

Lecturers to blame for increasing “sex for grades cases”

The World Youth and leadership foundation - WYLF, says lecturers are to blame for the increasing sex for grades cases in higher learning institutions because as parent figures, they are supposed to be guiding students in learning institutions.

There has been growing sexual harassment cases in higher learning institutions of which the common one have...

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Zambia Sugar Revenue up 14%

The Zambia Sugar, one of the leading sugar producers in Zambia, has reported a significant increase in its revenue for the year ended 31 August 2023.

According to the company’s financial report, its revenue grew by an overwhelming 14% increase to K5.827 billion driven by a number of factors including a 12% improvement in the weighted average selling price for domestic and export sales which contributed heavily to this development...

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ZAMRA admits failure to regulate herbal remedies

The Zambia medicines regulatory authority (ZAMRA) has admitted that the authority has no capacity to regulate traditional herbal remedies at the moment because they cannot be proven scientifically.

According to the national center for biotechnology information the use of herbal medicinal products and supplements has increased tremendously...

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Mealie-meal prices hit K370 in Luapula

The residents of Chienge and Nchelenge districts of Luapula province have been forced to pay exorbitant prices for mealie meal, which has caused great hardship for many families.

The residents of these areas have been denied access to the cheaper mealie meal provided by the Zambia National Service – ZNS – which has failed to reach their communities, leaving them with no affordable options for this staple food.

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Zamstats inflation figures questioned

Lusaka Economist Yusuf Dodia has challenged the Zambia Statistical Agency - ZAMSTATS, to start releasing inflation statistics relevant to the general Zambian citizenry.

Speaking in an exclusive interview with the Zambian Business Times -ZBT, Dodia said the 12.6 percent ZAMSTATS inflation rate does not reflect the true picture of what is on the ground adding that Zambia’s inflation is around 20-30 percent.

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4TH MOBILE NETWORK FAILS TO LAUNCH



The Fourth Mobile Operator Beeline has yet again for the third running year shifted the dates for the commencement of operations to 2024 after about 3 failed attempts to commence operations.

In February 2021, the Zambia Information and Communications Technology Authority - ZICTA announced that it had granted Beeline Telecom Limited a 4TH license to commence mobile phone operations in the country and it was required that the Company commence operation within the next six months failure to which, the license would be revoked...

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Zamtel turnaround strategy little-known

The turnaround strategy for the state owned telecommunications Company has taken longer than expected as no announcement has so far been made regarding its state of profitability.

The Minister of Science and Technology Felix Mutati has however promised to give a roadmap on the...

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Hope for Kasenseli gold mine re-opening dims

Zambia’s gold reserve build-up has dragged following the Government’s indecision to reopen the Kasenseli gold mine and some Challenges to purchasing gold from the Kansanshi mines.

Zambia’s cumulative refined gold reserves in monetary form as of July 2023, stood at United States Dollars USD \$114 million when it is expected to be above \$200 by this time.

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Cost of living continues to increase

The government’s efforts to address the high cost of living have faced hurdles as the cost of living continues accelerating.

According to the October report of the Jesuit Centre for Theological Reflection - JCTR, the cost of living for a family of five in Lusaka has increased to K9, 294.76..

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Brace for ‘no money in circulation’

The Bankers Association of Zambia - BAZ, says the increase in the minimum statutory reserve ratio will further reduce liquidity available to the commercial banks to lend and make profit noting that money that sits in the statutory reserve ratio does not earn any interest.

On the 6th of November 2023, the Bank of Zambia - BOZ announced that effective Monday 13th November 2023, the minimum statutory...

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Airtel posts increased revenue

Airtel Africa is a leading provider of telecommunications and mobile money services, with a presence in 14 countries in Africa, primarily in East Africa, Central and West Africa has posted an increase Results for half year ended 30 September 2023 in its customer base by 9.7% to 147.7 million, owing to the penetration of mobile data and mobile money services which have continued to rise, driving a 23.0% increase in data customers to 59.8 million and a 23.1% increase in mobile money customers to 36.5 million.

According to statement made available to the Zambian Business - ZBT, Mobile money transaction value increased by 45.3% in constant currency, with Q2’24 annualized transaction value of \$116bn in reported currency.

...PAGE 8

ZCCM IH profitability questioned

NB - For the financially initiated

Today, if you have \$1billion and invest in risk free fixed income fund, you would at a MINIMUM expect a return of about 5%. Let’s contrast this to the case of ZCCM-IH

ZCCM - IH has total assets of about K23 billion (roughly about \$1 billion) as per 2020 audited financials, deployed mostly through investments in various companies, most of which are in the

...PAGE 6

WARMA appeals to MPs

The Water Resources Management Authority -WARMA, has appealed to Members of Parliament –MPs- to help influence policy change that will allow for commercial entities to pay the full amount of water usage as opposed to being subsidized.

WARMA Director General Engineer Kenneth Nyundu said only vulnerable communities should be subsidized noting that the money should be channeled

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Editorial - The illusion of “political” contribution & poverty in Zambian politics

One of the biggest hurdles that ruling parties face after securing victory in especially countries like ours where poverty is widespread and opportunities are hard to come by, is to keep the support base intact.

If you deeply look at Zambia’s ruling parties from UNIP, to MMD, to PF and now UPND, the history behind their eventual loss of power or erosion of their support base all boils down to internal dissatisfaction and betrayals.

...PAGE 4

Anthrax outbreak threatens meat business

There is growing concern over an anthrax outbreak that is posing a threat to meat production. The outbreak, which has been reported in several Continents Europe, sub-sahara, Central and South America with Africa not exception, is believed to have been caused by contaminated animal feed.

The livestock sub sector accounts for almost 50% of the agricultural sector’s contribution to GDP and is a key sub sector with high potential for poverty reduction, livelihood security and economic growth. In terms of livestock rearing, the major livestock kept in Zambia are cattle, goats, sheep, pigs and poultry.

...PAGE 14

MPs to be paid mid-term gratuity

The budget allocation for salaries to the National Assembly has been doubled from K498 million in 2023 to K1 billion in 2024 under legislative management.

According to the detailed 2024 budget seen by the Zambian Business Times - ZBT, the doubled budget has been attributed to the provision for mid-term gratuities for members of parliament - MPs.

The current crop of MPs will clock mid term in February 2024, under the current election cycle that starts in August and gets dissolved in July every five years. With the exception of nominated MPs, those with constituencies face pressure to plough part of their pay into their support base.

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Sinoma Cement prices also increased

One of Zambia’s the large scale cement producers Mpande Limestone Ltd with brand name of its popular cement as Sinoma has revealed that they have also increased cement prices.

Sinoma has attributed the increase in cement prices to the current high cost of doing business. Industry leader Chilanga Cement has already announced an increase in their cement prices.

Speaking in an exclusive interview with the *Zambian Business Times – ZBT*, Mpande Limestone Ltd – Sinoma Officials confirmed that effective Monday 30th October 2023 all prices were increased by K4 due to high cost of doing business.

Cement prices are now an economically sensitive matter as the country is undertaking massive infrastructure projects of which cement is a key overall cost determinant.

Although other major cement producers are yet to confirm the percentage increase, the revelation from the two cement producers (Chilanga Cement who earlier confirmed a 10% increase) and now Mpande Limestone Ltd – Sinoma increase of about 5% has serious potential to negatively affect the construction sector.

The officials argued that, “we are increasing

because when bringing in most of the products that we use, the cost of fuel has gone up and then everything that we purchase be it locally we do it in dollar and then we resell cement in Kwacha.”

“So after calculations it was discovered that the company is running at a loss, so we are just trying to recover from that.”

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“So after calculations it was discovered that the company is running at a loss so we are just trying to recover from that.”

The officials who asked for their names to be withheld said the biggest contributor to this is fuel, “because all transporters that we use to bring in the raw product have actually also hiked their prices for us.”

Increasing the prices of cement can have various impacts which may also lead to high inflation and have an overall impact on the economy.



USAID Southern Africa Mobilizing Investment Partnership and Grants Fund Request for Concepts to Mobilize Investment in Southern Africa



Reference: G-APS 01 – USAID Southern Africa Mobilizing Investment - FY 2024

Potential partners are invited to propose creative, effective, and impactful innovations or approaches to addressing challenges that constrain investment in Southern Africa. USAID Mobilizing Investment is interested in working with entities such as, but not limited to, investors, financial institutions and non-bank financial institutions, including leasing, insurance and factoring companies, investment funds, asset consultants, asset allocators, pension fund trustees, fintech companies and financial sector associations, incubators, technology transfer offices, accelerators, university/business schools, professional networks, corporate enterprise development programs, BBBEE support organizations, and other NGOs engaged in the investment ecosystem to achieve scale through inclusive initiatives leading to increased attraction of investments. These entities should have the potential to leverage grant funding to raise or secure funding from investors within the region or internationally address systemic product or service gaps, or to address structural impediments that foster an uneven playing field for first time and disadvantaged investors. This may also include using the funds to access mechanisms to reduce risk and enable short- and medium-term finance to businesses.



Interested parties are invited to submit concepts that positively impact the broader Southern African economies of Angola, Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, and Zambia.

Scan the QR code to access the full APS documentation

Should you experience challenges with the link or if you have questions concerning this notice please email MI-grants@mobilizing-investment.com. This Annual Program Statement (APS) will have a rolling submission of which the first deadline is **December 15, 2024**; and the final closing deadline is **August 30, 2024. Please refer to the full APS documentation for important dates.**

How content piracy is making careers disappear

Content piracy is reducing opportunities for young creators to earn a living from their work. But the most insidious impact of entertainment content theft is how it undermines Africa’s ability to tell its own stories.

As content channels have evolved to provide entertainment on a plethora of devices and platforms, content piracy has evolved along with it.

Where piracy once involved banks of recording devices and cassette tapes, today, sophisticated stream-ripping technology is used to illegally re-distribute content from online platforms.

Producers, studios, and rights-holders find themselves in a technology arms race against pirates, working to develop content-security strategies along with their platforms, to protect their brand reputation, their revenue and the thousands of livelihoods that depend on the industry.

A new Parks Associates report shows the value of pirate video services accessed by pay TV and non-pay TV consumers will exceed \$67 billion this year. Those billions of dollars represent income stolen from content producers, entertainment platforms and production professionals all over the world.

In the United States, one industry report estimated that digital video piracy cost the economy between 230 000 and 560 000 jobs every year, and up to \$115.3 billion in reduced gross domestic product.

Another challenge that content industries face is that piracy is becoming endemic, and culturally accepted. Market research states that 34% of Gen-Z users use stream-ripping sites, and in the UK, fully 69% of visits to stream-ripping sites are direct visits, as opposed to coming from search.

In Africa, where resources are limited, piracy is also widespread. An Irdeto survey found that users in five major African territories made 17,4 million visits to the top 10 identified piracy sites on the internet in a single three-month period.

While piracy may seem unremarkable, it has direct human impacts. Where content is habitually stolen, the industries built on creating content for fair remuneration may cease to be viable. Jobs vanish, as does the content that reflects the lives of audiences.

“Piracy is theft,” says Frikkie Jonker, Irdeto’s Broadcasting and Cybersecurity: Anti-Piracy Director. “When people steal content, those productions stop being viable. Those stories are not told, and the people who create that content are not paid.”

Jonker says the same principle ap-

plies across the video content sector – to movies, sport, series, telenovelas, talk shows and documentaries. “At MultiChoice, we know that the television sector is a major economic multiplier in Africa, which directly and indirectly creates thousands of jobs,” he says. “Piracy threatens the existence of those jobs – and the wellbeing of communities across the continent.”

He cites the example of MultiChoice Nigeria’s work through Africa Magic, which has commissioned, produced and acquired more than \$85 million worth of local content.

Besides the entertainment industry itself, Africa Magic’s impact has made significant financial injections into adjacent industries such as the travel, hospitality, construction, and manufacturing sectors. All such investments are threatened by the scourge of piracy.

“Piracy has been shown to discourage creativity and innovation in the content sector, because creators and innovators may not receive the financial rewards they deserve for their work,” he continues.

On a broader level, piracy can also normalise the theft of intellectual property and undermine respect for the rule of law. It also exposes consumers to risks like malware, identity theft, fraud and other forms of dangerous cybercrime.

According to the Muso Piracy Data Overview, television piracy has grown by more than 10% in a year, and film piracy by almost 50%. It also found a growing trend in visits to digital piracy platforms – an 18% increase from 2021.

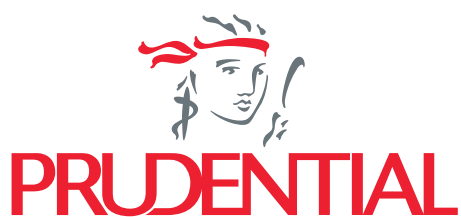
“If piracy continues unchecked, it means fewer African stories will be

told,” says Jonker. “Fewer local productions will be commissioned, and content producers will have fewer opportunities.”

MultiChoice Africa Holdings recently launched a continent-wide television campaign to make the point that piracy “untells” Africa stories and destroys jobs in the production and creative industries.

In line with this campaign, Jonker calls for African viewers to unite against piracy; to free Africa’s creatives to earn a living from their talent.

“If we can overcome piracy, we will liberate Africa’s creative economy and multiply its impact,” he says. “Thousands more jobs and careers will be created, and we will be able to give Africa’s people world-class entertainment that reflects their lives.”



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Inflation hits 12.6%

Annual inflation for October 2023 increased to 12.6 percent from 12.0 percent recorded in September, 2023. This development has been attributed to the increase in prices of food and non-food items.

The continued acceleration of Zambia’s inflation rate to have had several negative effects on the already struggling economy. This will likely lead to a decrease in purchasing power as prices of goods and services increase which would in turn lead to a decrease in consumer spending and a slowdown in economic activity. This will be particularly challenging for especially low-income households who are already struggling to afford basic necessities.

The 12.6 percent is against the central banks 6 – 8 percent target for this year.

According to the official statistics obtained by the Zambia Business Times – ZBT, of the overall 12.6 percent annual inflation, Lusaka province contributed the highest at 4.2 percentage points followed by Copperbelt and Central provinces which contributed 2.3 and 1.3 percentage points respectively.

Southern contributed 1.1 percentage points while North-western province had the lowest contribution of 0.4 percentage points.



ZESCO mute on alleged illegal load shedding in some parts of Lusaka



Concerns have arisen from some concerned members of the public in some parts of Lusaka who say they have been experiencing continuous power cuts a situation they suspect is the commencement of load shedding which has been a trend year in and year out.

