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# MONEY DAILY

#048 Friday, November 8, 2024 moneyfmzambia.com +260972930606

# ZAM SEEKS BULK FUEL ACCESS FOR MANUFACTURING

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## GOVT HAS NO PLANS TO ALLOCATE 10, 000 HECTARES OF LAND TO RWANDA-MTOLO

By Cecilia Chiluba



Acting Minister of Lands and Natural Resources says Government has no plans to allocate 10, 000 hectares of land to Rwanda.

Speaking in Parliament during the question for Oral Answer Session, Reuben Mtolo said the Ministry has not formally received any application from the Rwandese Government to that effect.

Mr. Mtolo, who is also Minister of Agriculture stated that it is the Ministry's considered view that the application is still in process with other government institutions.

"As the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources, we are aware about the sentiments which appeared in the media with regards to allocation of 10, 000 hectares to Rwanda, however, we have not formally received the application to that effect."

"It is our considered view that this application is still in process with other government institutions, since according to the Lands Administrative Circular No.1 of 1995, access to land can be from different angles, but in as far as the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources is concerned, we are yet to receive a formal application and once

we do, we will be in a position to respond accordingly," Mr. Mtolo stated.

But after being squeezed by Parliamentarians, Mr. Mtolo confirmed that the Government of Rwanda has applied to the Ministry of Agriculture for land in Lusaka.

"Yes, Government of Rwanda has made an application to the Ministry of Agriculture for Land. But here I was standing as Minister of Lands and I will not accept that we have received an application. The Rwandese Government has asked for land in Lusaka. Let us understand the land tenure system in Zambia, we should not just ask questions like people who do not understand that fact."

"There is no one who possesses land in this country, land in this country is held by the President and all the land given out is by lease. So, let us not talk as if we are getting part of Zambia and issuing it out to foreigners, that is wrong. Land is given out on lease, it can be 10 years, 20 years, 99 years. Even if you press so hard on it, the fact that I am acting Minister of Lands, should not be confused with

agriculture," Mr. Mtolo stated.

He explained that the Ministry of Agriculture receives and processes land applications, that is when Ministry of Lands is involved.

"So, to say that I am giving two answers is wrong Madam Speaker and it should not be allowed to proceed in that way. The issue is that Ministry of Lands has not received any application, Ministry of Agriculture, has received an application. These are two different entities."

"There will be no land given, any land above 1000 hectares without presidential authentication," he added.

Mr. Mtolo was responding to Lukashya Member of Parliament, George Chisanga who wanted to know whether Government has any plans to allocate 10,000 hectares of land to Rwanda, if so, where the land is located, what Rwanda intends to use the land for, what the consideration for the allocation is, and whether the allocation will not result in the displacement of people.

Recently, Rwandan Ambassador to Zambia, Emmanuel Bugingo, thanked Government for allocating 10,000 hectares of Land to Rwanda for agricultural purposes.

## ZACA ELATED WITH 7 HOUR POWER SUPPLY

By Elias Mwenda



Zambia Consumer Association (ZACA) is elated with ZESCO's decision to increase power supply hours from five to seven, effective 6th November 2024.

Speaking in an interview with Money News, Association Executive Secretary Juba Sakala, says the new development will help in boosting businesses that had gone down due to prolonged hours of load shedding.

Mr. Sakala adds that the increase in power supply hours will enhance economic activities, and in turn improve people's disposable income.

He has however called on the power utility company to follow the load management schedule and ensure that everyone gets the seven hours of power supply as announced.

Mr. Sakala has also urged ZESCO to supply

power once off than rationing the announced seven hours, in order to sustain businesses, further stressing the need for electricity supply to be provided in the morning when businesses are active.

