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JAMES CHAMANGA BIDS FAREWELL TO FOOTBALL AFTER A GLORIOUS 25-YEAR CAREER

By Joseph Tembo



Zambian football icon James Chamanga has officially retired from professional football, ending a remarkable 25-year career that spanned continents and brought glory to both club and country. The 45-year-old veteran striker, who has been a key figure for Red Arrows FC since returning to Zambia in 2019, will be honored with a testimonial match on Saturday, May 17, 2025, at Nkoloma Stadium in Lusaka.

The farewell match, which will see Red Arrows take on ZANACO FC, promises to be a fitting tribute to one of Zambia’s most respected football figures. Red Arrows have announced that entrance to the open wing will be free, inviting fans to come and celebrate the legacy of a true legend.

“Red Arrows Football Club will host a historical testimonial match in honour of James Chamanga, a legend, a warrior & a leader of the Zambian game!! Red Arrows vs ZANACO – The farewell to a hero who gave his all for club & country.

FREE ENTRY | OPEN WING. No tickets, just bring your voice, your passion & your love for the game,” the club said in a statement.

Chamanga returned to Zambia at the age of 39 after a 14-year career abroad that included stints in South Africa with Bush Bucks, SuperSport United, and Moroka Swallows, and in China with Dalian Shide and Liaoning Hongyun. Despite questions about his age at the time, he silenced doubters with consistent performances, winning two league titles, two Charity Shields, and the ABSA Cup with Red Arrows. Notably, he clinched the MTN Super League Golden Boot in the 2019/2020 season at age 40, scoring 16 goals.

Internationally, Chamanga is best remembered for his role in Zambia's historic 2012 Africa Cup of Nations triumph. He scored a memorable goal in the quarterfinals against Sudan, sealing a 3-0 win with a stunning curler in the 86th minute.

Chamanga’s journey began in 2000 with Makumbi Stars, followed by spells at City of Lusaka and ZANACO before moving to South Africa. One of his standout moments came in 2007 when he scored five goals in a single match for Moroka Swallows against Platinum Stars, including a hat-trick within four minutes.

Beyond his achievements on the pitch, Chamanga has been a role model for young players, mentoring rising talents like Ricky Banda. Known for his professionalism, discipline, and humility, he leaves behind a legacy that extends beyond goals and trophies.

As James Chamanga hangs up his boots, Zambian football says goodbye to not just a great striker, but a symbol of excellence, longevity, and leadership. His farewell match is expected to draw fans from across the country, eager to honor a player who truly gave his all.

JOHN CHING'ANDU: A ZESCO UNITED LEGEND CROWNED WITH SUCCESS

By Lucky Chama



ZESCO United has fittingly lauded midfielder John Ching'andu as a true club legend, celebrating his remarkable career adorned with an unparalleled collection of domestic titles. Since his promotion from the club's youth ranks, Young ZESCO, in 2007, Ching'andu has etched his name into the ZESCO United history books, achieving a clean sweep of all major honors available in Zambian football.

In a celebratory post, ZESCO United highlighted the staggering list of accolades Ching'andu has amassed: an incredible 7 ABSA Cup titles and an astonishing 9 MTN Super League titles. This remarkable consistency and dominance underscore Ching'andu's pivotal role in ZESCO United's sustained success over the past decade and a half.

The club proudly noted that Ching'andu has been a one-club man, dedicating his entire professional career to the Zega Mambo. This unwavering loyalty and commitment have further cemented his status as a fan favorite and a symbol of the club's identity.

Adding another layer to his legendary status, Ching'andu served as the captain of ZESCO United for five impactful years. His leadership both on and off the pitch was instrumental in guiding the team to numerous victories and maintaining their position as a powerhouse in Zambian football.

ZESCO United's tribute was clear and heartfelt: "John Chingandu has won all the titles for ZESCO United since his promotion from Young ZESCO in 2007. He’s played for ZESCO all his life. Captained the team for 5 years. We celebrate you! Receive your flowers."