The concerned citizens have however expressed worry that the situation may get worse with the commencement of the rainy season which they feel has great potential to worsen the situation.

When contacted for a comment the Zambia Electricity Supply Corporation Limited –ZESCO could not confirm nor deny the allegations.

The affected residents are however eagerly waiting to hear from the country’s power supply on if it’s indeed true and why the Company is not coming out publicly to notify the nation.

Areas that have been cited to have been experiencing such a challenge include Lusaka’s Ngombe area and Kaunda Square among others.

The illusion of “political” contribution & poverty in Zambian politics

Editorial

One of the biggest hurdles that ruling parties face after securing victory in especially countries like ours where poverty is widespread and opportunities are hard to come by, is to keep the support base intact.

If you deeply look at Zambia’s ruling parties from UNIP, to MMD, to PF and now UPND, the history behind their eventual loss of power or erosion of their support base all boils down to internal dissatisfaction and betrayals.

You see, in a country of fewer and in-between opportunities in private enterprise, or availability of jobs awarded on merit, discontentment starts to build and eventually consumes the ruling party. All party functionaries who previously worked as volunteers want to become full-time paid employees.

Today, this internal disillusionment and dissatisfaction is perhaps the biggest risk that the ruling UPND faces. Because of limited local enterprise opportunities, the high cost of living, and other productivity challenges, almost all UPND die-hard supporters end up looking for government jobs, government contracts, and government favors, some of which border on seeking appointments on tribal lines, nepotism and all sorts of justifications.

There are so many people today who were ardent UPND supporters who feel entitled to living a good life even if they don’t engage in productive activities, even if they were appointed and have lost their jobs out of their wrongdoing. Somehow, they still believe they contributed to the victory of the UPND in wresting power from the PF and that sense of entitlement continues for as long as the party remains in power.

This is the reason why it’s advisable for a ruling party in Zambia to seek broad-based national development, to get a better share from Mining exports, grow Zambia’s Agro exports and stabilize the Kwacha, to give jobs and business opportunities on merit rather than tribal or political party lines. It’s the only way out.

People need to understand that winning an election in Africa and in particular in Zambia, is more complex than meets an uninitiated eye. Most supporters of political parties end up with an illusion that they contributed heavily to the victory, but the reality is that the contribution weights or scales that the eventual winner president finds on ascending to the highest office are far more different.

Moreover, Zambia like most developing nations has income generation challenges,

and weak systems to ensure maximum collection of both tax and nontax revenues. Its economic and financial management systems are basic, with huge skills and exposure deficiencies. The country therefore ends up with no money for investments as most of the revenues collected are paid out as salaries, emoluments, and other consumption needs.

The other big challenge is the ownership structure of the Zambian economy. The fact that there are no major citizen-owned businesses and financiers entails that most citizens’ contribution to winning an election is reduced to merely lining up and casting a single ballot or making the loudest noise at political rallies or social media.

The real question is who will have more sway post elections between financiers and political party carders? How about the ones who pay for the political party campaign activities? How about the intelligence support that political parties receive both locally and from outside Zambia? How about the work of social engineers and social media tactics and strategies which today are key determinants in electoral outcomes? How about direct and indirect support from foreign governments through embassies and their contacts in Zambia?

This matrix of elements used to influence voter turnout and ultimate electoral results all need serious funding. And if we as Zambians continue to think that we can have our own government free of external financiers’ influence, to have a Government that acts in the best interest of the majority of Zambians and its collective long-term interests, we need to first own the various sectors society and command economic power.

The current high levels of poverty in the country if left unchecked, as you know which also leads to intellectual bankruptcy, will continue to lead to senseless politics that we are witnessing today. Even so-called educated people, our judiciary, and the legislature will continue to make decisions that are not in the interest of the nation but for securing the jobs of the appointees.

All in all, what is needed is a locally owned and controlled Zambian economy. Zambian ownership of key and strategic sectors needs to be supported and remain a strategic goal for the government. Otherwise, Zambians should brace for the election of one puppet after another, to endorsement of either Western or Eastern bloc-sponsored frontmen disguised as national leaders.





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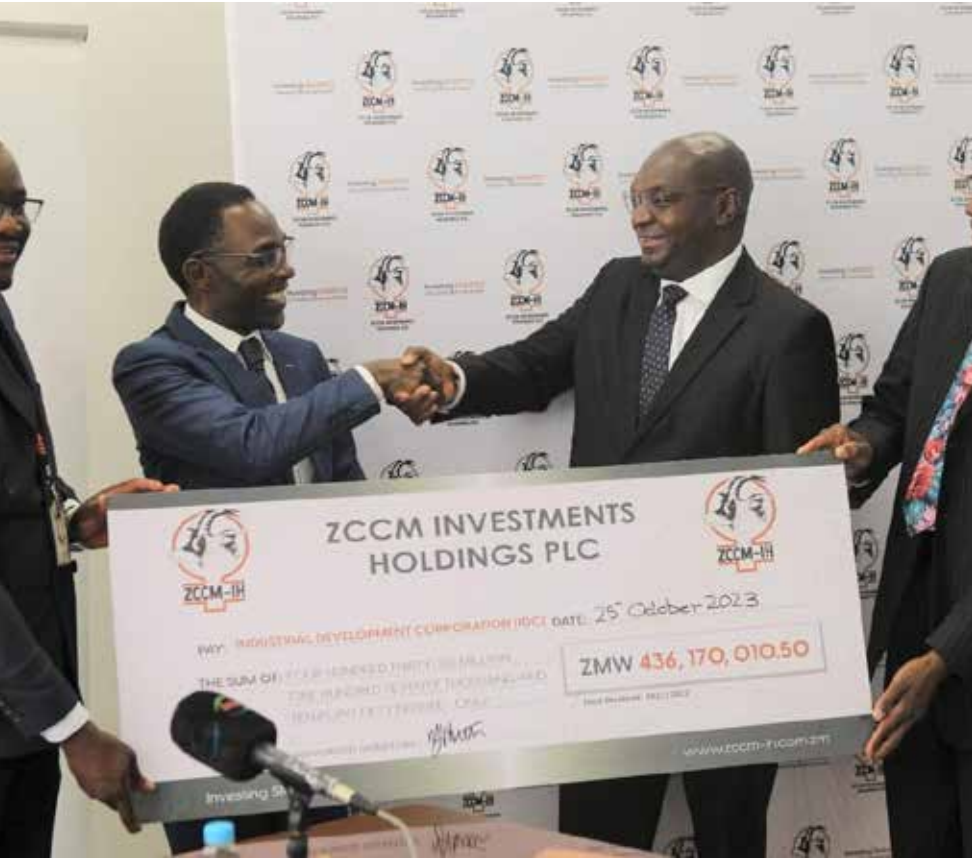
ZCCM IH profitability questioned

NB - For the financially initiated

Today, if you have \$1billion and invest in risk free fixed income fund, you would at a MINIMUM expect a return of about 5%. Let’s contrast this to the case of ZCCM-IH ZCCM - IH has total assets of about K23 billion (roughly about \$1 billion) as per 2020 audited financials, deployed mostly through investments in various companies, most of which are in the mining and other high return sectors.

In 2023 as per photo below and as per state owned holding company, the Industrial Development Corporation - IDC, they declare a dividend which pays out about K436 million over two financial years, meaning on a straight line allocation for the two years, on average pays out about K218 million (about \$10 million) per year. Now, talking ball pack figures were ZCCM - IH deploying total assets on behalf of the general public of over \$1 billion which pays out a dividend of about \$10 million per annum to majority shareholder IDC which holds about 63% ownership.

This works out to an average return on assets of \$10 million/\$1 billion which comes to about 1%. We ask again, Should there be smiles when handing over or receiving this cheque? Is the return on assets of over \$1 billion deployed over one year of 1% acceptable?? Are public assets being efficiently managed or deployed??



Eastern province inflation drops

Eastern province has as of the month of October 2023 recorded a reduction of about 2.5 percent in inflation to 10.5 percent from 12.8 percent recorded in September 2023.

This has been attributed to the reduced smuggling of mealie meals into neighboring countries, and the government’s intervention through the Zambia National Service – ZNS- by distributing cheaper mealie meals.

Eastern Province Deputy Secretary Beauty Phiri explained that the major drivers of inflation in the province were the issues of smuggling mealie and maize into Malawi thereby causing a lot of havoc in the province. She said with the government ensuring that mealie meal is just within Eastern Province, and not allowing anyone to take any maize meal, and maize to Malawi, the situation has quite improved. She said all measures have been put in place to ensure that maize and mealie meal is not exported out of Chipata into the neighboring countries, in addition to the mealie meal prices that have been stabilized which was one of the major factors affecting inflation in the Province.

Speaking in an exclusive interview with the *Zambian Business Times* –ZBT, Phiri disclosed that there is currently a mealie meal that is being brought in by the Zambia National Service ZNS which has helped to cushion and stabilize the prices within the province. “Government has managed to stabilize the prices of mealie meal, so you see that the inflation rate has quite gone down because no one is moving back and forth to go and either access mealie meal, or sell mealie meal at a very high rate so that it advantages their pockets, and not the people,” said Phiri.

Phiri reemphasized that the Eastern province borders two countries, and the main business is agricultural produce, which is taken to the other countries, and other countries bring into the province as well. “The fact that we are sitting at the borderline of Zambia, the other side of Eastern province, clearly tells us that our main activity is trading, and we trade with these agricultural products that we produce every year,” said Phiri.

Phiri disclosed that recently, the Eastern province has been a second contributor to the Gross Domestic Product –GDP- when it comes to agricultural products in the country, though it did not do well last year, only producing about 17, 000 metric tons.

She added that the maize produced in the province is the major trading point between Zambia and its two neighboring countries on the eastern side. She said this is what brings in most people as it is their core business. She said it is due to the reasons of reduced smuggling, and intervention by the government through ZNS that inflation in the province has reduced.

Zamstats inflation figures questioned

Lusaka Economist Yusuf Dodia has challenged the Zambia Statistical Agency - ZAMSTATS, to start releasing inflation statistics relevant to the general Zambian citizenry.

Speaking in an exclusive interview with the *Zambian Business Times* -ZBT, Dodia said the 12.6 percent ZAMSTATS inflation rate does not reflect the true picture of what is on the ground adding that Zambia’s inflation is around 20-30 percent.

“When you look at our society what are the key consumer products we are looking at mealie meal prices, minibus and taxi fares, the price of vegetables, meat, commodities such as clothing and so when you take these and decide to use these as parameters for calculating inflation, you find that inflation rate is running at about 20 to 30 %. So the question is which one of these inflation rates reflects what the people on the ground are actually facing? Consumer pricing index is the one that hits the nail on the head. So I am of the opinion that ZAMSTATS is not using the consumer pricing index as their mechanism in calculating inflation. The inflation rate they are giving us is not wrong but it might not be relevant to our general Zambian citizens,” Dodia said.

Dodia said Inflation rate is a subjective mechanism and depending on who is calculating it, they choose the parameters that they want to use when calculating it.

“We are being informed through the ZAMSTATS office that inflation rates went up from 12% to about 12.6%. But one wonders if this is reflecting the true picture on the ground. Inflation rate is very much a subjective mechanism and depending on the one who is calculating the inflation rate, they choose the parameters that they want to use when calculating it and that is where the subjectiveness comes in,” said Dodia.

Dodia explained that Consumer pricing index is the one that hits the nail on the head and is of the view that ZAMSTATS is not using the consumer pricing index as their mechanism in calculating inflation.

“If we were looking at Zambia and wanting to select three criteria for calculating inflation which would be the cost of primary and secondary education in Zambia, the cost of medical care in Zambia and the cost of commercial retail premises in terms of rentals. If we use those as our parameters to calculate inflation, we would see an inflation rate of 1% or 2% because we all know that education is free from grade 1 to 12 in Zambia unless you choose to go to a private school. We all know that under NHIMA the cost of medical services is almost free, children are not paying anything, retiree’s are not paying anything and those that are working are paying a token of k30 to k60 which is almost free. So that gives you a low inflation rate,”

“And when you look at commercial retail premises such as shopping malls you will that many shopping malls are under subscribed in terms of customers renting, rental prices are falling down and when you do a calculation on these three parameters you get a very low inflation rate. So one asks a question that how then do you calculate inflation? The most useful mechanism for calculating inflation that the public can appreciate is the consumer pricing index where you look at consumer prices. What are the most important consumer prices which impact on the people in a given society,” said Dodia.

Dodia emphasized that if we have low inflation rate that has not improved the lives of the people, then that inflation is simply an academic discussion and is meaningless to the average Zambians.

“if you get an inflation rate that is based on parameters that have very little influence on the day to day economy for every Zambian, you can hit the target of 6% by the end of next year and you prove to the people of Zambia that you have achieved that inflation rate but has it improved the lives of the people? If it hasn’t then it’s an academic discussion and it’s meaningless to the average Zambians. So for me the most important thing to do is to get the inflation rate calculation correct. In other words, use the formula for consumer pricing index to calculate the inflation rate for Zambian people and from there find out how expensive it is to do business in Zambia, what markets do we have in Zambia that we can exploit for the Zambian economy to grow, find out how we can support our small and medium enterprises to become the largest enterprises of tomorrow.

“These are the mechanisms that will grow the economy and bring down inflation rate but if you start with an inflation rate which is calculated from an academic angle, it becomes impossible to improve the economy,” said Dodia.

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Doc. Type: NOTICE		Valid From: August 2023
		No. 1

The Engineering Institution of Zambia (EIZ) will be holding its Annual Conference from Thursday 18th April 2024 to Saturday 20th April, 2024 at the Avani Victoria Falls Resort in Livingstone, Zambia. The Symposium theme is: **“Implementation of homegrown engineering solutions for economic recovery, building resilience and safeguarding livelihoods.”**

The Conference will begin with the **Official Opening and the Sponsors’ Forum on Thursday 18th April 2024**. The **Zambia Women in Engineering Section (ZWES) Conference will be held parallel to the EIZ Annual Symposium on Friday 19th April, 2024**. The Conference will end with the **EIZ Annual General Meeting** which will be held on **Saturday 20th April 2024**.

1. CONCEPT NOTE

The development of any country largely depends on the its engineering prowess. Engineering plays a vital role in addressing basic human needs by improving our quality of life and creating job opportunities for the citizens. Engineering professionals, therefore, have this huge responsibility that requires them to respond to human needs in order to make life bearable and worthy living, especially through the implementation of homegrown engineering solutions for economic recovery, building resilience and safeguarding livelihoods. Engineering professionals in Zambia, and Africa at large, should focus on the design of home-grown engineering solutions to address these peculiar needs.