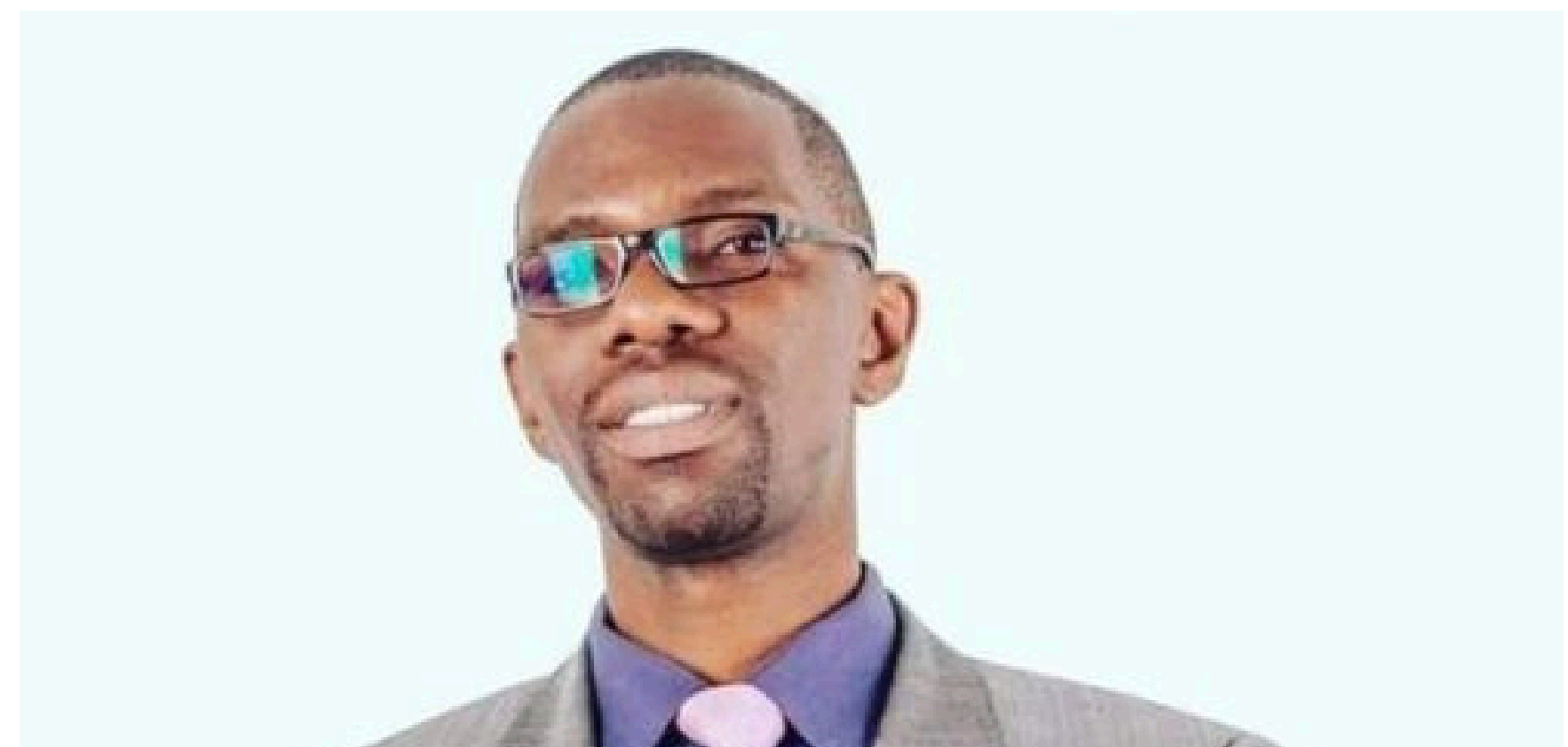
On 6th November 2024, ZESCO Limited introduced a new power rationing schedule to provide a consistent 7-hour daily power supply.

According to the Corporation, this adjustment aims to enhance service reliability by optimizing power imports and maximizing contributions from Independent Power Producers wherever feasible.

ZESCO however said while it is committed to maintaining this schedule, occasional changes may occur due to factors like power import availability or unexpected challenges.

## FDI HAS NOT PRODUCED EXPECTED RESULTS- ECONOMIST

By Elias Mwenda



An Economist has observed that Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) has not produced the expected results with regards to economic development.

Speaking in an interview with Money FM News, Kelvin Chisanga has called for collaboration between foreign investors and local

businesses to enhance Zambia's economic development through Foreign Direct Investment.

"Over time we have been looking at FDI which has not given us what we want to see as far as economic development is concerned."

"So, having a fusion of

two economic elements where indigenous Zambians and the foreign based investors coming together, could be a formidable solution," Mr. Chisanga stated.

Mr. Chisanga noted that the country does not have the sound capital formation at the moment, therefore

having a partnership between the local people and foreign investors, can bring in the much-needed capital.

He added that such collaborations can also bring a cost reflective way of running business as both partners will be working to ensure that operations run smoothly.