The post serves as a resounding acknowledgment of Ching'andu's immense contribution to the club's legacy. His trophy cabinet stands as a testament to his talent, dedication, and longevity at the highest level of Zambian football. For ZESCO United supporters, John Ching'andu is more than just a player; he is an icon, a leader, and a living embodiment of the club's winning spirit.

ZAMBIA’S PATSON DAKA SET TO LEAVE LEICESTER CITY AS CLUB OFFLOADS HIGH EARNERS

By Joseph Tembo



Patson Daka is reportedly on his way out of English club Leicester City, as the former Premier League champions prepare for a major squad overhaul ahead of their upcoming season in the Championship. According to The Athletic, Daka is among the high-earning players the club intends to offload to manage costs following their relegation.

Daka, who earns around £49,000 (approximately K1.7 million) per week, still has close to three years left

on his contract. However, his time at Leicester has been far from smooth, with limited opportunities and inconsistent performances hampering his progress in English football.

The 26-year-old joined Leicester from Austrian side Red Bull Salzburg in 2021 after a prolific stint where he scored 54 goals in 82 appearances. He arrived with high expectations, becoming one of the most high-profile Zambian exports to Europe. While he has shown glimpses of his

talent, including a well-taken goal against West Ham, Daka has struggled to find regular form, partly due to Leicester’s lack of creativity and poor run of form.

Reports suggest Premier League side Everton is interested in signing Daka during the upcoming transfer window, which would see the Chipolopolo star remain in top-flight football.

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2.5	Over 2.5	2.34	Under 2.5	1.64	
3.5	Over 3.5	4.35	Under 3.5	1.22	
4.5	Over 4.5	8.30	Under 4.5	1.05	
5.5	Over 5.5	23.00			

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0.5	Over 0.5	1.07	Under 0.5	8.30	
1.5	Over 1.5	1.45	Under 1.5	2.90	

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"GOD IS GOOD!" - SONGA CHIPYOKA CELEBRATES PERMANENT HAPOEL PETAH TIKVA MOVE, REFLECTS ON JOURNEY

By Lucky Chama



Zambian midfielder Songa Chipyoka has taken to Facebook to express his elation and gratitude following his permanent transfer from ZESCO United to Israeli Premier League side Hapoel Petah Tikva.

In a touching post adorned with the club's white and blue colors, Chipyoka reflected on his journey from the humble streets of Chazanga to the professional corridors of his new Israeli home.

"GOD IS GOOD!," Chipyoka stated.

"From the streets of Chazanga to the Corridors of Hapoel Petah Tikva Football Club. A dream of every young football player."

The Chipolopolo international officially confirmed his permanent move, writing, "Today I wish to confirm my permanent move from ZESCO United FC to Hapoel Petah Tikva FC."

Chipyoka took a moment to express sincere gratitude to his former club, acknowledging the crucial role ZESCO United played in his development.

"I want to say a huge 'THANK YOU' to Zesco United Football Club for giving me the opportunity to play for Zega Mambo until the time of my departure."

He also extended special thanks to

the key figures who facilitated the move and supported him along the way.

"Special thanks to Mr Nawa Nyambe of Next-Gen Sports Agency, Mr Nir Amir, my supportive family, friends, and everyone that has been part of my journey."

After playing a critical role in the road promotion, Chipyoka looks ahead to his new chapter in the Israeli Premier League.

"As I begin a new chapter of my career, I continue to seek your support and encouragement."

COPPER PRINCESSES SET FOR ZAMBEZI DERBY AGAINST ZIMBABWE IN COSAFA U17 SEMIFINALS

By Joseph Tembo



Defending champions Zambia will face Zambezi rivals Zimbabwe in a much-anticipated semifinal clash at the 2025 COSAFA U17 Girls' Championship on Friday, 16 May at Hage Geingob Stadium in Windhoek, Namibia.