The 2024 Symposium addresses how the engineering profession continues to evolve and adapt itself to contributing to sustainable national development and how the profession addresses itself to issues and challenges of the development agenda of Zambia, the Region and the world at large. This Conference will provide a platform to engineering researchers, educators and practitioners from both the academia and industry in the country and beyond to meet and share ideas and developments in achieving sustainable development through research-based and experiential industrial policies, and home-grown engineering solutions.

Therefore, the Engineering Institution of Zambia is inviting authors and innovators to contribute to the 2024 EIZ Annual Conference and Symposium by submitting articles that illustrate substantial contributions and proven experiences that describe significant advances or improvements in the areas under the following sub-themes;

- (a) Climate change: Addressing present and future water challenges.
- (b) Engineering adaption to information technology and artificial intelligence.
- (c) Entrepreneurship: Moving from theoretical to practical engineering.
- (d) Ethical issues and social responsibility in engineering (Professional behaviour).
- (e) Increasing capacity to the electricity grid through green energy and lean power generation.
- (f) Innovative Engineering curricula to suit existing and future demands and problems.
- (g) Sustainable and enhanced extractive mining methods and value addition.
- (h) Sustainable infrastructure development and engineering involvement in quality CDF delivery.

2. SUBMISSION GUIDLINES

Authors are invited to submit full papers for the Conference stating the category for their paper described under item (1) (by **Thursday, 30th November, 2023** via email to the Conference Organising Committee (at these addresses (all of them): rex.kalangu@eiz.org.zm, gmmunakaampe@unza.zm and cynthia.chiyabu@eiz.org.zm). Submissions must be original and should not have been published previously or be under consideration for publication while being evaluated by the EIZ Publications and Editorial Committee.

The papers submitted should not exceed **eight (8) pages** in length inclusive of figures, tables, pictures, graphs, etc (**Note that papers exceeding 8 pages will be rejected**). The papers must be in Microsoft

Word format, produced on A4 page in Times New Roman font type and 11 Point font size, single line spacing, and in a single column format. The margins should be 35 mm on the left and 25 mm on the other three sides of the page. For further guidance, authors are asked to refer to the **EIZ Symposium Full Paper Formatting Guidelines**, (please **click here: [EIZ Symposium manuscript guidelines and template](#)**) and the **Author Publication Guidelines** (please **click here: [EIZ Author Publication Guidelines 2021.pdf](#)** ([eiz.org.zm](#))). These sets of guidelines must be strictly adhered to as any departure from or ignorance of the same will lead to papers being rejected.

Submitted papers, in the given format, must contain the following sections as minimum requirements:

- (a) Title
- (b) Name of author(s) and institution(s) of affiliation with full postal address, e-mail address and phone number for the lead or corresponding author.
- (c) An abstract, not exceeding 150 words.
- (d) A minimum of five keywords (which MUST also appear in the abstract).
- (e) The main body of the paper. g
- (f) Conclusions and recommendations.
- (g) References (Harvard style; see **“References”** for guidance.)

References

The Harvard system should be used. Citations in the text should be quoted in the following manner: Alexander (2000) or (Simate and Mtonga, 1997) or if there are more than two authors, James, *et al.* (1990). Note that **“et al”** is *italicised*. References should be collected at the end of the paper in alphabetical order by the first author’s surname. If references to the same author have the same year, they must be differentiated by using, for example, 1995a and 1995b, etc. References should be complete (examples are given below) and verified at source by the author(s). Inclusion of confidential and restricted material or internal reports not readily accessible to readers should be avoided, as should personal communication.

Examples of References:

Journals

Garry, P. and Phiri, Z. (1970). Cost implications of industrial waste discharges. *Journal of the Engineering Institution of Zambia*, Vol. 2, pp. 32-40.

Ng’andu, A. N. and Simukanga, S. (2001). Stress analysis of mechanical components in mineral separation process plants at extremely high temperatures. *Journal of Process Plants*. Samuel and ST Publishing House, Lusaka, pp. 23-30.

Where possible, journal abbreviations should be used. If the abbreviation is not known, the journal title should be given in full.

Books

Rollson, E. C. (1949). Metallurgy for Engineers. Second Edition, pp. 62-82, London: Edward Arnold.

Conference Proceedings

Nkhuwa, D. C. W. (2000). Management of groundwater resources in Lusaka, Zambia, and expectations for the future, in Sililo, O. T. N., *et al.* (Eds.); Groundwater – Past Achievements and Future Challenges. Proc. XXX. Conf. Of the Ass. of Hydrogeol., pp. 993-998, Balkema, Rotterdam.

Reports

Chama, R. D. (1980). Interfacial structures in nickel-based transition joints after long term service. Report RD/M/N1131, Zambia Electricity Supply Corporation, Lusaka.

The Publications Committee adheres to a strict policy against plagiarism and any plagiarised content will not be accepted or entertained.

Papers to be presented during the conference will be published in a book of Conference Proceedings which shall be distributed to the participants in attendance.

3. IMPORTANT DEADLINES

Authors must pay particular attention to the under listed important deadlines:

- (a) Friday, 8th December, 2023 – **Deadline** for Receipt of Full Papers (**6 weeks**).

- (b) Wednesday,13th December, 2023 – Editorial Meeting – Appointment of Reviewers (**1 Day**).
- (c) Tuesday, 9th January, 2024 – Friday, 12th January, 2024 – Reviewers’ Camp (**½ Week**).
- (d) Friday, 19th January, 2024 – **Deadline** of Sending for corrections (**1 week**)
- (e) From Saturday, 20th January, 2024 – Correction process by the authors (**3 weeks**).
- (f) Friday, 9th January, 2024 – Deadline for Receipt of corrected papers and sending them to Reviewers for verification of corrections (**2 weeks**).
- (g) From Sunday, 25th February, 2024 to Saturday, 16th March, 2024 – Typesetting/Preparation of pdf eBook of Conference Proceedings and Conference Programme (**3 weeks**).
- (h) Sunday, 17th March, 2024 to Wednesday, 27th March, 2024 – Finalising/printing of Conference Programme (**1½ weeks**).
- (i) Thursday, 18th April, 2024 – Official Opening and Sponsors’ Forum (**1 Day**).
- (j) Friday, 19th April, 2024 – Zambia Women in Engineering Section (ZWES) Conference and Symposium - parallel activities (**1 Day**).

Authors are advised to take serious note of these very tight deadlines.

ADDRESS FOR COMMUNICATION The 2024 EIZ Symposium Engineering Institution of Zambia Stand No. 2374, Kelvin Siwale Road, Show Grounds, 10101, P.O. Box RW 51084 Lusaka, Zambia Tel/Fax: +260 (0)21 125 5161 Email : rex.kalangu@eiz.org.zm and/or cynthia.chiyabu@eiz.org.zm			
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IMPLEMENTATION OF HOMEGROWN ENGINEERING SOLUTIONS FOR ECONOMIC RECOVERY, BUILDING RESILIENCE AND SAFEGUARDING LIVELIHOODS			

Airtel posts increased revenue

Airtel Africa is a leading provider of telecommunications and mobile money services, with a presence in 14 countries in Africa, primarily in East Africa, Central and West Africa has posted an increase Results for half year ended 30 September 2023 in its customer base by 9.7% to 147.7 million, owing to the penetration of mobile data and mobile money services which have continued to rise, driving a 23.0% increase in data customers to 59.8 million and a 23.1% increase in mobile money customers to 36.5 million.

According to statement made available to the *Zambian Business - ZBT*, Mobile money transaction value increased by 45.3% in constant currency, with Q2’24 annualized transaction value of \$116bn in reported currency.

Airtel Africa is a leading provider of telecommunications and mobile money services, with a presence in 14 countries in Africa, primarily in East Africa, Central and West Africa. Airtel Africa offers an integrated suite of telecoms solutions to its subscribers, including mobile voice and data services as well as mobile money services, both nationally and internationally.

Airtel Africa Chief Executive Officer Olusegun Ogunsanya disclosed that revenue in constant currency grew by 19.7%, with reported currency revenues up by 2.3% to \$2,623m. He said In Q2’24, reported currency revenues declined by 4.7% reflecting a full quarter’s impact of the Nigerian naira devaluation in June 2023, and in Q2’24 constant currency revenues increased by 19.0%. He said whilst reported currency revenue growth was impacted by currency devaluation, all segments delivered double-digit constant currency revenue growth. Across the Group mobile services revenue grew by 18.3% in constant currency, driven by voice revenue growth of 11.5% and data revenue growth of 28.1%. Mobile money revenue grew by 30.9% in constant currency.

Ogunsanya further disclosed that EBITDA increased by 21.2% in constant currency, and 3.7% in reported currency to \$1.302m, with an EBITDA margin of 49.6%, reflecting a 70bps margin improvement over the prior period despite inflationary cost pressures and foreign exchange headwinds. “Reported currency EBITDA declined by 3.3% in Q2’24 as the full impact of the Nigerian naira devaluation in June 2023 was incorporated. Loss after tax was \$13m driven largely by a foreign exchange loss of \$471m recorded in finance cost before tax and \$317m after tax because of the devaluation of the Nigerian naira in June 2023”said Ogunsanya .

“I am pleased to report a strong operating performance for the Group despite foreign exchange headwinds in many of our markets and specifically in Nige-

ria. The resilient growth in voice, data and mobile money usage levels reflects the inherent demand for these essential services across our footprint, and our six-pillar ‘win-with’ strategy continues to ensure we capture this growth opportunity by expanding our customer base and providing the platform to enable increased usage across the network. This strong momentum is supported by continued cost efficiencies which enabled further EBITDA margin expansion” said Olusegun Ogunsanya Group Chief Executive Officer.

Ogunsanya noted that results for the first quarter as reported in July 2023 were significantly impacted by the changes to the FX market in Nigeria introduced by the country’s Central Bank. He said that whilst the changes are required for the long-term benefit of the Nigerian economy, the immediate impact of the naira devaluation continues to weigh airtel’s reported financial performance in the period.

He said Airtel’s focus remains to enhance long term value by continuing to drive sustained and efficient growth. “Over the last five years we have delivered constant currency revenue and EBITDA CAGR of 17.1% and 20.7% respectively, allowing us to further de[1]risk the balance sheet and improve profitability across the Group. Looking forward, the delivery of affordable and reliable telecom and mobile money services across our markets remains our key focus” said Ogunsanya. He said the company’s strong operating performance continues to make it a stronger and bigger, well positioned to deliver against the growth opportunities markets offer. He said despite the challenges of rising digit prices in Nigeria, Airtel aims to limit the impact with continued operational leverage and further cost efficiencies to deliver an improved EBITDA margin in FY’24 versus FY’23.

Ogunsanya further disclosed that revenue in reported currency grew by 2.3%, with constant currency growth of 19.7% for the Group. Airtel noted that the gap in constant and reported currency revenue growth of 17.4% in H1’24 is primarily due to the impact of average currency devaluations between the periods, mainly in the Nigerian naira (51.7%), the Zambian kwacha (14.9%), the Kenyan shilling (19.3%), the Malawi kwacha (10.6%), the Madagascar aviary (8.8%) and the Tanzania shilling (4.0%), in turn, partially offset by appreciation in the Central African franc (4.9%). Airtel noted that double digit constant currency revenue growth was posted across all reporting segments. In mobile services, revenue in Nigeria was up by 21.7%, East Africa up by 20.6% and Francophone Africa by 10.9%, respectively. Group mobile services revenue grew by 18.3%, with voice revenue growth of 11.5%, data revenue growth of 28.1% and other revenues growing

by 19.0%. Mobile money revenue grew by 30.9% in constant currency, driven by growth of 34.9% in East Africa and 18.7% in Francophone Africa, respectively.

He disclosed that total finance costs increased from \$358m to \$873m during the period. The primary driver of this increase was the \$471m exceptional item reflecting the revaluation impact of USD balance sheet liabilities and derivatives in Nigeria following the naira devaluation in June 2023 (for a more detailed explanation, refer to the Q1’24 RNS). Excluding this exceptional item, finance costs increased by \$44m largely as a result of increased debt in the operating entities which carries a higher average interest rate.

It was also disclosed that revenue increased to \$2,623m, up by 2.3% in reported currency and by 19.7% in constant currency driven by both customer base growth of 9.7% and ARPU growth of 9.8%. Reported revenues declined by 4.7% in Q2’24 reflecting the full impact of the Nigerian naira devaluation in June 2023. The constant currency revenue growth was partially offset by average currency devaluations between the periods, mainly in the Nigerian naira (51.7%), the Zambian kwacha (14.9%), the Kenyan shilling (19.3%), the Malawi kwacha (10.6%), the Madagascar aviary (8.8%) and the Tanzania shilling (4.0%) in turn partially offset by appreciation in the Central African franc (4.9%).

Ogunsanya emphasised the Group provides telecoms and mobile money services in 14 emerging markets of sub-Saharan Africa. It was noted that the markets are characterised by huge geographies with relatively sparse populations, high population growth rates, and high proportions of youth, low smartphone penetration, low data penetration and relatively unbanked populations. Unique mobile user penetration across the Group’s footprint is around 48%, and banking penetration remains under 50%. He these indicators illustrate the significant opportunity still available to Airtel Africa to enhance both digital and financial inclusion in the communities we serve, enriching and transforming their lives through digitalisation, whilst at the same time growing our revenues profitably across each of our key services of voice, data and mobile money.

He said the Group will continue to invest in its network and distribution infrastructure to enhance both mobile connectivity and financial inclusion across its countries of operation. ‘In particular, we continued to invest in expanding our 4G network footprint to increase data capacity in our networks to support future business growth, as well as deploying new sites, especially in rural areas, to enhance coverage and connectivity” said Ogunsanya.

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Copper Export Earnings drop by 10%

According to recent official statistics, the earnings from copper exports in Zambia have seen a significant drop of about 10 percent which could potentially have a negative impact on the country’s economy, as copper is the country’s main export.

Export earnings from refined copper in September 2023 decreased by 7.6 percent to K10.8 billion from K11.7 billion in August 2023.

According to the official statistics obtained by the

Business Times – ZBT, Copper export volumes during the month of September 2023 decreased by 11.9 percent to 64.1 thousand metric tons from 72.8 thousand metric tons in August 2023.

Further, copper prices on the LME market for the corresponding months decreased by 1.0 percent to US\$8,270.9 per metric ton in September 2023 from US\$8,351.8 per metric ton in August 2023.