# PHILIP CHIBUTA WALKS AWAY WITH K20, 000 GRAND PRIZE UNDER NICO'S ILI CHE PREMIUM REWARDS

By Elias Mwenda



An Insurance Company has announced the winner of a K20, 000 Grand prize under its Ili Che Premium Rewards (ICPR) Campaign.

Speaking during the Grand Draw, NICO Insurance Chief Executive Officer Keith Mumba said the campaign was meant to reward customers who contribute to safer roads and embody a shared

commitment to the wellbeing of communities.

Mr. Mumba explained that the Premium Rewards programme is more than a simple token of appreciation as it is a testament to the company's dedication to fostering a culture of safety, prudence and responsibility.

He noted that road

traffic accidents statistics indicate that road safety remains a challenge in Zambia.

"Therefore, initiatives such as the Ili Che Premium Rewards play a part in inspiring a shift towards safer driving behaviors," Mr. Mumba stated.

Mr. Mumba further said since the inception of the initiative, the company

has seen a remarkable response from its customers.

He stated that for policy holders to stand a chance of winning the prize, they needed to have maintained active policies and remained accident free for three consecutive years.

After conducting a draw, Philip Chibuta was announced as the winner of the Ili Che Premium Rewards.

# MINISTRY OF FINANCE TO ISSUE SI TO PROVIDE RELIEF FOR IRRIGATION EQUIPMENT

By Cecilia Chiluba



Minister of Finance and National Planning has disclosed that Government is in the process of issuing a Statutory Instrument (SI) to provide relief as a complete package for irrigation equipment.

Speaking in Parliament during the question for oral answer session, Dr. Situmbeko Musokotwane said formulation of the Statutory Instrument is a matter of priority.

Dr. Musokotwane stated that the SI will be implemented once ongoing consultations

with stakeholders are concluded.

"The Ministry will further continue to engage relevant stakeholders on some of these issues to come up with solutions," Dr. Musokotwane stated.

Dr. Musokotwane explained that the main irrigation equipment for agricultural or horticultural under harmonized system code 8420. 8200 is already free of customs duty.

"However, the accompanying auxiliary equipment such as

circuit breakers and electric panels under HS code 8536.20.00 and HS H537.10.00, attracts customs duties at the rate of 15 percent and 25 percent respectively."

"This is because the accompanying auxiliary components to the irrigation equipment are of multiple use. Customs duties on Reservoir tanks and similar containers under HS7309.00.00 attract customs duty with a rate of 15 percent," he said.

And Mr. Musokotwane emphasized that Government already

suspended customs duty on solar gadgets through Statutory Instrument No. 86 of 2019, to support farming activities.

"The Customs Excise, Machinery, Equipment, Suspension Regulations of 2019, Statutory Instrument number 17 of 2022, and the Customs Excise Electronic Machinery Equipment Suspension Amendment Regulations of 2022."

Among others, the above-mentioned Statutory Instruments provided relief on the equipment that are photovoltaic in nature and equipment of solar cells, equipment devices that convert sunlight directly to electricity," Dr. Musokotwane added.

He was responding to Mbabala Member of Parliament Joseph Munsanje, who wanted to find out whether Government has any plans to reduce import duty on solar gadgets, irrigation equipment, and water tanks, in order to support farming activities following the drought experienced in the 2023/2024 rainy season.

# ZAM CALLS FOR BULK FUEL ACCESS TO SUPPORT OPERATIONS IN MANUFACTURING SECTOR

By Cecilia Chiluba



Zambia Association of Manufacturers (ZAM) has called on Energy Regulation Board (ERB) to facilitate mechanisms that will allow manufacturers to access fuel in wholesale quantities or to establish dedicated bulk supply points specifically for industrial use.

Association President Ashu Sagar says the limited availability of fuel in bulk quantities has negatively the sector's ability to sustain operations, particularly in light of persistent load-shedding and power supply interruptions.

Mr. Sagar lamented that Manufacturers across the country are increasingly reliant on diesel-powered generators to ensure continued production, yet the current fuel supply system restricts access to only retail quantities.

"For industrial users who require substantial volumes of fuel to power their operations, retail-only access is not only inefficient but also imposes operational delays and increased costs."

"The manufacturing sector is a vital contributor to Zambia's economic growth, creating jobs, fostering local content, and strengthening the industrial base. In light of this, ZAM urgently calls upon the ERB to facilitate mechanisms that would allow manufacturers to access fuel in wholesale quantities or, alternatively, to establish dedicated bulk supply points specifically for industrial use," Mr. Sagar stated.