The Copper Princesses stormed into the semifinals as Group B winners after an electrifying display that saw them score 13 goals without conceding. Their most dominant performance came in a 9-0 thrashing of Mauritius on Wednesday, a result that cemented their place at the top of the group.

Zambia's attack was in full swing against Mauritius despite a slow

start. Gift Chisha Mazimba opened the scoring in the 20th minute with a well-placed header, followed by a stunning free-kick from Hellen Banda. Team captain Ruth Mukoma then danced past goalkeeper Marie Cedrielle Begue to add a third before halftime.

Coach Carol Kanyemba introduced Mary Nyangu and Esther 'Zootopia' Makoti in the second half, with Makoti making an instant impact by smashing in a powerful shot just three minutes after coming on. Banda added her second and third goals in the 65th and 76th minutes to complete her hat-trick, while Precious Mwape netted a brace with a long-range strike and a header.

Substitute Esther Ngabwe wrapped up the scoring with a neat finish from a Faith Kaunda free-kick.

With their place in the semifinals secured, Zambia will now turn their focus to Zimbabwe, who topped Group C to set up a regional showdown. Kickoff is set for 12h00.

The second semifinal, featuring Group A winners Malawi and best runner-up Mozambique, will follow at 15h00 at the same venue.

Zambia will be aiming to continue their title defense and book a spot in the final as they chase back-to-back COSAFA U17 crowns.

KATONGO BROTHERS REVISIT THEIR GOLDEN JOURNEY IN EXCLUSIVE CAF INTERVIEW

BY Fulltime Desk



In a rare and touching joint interview with the Confederation of African Football (CAF), Zambia's iconic footballing siblings, Chris and Felix Katongo, have reflected on their inspirational careers, culminating in the nation's historic triumph at the 2012 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON).

Born and raised in Mufulira, the Katongo brothers rose from humble beginnings to become central figures in a golden generation of Zambian football. Their story, marked by talent, sacrifice, and unwavering patriotism, remains one of the most powerful narratives in African sport.

Speaking to CAFOnline.com, the brothers reminisced about their early football memories, their rise through the ranks, and the deep familial bond that carried them through the highs and lows of professional football.

"My first real memory goes back to a match with Green Buffaloes against Konkola Blades," said Felix. "That's where I really started to stand out." Chris, the older of the two, recalled his pride in helping his brother adjust when he joined the national team in 2004.

"I did everything I could to help him fit in. Our team had a family spirit, so it was easier," he said.

The pair also spoke of the pride their family felt in seeing them wear the national colours—especially their late father, whom they credit as a key influence in their careers.

"He saw his dreams come true through us," said Chris. "It was a source of great pride for the whole family."

Despite the natural advantages of having a sibling on the team, both acknowledged the added pressure that came with it.

"When your brother makes a mistake, you feel even more pressure," Chris admitted.

"If one of us had a bad day, the other felt the criticism too," added Felix.

Their synergy on the pitch was undeniable. One key moment highlighted was during the 2014 World Cup qualifiers at the Levy Mwanawasa Stadium, where Felix provided a crucial assist to Chris in a match against Ghana.

The pinnacle of their careers remains Zambia's historic 2012 AFCON victory in Libreville, Gabon. The emotional win against Côte d'Ivoire in a dramatic final not only secured Zambia's first continental title, but also symbolized redemption for the 1993 national team lost in a plane crash.

"I dreamed of winning the AFCON, but not necessarily alongside my brother," said Felix.

"I did," Chris declared. "I even said during our camp in South Africa, 'If it's not now, it never will be.'"

The brothers fondly remembered moments from that final, including a key pass from Felix that nearly led to a goal by Chris, a moment still discussed between them to this day.

Post-retirement, the Katongos are looking to give back to the game that gave them so much. Felix hopes to build a sustainable business and become a top coach, while Chris has ambitions to serve in a leadership role at the Football Association of Zambia (FAZ) and possibly coach the national team.