Meanwhile, the cumulative vol-

ume of refined copper exported from January to September 2023 was 594.7 thousand metric tons while that of 2022 for the same period was 669.8 thousand metric tons representing an 11.2 percent decrease.

Experts have since advised the government to focus on diversifying the economy and reducing reliance on a single commodity to avoid such situations in the future.



Hope for Kasenseli gold mine re-opening dims

Zambia’s gold reserve build-up has dragged following the Government’s indecision to reopen the Kasenseli gold mine and some Challenges to purchasing gold from the Kansanshi mines.

Zambia’s cumulative refined gold reserves in monetary form as of July 2023, stood at United States Dollars USD \$114 million when it is expected to be above \$200 by this time.

The Central Bank, the Bank of Zambia – BoZ which holds Zambia’s Gold reserves, disclosed to the *Zambian Business Times* – ZBT – that the bank has this year bought only about US\$25 million up to July 2023.

Deputy Governor for Operations Dr. Francis Chipimo noted that regarding gold, there is a need to diversify sources of reserves. “The bank has been buying gold and has this year bought about US\$25 million up to July and are around US\$114 million in terms of the cost.

He said the gold prices have improved since then so the market value is a little higher. “This also I think has been recognized

across governments, so I know that on the government side, they are looking at, how can we better organize critical minerals which are there, and how can we set up a system in which we can bring in the small scale producers in an organized way,” said Chipimo.

He re-emphasized that hat for the central bank to hold gold, it must be a bullion standard, and must demonstrate that it was mined in the right way.

He said this is important purely on the liquidity side because the gold bought now is stored in London and can be traded, and is a strong asset in the country’s reserve.

“So how we mine it, the way that we can show that it has been mined properly will be important, but the government is certainly working on that, we are part of those efforts that have been going on, and hopefully we will be able to structure a way in which can purchase gold.” He remarked.

The Central Bank Deputy Governor was speaking when responding to a question by the

Zambian Business Times on what the Central Bank is doing to revive the alternative gold reserve following the recent gold scandal at the KKIA Airport.

The Bank of Zambia BoZ act, BoZ is permitted to hold Gold as part of the country’s international services. In this regard, the Bank purchases Gold to help to build the level of international reserves.

Bank of Zambia Governor Dr. Denny Kalyalya had earlier been challenged to use the current opportunity of locally existing gold to stockpile gold reserves to a size-able value of over \$1 billion to have an alternative lever to fall back on in the event of a steep drop in global commodity prices with Zambia still dependent on copper exports accounting for over 70% of total exports.

The Central Bank purchases gold from First Quantum Minerals – FQM’s Kansanshi Mine where the highest amount of gold is expected to be purchased as Kasenseli gold mine remains closed.



NUMAW calls for urgent action on Mopani

The mine union has urged the government to announce an investor to take over Mopani and provide the necessary funds to recapitalize the Mine.

Copper Production output at Mopani Copper Mines Plc a multi-faceted mining investment with operations in Kitwe and Mufulira districts of the Copperbelt Province, has continued dropping due to operational challenges caused by lack of investment.

According to the consolidated 2023 half-year mineral report obtained by the *Zambian Business Times* – ZBT, copper output at Mopani decreased by about ten percent from about 20, 000 metric tons produced in the first half-year of 2022 to now about 17, 000 in the first half of 2023.

At a time when copper prices are at about \$8, 100 per ton, the mine has lost over \$12 billion in the first half-year of 2023.

Speaking in an exclusive interview with the *Zambian Business Times*, NUMAW President Saul Simujika emphasized that the government needs to act fast to avoid any negative impact on production.

With Mopani being a major contributor to Zambia’s copper production, any delays or disruptions could have further ripple effects throughout the country’s economy hence the need for the government to take action to prevent any further delays and secure the mine’s success.

NUMAW president said although so many announcements have been made the union still awaits for the final announcement of the investor to take over the Mine.

“So we are hoping that this will be done as soon as possible as you may be aware that Mopani is still limping just like Konkola Copper Mines – KCM.”

NUMAW notes that even when it is believed that there is a thorough process, there is still need for the Government to expedite the process as further delays may have a ripple effect on the economy. “Our word to Government as they are doing these considerations, time is also of essence so that they don’t lose the mine.”

He said, “As for the workers we are still eagerly waiting for the recapitalizing of the mine which is long overdue. Everybody is affected with the delay to recapitalize the mine and we are hoping that the new investor will be announced before end of this year.”

with only a moth left to conclude the year, Government’s promises to have an investor to take over Mopani have not materialized and NUMAW hoped that the new investor will be announced before end of 2023.



Zambia Airports Corporation Limited awarded

Zambia Airports Corporation Limited (ZACL) in partnership with Wildlife Crime Prevention (WCP) Zambia, is thrilled to announce that Kenneth Kaunda International Airport has been awarded the Environment and Sustainable Development (ESD) Award for its outstanding commitment to combatting wildlife trafficking.

The award, presented by Airports Council International (ACI) at the just ended 70th ACI Africa Regional Conference and Exhibition held from 14 to 20 October 2023 in Dakar, Senegal, is a testament to the relentless efforts both organisations have put in place to curb this illegal activity and conserve local and international wildlife.

Zambia is known as a source country for pangolin scales and ivory amongst other wildlife products traded. ZACL has therefore continued to spearhead campaigns against illegal wildlife trafficking through its air-

ports. This is in fulfilment of its commitment to promote environmental sustainability as part of the Corporations 2022-2026 Strategic Plan to maintain an efficient and effective airport operation.

Wildlife trafficking has widely been used in the aviation network which efficiently facilitates trade owing to the fast mode of travel. Illegal wildlife trade has environmental, economic, and security as well as health and safety-related consequences ranging from creating ecological imbalances, loss of GDP, financing organised crimes, and spread of zoonotic diseases. It is estimated to be the fourth largest illegal trade following drugs, counterfeit goods, and human trafficking.

In 2019, ZACL partnered with WCP Zambia, a non-profit organisation and the Department of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPW), under the Ministry of Tourism, on an ongoing program intended to create

global awareness about the importance Zambia places on illegal wildlife trade at all the four international airports.

In 2021, the trio embarked on an awareness campaign: “WorthMoreAlive” which was successfully launched in 2022. The campaign contains informative posters carrying wildlife protection messaging and a display of life-sized wildlife installations aimed at invoking emotions and highlighting the importance of protecting wildlife with informative tags placed beside them. These installations included an elephant, a leopard, and a rhino. Furthermore, ZACL revised its Environmental Policy in 2022 to include a commitment of zero tolerance to wildlife trafficking through its airports.

These efforts to combat wildlife trafficking were recognised by ACI Africa and attracted a recognition award for the airport’s dedication to environmental protection.

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FULL YEAR RESULTS

In accordance with the requirements of the Securities Act No. 41 of 2016,
Zambia Sugar Plc announces its results for the 12 month period ended 31st August 2023.

SUMMARISED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

	Group		Company	
	Audited 12 months ended		Audited 12 months ended	
	August 2023	August 2022	August 2023	August 2022
	K '000	K '000	K '000	K '000
Revenue	5 827 704	5 111 776	5 827 704	5 111 776
Operating profit	1 248 171	1 242 498	1 174 504	1 101 182
Dividend Income	-	-	78 972	86 342
Exchange movements on leases	(12 658)	11,174	(12 658)	11,174
Net finance costs	(39 658)	(74 196)	(52 452)	(80 717)
Profit before taxation	1 195 855	1 179 476	1 188 366	1 117 981
Taxation	(260 223)	(174 328)	(247 083)	(157 008)
Profit for the period	935 632	1 005 148	941 283	960 973
Profit attributable to:				
Shareholders of Zambia Sugar Plc	935 632	1 005 148	941 283	960 973
	935 632	1 005 148	941 283	960 973
Determination of headline earnings				
Profit attributable to shareholders of Zambia Sugar Plc	935 632	1 005 148	941 283	960 973
Headline earnings for the period	935 632	1 005 148	941 283	960 973
Number of shares in issue ('000)	316 571	316 571	316 571	316 571
Weighted average number of shares in issue ('000)	316 571	316 571	316 571	316 571
Basic and diluted earnings per share (ngwee)	295.6	317.5	297.3	303.6
Dividend per share (ngwee)	349.0	94.4		
- Final proposed	349.0	94.4		

SUMMARISED CONSOLIDATED SEGMENTAL ANALYSIS

	Group		Company	
	Audited 12 months ended		Audited 12 months ended	
	August 2023	August 2022	August 2023	August 2022
	K '000	K '000	K '000	K '000
Revenue				
Sugar production	4 426 316	3 531 450	4 426 316	3 531 450
Cane growing	1 401 388	1 580 326	1 401 388	1 580 326
	5827 704	5 111 776	5 827 704	5 111 776
Operating profit				
Sugar production	1 199 038	783 556	1 199 043	783 572
Cane growing	49 133	458 942	(24 539)	317 610
	1 248 171	1 242 498	1 174 504	1 101 182

SUMMARISED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

	Group		Company	
	August 2022	August 2023	August 2022	August 2023
	K '000	K '000	K '000	K '000
Share capital and share premium				
Balance at beginning and end of the year	247 338	247 338	247 338	247 338
Non-Distributable Reserves				
Balance at beginning of the year	40	40	40	40
Balance at end of the year	40	40	40	40
Dividend Reserve				
Dividends declared	298 843	267 503	298 843	267 503
Dividends paid	(298 843)	(267 503)	(298 843)	(267 503)
Balance at end of the year	-	-	-	-
Retained Earnings				
Balance at beginning of the year	3 068 081	2 330 436	2 785 068	2 091 598
Profit for the year	935 632	1 005 148	941 282	960 973
Dividend reserve movement	(298 843)	(267 503)	(298 843)	(267 503)
Balance at end of the year	3 704 870	3 068 081	3 427 507	2 785 068
Total Equity	3 952 248	3 315 459	3 674 885	3 032 446

SUMMARISED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	Group		Company	
	August 2023	August 2022	August 2023	August 2022
	K '000	K '000	K '000	K '000
Assets				
Property, plant and equipment	2 110 201	1 926 526	1 951 383	1 773 809
Intangible asset	67 902	67 902	-	-
ROU Assets	123 498	47,800	123,498	47,800
Investment in subsidiary	-	-	177 163	177 163
Growing cane	595 776	589 538	491 330	492 328
Inventories	1 251 385	1 395 034	1 217 412	1 363 724
Trade and other receivables	562 238	698 811	534 020	662 332
Other current assets	332	1 164	332	1 164
Cash and bank balances	877 924	172 780	876 262	171 965
Total assets	5 589 256	4 899 555	5 371 400	4 690 285
Equity and liabilities				
Equity attributable to shareholders	3 952 248	3 315 459	3 674 886	3 032 446
Lease Liabilities	166,489	73,025	166,489	73,025
Deferred tax liability	266 314	261 441	234 429	230 238
Long and short-term borrowings	-	54 602	-	54 602
Bank overdraft	39 061	97 654	39 061	97 654
Current liabilities	1 165 144	1 097 374	1 256 535	1 202 320
Total equity and liabilities	5 589 256	4 899 555	5 371 400	4 690 285

SUMMARISED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

	Group		Company	
	Audited 12 months ended		Audited 12 months ended	
	August 2023	August 2022	August 2023	August 2022
	K '000	K '000	K '000	K '000
Cash operating profit	1 465 098	1 303 661	1 381 967	1 176 330
Working capital movements	306 014	(300 396)	287 180	(283 554)
Finance costs, taxation and dividends paid	(319 385)	(275 982)	(316 368)	(271 744)
Net cash outflows from operating activities	1 451 727	727 283	1 352 779	621 032
Net cash outflows from investing activities	(307 672)	(178 811)	(209 571)	(71 124)
Net cash outflows before financing activities	1 144 055	548 472	1 143 208	549 908
Net cash outflows from financing activities	(380 318)	(649 065)	(380 318)	(649 065)
Increase/(Decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	763 737	(100 593)	762 890	(99 157)
Cash and Bank Balances				
Opening bank and cash balance	75 126	175 719	74 311	173 468
Closing bank and cash balance	838 863	75 126	837 201	74 311
Movement	763 737	(100 593)	762 890	(99 157)

COMMENTARY FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Financial Performance Review

Total revenue for the year ended 31 August 2023 grew by 14% to K5.827 billion largely driven by a 12% improvement in the weighted average selling price for domestic and export sales. Sales to the export market increased by 28% driven by strong regional demand, good logistics management and availability of stocks following the slowdown in domestic demand. Compared to the previous year, domestic sales volume was negatively impacted by the influx of illegal imports, and low disposable income for rural households. The Company responded by implementing promotions and intense advertising campaign and managed to recover some of the lost market share.

Operating profit for the year was K1.248 billion compared to K1.243 billion in the previous year. The improvement in performance is due to improved price realisation and cost management despite significant increases in key input costs (fertilisers, chemicals, electricity, employee costs, packaging and fuel). Overall, costs increased by 10% which was in line with inflation.

Finance costs for the year ended 31 August 2023 decreased by K35 million to K40 million improving interest cover from 16.7 to 31.5 times. The business closed with a positive cash position after paying the outstanding long-term debt of K42 million.

Profit after-tax for the year ended 31 August 2023 decreased by K70 million to K935 million due to a 3% increase in effective tax rate.

Headline earnings for the year ended 31 August 2023 decreased to K935 million from K1 005 million for the previous year. Earnings per share decreased by 7% from 317.5 ngwee per share to 295.6 ngwee per share.

Dividend

The Board has recommended a total dividend of 349 ngwee per share (2022 - 94.44 ngwee) to be considered for approval by shareholders at the Annual General Meeting scheduled for 28 November 2023. The total dividend will amount to K1 104 million.

This consists of a base dividend of 191 ngwee and a special dividend of 158 ngwee. The company has a dividend policy of distributing up to 50% of free cash flow and this maximum figure amounting to 191 ngwee is recommended and forms the base dividend. Recognising the strength of the balance sheet following 3 years of earnings above K1 billion and the repayment of all long-term debt, the directors have also recommended a once off special dividend of 158 ngwee per share.

