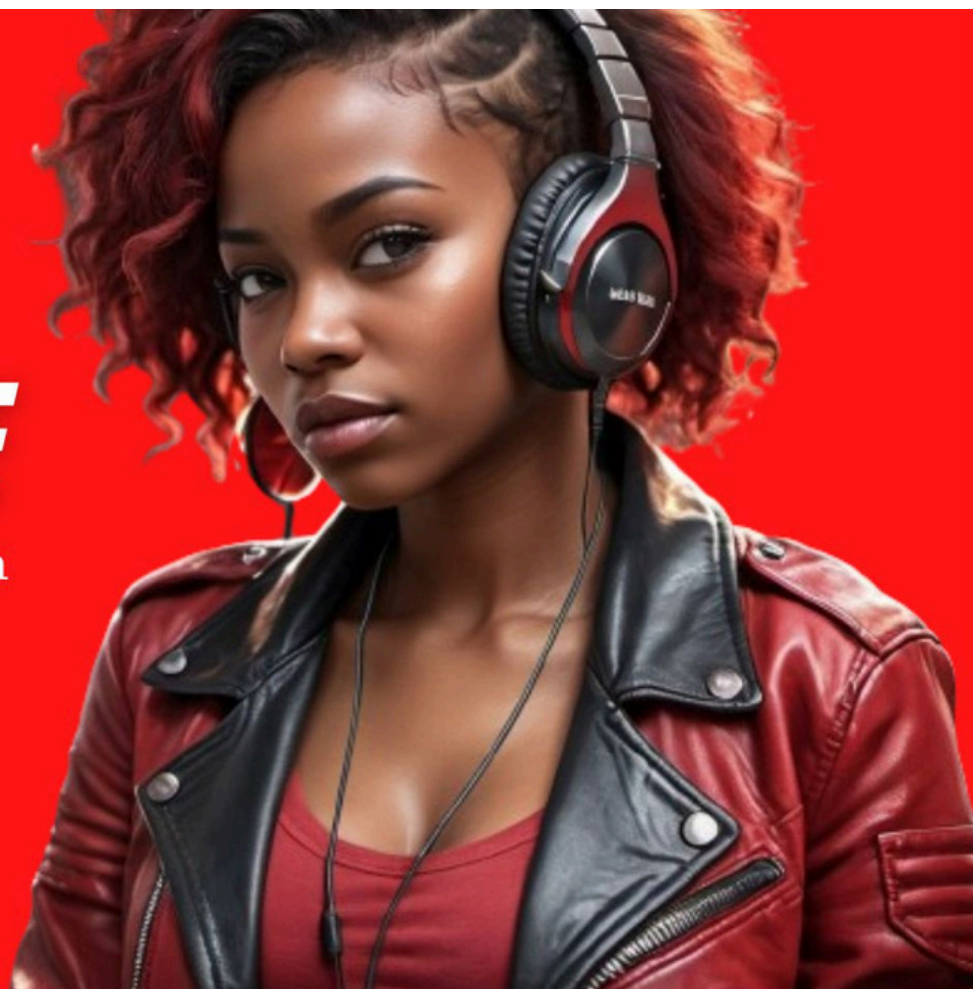


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THINK BUSINESS



NDLOVU WINS AT MMA WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

By Lucky Chama

Zambian Mixed Martial Arts athlete Batista Mende has been eliminated from the 2024 Mixed Martial Arts World Championships that kicked off today in Uzbekistan.

Mende put up a good performance, especially in the second round of the fight, but was caught in an armbar, leading to a tough loss against Moroccan opponent Nawfal Akki.

Meanwhile, middleweight fighter Gilbert Ndlovu overcame tough Georgian Giorgi Tsipiani via a technical knockout (TKO).

Meanwhile, middleweight fighter Gilbert Ndlovu overcame tough Georgian Giorgi Tsipiani via a technical knockout (TKO).

Ndlovu endured a tough first round as the Georgian wrestler controlled the round with dominant grappling.

However, in Round 2, Georgian, looking fatigued, was rocked by a heavy right hand from Ndlovu, though Tsipiani managed to secure a takedown. Ultimately, Ndlovu turned the tables, seizing control and winning the fight

by TKO in the second round to advance to Day 2 of the competition.

On day 2 of the competition, Ndlovu and Miracle Chipito will be in contention to secure wins. On Day 3, Mutinta Mwene will also join the lineup, adding to Team Zambia's strength and determination in Uzbekistan.

MMA Zambia has applauded Mende's performances.

"We're proud of Batista's tenacity and the way he represented Zambia," MMA posted on Facebook