"Zambia has always had siblings in its national team—the Lota brothers, the Bwalya brothers," Chris said. "We continued that tradition."

The Katongo brothers' story is a testament to dedication, resilience, and the unbreakable bond of family. It serves as a powerful inspiration for future generations of Zambian footballers.

NEW FAZ BOSS KEITH MWEEMBA HEADS TO PARAGUAY FOR 75TH FIFA CONGRESS

By Joseph Tembo



Newly elected Football Association of Zambia (FAZ) President Keith Mweemba, his deputy Mutale Ng'andu, and General Secretary Reuben Kamanga are set to attend the landmark 75th FIFA Congress in Asunción, Paraguay, scheduled for Wednesday, May 15, 2025.

The trio will join delegates from all 211 FIFA member associations at the high-level global football gathering, marking Mweemba's official introduction to the international football stage following his election to the FAZ presidency last Friday during the elective general meeting in Kabwe.

The FIFA Congress, which serves as the sport's highest decision-making body, will take place at the Bourbon Asunción Convention Centre. This year's edition is particularly historic as it coincides with the centenary celebration of the Paraguayan

Football Association (APF)'s membership in FIFA. Paraguay joined the global football family 100 years ago at the 14th Ordinary Congress held in Prague, Czechoslovakia, on 24 May 1925.

This will be the first-ever Ordinary FIFA Congress hosted by Paraguay, and the first such meeting in South America not directly tied to a FIFA World Cup tournament. Past South American FIFA Congresses were held around World Cup events in Brazil (1950 and 2014), Chile (1962), and Argentina (1978), as well as an Extraordinary Congress in Buenos Aires in 2001.

FIFA President Gianni Infantino hailed the upcoming event as a "fitting occasion to celebrate 100 years of FIFA membership for the Paraguayan Football Association and football's spirit of togetherness." He extended

gratitude to APF and CONMEBOL leaders, Robert Harrison and Alejandro Domínguez, for hosting the milestone gathering.

For Zambia, the Congress provides an opportunity for renewed international engagement, as the new FAZ leadership looks to reestablish strong relations with the global football community and seek collaborative pathways for the growth of Zambian football.

President Mweemba's presence in Paraguay signals a new chapter for Zambian football, one that is expected to focus on transparency, grassroots development, and international partnerships.

The Zambian delegation is expected to participate in key discussions on global football development, governance, and strategic reforms during the one-day Congress.

NCHANGA RANGERS QUEENS STAR STRIKER IVY NAMBEYE HEADS TO INDIA FOR CRUCIAL MEDICAL TREATMENT

By Lucky Chama



Nchanga Rangers Queens' prolific striker, Ivy Nambeye, on Wednesday evening left for India to undergo specialized medical treatment for an injury sustained during the latter stages of the 2024/2025 Eden University Women's Super League season.

The talented forward picked up the injury during the second round of the league, prematurely ending what was a stellar individual campaign in her

maiden Super League campaign.

Prior to the setback, Nambeye had established herself as a leading contender for the Golden Boot award, impressively becoming the first player in the league to reach the 20-goal mark.