By order of the Board

Harriet Kapekele – Katongo
Company Secretary

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AN ILLOVO SUGAR AFRICA COMPANY

NOTICE OF 62ND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the 62nd annual general meeting of the members of the Company will be held virtually on <https://eagm.creg.co.zw/eagm/Login.aspx> and at the **Intercontinental Hotel, Lusaka, Zambia on Tuesday, 28 November 2023 at 09h00**. The voting at the Annual General Meeting will be electronically on <https://eagm.creg.co.zw/eagm/Login.aspx>

1. Minutes of the previous meeting

To receive and confirm the minutes of the 61st Annual General Meeting held on 24 November 2022.

2. Financial statements

To receive and adopt the Directors' Report and the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2023, together with the Auditor's Report thereon.

3. Ordinary Resolutions

To consider and, if deemed fit, to pass, with or without modification, the following ordinary resolutions:

3.1 Ordinary resolution number 1: Re-election of a Director retiring by rotation

To re-elect Mr Dipak Patel, who retires by rotation, and who, being eligible, offers himself for re-election. Based on the recommendations of the Remuneration and Nomination Committee, which has conducted a formal assessment of Mr Dipak Patel, the Board recommends his re-election to shareholders. His details are set out on page 54 of the Annual Report.

3.2 Ordinary resolution number 2: Re-election of a Director retiring by rotation

To re-elect Mrs Roseta Chabala, who retires by rotation, and who, being eligible, offers himself for re-election. Based on the recommendations of the Remuneration and Nomination Committee, which has conducted a formal assessment of Mrs Roseta Chabala, the Board recommends her re-election to shareholders. Her details are set out on page 54 of the Annual Report.

3.3 Ordinary resolution number 3: Approval of Directors' fees

That the fees for the Independent Non-Executive Directors for the year ending 31 August 2024 be maintained as prior year as follows:

- K 285 000 for a Board member;
- K 297 500 for a Board member/Committee member; and
- K 338 750 for the Board Chairman.

3.4 Ordinary resolution number 4: Appointment of the Independent Auditor

Pursuant to the requirements of sections 257(1) of the Companies Act No. 10 of 2017, and as nominated by the Company's Audit Committee, to resolve that EY be re-appointed as the Company's Independent Registered Auditor for the financial year ending 31 August 2024 and to authorise the Directors to determine their remuneration.

3.5. Ordinary resolution number 5: Declaration of final dividend

The Directors recommend that a dividend of 349 ngwee per share be paid for the financial year ending 31 August 2023. It is noted that in terms of Company's Articles, the Company may only declare a dividend if the Directors have recommended a dividend.

5. Other business

To transact such other business as may be transacted at an Annual General Meeting of members.

A member entitled to attend and vote at the meeting is entitled to appoint a proxy to attend speak and vote in his/her stead. The proxy need not be a member of the Company. Proxy forms should be forwarded so as to reach the Company's registered office or the share transfer secretaries not later than 48 hours before commencement of the Annual General Meeting.

By order of the Board

Mrs Harriet Kapekele-Katongo
COMPANY SECRETARY

Anthrax outbreak threatens meat business

There is growing concern over an anthrax outbreak that is posing a threat to meat production. The outbreak, which has been reported in several Continents Europe, sub-sahara, Central and South America with Africa not exception, is believed to have been caused by contaminated animal feed.

The livestock sub sector accounts for almost 50% of the agricultural sector’s contribution to GDP and is a key sub sector with high potential for poverty reduction, livelihood security and economic growth. In terms of livestock rearing, the major livestock kept in Zambia are cattle, goats, sheep, pigs and poultry.

Meats are excellent sources of some of the minerals, such as iron, copper, zinc and manganese, and play an important role in the prevention of zinc deficiency, and particularly of iron deficiency which is widespread. The anthrax outbreak is however likely to have a significant impact on the production especially butchery sales as people are avoiding purchasing meat products due to concerns about contamination.

Several Butcheries dotted around the country have lamented that the outbreak has negatively affected their customer turnout as most people are now scared.

Health officials are urging farmers to take precautions to prevent the spread of the disease and to ensure that their livestock are vaccinated. The outbreak has already led to the culling of thousands of animals and could have a significant impact on the meat industry if it is not contained.

In an interview with the Zambian business times – ZBT, some meat producers confirmed that the anthrax outbreak has affected their productions and the sales which is now threatening their businesses.

Expert call for immediate action on declining agricultural exports



Economist Trevor Hambayi has called on government to seriously look at factors contributing to the reduction in the export of agricultural products.

According to the Zambia statistics agency (ZAMSTATS) October monthly report, export earnings from agricultural products decreased by 17.5 percent to k2.0 billion in September 2023 from k2.4 billion in august 2023. The major export commodities were other raw cane sugar accounting for 14.1 percent, tobacco, partly or wholly stemmed / stripped (12.5%) and other corn seed (10.4%).

Speaking in an exclusive interview with the Zambian business times – ZBT, Mr. Hambayi said there are a lot of cash crops that the country should be exporting that support the agriculture sector and that Zambia has the capacity to produce them in qualities needed for the export market.

Hambayi noted that government has not done enough in terms of creating a conducive environment to support all farmers and the private sector to maximize the export potential of the country.

try.

He said that it is so unfortunate that as a country driving at export diversification, we are getting reductions in the export of agriculture products.

“We must look very seriously at what factors are contributing towards the reduction in the export of our agricultural products. But also what we do find is that there are a lot of cash crops that we should be exporting that should be supporting the agriculture sector such as soya beans, sunflower, cotton and tobacco. All these particular products that we have, we have the capacity to be able to be produce them in qualities that need the export market,” he said.

“So essentially I think as a country we have not done enough to be able to create an environment that is strong enough to support all our farmers and the private sector to be able to maximize the export potential of the country. It is very unfortunate that as a country that is driving at export diversification from the mining sector to agriculture, we find that we are getting reductions in the export of agriculture products.

The second aspect that we also see is that we’ve also been experiencing a reduction in exports from the mining sector because we have not produced as much cooper during the year,” said Hambayi.

Meanwhile, Hambayi noted that Zambia would have achieved a high export of agricultural products because there was a very high demand of maize a few months ago which should have moved to the export sector.

“Technically speaking, you would have thought that in the last few months Zambia would have achieved a very high export of agricultural products because there was a very high demand of maize which we have excess surplus in terms of production which we then should have moved to the export sector. Even though we are speaking about having to be able to put strategies to be able to increase our non-traditional exports driven by the agricultural sector, the numbers are saying that we are actually progressing in terms of achieving this,” said Hambayi.



Mealie-meal prices hit K370 in Luapula

The residents of Chienge and Nchelenge have been forced to pay exorbitant prices for mealie meal, which has caused great hardship for many families.

The residents of these areas have been denied access to the cheaper mealie meal provided by the Zambia National Service – ZNS – which has failed to reach their communities, leaving them with no affordable options for this staple food.

The ZNS was engaged to provide affordable mealie meal to the people of Zambia, but its efforts have not been seen by all Zambians.

According to the statistics from the Zambia Statistics Agency –ZAMSTATS, for the month of October 2023, Mealie meal in Chienge, and Nchelenge districts in Luapula province is trading at K370 for a 25 kg bag of Breakfast meal, and K305 for a 25 kg bag of Roller meal respectively.

Many believe that the government should provide more support to the ZNS so that it can fulfill its mandate of providing affordable mealie meal to all Zambians. But for now, the people of Chienge and Nchelenge continue to struggle with the high cost of this basic necessity.

The Luapula Chamber of Commerce attributed the high mealie meal prices to the lack of reach by the Zambia National Service –ZNS- Eagle’s Mealie meal to the affected areas in the province due to the far flung status of their terrain.

Speaking in an exclusive interview with the Zambian Business Times –ZBT, the Chamber president Emmanuel Musanje said ZNS has not yet spread to those areas, hence there is no competition to help cushion the price of mealie meal. “Cheaper mealie meal from the National Service is predominantly around areas where there is ShopRite outlets,

but as soon as they roll out to those areas, others will have no option, but to drop” said Musanje. He said one of the factors is that they have not received cheaper mealie meal from ZNS as result of the distance factor.

It has been almost two months since the Zambia National Service –ZNS- began distributing the Eagle’s Mealie meal to outlets such as Shoprite to help cushion the high prices of mealie meal on the local market, and address the concerns of the people by providing a cheaper alternative.

Musanje however noted that there is only one ShopRite outlet in Luapula province which is in Mansa, and one ZNS base. He said there is need for more ZNS agencies around the province in order to arrest the rise in mealie meal prices in the affected areas of the province.

Mansa airport preliminary rehabilitation works commence

Mansa airport is undergoing preliminary rehabilitation work to improve its safety and efficiency. The project, which began recently, has been long-awaited by residents and travelers in the area. The rehabilitation works are being carried out by the Zambia Airports Corporation Limited (ZACL), which is responsible for the management of all airports in the country.

Luapula province Permanent Secretary Mighty Mumba has disclosed that preliminary works have begun for the rehabilitation of the Mansa Airport in Luapula Province.

The Mansa the Airport is one of the four airports earmarked for rehabilitation. Other airports include, Mongu, Mbala, and Solwezi airports, with 700.7 million kwacha set aside for all together with the development of Chin-sali, Choma, and Kasaba Bay Airports.

In an exclusive interview with the Zambian Business Times –ZBT, Mr Mumba said the contractor is already on sight undertaking the necessary preliminary works, and are yet to meet to share the scope of works, and discuss on what is contained in the contract that will be executed.

Mumba said that some of the issues that were being highlighted included the absence of lighting. He noted that Mansa airport has not had a lighting system to allow plains to land and take off in the night which will be part of the contract.

He also mentioned that there was talk of enhancing security around the airport, and putting up of cold storage facilities. “These were the issues that we

have been talking about, but in terms of the actual content of the contract, and what is supposed to be implemented now after the contract has been awarded, I am not preview to it, until after the courtesy call on my office” said Mumba.

The Mansa airport rehabilitation works are an important step towards improving the infrastructure and connectivity in Zambia.

Once the rehabilitation works are complete, the Mansa airport is expected to be safer and more efficient, which will benefit both residents and travelers.

With continued investment in key sectors such as aviation, the country is well-positioned to achieve sustained economic growth and development in the years ahead.



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MPs to be paid mid-term gratuity in Q1 2024

The budget allocation for salaries to the National Assembly has been doubled from K498 million in 2023 to K1 billion in 2024 under legislative management.


According to the detailed 2024 budget seen by the *Zambian Business Times* - ZBT, the doubled budget has been attributed to the provision for mid-term gratuities for members of parliament - MPs.

The current crop of MPs will clock mid term in February 2024, under the current election cycle that starts in August and gets dissolved in July every five years. With the exception of nominated MPs, those with constituencies face pressure to plough part of their pay into their support base.

Mid-term gratuity payment was introduced during late President Rupiah Banda’s regime. Before that, MPs like all other public and civil servants were paid at the end of the five year term.

But with the current ‘no money in circulation’ complaints by players in the local market, coupled with the continued depreciation of the Kwacha and the high cost of living, its financially better to get the part payment as mid term as monetary value risk further erosion over the remaining half of the term of office. What however is worrying is that almost all government departments and spending units are spending over 70% of their budget allocations on non - infrastructure spend.

Government needs to find innovative ways to continue aggressive investments into infrastructure which is needed to support notable growth. The current GDP growth targets of below 7% is not enough to spur economic development and drag the majority of Zambian citizens out of poverty.



AGRICULTURAL & COMMERCIAL
COOPERATIVE SOCIETY
OF ZAMBIA LIMITED

BOARD MEMBER NOMINATIONS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to all Members of Agricultural and Commercial Cooperative Society of Zambia Limited that there will be an **Annual General Meeting on Friday, 15th December 2023**, at Members’ Pavilion, Show Grounds, Lusaka starting at **14:00 hours**.

There will be Ten (10) vacancies to be contested for on the Board. Eligible members wish to contest for vacancies on the Board are to submit nomination papers to ACSZ Electoral Committee through the ACSZ Administration Office. All nominations from fully paid-up Members must be submitted on or before 18th November 2023.

Mukamba Mwiya
CHIEF EXECTIVE OFFICER/SECRETARY

2024 Theme: *“Creating a Competitive Future”*

Zambia Sugar revenue up 14%

The Zambia Sugar, one of the leading sugar producers in Zambia, has reported a significant increase in its revenue for the year ended 31 August 2023.

According to the company’s financial report, its revenue grew by an overwhelming 14% increase to K5.827 billion driven by a number of factors including a 12% improvement in the weighted average selling price for domestic and export sales which contributed heavily to this development.

Sales to the export market increased by 28% driven by

strong regional demand, good logistics management and availability of stocks following the slowdown in domestic demand.

Compared to the previous year, domestic sales volume was negatively impacted by the influx of illegal imports, and low disposable income for rural households.

According to the Company’s Financial report availed to the *Zambian Business Times* – ZBT, by the Company Secretary, Harriet Kapekele – Katongo, the company’s management team also implemented several strategic

initiatives that helped to drive growth and increase profitability. These initiatives included implementing promotions and increased investment in marketing and sales. Operating profit for the year under review was K1.248 billion compared to K1.243 billion in the previous year. The improvement in performance is due to improved price realisation and cost management despite significant increases in key input costs (fertilisers, chemicals, electricity, employee costs, packaging and fuel). Overall, costs increased by 10% which was in line with inflation.

Meanwhile, Finance costs for the year ended 31 August 2023 decreased by K35 million to K40 million improving interest cover from 16.7 to 31.5 times. The business closed with a positive cash position after paying the outstanding long-term debt of K42 million. Profit after-tax for the year ended 31 August 2023 also decreased by K70 million to K935 million due to a 3% increase in effective tax rate. Headline earnings for the year ended 31 August 2023 decreased to K935 million from K1 005 million for the previous year. Earnings per share decreased by 7% from

317.5 ngwee per share to 295.6 ngwee per share. The Board has since recommended a total dividend of 349 ngwee per share (2022 - 94.44 ngwee) to be considered for approval by shareholders at the Annual General Meeting scheduled for 28 November 2023. The total dividend will amount to K1 104 million.

This consists of a base dividend of 191 ngwee and a special dividend of 158 ngwee. The company has a dividend policy of distributing up to 50% of free cash flow and this maximum figure amounting to 191 ngwee is recom-

mended and forms the base dividend.

Recognising the strength of the balance sheet following 3 years of earnings above K1 billion and the repayment of all long-term debt, the directors have also recommended a once off special dividend of 158 ngwee per share. The strong financial performance of Zambia Sugar is a testament to the company’s commitment to excellence and its focus on delivering value to its customers and shareholders.

4th mobile network fails to launch

The Fourth Mobile Operator Beeline has yet again for the third running year shifted the dates for the commencement of operations to 2024 after about 3 failed attempts to commence operations.