He added that such provisions would enable manufacturers to secure the necessary volumes for

uninterrupted operations, thereby supporting productivity and economic resilience.

Mr. Sagar however said the Association appreciates to ERB for its ongoing commitment to stabilising fuel supply across the country.

"We recognize the measures that have been introduced to address current market challenges, as outlined in the recent ERB press release of November 1, 2024. The ERB's efforts to manage price fluctuations and secure fuel availability are commendable and reflect an understanding of the strategic importance of a reliable energy supply," he said.

Efforts to get a comment from ERB Public Relations Manager, Namukolo Kasumpa failed, as her mobile phone went unanswered.

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# ECONOMIST HAILS NEW TAX REGULATION

By Elias Mwenda



An Economist says the proposed tax regulation that requires those transferring more than US\$2, 000 outside Zambia to present a tax compliance certificate, will ensure compliance amongst companies in remitting back the money from export earnings.

Speaking in an interview with Money FM News,

Dr. Esther Banda notes that a lot of companies and individuals have been shunning away from paying taxes, thereby negatively affecting the country's economy and the exchange rate.

Dr. Banda states that the new regulation can be used in enforcing compliance among those in the export chain to ensure remittance of

their earnings.

She hopes that the regulation will not discourage people from doing business that involves transmitting a lot of money outside the country.

The proposed tax policy measures announced in the 2025 national budget speech by Finance Minister Dr. Situmbeko Musokotwane will result

in the introduction of an Advance Income Tax (AIT) at the rate of 15 percent on remittances and exports above US\$2, 000 or equivalent for transactions made without a valid Tax Clearance Certificate.

This strategic structural reform which is scheduled to be implemented next year, will mitigate the risk and seal loopholes of tax evasion that have been used over the years to commit illicit financial flows, among other vices.

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# SIAVONGA COUNCIL RECEIVES K2.7 MILLION FROM WORLD BANK

By Cecilia Chiluba



Siavonga Town Council has received K2.6 million from the World Bank, following recommendations from the Auditor General's Office

Council Secretary Coster Mutandi disclosed that the local authority was expecting funding of K3.7 million but only received K2.6 million, following the inclusion of some City and Municipal Councils as part of the beneficiaries.

Speaking during a full Council meeting, Mr.

Mutandi explained that the local authority had planned to allocate the K3.7 million to water reticulation at over K1 million, a new bus station at K1 million and to procure a topper truck at K1.7 million.

"Receiving a K2.6 million means the Council would only prioritize two projects from the three, due to the difference of K1.1 million," Mr. Mutandi stated.