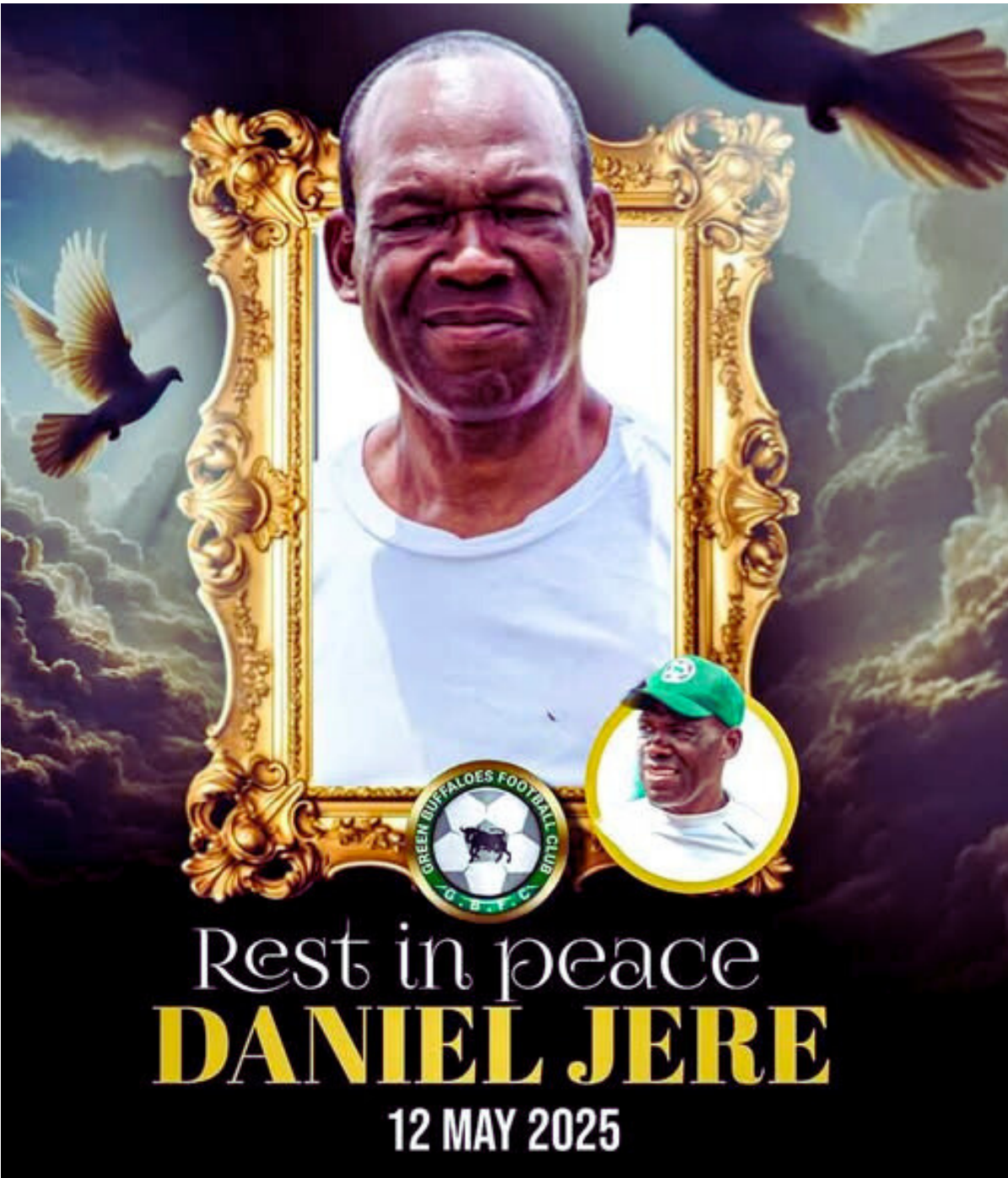
Her blistering form and clinical finishing had made her a key player for Nchanga Rangers Queens and a constant threat to opposition

defenses. Unfortunately, the injury sidelined her, allowing eventual winner Penelope Mulubwa to surpass her tally and claim the Golden Boot with an impressive 35 goals.

The decision for Nambeye to seek medical treatment in India reaffirms Nchanga Queens management's commitment to ensuring the player's full recovery.

FOOTBALL FRATERNITY MOURNS PASSING OF FORMER U-20 TEAM MANAGER DANIEL JERE

By Lucky Chama



The Zambian football community is in mourning following the untimely passing of former Under-20 National Team Manager, Daniel Jere, who passed away on Monday, May 12, 2025, after a short illness. Tributes have been pouring in, highlighting his significant contributions to the development of young talent in the country.