In February 2021, the Zambia Information and Communications Technology Authority - ZICTA announced that it had granted Beeline Telecom Limited a 4TH license to commence mobile phone operations in the country and it was required that the Company commence operation within the next six months failure to which, the license would be revoked.

Concerned stakeholders have however questioned the decision-making process after several failed attempts to commence operations suggesting that it may be an indicator of deeper issues within the organization.

Ministry of Science and Technology Permanent Secretary Dr. Brilliant Habeenzu confirmed that Zambia’s fourth mobile network operator Beeline which will be trading as Zedmobile will only be able to make its first call in January 2024 following an extension granted after they failed to commence operations in July 2023. This is however still debatable looking at several extensions given without action.

ZICTA extended Beeline’s deadline for launch from 30th June 2022, to 31st January 2023 and and latter on the dates where moved to July 2023 and now further extended to 2024.

There have also been allegations indicating that the Company has failed to commence operations as they do not have the muscle to fund the project looking at several extensions that have been made so far without having the operator on Board. Oth-

ers have also questioned why ZICTA has failed to cancel the license as it is clear that the Company has failed to bring the 4th Mobile Network.

Speaking in an exclusive interview with the *Zambian Business Times* -ZBT, Dr. Habeenzu disclosed that Beeline anticipated that they would not meet the conditions earlier given to them in terms of the deadline for them to make the first call. He disclosed that they wrote to the board seeking for an extension of which when considered, the board was convinced that the reasons given were valid hence gave them an extension to make their first call in January 2024. “We are only looking at December, and when we get into January we should also begin to ask the very same questions if they will not have made their call at that time” said Habeenzu.

He explained that by January Beeline should have installed their equipment, and people should be able to make a phone call and the company should begin to grow through the coming on board of customers and expanding their network.

Habeenzu said many people are looking to Beeline coming on board because it will create employment. He said the coming of Beeline will also bring in healthy competition noting that citizens will benefit from competition in the market. “We also hope that they will be able to penetrate other markets especially the under saved and unsaved areas where other existing Mobile Network Operators (MNOs) may not have gone to” said Habeenzu. He said this will help expand and answer to one of the goals of the 8th National Development Plan which is to ensure that the country provides network coverage by population to the tune of 96 percent. “If they come and they begin to

roll out, and get to other areas that have not been touched or reached, then they are helping us answer that call” said Habeenzu.

Habeenzu further mentioned that if Beeline fails to make their first call by January 2024, there are rules provided on how the regulator must handle the matter. He said part of the rules may include the cancellation of the whole license, or another extension which is dependent on what they have already done. He explained that if they have already invested quite a lot, the regulator will be able to see and determine also depending on how convincing other reasons may be. He said assuming that they do not make their first call in January, and the regulator who in this case is ZICTA goes to inspect their investment and realizes that it is too much to let them leave it on the way in addition to other issues that may be considered, another extension may probably be given. “But from where I seat as government, I want them to make the first call so that citizens can begin to enjoy” said Habeenzu.

He said Beeline must be able to give the *Zambian* market a first call in January 2024 according to the conditions they have been given by the regulator. He said if they do not meet the conditions, the regulator is without any interference mandated to do what they have to and treat Beeline in accordance with the set guidelines. “If it means cancelling the license, they will do it, if it means giving another extension, they will do it.

He has therefore encouraged Beeline to ensure that the first call is made by January next year according to what they had agreed with the regulator. He said government wants Beeline to make a difference in the Information Communication and Technology (ICT) sector.

WARMA appeals to MPs

The Water Resources Management Authority -WARMA, has appealed to Members of Parliament –MPs- to help influence policy change that will allow for commercial entities to pay the full amount of water usage as opposed to being subsidized. WARMA Director General Engineer Kenneth Nyundu said only vulnerable communities should be subsidized noting that the money should be channeled to subsidize those who do not have portable water in rural communities, but that those using water for commercial purposes should be able to pay for it. He said commercial entities only pay about a percentage thereby not contributing to the management of the resource.

Speaking during a meeting attended by the *Zambian Business Times*-ZBT, with Parliamentarians, and members of the Energy, Water, and Tourism, Planning and Budgeting Committee, aimed at educating them on the challenges being faced by the authority in ensuring the sustainability of the source, Nyundu said more emphasis has been placed on water supply which is important, but noted that the source is being neglected.

“So when the source dries, these will be white elephants, there will be no water to supply. It is commendable that investment has been done in this to make sure that we have infrastructure in place, but it is time we addressed this part because from our information, water availability is diminishing” said Nyundu. He noted that some time back in the 1960s, per capita availability of water resource thousand cubic meters, but is now at five thousand per capita due to population increase.

Nyundu warned that Zambia will face a crisis if the country continues ignoring the water bodies which are supposed to sustain it as there will be no water to supply, but infrastructure in place. He said serious attention needs to be given to this sub sector to ensure that the country secures what it has, as opposed to waiting until the country is in an awkward situation like some countries in the region. Nyundu said that for the authority to be fully operational, the budget needed annually is 249.8 million without capital expenditure. He however noted that currently the authority is lingering around 61 million, with government grants which are around 18.5 million, and a financing cap of 169. He said with this, the authority is stuck and cannot progress.

“Whatever we get in terms of fees, we are only able to discharge 30 percent of our mandate. We cannot move forward, and the reason is simple, the numbers we cannot employ, we do not have state of art equipment and tools to use” said Nyundu.

He reemphasized that that the annual budget need to 385 million kwacha against the less than 100 million kwacha being used now to operate.

He disclosed that currently there are about 2,139 individuals, and entities that have been permitted to use water commercially, but are not paying enough to help maintain the resource in comparison to what they use.

Nyundu said the numbers are good, but because of the fee structure used 1,519 out of the 2,139 pay from the ranges of K10 to K3, 000 only. “What the majority pay is very little. The following category which is paying between 3,000 and 100,000 per annum are only about 500, and the bigger guys who are able to pay us more than 100 thousand per annum are only 120” disclosed Nyundu.

He added that the increase in population and economic activities is literally impacting on the country’s risk resource in terms of pollution, and that if there is no capacity to manage it, it will be a disaster especially for ground water which is difficult to clean up. He said there is need to prevent than to start curing.

Nyundu noted that the increase demand for development of land has led to people are building in the river birds where it is supposed to be recharge area, claiming marshlands, swamp areas, and seem not to understand why such areas should not be tempered with. He explained that these areas are the ones that are supposed to sustain the flow of water in rivers throughout the year.

“So when it is not raining, these are the areas which discharge that water they keep to the rivers for the rivers to flow. Most small rivers here in Lusaka have dried up because where the marshlands were supplying which were the source of water for those, we have since built, and we get surprised when the rivers are dried up” said Nyundu. He added that deforestation has also contributed to the reduction of water availability, noting that there is too much evaporation, and runoff. He said this is what is leading to load shedding; noting

that load shedding is not an energy problem, but a water problem evidenced by the dependence on hydro power.

Nyundu further mentioned that local authorities continue to move on within their mandate to things without consultation from an institution like WARMA which is negatively impacting on the resource. He also mentioned that there is no appreciation of the value water resources have and bring to any product or service being given. Nyundu said that if the country continues in this trajectory, the capital availability of water will reduce to 1, 000, and will be no different from water stressed countries like Botswana, and Namibia among others, and will be too late to reverse it.

He said due lack of resources, the authority is failing to map the country to ensure that areas of need are identified and declared as protected areas for future use owing to the increasing population.

Nyundu has therefore appealed to members of parliament to fully support the water sector particularly the subsector of Water Resource Management, and appreciate the challenges being faced.

Nyundu therefore said there is need to influence policy change, which can only be done through the members of parliament. He has called on the MPs to support bills that will be presented in parliament by the responsible minister in a bid to secure the natural resource and avoid a water crisis.

And Acting Chairman for the joint Committee of Energy, Water and Tourism, Planning and Budgeting Committee, Dr. Chitalu Chilufya who is also MP for Mansa Central has called on WARMA to review the system to make it transformational to ensure resilient and sustainable financing, and translate Zambia’s into wealth for the people.

He noted that the members have heard WARMA’S challenges on financing, and has urged that the authority’s system must include sustainable and resilient financing. He noted that relying on grants may not adequate. He has advised the authority to engage stakeholders to ensure that the process of reviewing fees is expedited. “You do need to be apologetic charging those small fees when people are actually making huge profits” said Chilufya. He He has therefore assured WARMA the support of the MPs.



Govt urged to institutionalize alumni associations

The Chassa Alumni Association has urged the Government to institutionalize alumni associations.

In an exclusive interview with the *Zambian Business Times -ZBT*, Chassa Association president Mathews Ngulube said institutionalizing alumni associations will make it very easy for the alumni to support the education sector.

He said The act of People wanting to give back to their former learning institutions is becoming more and more popular.

“If the Government institutionalized alumni association it would become very easy for the alumni to support the education sector. The act of People wanting to give back to their former learning institutions is becoming more and more popular. Speaking on behalf of Chassa Alumni, I can say that there is a lot of zeal and passion among former students,” Ngulube said.

Ngulube noted that the act of giving back to former institutions also complements the government’s efforts to develop the education sector.

“At the end of the day, you can’t have everything coming from government. You need to see how you can complement what the government is doing. So it’s actually a very good thing and if properly coordinated, it’s something that can really help the Government,” noted Ngulube.

He advised those not supporting their former learning institutions to do so adding that giving back to former institutions is part of cooperate social responsibility.

“If there are those that do not want to give back to their former learning institutions, at the end of the day it’s them to lose out. I think even religiously you are told to give and it shall come back to you. We believe that at a personal level giving back to former institutions is part of cooperate social responsibility,” said Ngulube.



Zamtel turnaround strategy little-known

The turnaround strategy for the state owned telecommunications Company has taken longer than expected as no announcement has so far been made regarding its state of profitability.

The Minister of Science and Technology Felix Mutati has however promised to give a roadmap on the matter concerning Zamtel emanating from concerns of it being unprofitable or loss making.

In an exclusive interview with the *Zambian Business Times – ZBT*, Mutati noted that the operations and profitability of Zamtel is a concern that has always been present for a long time now.

“What I can tell you is that get in touch with us next week, then we will give you a roadmap” said Mutati.

Zamtel has for long been in a state of unprofitability, and concerns have been raised from concerned stakeholders over its lack of ability to bring dividends from its operations. Rumors of having the company sold, and privatized had surfaced sometime last year, but later dispelled by the permanent secretary for Science and Technology Dr. Brilliant Habeenzu who said a solution would be found together with the private sector through the Public Private Dialogue.

Dr. Habeenzu had mentioned to ZBT that Zamtel had continued to make losses, but assured that the ministry is working on changing the situation, noting that government has plans to making such entities profitable and sustainable.

It was also mentioned that Zamtel needs about \$260 million for its recapitalization. It has been over a year since then, but the responsible minister Felix Mutati has told the public through ZBT that a roadmap for the telecoms company will provided next week.

Cancellation of Graduation ceremonies on National day of mourning condemned

Financial experts have criticized the decision by the government to cancel graduation ceremonies following a national day of mourning, stating that the decision was ill-timed and could have negative financial implications, especially for families coming from far areas.

Several families who had travelled from various localities are reported to have been stranded after the Government refused all learning institutions to hold activities of an entertaining nature, including graduation ceremonies at Schools and Universities.

Financial experts, however, have argued that the government’s decision was a premature announcement. “The last-minute announcement of the suspension of graduation ceremonies in view of the national mourning was not done with very good thoughts to it as graduation cannot even be qualified to be entertainment in nature and it is no difference from people having a national mourning period whilst they still report for work whilst the kids are reporting for school as is the case.”

Speaking in an exclusive interview with the *Zambian Business Times – ZBT*, Financial, and Economic Commentator Dennis Mulenga said that as much as the country would like to honour its great leaders who have passed on, the Government should have thought better and not to suspend the graduations which normally take a lot of resources.

He said there is a need for the government to draw a line that going forward what they need to do is just to allow these functions to go on as they are key to economic development even as the country observes the national mourning.

“Graduation ceremonies are just like any other business that must be carried out irrespective of what is happening in the country on a particular day. The announcement for me was ill-timed, it shouldn’t have been made instead what they could have done at the very most was to perhaps control how it was going to be carried out in terms of time and other restrictions on music of entertainment.” He remarked.

Mulenga stated that the implications are dire as most of the affected graduands have relatives who have traveled from outside town and some of them even outside the country who have booked flights they had put fuel to travel all the way to come and be present.

“When you look at it from the graduands perspective for those who have traveled there are also accommodation costs involved as some of them had to be lodged in hotels for them to be part of the event and canceling everything at the last minute has never helped.”

“Further, even on the graduands part we have those that have booked for several items but not limited to photographers women have done their makeups and their hair, and others have gone to the extent of booking for events so that they could enjoy the moment with their families but now with the suspension it means they will have to have fresh plans.”

He said what the government should have done should not have suspended the graduation they should have allowed them to go on but just put a few Factors in place to make sure that the whole theme of the national monument is not disturbed.

“So you see there’s a lot of the small and medium enterprises that are trying to capitalize on every revenue that is available and so this has disturbed them a great deal and I can’t quantify exactly to how much but then if for instance, we’re looking at 5 major institutions and out of these we say you’re having an average of 200 graduates by five that’s already a thousand and then out of this we say 70% booked for photography services that is translating to K105, 000 in just one day just for the aspect of the photographer and if we can bring in other services and multiply by 4 you are talking of about 500,000 in Lost revenue from entrepreneurs who contribute to the country’s GDP in a single day.”

Mulenga advised the government that death will always be there but that should not disadvantage others. “Otherwise an outright suspension of graduation should not be entertained at all cost for the good of the economy.”

“From the government side death will always be there so if next week there is another one who is dying will it mean that they will again postpone to another date?”

He added that at the very least what they could have done was to ask even the institution to observe a moment of silence for the fallen heroes like what they do in other countries in recognition of the work they have done for the country.

“It is unfortunate that this has happened because most of these people that are graduating have been calling asking if there are no people in government who can’t feel for the poor, It is indeed a desperate call and we feel what they are going through and I wish those that are in decision-making positions could look into this issue and avoid its recurrence in the future.”

Other Financial experts also spoken to have also weighed in and are of the view that the Government’s decision does not make sense economically looking at the current economic status and high cost of living.

Meanwhile, The National Action for Quality Education in Zambia, also known as NAQEZ, has also expressed its concern about the cancellation of graduation ceremonies due to the national day of mourning.