He further informed the house that the Council

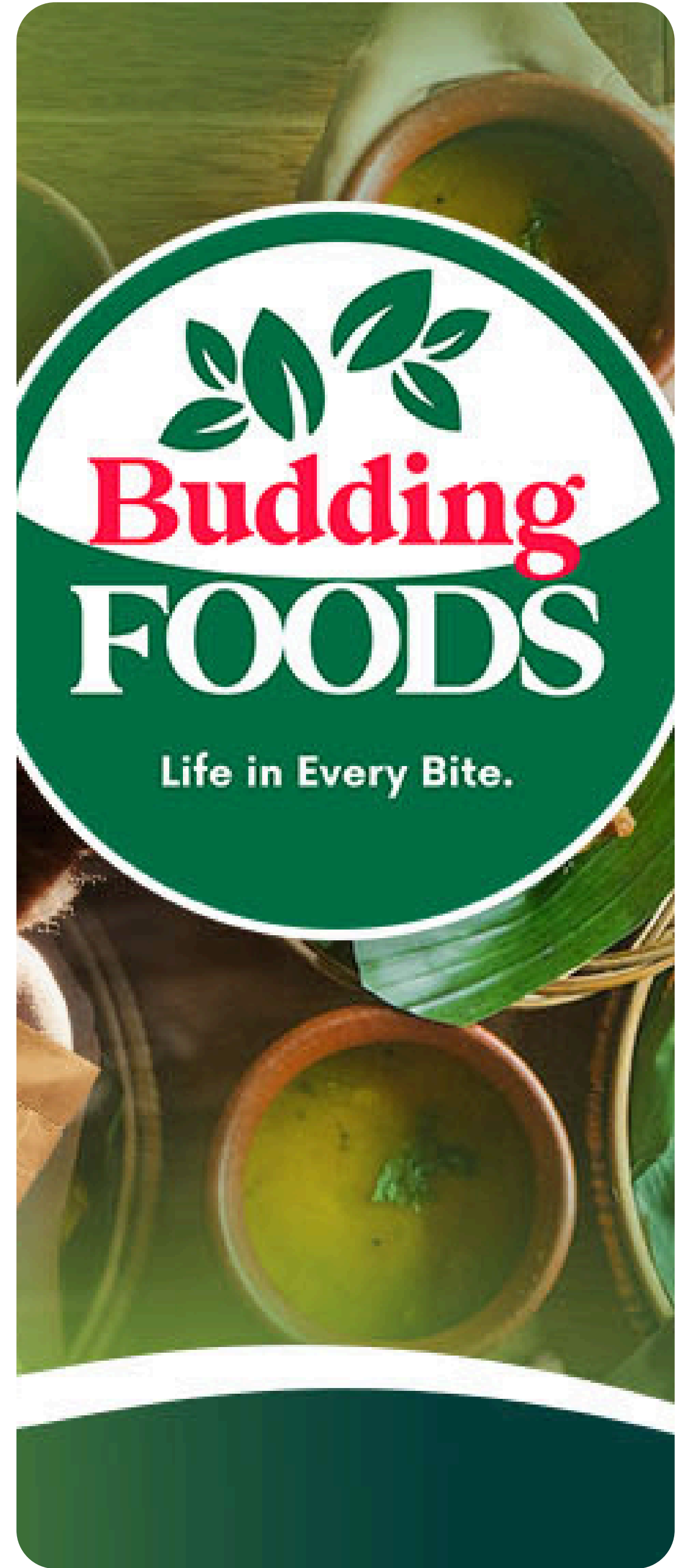
has also received K2.5 million from the Ministry of Lands under the Land Development Fund for upgrading of township roads, following an application to the Ministry.

During the same meeting, Council Director of Finance Newton Sikazwe disclosed that the local authority will in 2025 procure a portable weigh bridge in order accurately measure the tonnage of fish being exported out of the district.

Mr. Sikazwe revealed that the portable weigh bridge will help the Council to measure the exact tonnage of fish transported out of Siavonga by fishing companies.

"The weigh bridge will also help the Council to do away with any under declaration of tonnage and promote transparency as well as accountability," Mr. Sikazwe explained.

This is according to a statement issued by Council Public Relations Officer, Gwendolyn Mchenga.



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When ZESCO first introduced the concept of net metering, it was greeted with high hopes and excitement from Zambians eager to benefit from a system that, in many countries, allows individual energy producers to sell excess power back to the grid.

For households and businesses with renewable energy systems like solar, this promised a path to both self-sufficiency and a potential source of income. However, recent disclosures that ZESCO intends to implement net metering as a barter system, exchanging power for units instead of cash, have dampened these hopes.

This revelation raises significant concerns about the feasibility and sincerity of ZESCO's net metering plan, as well as the larger question of ZESCO's ability to manage Zambia's energy needs in its current form.

Initially, ZESCO's messaging around net metering suggested that participants could earn real income by contributing excess energy to the grid. This vision encouraged Zambians to invest in larger renewable energy setups, thinking they could meet their energy needs and sell surplus power.

Many expected this to be a profitable, cash-based arrangement that would support the growth of a greener energy sector and help ease the national energy burden. Yet, the plan's shift to a unit-based compensation model not only betrays those expectations but also questions ZESCO's transparency.

# ZESCO NET METERING PROJECT DOES NOT MAKE ECONOMIC SENSE

If the intention from the outset was to offer energy credits instead of monetary compensation, ZESCO should have made this clear to the public.

The essence of net metering is to provide a financial return for prosumers, those who produce and consume electricity, to encourage investment in renewable energy. In nations where net metering is successful, prosumers are compensated in real currency, creating a true incentive to invest in energy solutions that benefit both them and the national grid.

ZESCO's unit-based system undermines this principle, leaving little to no financial benefit for prosumers. This approach raises the question: why would anyone invest in an energy system that only trades surplus power for units rather than providing tangible economic returns?

Beyond the barter-based model, ZESCO's financial instability poses a practical barrier to any cash-based net metering initiative. ZESCO is technically insolvent, struggling with mounting debts and ongoing operational challenges.