Zambia National Team midfielder Emmanuel Banda, a key member of the history-making Under-20 squad that clinched the 2017 Africa Cup of Nations title and reached the quarterfinals of the 2017 FIFA Under-20 World Cup, expressed his deep sorrow in a heartfelt Facebook post.

"Saddened to hear about your passing on Manager," Banda wrote. "You played an important role in Zambian football and in mine. From the under17 raising stars days till the national Under-20. Helped me navigate through hurdles I faced when I was young and knew not much in the football world."

Banda further extended his condolences, saying, "My heartfelt condolences goes to the family in this difficult moment. Rest in Peace Managers. You Will be missed." Green Buffaloes Football Club, where Jere served as a dedicated Committee Member, also released a statement expressing their profound

sadness.

"Green Buffaloes is deeply saddened to announce the untimely passing of its Committee Member Daniel Jere after a short illness this afternoon," the club stated.

The club fondly remembered Jere's unwavering passion for the team and his broader commitment to Zambian football.

"Daniel Jere, loved Green Buffaloes immensely and was a loyal servant of football in Zambia. He was Once the Team Manager For Zambia Under 20 and Nkana Football Club."

Green Buffaloes conveyed their sympathies to the bereaved family, stating, "Our thoughts and prayers are with the Jere's family, his friends, and all Green Nation. Mr Jere will forever live in the hearts and minds of all Green Buffaloes members."

Update on Funeral Arrangements: Green Buffaloes Football Club has since released the official burial program for the late Daniel Jere. The funeral service is scheduled to take place on Thursday, May 15, 2025, at the Army Chapel in Lusaka.

The church service will be held from 8:00hrs to 12:00hrs at the Army Chapel, followed by the burial at Mutumbi Cemetery at 14:00hrs.

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ZAMBIA, UAE ATHLETICS FORGE STRATEGIC ALLIANCE FOR ATHLETE DEVELOPMENT, INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

By Lucky Chama



Zambia Athletics (ZA) has announced a significant step forward in its international collaborations following a fruitful meeting between its President, Major Bernard Bwalya, and the President of the UAE Athletics Federation, Major General Dr. Mohammed Abdalla Al Mur. The high-level engagement, held in the United Arab Emirates, signifies a commitment from both nations to enhance athletic development and foster shared opportunities within the sport.

The discussions centered on strengthening the ties between the two federations, with a strong emphasis on initiatives that will directly benefit athletes and contribute to the growth of athletics in both Zambia and the UAE.

Several key outcomes were agreed upon, paving the way for tangible collaborative efforts.

A cornerstone of the agreement is the establishment of Joint Talent Identification Initiatives. Zambia and UAE Athletics will pool their expertise to identify promising young athletes in both the UAE and Zambia. This collaborative approach aims to create structured and innovative pathways for nurturing future champions from the grassroots level.

Recognizing the importance of elite preparation, both federations have committed to Shared High-Performance Training Camps. This cooperation will see athletes from both nations benefit from

coordinated access to training camps in preparation for major international competitions. This will provide invaluable exposure to elite training environments and coaching expertise, ultimately enhancing athlete performance.

In a significant boost for Zambian athletes, Participation in UAE Athletic Events has been secured. Zambia Athletics has received an invitation for its athletes to participate in all major marathons and track competitions hosted in the UAE and Dubai. This presents a golden opportunity for Zambian athletes to gain crucial international experience and exposure on a prominent stage, with the remarkable provision that the costs for their participation will be covered by the UAE Athletics Federation.

During the meeting, Major General Dr. Al Mur conveyed his strong endorsement of the athlete-centered vision championed by Major Bwalya for Zambia Athletics. He also reaffirmed the UAE Athletics Federation's unwavering commitment to partnering with Zambia in realizing this ambitious vision.

