

News from Zambia

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AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK PROMISES SUPPORT FOR SMALLHOLDER FARMERS:

The African Development Bank (AfDB) has pledged to work with the Zambian government to empower smallholder farmers to drive the diversification of the agricultural sector. AfDB Senior Agriculture Officer Lewis Bangwe expressed the bank's commitment to overcoming challenges, such as the absence of an artificial insemination platform. Outgoing Mbala Livestock Cooperative Society chairperson, Lawrence Kaliwanda, reported that 146 farmers in the district have already benefited from the initiative. (*ZNBC, 1st*)

COPPER EARNINGS GROW BY 10%: Zambia's export earnings from refined copper in May increased by 10 percent to K10.9 billion from K9.9 billion in April. Similarly, non-traditional exports (NTEs) earnings increased by 20 percent to K6.1 billion in May, up from K5.1 billion in April. Zambia Statistics Agency (ZamStats) statistician general Mulenga Musepa said copper export volumes during May increased by 18.5 percent to 68,200 tonnes from 57,600 tonnes in April. (*Zambia Daily Mail, 4th*)

ZAMBIA AND DRC TO DEVELOP WATER REGULATORY BODY: Zambia and the Democratic Republic of Congo are in the process of establishing the Luapula River Authority to manage the shared water bodies between the two countries. Minister of Water Development and Sanitation Mike Mposha said, "Zambia has two transboundary basins namely the Zambia and Congo basins which constitute around 75% and 25% of Zambia's geographical territorial area respectively. Considering the critical role that transboundary water cooperation plays in fostering social economic development and regional economic integration among riparian states, the Ministry has embarked on the process of accession to the UN water convention joining the Congo Oubangui Sangha Basin as well as the establishment of the Luapula River Authority which is a bilateral river basin organisation between Congo DR and Zambia." (*Lusaka Times, 5th*)

PUBLIC BUS CRASHES INTO TAZARA TRAIN AT MPIKA: Muchinga Province Health Director David Silweya says the death toll has increased to eight (8) in the Mpika road traffic accident involving a TAZARA Passenger Train and a Likili Public Service Bus on Sunday 2nd July which claimed six people on the spot. Dr Silweya said the two patients that were referred to Lusaka for further medical treatment died yesterday at the University Teaching Hospital (UTH). The Provincial Health Director added that from the 68 accident victims that were admitted only 19 are still in hospital and receiving treatment. "The 19 are stable and responding well to treatment at both Michael Chilufya Sata and Chilonga Mission hospitals," said Dr Silweya. (*Lusaka Times, 6th*)

GOVERNMENT APPROVES 200 MINING LICENCES: The Government has approved more than 200 applications for small-scale, large-scale and artisanal mining and mineral exploration licences countrywide. Large-scale exploration licenses accounted for the highest number approved at 84, followed by artisanal mining licences with 57 approved while 49 small-scale exploration licences were approved. (*Times of Zambia, 8th*)

KISWAHILI INTRODUCED AT UNZA: The University of Zambia (UNZA) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the University of Dar-es-salaam on academic cooperation to include among others the teaching of Kiswahili in Zambia. The Minister of Education Douglas Syakalima said during the signing of the MoU, that his ministry is confident that the partnership will bear fruit and be an example of what cooperation between African Universities can produce. (*Lusaka Times, 15th*)

NALIKWANDA GETS MINI HOSPITAL: Construction of the Nalikwanda Mini Hospital in Mongu District, Western Province is almost complete. The Mini Hospital, which is being built in the southern part of the district, is scheduled for handover to government in October. Nalikwanda Member of Parliament Koonwa Simunji said the coming of the Mini Hospital in his constituency will help rural communities access specialized medical services. He said all the health centres in the area refer critical cases to Lewanika General Hospital in Mongu. (*ZNBC, 18th*)

LUSAKA STREET VENDORS REMOVED: Street vendors in Lusaka yesterday woke up to a rude shock when they found Zambia Police Service and Lusaka City Council (LCC) officers had removed and destroyed their stands and were keeping vigil to prevent anybody from setting up stalls and trade in the Central Business District (CBD). (*Times of Zambia, 19th*)

KATETE MAN WITH ALBINISM MURDERED: A 20-year-old man from Katete, Eastern Province, has been arrested for allegedly killing a person with albinism and attempting to sell the body for K1 million. Kelvin Banda, of Chongolo village under Chieftainess Kawaza's area, was found in possession of the dead body of a man whom he allegedly murdered on an unknown date. Eastern Province police commanding officer Limpo Liywalii told journalists in Chipata that the suspect was arrested after police received information that he was selling the dead body of a man. Mr Liywalii identified the deceased as Chaleka Banda, 46, of Nkungulu village. (*Zambia Daily Mail, 24th*)

CHINGOLA-SOLWEZI ROAD TO BE UPGRADED TO DUAL CARRIAGEWAY: The Government says it has engaged a contractor to upgrade the Chingola/Solwezi road into a dual carriageway. The works are expected to commence soon. North-Western Province Permanent Secretary Grandson Katambi said Bet-Pave, a Zambian contractor, has been engaged and has since mobilized equipment to start the works. Col. Katambi says the expansion of the road will help decongest traffic and significantly reduce the cost of doing business in the area. He urged the local community to support the project and take care of the equipment. Local councillor Moses Kokela said the project will create job opportunities for the local people in the area which will improve their livelihoods. (*Lusaka Times, 26th*).

FOUR MUFULIRA POLICE OFFICERS ARRESTED FOR MURDER OF FELLOW OFFICER: Four Police officers from the Anti-Robbery squad at Mufulira Central Police Station have been arrested for killing a fellow officer. Nason Simbeye, a 22-year-old police officer was found dead in his house at Sikalangwe Police Camp in Mufulira on October 23rd, 2020. Following an inquest, the Mufulira Magistrate's court ruled that evidence from the pathologist and the ballistic expert revealed that Constable Simbeye was shot in the back while kneeling. This proved he did not commit suicide but was murdered. Magistrate Sharon Luhanga said Simbeye was killed at an unknown place, before being transported to his house where his body was found. She said the presence of a gun from the Mufulira Central Police Anti Robbery Department at the crime scene implicated the officers, as there was no evidence that Simbeye had gone home with a gun on the fateful day. (*ZNBC, 26th*)

COPPER QUEENS KNOCKED OUT OF 2023 WOMEN'S WORLD CUP: The Copper Queens' dreams of reaching the knockout round of the 2023 Women's World Cup are over after they were thrashed 5-0 by Spain in their second Group C clash in Auckland, New Zealand. Spain and Japan became the first two countries to pass through to the knockout stages of the World Cup after both achieved impressive 5-0 victories over Zambia. (*Lusaka Times, 26th*)

LED BULB MANUFACTURING PLANT TO OPEN IN LUSAKA: All is set for the establishment of the K38m Energy Saver LED Light Bulb Manufacturing Facility at the Lusaka South Multi-Facility Economic Zone (LS-MFEZ). This comes after the conclusion of an investment plan between LS-MFEZ and Techmasters Zambia Limited, the company earmarked to establish the Energy Saver LED Light Bulb Manufacturing Facility. The Facility is expected to create about 500 direct and indirect jobs over a period of three years and produce 1,170,000 LED light bulbs for both the local and international market. (*ZNBC, 30th*)

Exchange Rate, 31 July 2023: £1= K24.40 US\$1= K18.98

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