It has yet to settle payments with several independent power producers, some of whom have had to resort to

shutting down operations to press ZESCO into clearing their dues. If ZESCO cannot meet its obligations to these large-scale power producers, how could it possibly manage timely payments to numerous individual prosumers scattered across the country?

This financial strain not only calls into question ZESCO's ability to support a cash-based net metering program but also highlights the inefficiencies plaguing the utility. While introducing net metering could be beneficial under ideal conditions, it's unrealistic to expect ZESCO, in its current state, to handle the financial or operational demands that come with such a project.

Attempting to roll out net metering in this environment could deepen ZESCO's debt and create additional issues for an already overburdened system.

The difficulties with net metering are symptomatic of larger structural issues within ZESCO, which have long hindered its capacity to serve Zambians effectively. ZESCO is a sprawling utility with

multiple, sometimes conflicting, roles: it generates, transmits, and distributes power, while also being subject to extensive political interference.

This level of centralization reduces accountability and

restricts ZESCO's ability to operate efficiently or innovate in response to Zambia's growing energy demands. Unbundling ZESCO into distinct entities—ZESCO Power Generation, ZESCO Transmission, and ZESCO Distribution—would bring a sharper focus to each aspect of Zambia's energy system.

Under a holding group, these independent entities would have the autonomy to address specific challenges within their areas of expertise, without the constant disruptions of political pressures. This restructuring is not about privatization; it's about making ZESCO manageable and efficient by creating a system where transparency, accountability, and specialized focus drive operations.

Unbundling could make net metering a viable

business model by assigning responsibility for it to an entity dedicated to distribution or customer relations. A standalone distribution company could view net metering as a growth opportunity rather than a debt risk, working to make the model

economically feasible and attractive for both ZESCO and prosumers.

This specialized focus would also align better with Zambia's goal of encouraging renewable energy adoption and reducing reliance on fossil fuels.

ZESCO's current structure and operational model are unsustainable. Zambia's ongoing energy crisis—marked by frequent power shortages and rising costs—is a testament to the utility's inability to meet modern demands.

Without restructuring, ZESCO will continue to lag in its mission to provide reliable, affordable energy to Zambians. Net metering, in this context, is not just an additional project; it's a potential catalyst for transforming Zambia's energy landscape. However, the project cannot succeed under ZESCO's present centralized, debt-ridden setup.

Unbundling ZESCO will lay the groundwork for a diversified and resilient energy sector, facilitating Zambia's shift toward sustainable, low-carbon

energy. By creating entities focused on generation, transmission, and distribution, Zambia will be better positioned to attract investment in renewable energy projects, lower energy costs for consumers, and foster long-term stability in the sector.

Furthermore, it would reduce political interference, allowing each entity to operate with the transparency and efficiency necessary for national progress.

The excitement surrounding net metering shows that Zambians are eager to participate in building a sustainable energy future. But they deserve transparency and financial security if they choose to invest in renewable energy.

The current net metering arrangement does not make economic sense, and expecting Zambians to buy into a barter-based system without clear financial incentives is unrealistic. If ZESCO wants to restore public trust and drive meaningful change, it must reconsider this model and prioritize structural reform.

By unbundling ZESCO, Zambia can pave the way for a more dynamic, efficient energy sector that supports economic growth and environmental sustainability. Now is the time for Zambia to take bold steps, setting the foundation for an energy sector that not only meets today's needs but is ready for tomorrow's challenges.

Let us use this moment as an opportunity to rethink ZESCO, embrace innovation, and finally deliver a reliable, rewarding energy solution to all Zambians.

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# NO RESTRICTIONS ON CONVERTING CURRENCY IN DOMICILIARY ACCOUNTS TO NAIRA - CBN



Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) has, in new guidelines, clarified that commercial, merchant and non-interest banks should allow participants to convert their Internationally Tradable Foreign Currency balances in designated domiciliary accounts into Naira at any time, using the prevailing exchange rate.

that all conversions, however, must be fully disclosed and reported as part of the banks' foreign exchange reporting requirements.

In February 2024, the Bank reaffirmed that it would not force domiciliary account holders to convert their holdings into Naira.

The new guidelines allow holders, whether

they are based in Nigeria, abroad, or possess offshore accounts, full access to trade eligible foreign currencies as they wish.

Foreign currencies in domiciliary accounts, held in offshore accounts by Nigerians, or held by Nigerians resident in Nigeria or the diaspora, in cash or otherwise, retained in electronic form, can be traded," the CBN said.