Furthermore, Dr. Al Mur accepted a formal invitation, extended by Major Bwalya on behalf of National Olympic Committee of Zambia (NOCZ) President Alfred Foloko, to attend the prestigious ABSA Marathon scheduled to take place in Lusaka in September 2025.

This press statement was issued on May 13th, 2025, by Andson Katongo, ZA Director of International Marketing.

ZAMBIA FIELDS STRONG CONTINGENT FOR ITTF WORLD TABLE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS IN DOHA

By Lucky Chama



The Zambia Table Tennis Association (ZTTA) has announced that four national players will represent Zambia at the ITTF World Table Tennis Championships in Doha, Qatar. The team includes two female players competing in Women's Doubles and two male players in Men's Doubles.

According to a statement on ZTTA's official Facebook page, Latifa Nalavwe (Green Buffaloes) and

Mubanga Kunda (NASDEC) will play in the Women's Doubles. They depart for Doha on May 16th and return on May 27th, 2025. In Men's Doubles, Choolwe Hamalambo (NASDEC) and Charles Banda (Green Buffaloes) departed Wednesday and will also return May 27th.

ZTTA expressed gratitude to key supporters: the National Olympic Committee of Zambia for funding

the female team's travel, Shaan Carriers General Dealers for supporting the male team, NOWSPAR for providing the women's kits, and an anonymous sponsor for equipping the men.

"Your contributions are helping our athletes shine on the world stage!" said the ZTTA. The association called on the public to support the team as they proudly represent Zambia.

ZAMBIA PARTICIPATES IN THE 18TH INTERNATIONAL SESSION FOR NATIONAL OLYMPIC ACADEMIES (NOAS) AND NATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEES (NOCs)

NOCZ



The National Olympic Committee of Zambia (NOCZ) has joined the global dialogue on the future of Olympic education, innovation, and Artificial intelligence (AI) in sport during the 18th International Session for National Olympic Academies (NOAs) and National Olympic Committees (NOCs) Delegates, held at the International Olympic Academy (IOA) in Olympia, Greece.

The week-long forum, from May 9 to 15, 2025, at the historic International Olympic Academy (IOA) in Ancient Olympia, has attracted 150 participants from across five continents. The session aims to enhance collaboration among NOAs and NOCs, focusing on the coordination, planning, and implementation of Olympic educational programs.

Tinyiko L. Kamanga, Olympafrica Director, and William Sikapanda, NOCZ Programmes Officer, represent NOCZ at the event. Both delegates actively participate in discussions and interactive working groups.

Their involvement highlights NOCZ's continued commitment to embracing innovation and aligning Zambia's sports development initiatives with global Olympic values.

This year's session features presentations by leading global experts including Professor Hassan M. Khachfe, who discussed AI in athletic development; Cécile Faye, who shared Olympic education initiatives for Dakar 2026; Sotiris

Salamouris, who spoke on the use of AI in Olympic broadcasting; and Professor Alberto Carrió, who addressed complex ethical issues related to AI in sport.

Kamanga and Sikapanda have taken part in interactive working groups where delegates are collaborating on proposals aimed at strengthening Olympic education worldwide. Their involvement highlights NOCZ's ongoing commitment to embracing innovation and aligning national sports development with international Olympic values.

As part of the program, the Zambian representatives also took time to honour Olympic history by laying wreaths at the stele of Pierre de Coubertin, the founder of the modern Olympic Games. They also participated in a guided tour of the archaeological site to gain deeper insight into the origins and legacy of the Olympic movement.

Another key highlight of the session was the screening of video presentations from various National Olympic Academies, showcasing recent educational activities, national programs, and community-based initiatives that promote Olympic values.

Zambia's participation in this prestigious forum reflects the country's continued investment in youth and sports development, as well as its commitment to engaging with global sporting innovations that shape the future of Olympic education.