In an exclusive interview with ZBT NAQEZ Executive Director Dr Aaron Chansa said this decision is causing inconvenience to families, especially those who have traveled from far areas.

Dr. Chansa has since challenged the Government to communicate in advance to avoid unnecessary wasting of resources.

lecturers to blame for increasing sex for grades cases

The World Youth and leadership foundation - WYLF, says lecturers are to blame for the increasing sex for grades cases in higher learning institutions because as parent figures, they are supposed to be guiding students in learning institutions.

There has been growing sexual harassment cases in higher learning institutions of which the common one have been prominent lecturers from the biggest higher learning institution demanding sex in exchange for grades.

According to a case study by the University of Zambia on the University Students’ Perspective of Sexual Harassment, there were significantly more female students who perceived a lot of sexual harassment to be occurring at UNZA.

Speaking in an exclusive interview with the Zambian Business Times -ZBT, WYLF organization Director Nalishebo Nyambe, however, said When a student offers herself or himself for sex in exchange for grades, lecturers are supposed to exercise their professionalism by recognizing that the child is getting out of hand.

Nyambe said there is a serious

need for lecturers to be disciplined and understand their roles and responsibilities in learning institutions.

He said It is unacceptable when a student offers themselves for sex, and the lecturer accepts.

“When a student offers herself or himself for sex in exchange for grades, as a parent you first have to recognize that the child is getting out of hand and quickly be able to control yourself and help the child by not accepting the offer. The lecturers need to be disciplined and understand their roles and responsibilities as parents in learning institutions. When you are offered something you have to remind yourself of the principles,” he said.

“It will be very unfair if a student offers themselves for sex in exchange for grades and the lecturer accepts. We stand with the students because when parents send their children to school, lecturers are supposed to behave as parents. They are the ones to guide the students on the right path. I’m blaming the lecturers because they are parents who are supposed to be guiding students in learning institutions. Lecturers are supposed to be disciplined to understand that they are the parents in learning institutions,”

said Nyambe.

Nyambe however noted that students also need to understand that they go to school for self-development and not for sexual and illicit activities.

He therefore encouraged students to be disciplined and focused on education and advised lecturers to embrace professionalism.

He noted that most students do not disclose sexual harassment cases to relevant authorities for fear of being victimized by their peers or their partners which makes it hard for institutions to punish offenders.

He said in cases where harassment issues are brought out, Learning institutions must be willing to dismiss offenders involved in offering grades for sex and vice versa.

He noted that if offenders found wanting are not dismissed and punished according to the law, it escalates more of related offenses.

Nyambe also urged the government to implement stiff punishments to deter would-be offenders.

Brace for ‘no money in circulation’

The Bankers Association of Zambia - BAZ, says the increase in the minimum statutory reserve ratio will further reduce liquidity available to the commercial banks to lend and make profit noting that money that sits in the statutory reserve ratio does not earn any interest.

On the 6th of November 2023, the Bank of Zambia - BOZ announced that effective Monday 13th November 2023, the minimum statutory reserve ratio on both local and foreign currency deposits, including government deposits and Vostro accounts will be increased by 3 percentage points to 14.5 percent from 11.5 percent. it was further stated that the revised statutory reserve ration of 14.5 will be based on the weekly return of selected assets and liabilities as of Wednesday November 8, 2023. The measure is aimed at relieving the persistent foreign exchange market pressure with a view to reining inflation.

Reacting to this, BAZ president Leonard Mwanza noted that if the banks are challenged in terms of having liquidity that they can lend, it will be a disadvantage for businesses that may need money from banks. He said this may further raise the cost of funds in the market. “To a business person, they might not borrow at the rate they were borrowing yesterday because of this decision. The rate may increase, but also the available funds that will be going to the market will reduce because of this statutory requirement to keep money on the statutory reserve ratio” said Mwanza. Mwanza however noted that the overall picture is to term inflation and control the depreciation of the kwacha. Speaking in an exclusive interview with the Zambian Business Times - ZBT, Mwanza said if the two objectives are attained and inflation starts coming down, it will reduce the cost of doing business. “If the kwacha can stabilize and appreciate because of this measure, it can also help to reduce the import cost for those in businesses, and just generally the price around things” said Mwanza. He said in the immediate sense and /or direct reaction, there will be a possible increase in the cost of funds on the market, and because of the scarcity, the flow of money that perhaps should have gone to support the economy, will be reserved under the statutory reserve ratio re-

quirement.

Mwanza explained that among the tools the Central Bank deploys to carry out its primary mandate of price stability in the financial markets are tools that help to contain inflation and align the kwacha to some form of stability. He said the statutory reserve ratio is one of the tools the Central Bank has at its disposal to help term inflation.

Noted noted that when the first increment was done for the statutory reserve ratio this year from 9 to 11.5 percent, inflation began moving to single digits until the second quarter going into the third quarter when it started going upwards. He noted that there was an accelerated increase in inflation for the months September and October which was a matter of concern. He said the measures the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) took in August were meant to try and term inflation from moving away from the target band. “Even this particular measure, the tightening measure around liquidity speaks to the same thing in terms of what we want to achieve” said Mwanza.

ZAMRA admits failure to regulate herbal Remedies

The Zambia medicines regulatory authority (ZAMRA) has admitted that the authority has no capacity to regulate traditional herbal remedies at the moment because they cannot be proven scientifically.

According to the national center for biotechnology information the use of herbal medicinal products and supplements has increased tremendously over the past three decades with not less than 80% of people worldwide relying on them for some part of primary healthcare. Although therapies involving these agents have shown promising potential with the efficacy of a good number of herbal products clearly established, many of them remain untested and their use are either poorly monitored or not even monitored at all. The consequence of this is an inadequate

knowledge of their mode of action, potential adverse reactions, contraindications, and interactions with existing orthodox pharmaceuticals and functional foods to promote both safe and rational use of these agents. Since safety continues to be a major issue with the use of herbal remedies, it becomes imperative, therefore, that relevant regulatory authorities put in place appropriate measures to protect public health by ensuring that all herbal medicines are safe and of suitable quality.

Sneaking in an exclusive interview with the Zambian business times – ZBT, ZAMRA public relations officer Ludovic Mwape explained that ZAMRA is a scientific institution that regulates medicinal products or allied substances such as cosmetics. Mwape noted that the selling of

unauthorized products is posing a danger to members of the public and therefore advised members of the public to look out for unregistered products.

“Traditional herbal products, we don’t have the capacity to regulate them at the moment because they cannot be proven scientifically. We are a scientific institution, we don’t regulate oils or chemicals, mostly what we regulate are medicinal products or allied substances such as cosmetics. If the product is medicinal then it falls within our mandate to regulate it but if it’s not medicinal, it’s not in our mandate to regulate it,” he said.

“So when you label a product and you claim that it can cure certain diseases, we need to prove it scientifically through our evaluation and our analysis.

And also we’ve got guidelines on labelling, manufacturing of products because we need to inspect your facility and so on. Mostly what we are seeing are products that are not authorized being sold. We don’t even know where they are manufacturing them from. So that is posing a danger in terms of use of those products by the members of the public. So we advise members of the public to look out for unregistered products,” said mwape. Mwape said ZAMRA has a challenge in regulating traditional herbal medicines but the authority has been working closely with the traditional healer’s association to give guidance on traditional herbal medicines. He advised people to make informed decisions on traditional herbal medicines adding that regulating such products is beyond the authority’s regulatory mandate. Mwape also revealed that the authority has developed guidelines on certain cosmetics such as skin lightening creams which will be implemented soon. “We have to work closely with the traditional healer’s association. At the moment there is no law. I understand there is a bill which will be in effect to control traditional healers and the products that fall under them. On the traditional ones that is where there is a bit of a challenge. We need to work together and we have been working closely with the traditional healer’s association to give guidance in terms of products that affect the people but we usually come in to advise when it comes to advertising. For products which we can’t prove, it goes on to the conscience of the consumers.

It’s up to people to make an informed decision because that is beyond our regulatory mandate because that is now spiritual, it’s not medicinal. So spiritualism cannot be regulated unless with the traditional healers,” he said.

“Maybe we can come in the form of sensitization by making people aware and they should be careful. People should be given a choice to choose whether they want to go in the spiritual route or to the scientific route. We have also developed guidelines and soon, we are implementing those guidelines on controlling certain cosmetics. So there will be certain cosmetics that will be removed from the market because we want a certain percentage of ingredients,” said mwape.

Aunty Dodix ‘bedroom sweets’ fake, corrupting morals - ICOZ

The independent churches of have a negative impact in the Zambia (ICOZ), have called long run.

upon women to stop applying oils such as that of Aunty Dodix to attract men.

Recently there has been a common trend of business people and some social media influencers who have been selling and promoting what they term bedroom products such as honey pot, make him cry powder, and “follow follow rich man magnate oil,” to attract rich men.

Tina Sakala commonly known as Aunty Dodix is among the people who has been selling such products and claims the oil attracts men such as ministers, rich men, businessmen, and engineers among other men.

She also uses her social media platforms to encourages women to bathe, look good, apply the oil, and go to places where rich men are found.

In an exclusive interview with the *Zambian Business Times* – ZBT, ICOZ president bishop David Masupa said applying such oils might seem to be good for the user at the moment but might

Masupa says one of the impacts this oil might have on the user is that the target market for this oil who are rich men might transmit diseases such as HIV and AIDS to the user.

He adds that women should follow a good career path and earn a decent living for the sake of their children and families.

“We want to call upon the same ladies that may be applying such kind of oil such as the “follow follow rich man magnate oil,” that it may seem to be good for you now because the country is in an economic downturn in terms of the standard of living but it will have a negative impact in your life because such kind of men they bring disease such as HIV and AIDS and also your life will never be the same. So as a church leader, I would just advise you to follow a good career path and earn a decent living for the sake of your children and your family,” he said.

Masupa also notes that there is no control in media houses on

products being advertised on whether they are fake or capable of corrupting the morals of the Zambian people.

He has since condemned the oil and called on the government to control the promotion and sale of such products in an advert form in some media houses.

“We condemn that oil in the strongest possible terms. When we declare ourselves a Christian nation, it means that our practices should also pertain to Christian principles. We condemn that and I know that it is social media which the government may have no control over but the publication of such on our media houses can be controlled. We have noted with concern and our concern is that there is no control as to what comes to our media houses or whether they know it is fake or will corrupt the morals of the Zambian people. Media houses go ahead to make advertisements even without getting to the truth of such kinds of products and they will affect the moral fiber of the people of Zambia,” said Masupa.

LCC shields council policemen involved in shocking confiscation of wheelchair from disabled vendor

The Lusaka City Council (LCC) has been accused of shielding and deliberately preventing accountability by withholding the names of the council police who confiscated the wheelchair of Mr. Daniel Mwamba, a physically challenged street vendor, an action that has caused great concern to members of the public.

According to media reports, LCC confiscated a wheelchair that Mr. Mwamba was using for his mobility and to trade in plastic bags, an ction

was only meant to caution him that street vending is prohibited. In an exclusive interview with the *Zambian business times* – ZBT, LCC public relations manager Chola Mwamba said she was not in the best position to reveal the names of the council police who confiscated Mr. Mwambas wheel chair.

Mwamba said LCC is going to secure Mr. Mwamba a trading place within the central business district.

She noted that allowing all the people who are physically challenged to vend in the CBD will mean that the authority’s aim of ensuring that street vendors do not return will be all in vain.

She reiterated that the local authority has great respect for human rights and the social inclusion of differently-abled people in society.

Meanwhile, the Human Rights Commission has condemned the Lusaka city council for confiscating a wheelchair from a person with a disability as punishment for engaging in street vending.

According to a statement made available to the *Zambian business times* – ZBT, Human Rights Commission spokesperson Mwelwa Muleya described the act by the council police as cruel, inhuman, and degrading punishment.

Mr. Muleya said the commission received the report of the confiscation with utmost shock.

He therefore called for the immediate restoration of Mr. Mwamba’s rights and dignity and empowering him with a trading place within the central business district as an act of humanity and minimizing the trauma caused on him.

But LCC dispelled social media reports and defended the act by saying that council police only confiscated a wheelchair that Mr. Mwamba was using for displaying his merchandise and not the one he was using for mobility.

The authority also revealed that the wheelchair and his merchandise were returned to him the same day when the incident happened and that the confiscation

Government through the ministry of information and Media has revealed that it’s measures aimed at addressing the high cost of living cannot stop the high cost of living immediately.

According to the October report of the Jesuit Centre for Theological Reflection - JCTR, the cost of living for a family of five in Lusaka has increased to K9, 294.76 In comparison to the recorded figure of K9, 146.06 in September 2023 which signifies an increase of K148.70.

The report by JCTR contradicts governments efforts of working towards arresting the high cost of living. The report revealed an increase in food items such as roller mealie meal beans, kapenta, charcoal and a decrease in fruits such as mangoes, oranges and apples.



High cost of living hits bakeries

The bakers’ association of Zambia has lamented that their sales and their customer turnout has reduced due to the high cost of living.

According to the October report of the Jesuit Centre for Theological Reflection – JCTR, the cost of living for a family of five in Lusaka has increased to K9, 294.76 In comparison to the recorded figure of K9, 146.06 in September 2023 which signifies an increase of K148.70.

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In an exclusive interview with the *Zambian Business Times* -ZBT, association chairman Aziz Kapdi revealed that bakeries are finding it very difficult to increase prices of their food items which is making it hard for them to make profit. Kapdi added that the bakeries are complaining because the prices of raw materials like wheat, flour, yeast, the cost of electricity and fuel has gone up.

“The sales have reduced and the customers are complaining that the cost of bread is high, how will they manage to buy? We are finding it very difficult to increase the prices because if we increase what will the locals eat? If bakeries have to make any profit it means that bread has to be k18 to k20 at the moment they are not even breaking Even,” he said.

“The bakeries are complaining very bitterly because everything has gone up from the wheat, the flour, the yeast, the cost of electricity, fuel and everything has gone up. Import duties on raw materials is heavy, sugar is expensive,”said Kapdi.

Kapdi appealed to the government to look into wheat prices and remove Import duties on raw materials. “Our appeal to government is that that Government should look into the wheat prices. If wheat prices go down, the flour will go down. If we get some concession on electricity, bakeries will benefit because then the prices will come down. If Government starts removing Import duties on raw materials so that means that the cost will come down,”said Kapdi.