The announcement follows the release of the 'Guidelines on Implementation of the Foreign Currency Disclosure, Deposit, Repatriation, and Investment Scheme, 2024,' which builds upon Executive Order No. 15, a directive issued in 2023 for better oversight of foreign exchange assets held by Nigerian residents.

Business Day reports

# COP29 CHIEF EXECUTIVE FILMED PROMOTING FOSSIL FUEL DEALS

By REUTERS

A senior official at COP29 climate change conference in Azerbaijan appears to have used his role to arrange a meeting to discuss potential fossil fuel deals, the BBC can report.

BBC reports that a secret recording shows the chief executive of Azerbaijan's COP29 team, Elnur Soltanov,

discussing investment opportunities in the state oil and gas company with a man posing as a potential investor.

A former head of the UN body responsible for the climate talks told the BBC that Soltanov's actions were completely unacceptable and a betrayal of the COP process.

As well as being the chief executive of COP29, Soltanov is also the deputy energy minister of Azerbaijan and is on the board of Socar.

Azerbaijan's COP29 team has not responded to a request for comment. Oil and gas accounts for about half of Azerbaijan's total economy and more than 90% of its exports, according to US figures.



## EXCHANGE RATES



### Indicative Foreign Exchange Rates

Rate Sheet no.

553

		International Cross Currency Rates			Kwacha Local Currency Rates			
		Buying	Selling		Buying (Cash)	Buying (TT/TCs/BN)	Selling (Cash)	Selling (TTs/TCs/BN)
United States Dollars	USD	1.0000	1.0000	USD	27.1819	27.1819	27.4953	27.4953
British Pounds Sterling	GBP*	1.2706	1.3167	GBP*	35.2508	35.2508	35.6572	35.6572
Euro	EUR*	1.0565	1.0947	EUR*	29.3102	29.3102	29.6481	29.6481
South African Rand	ZAR	16.9929	17.6302	ZAR	n/a	1.5663	n/a	1.5843
Swedish Kroner	SEK	10.4938	10.8731	SEK	n/a	2.5379	n/a	2.5672
Swiss Francs	CHF	0.8556	0.8863	CHF	n/a	31.1308	n/a	31.4897
Danish Kroner	DKK	6.7767	7.0193	DKK	n/a	3.9307	n/a	3.9760
Norwegian Kroner	NOK	10.6687	11.0555	NOK	n/a	2.4962	n/a	2.5250
Japanese Yen	JPY	149.8028	155.2037	JPY	n/a	0.17779	n/a	0.1798
Chinese Yuan Renminbi	CNY	7.0050	7.2573	CNY	n/a	3.8022	n/a	3.8460
Tanzanian shilling	TZS	2626.4000	2740.5000	TZS	0.01010	0.01010	0.01020	0.01020
Kenya Shilling	KES	125.9300	131.4425	KES	n/a	0.2107	n/a	0.2131
Botswana Pula	BWP*	0.0735	0.0769	BWP*	n/a	2.0495	n/a	2.0731

\*Base currencies

Note: All transactions above USD10,000 or equivalent must be referred to the Global Markets Sales Desk. Please be advised that rates may change at short notice due to market conditions.

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## PANGEA DAILY MARKEY NEWS

### Zambia Explores Alternative Fuel Transport Routes To Address Supply Chain Challenges - Zambia Monitor

The Energy Regulation Board ("ERB") has announced that Zambia is actively exploring alternative transportation routes for petroleum products to maintain a stable fuel supply chain, following recent logistical issues with fuel deliveries via Mozambique. According to ERB Director-General, Elijah Sichone, the government was evaluating multiple routes to mitigate these supply disruptions. Speaking during a media briefing at ERB headquarters in Lusaka, Sichone identified Dar-es-Salaam in Tanzania, Walvis Bay in Namibia and Durban in South Africa as potential alternative routes.

### Jubilee Is Building On SA Successes To Build Up Copper Output In Zambia – MSN

Jubilee Metals has announced a robust performance in its South African operations, demonstrating considerable growth driven by efficiency improvements and high-quality inputs. The company yesterday reported a remarkable increase in chrome output, hitting 455,381 tons for the quarter ending September 2023, marking an 8% rise from previous figures. This success is attributed to enhanced operational efficiencies and a better quality feed that also bolstered their platinum group metals output, which reached 9,328 ounces during the same period. Jubilee also produces copper in Zambia.

### AFD Sees Others Adding to EUR400 Million South Africa Climate Loan – Bloomberg

The head of France's state development bank expects other development finance institutions to add to a EUR400 million (USD432 million) climate loan for South Africa that partners will likely sign within days. The funds are part of a USD9.3 billion climate-finance pact agreed between South Africa and some of the world's richest countries in 2021 to help the nation cut its reliance on coal, which accounts for four-fifths of its electricity generation.

### Zambia Bonds Trading Summary

A total of 20 Government Bond trades with a total quantity of ZMW813,191,000 and turnover ZMW817,058,280 were processed today.

### Lusaka Securities Exchange Trading Summary

In 85 trades recorded today 9,152 shares were transacted resulting in a turnover of ZMW62,155.31. The following price changes were recorded today: +ZMW0.01 in CECZ, +ZMW0.01 in PUMA and +ZMW0.01 in ZABR. Trading activity was also recorded in AECI, ATEL, BATA, CHIL, FARM, NATB, SCBL, ZMBF, ZNCO, ZSUG as well as PMDZ on the quoted tier. The LuSE All Share Index closed at 15,987.99 points, same as the previous trading day close. The market closed on a capitalization of ZMW188,624,670,858.17 including Shoprite Holdings and ZMW81,559,217,238.17 excluding Shoprite Holdings.





## CHIPITO MINTS BRONZE AT IMMAF CHAMPIONSHIPS

By Lucky Chama

Zambian Mixed Martial Arts athletes Miracle Chipito clinched a bronze medal at the IMMAF World Championships after losing the semifinal match-up against Chloe Gowen of England. Chipito showcased her power and precision in the striking exchanges where she landed heavy shots

that clearly made an impact against Gowen, who won the fight on a unanimous decision victory.

Chipito has solidified her place as one of the most dangerous competitors in the flyweight division worldwide following her great performances at the IMMAF World

Championships.

She is the first person from Zambia to win a medal at the World Championships.

Mixed Martial Arts Zambia (MMA Zambia) president Benjamin Bush says he is proud of the performances at the global stage. Bush says the athletes

have demonstrated that they are not just competitors but genuine contenders on the world stage.

“This competition has showcased the very best amateur mixed martial artists from across the globe, and our athletes have demonstrated that

they are not just competitors but genuine contenders on the world stage. What stands out is the talent, heart, and determination of our fighters.” Bush said.

Zambia was represented by four athletes; Chipito, Mutinta Mweene, Batista Mende and Gilbert Ndlovu

## ISAAC KATAMBI UNDERGOES SUCCESSFUL SURGERY IN INDIA

By Lucky Chama

Upcoming Nchanga Rangers Football Club defender Isaac Katambi has undergone successful surgery at the Manipal hospitals in Bangalore, India.

The club reveals that surgery was conducted to repair his torn meniscus on the right leg, which he suffered in training a few months ago.

Senior Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon Dr

Chirag Thonse, who has previously operated on midfielder Elliot Kampukesa and goalkeeper Flobby Mashakalati after they both suffered similar injuries, said the surgery was successful.

Katambi and Nchanga Rangers physiotherapist Happy Mumba, who accompanied the player, will return home next week after a final review at the hospital on Monday.



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## PATSON DAKA CLOSING IN ON RETURN TO ACTION - COOPER

By Lucky Chama

Leicester City Football Club manager Steve Cooper has revealed that striker Patson Daka is progressing well towards his recovery.

Daka is yet to feature for the Foxes this season after picking up an ankle injury in pre-season.

In a pre-match conference ahead of Sunday's match against Manchester United at Old Trafford, Cooper said Daka's return to full fitness will offer him more options and improve competition for places in the starting lineup.

Cooper states that he will

not rush the Zambian striker into playing for the club to allow him to fully recover from the injury.

“He is an asset for the team and it's been great to have him in and around the squad and back in the mix,” Cooper explained. “He's such a positive guy and he's obviously a good player with certain attributes that can really help the team.

“He's once again going to be a great option and [gives] competition for places. He had a serious injury that ruled him out for three or four months and it was an

awkward injury as well that we just have to be careful with.

“It's tempting just to throw him straight back in, but at the same time we don't want to do that to the detriment of getting him fully fit. We're sticking to the right plan and operation with the medical team to get him up to speed.”

The Foxes are back at Old Trafford for the second time in a fortnight after last Wednesday's Carabao Cup defeat to the Red Devils.