Cost of living to remain high – Govt

Kapata questioned that how do people expect the high cost of living to go down immediately while Government is addressing the issue?

He added that addressing the high cost of living is a process.

“Measures cannot stop the high cost of living immediately, measures are there to cushion as programs are taking place. You want the high cost of living to stop immediately while Government Is addressing the issues? When you are addressing an issue then you expect it to go down? I thought it’s a process of achieving a concept because when you are cushioning for example the mealie meal price by telling farmers to grow more maize and then ZNS is selling mealie meal atat k220 it means that in the near future the price of mealie meal will go down, “ he said.

“So what is your question? because you’ve already answered it. You have answered that Government is going to ensure that the high cost of living is brought to normality. There’s quite a lot of things that Government is doing an putting in place such as the social cash transfer . “ said Kapata.

Meanwhile, Kapata assured that the process of addressing the high cost of living is ongoing.

He added that this years farming season, farmers have already received farming inputs of which if we have plenty of maize, Government has projected 10 million metric tonnes of maize of which 4 million metric tonnes will be consumed locally while 6 million metric tonnes will be exported.

“The process of addressing some of the challenges is going on. So these two are going at parallel. The Kwacha can be this much and Government is doing this much. So it’s chasing the high cost of living so that it’s brought dy. When those measures that are being put in place reach the levels of meeting the demand of people then things get to normality, “ he said.

“The next farming season, people have already received farming inputs and if we have plenty of maize, Government has projected 10 million metric tonnes of maize. 4 million to be consumed locally, the rest to be exported, “ noted Kapata.

Eat less Nshima, if possible eliminate it – ZAF instructor

Zambia Air Force (ZAF) instructor and fitness trainer Joseph Mtonga has suggested that Nshima should be eaten once in a while, if possible people should eliminate it from their diet.

According to a research conducted by Lilongwe University of Agriculture (Luanar), Nshima cooked using maize flours and recipes would continue to raise blood sugar levels in the long-term considering high glycaemic load figures recorded.

The report also revealed that food that increases blood glucose level faster after consuming it, is said to have a high glycaemic index.

Glycaemic index is a system that ranks foods on a scale from 1 to 100 based on their effect on blood-sugar levels.

In an exclusive interview with the Zambian Bussiness Times -ZBT, Mtonga noted that In Zambia Nshima is the reason there are lot of di-

abetic cases. He alleged that too much Nshima is also the reason most people have all these potbelly’s around.

He added that in Zambia, cases of diabetes are very high because of people incorporating unhealthy foods in their diet.

Mtonga said in villages it’s rare to find cases of diabetes because people in rural areas don’t only concentrate on Nshima and fast foods but incorporate health foods in their diet and that one way of overcoming diabetes is by having a shift in diet.

He alleged that for farmers, farming is not about the health of the nation but bussiness.

He said cultivating health foods should not be left to farmers alone but people should take it upon themselves and plant health foods for there own benefits.

Meanwhile, Mtonga expressed concern on the culture of exercising in Zambia which he termed as being very poor.

He alleged that in Zambia people hate exercising and feel it’s a waste of time.

He added that in most cases people who exercise are mostly teased by neighbors and friends.

“Sometimes when you jogging, your friends and neighbors will be teasing you and asking you questions like why you are punishing yourself or what are you chasing that you will never catch?. ” it’s because they don’t understand the importance of exercising,” said Mtonga.

He added that his heart bleeds when he sees people gaining weight but not incorporating exercises in their daily routine.



LCC fails to take action on unregistered Churches, fears being labelled ethists

The Lusaka city council (LCC), has revealed that local authority is not going to issue a statement to threaten unregistered churches for the fear of being labelled as people who don’t believe in God by the members of the public.

Recently, the council of churches in Zambia (CCZ) general secretary Fr. Emanuel Chikoya expressed concern that law enforcement is only done on businesses such as bars without licences and not churches operating without licences.

Fr, chikoya also expressed concern on the continued mushrooming of churches in most parts of Lusaka which he said are a danger to society. Reacting to this in an exclusive interview with the Zambian business times – ZBT, LCC public relations manager Chola Mwamba said that in this nation, when one talks negatively about Godly things people would rise against that person.

Mwamba said that the authority already has complaints from members of the public on churches operating in residential areas and that the authority is working on how best they are going to carry out their enforce-

ment. “We already have that complaint of churches operating in residential areas. In as much as I would want to give a statement on that one, I also need to be sensitive on how I treat that matter. You know how Zambians look at God, we can even start preaching while we are moving in the streets but it is not advisable but then, when you talk negatively about Godly things you know how people would rise against you. So we are trying to see how best we can phrase that statement that will sit well with society and our norms but we are working on it. We are not going to issue a statement to threaten churches otherwise “bakatumona ati lesa tatumufwaya”. So there have been all sorts of complaints of churches in residential areas disturbing neighbour’s but then as a local authority we need to sit and analyse how we are going to do our enforcement,” she said.

Mwamba noted that it’s illegal for people to turn their homes into churches without informing the local authority.

She said the local authority will ensure that they enforce the law where

issues to do with gatherings and change of use are concerned. She therefore appealed to all those formulating illegal churches to desist from doing so.

“It’s illegal for people turning their homes into churches without informing the local authority. As a local authority we want sanity and ordering residential areas. So to turn your home into a church, you are actually disturbing your neighbour’s. As a local authority we are going to ensure that we enforce the law where issues to do with gatherings are concerned and where issues to do with change of use is concerned. Because for you to turn your home into a church you have to apply for change of use and it has to pass through the council for it to be approved or disapproved,” she said.

“We are appealing to members of the public to follow the law where issues to do with change of use is concerned. When you are having a gathering of more than 20, 30 people and you don’t have public facilities like wash rooms would cholera spare you? So we are appealing to all those that are coming up with illegal churches to desist from doing so,” said Mwamba.

Cost of living continues to increase



The government’s efforts to address the high cost of living have faced hurdles as the cost of living continues accelerating.

According to the October report of the Jesuit Centre for Theological Reflection - JCTR, the cost of living for a family of five in Lusaka has increased to K9, 294.76 In comparison to the recorded figure of K9, 146.06 in September 2023 which signifies an increase of K148.70.

This contradicts the government’s efforts of working towards arresting the high cost of living.

According to the JCTR report made available to the Zambian Business Times - ZBT, the report revealed an increase in food items such as roller mealie meal beans, kapenta, and charcoal and a decrease in fruits such as mangoes, oranges, and apples.

Last month, Zambia witnessed its annual inflation rate increase for the fourth consecutive month, reaching 12.6% which marked the highest inflation rate recorded since March 2022, surpassing the 12% rate observed in September 2023. This will have negative effects on a number of households who are already struggling with transport and other essential commodities that have gone up.

“The persistent issue of the cost of living in Zambia has been a recurring concern for the nation. Citizens have grappled with the challenges of affording

basic necessities including mealie meals, and this longstanding problem continues to be a focal point of public discourse and policy considerations. It is essential to closely monitor factors such as inflation, fluctuating commodity prices, and overall economic conditions. In October 2023, Zambia witnessed its annual inflation rate increase for the fourth consecutive month, reaching 12.6%. This marked the highest inflation rate recorded since March 2022, surpassing the 12% rate observed in September 2023. The primary driving factor behind this inflation surge has been the continued depreciation of the Zambian kwacha, which has impacted the overall pricing dynamics within the country,” revealed the report.

JCTR noted that despite the ongoing endeavors by the government to alleviate the high cost of living, pressures continue to encounter formidable challenges. “Economic instability, external shocks affecting prices of essential commodities such as fuel, and increased vulnerabilities have combined to create a complex landscape. These hurdles necessitate a comprehensive and adaptable strategy to safeguard the well-being of the populace and set the stage for enduring solutions. In light of this, JCTR recommends implementing the following measures, in addition to those already in effect, to tackle the high cost of living: The government should proceed with its plans to distribute maize grain directly through the reserve agency to communities as

a short-term measure to mitigate the impact of the rising cost of mealie meal. It is key that the most vulnerable communities across urban, peri-urban, and rural areas are targeted. However, it is crucial that this effort is accompanied by a long-term strategy to enhance domestic maize production and food security, as sustained and affordable access to staple foods should be a fundamental goal for ensuring the well-being of all Zambians,” JCTR suggested.

“However, it’s worth noting that the proposed 2024 national budget lacks measures to scale up the cash transfer value. The government working through the Energy Regulation Board, should take immediate action to address the high fuel prices, as it is crucial for economic stability. Despite having implemented cost-reflective tariffs in the energy sector, it would be beneficial for the board to explore innovative solutions and run simulations to assess the impact of reverting to a 90-day fuel price adjustment mechanism. The JCTR’s Basic Needs and Nutrition Basket Surveys consistently highlight how fuel price volatility significantly affects commodity and service prices in the market. Achieving stability and predictability in fuel prices is essential to prevent these costs from being passed on to consumers,” suggested JCTR. JCTR therefore encouraged the government to expedite its process in addressing the high cost of living.



Govt to construct new stadium in L/Stone

Ministry of Youth Sport and Art Permanent Secretary Chileshe Kangwa has exclusively disclosed plans to construct a new stadium in Livingstone to help increase the capacity of sports infrastructure in Zambia and improve chances of hosting high-profile international games and tournaments such as the Africa Cup of Nations (CAF) tournament.

Recently the Confederation for African Football (CAF) declared that the Heroes stadium in Lusaka is not fit to host high-profile international matches as it did not meet the needed requirements and standards. It was observed even by the Football Association of Zambia following the loss of a joint bid to host the 20227 AFCON tournament with Botswana and Tanzania

that more is supposed to be done when it comes to infrastructure if the country is to host the prestigious tournament.

Speaking in an exclusive interview with the Zambian Business (ZBT), Ministry of Youth Sport and Art Permanent Secretary Chileshe Kangwa however, disclosed plans by the government to construct another stadium in Livingstone with works set to begin in 2024.

Meanwhile, Kangwa mentioned that stadiums such as the Heroes and Levy Mwanawasa stadiums are being worked on by the government to bring them to CAF standards. He said the locker rooms have been fixed to meet the required standards, and the turf worked on for the Levy Mwanawasa stadium. He said they have however been given a

chance to use it following the international games that will soon take place.

Kangwa added that chairs were purchased from South Africa for the technical bench. “Quite a significant amount of money has gone into such works. There are a lot of things going on at the stadiums including working on the fire systems, and CC TV camera among others” said Kangwa. He said part of the work has been done on the two stadiums.

He noted that there was a tender put out for companies replacing the turf. He said the tender for the levy Mwanawasa stadium just closed and that the tender for the heroes’ stadium is also closing.

FAZ positive to get Congo Brazzaville and Niger match at home

The Football Association of Zambia (FAZ) has expressed optimism to host Congo Brazzaville match on November 17 and Niger four days later at home at the Levy Mwanawasa Stadium. Zambia hosts Congo Brazzaville on November 17 before facing Niger away four days later.

According to a Facebook post on the FAZ official page monitored by the Zambian Bussiness Times -ZBT, FAZ said that the only lingering sticky point is about the final authority to play the match at the Levy Mwanawasa Stadium.

FAZ revealed that the association has been collaborating with the government who are the owners of the stadium to ensure that they are fully compliant with the FIFA/CAF requirements.

FAZ therefore appealed to the public to Support Chipolopolo’s World Cup Chase.

“The only lingering sticky point is about the final authority to play our match at home at the Levy

Mwanawasa Stadium. We have been collaborating with the government who are the owners of the stadium to ensure that we are fully compliant with the FIFA/CAF requirements. With Heroes Stadium completely struck off the list of FIFA-approved stadia; we only have Levy Mwanawasa as our fall-back stadium. We remain optimistic that the final approval will be given once all the touch-ups are done in line with the set benchmarks by CAF. We also wish to appeal to the public to turn up for the Chipolopolo as they keep their push for World Cup qualification alive. The fans will be crucial in inspiring the lads to victory. The women’s national team has already written a beautiful story with a historic World Cup qualification that came on the back of an Olympic appearance. Our aim is to sustain this beautiful story for our game,

“FAZ said.

“Greetings to our football family as we zero into our weekly interaction. We are particularly excited about the offerings

for the week with the Chipolopolo drawing closer to the commencement of their 2026 FIFA World Cup qualification campaign. Zambia hosts Congo Brazzaville on November 17 before facing Niger away four days later. Chipolopolo coach Avram Grant and his technical team will be getting to work in the next few days ahead of the back-to-back matches.

Naturally, with the FIFA window opening on November 13, there is a bit of restriction in terms of the things we can do to activate our preparations. The technical bench will provide the nitty-gritty of how the preparation will go but, in the background, we have been building up to these two matches with the usual sense of prudence. Our local league is in full swing which allows the technical bench to pick players that are fully engaged. We are lucky that we had two international friendly matches during the FIFA window as part of our wider commitment to keep our team engaged,” said FAZ.



Chipolopolo has potential to qualify to the world Cup – Mwanza



Sports analyst Yotam Mwanza says the Zambian National Football team also known as the Chipolopolo has the confidence to help them get through the upcoming world cup qualifications game against Congo Brazzaville to be played on the 17th of November 2023. He said looking at the team’s performance in the previous friendly games, there is potential for the team to perform well in the coming game though it will be a different atmosphere considering that it is a world cup qualifying game. “I believe we have a team, we have a coach, and we have what it takes for us to be able to win much more especially that the team will be playing at home” said Mwanza.

November, and Niger four days later to secure a place in the 2026 world cup.

The Chipolopolo are drawing closer to their first world cup qualification games against Congo Brazzaville on the 17th of

Speaking to the Zambian Business Times (ZBT) in an exclusive interview, Mwanza re-emphasized that Zambia has never been to the world cup in 59 years, and is of the view that this could perhaps be an opportunity to change the narrative considering that most of the players are very active and performing at club level. He said the squad is able to compete and could be the time when they can be able to get to the world cup.

Mwanza noted that qualification alone has an incentive to it. “When the Copper Queens qualified to the world cup, they were given almost a million dollars for that qualification” noted Mwanza. He noted that the higher the

stage, the more the money given to a team. “You qualify, you expect a lot of money to come through” said Mwanza.

He said the nation is looking forward to the game against Congo which will be played at the Levy Mwanawasa Stadium. He said it will be a good start if the team can be able to win the match and collect the maximum points as they get into the second game against Niger to be played in Morocco.

He said the team is improving in terms of their defense noting that they conceded only a goal against the likes of Morocco in the previous games, and did not concede a single goal against Uganda. He said it is work in progress with positive improvement.