



WHO FUNDS ZAMBIA'S ATHLETES?

Zambia Athletics says funding varies by competition, with the Government, National Sports Council and National Olympic Committee supporting major events, while some professional and individual competitions fall outside the Federation's direct responsibility... pg 2



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ZAMBIA ATHLETICS TO INVESTIGATE SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS

By Lucky Chama



ZA President - Maj. Bernard Bwalya

Zambia Athletics says it will thoroughly investigate a social media post made by one of its athletes amid various media reports and discussions surrounding the matter.

In an official statement issued on Wednesday, Zambia Athletics General Secretary Teddy Shimishi said the investigation would be conducted in line with the Federation’s established procedures and safeguarding policies.

Shimishi said a comprehensive report would be issued once the investigation is concluded.

“Zambia Athletics has taken note of the various media reports and social media posts currently circulating in relation to a post made on one of our athletes’ social media platforms,” he said.

The Federation has also reminded athletes and members to use established communication channels when raising concerns or matters affecting them.

It said members are expected to respect the channels to ensure issues are handled appropriately, professionally and responsibly, while

avoiding actions or statements that may bring the name of Zambia Athletics into disrepute.

Zambia Athletics further clarified that different competitions and programmes have different funding and logistical arrangements.

According to the Federation, Zambia’s participation in major competitions, including the Olympic Games, Commonwealth Games and Region 5 Games, receives support from the Government through the Ministry of Sport, while some programmes are facilitated through the National Sports Council of Zambia.

The National Olympic Committee of Zambia also supports the country’s participation in major multi-sport events such as the Olympic and Commonwealth Games.

However, the Federation said some international and individual competitions fall outside its direct responsibility, with athletes sometimes participating in their professional capacity.

It said logistical arrangements, including travel and other

requirements for such competitions, may be handled with the support of athletes’ agents or representatives, with World Athletics communicating the relevant information to Zambia Athletics.

The Federation reaffirmed its commitment to the welfare, protection and development of Zambian athletes.

“The leadership of the Federation has continued to work tirelessly to move the sport forward, strengthen our programmes and create opportunities for Zambian athletes to compete and develop at the highest level,” Shimishi said.

He added that Zambia Athletics creates platforms for athletes to utilise as springboards for their careers.

The Federation has also appealed for unity among athletes, officials, coaches and other stakeholders as it continues efforts to develop athletics in Zambia.

Zambia Athletics reiterated that it will issue a comprehensive statement after completing the investigation.

KANSANSHI DYNAMOS WIN FRIENDLY IN LUANSHYA

By Lucky Chama



Kansanshi Dynamos stepped up preparations for the 2026 MTN Super League Transitional League on Monday with two pre-season friendly matches against Jumulo FC in Luanshya.

The Mabanga Boys, who travelled to Kitwe on Saturday for their pre-season camp and began training on Sunday, made the short trip to Luanshya for the double-header as part of their preparations.

Kansanshi Dynamos won the opening encounter 2-0, with Joseph Ssemujju converting from the penalty spot before Bebe Musangala added the second with a fine finish.

The first match started with Mapalo Chitundu in goal, alongside Rodgers Lukonde, Mathews Mutambo, Faustine Bakodila, Rodgers Chitambala, Mubiana Muleta, Julius Mwanza, Kizito Keziron, Bebe Musangala, Brighton Kabumba and Ssemujju.

Chitundu played the full match in goal, while Mutambo was later replaced by midfielder Patrick.

A different starting XI was used for the second encounter, which ended in a 0-0 draw.

Raphael Zulu, Mathews Mutambo, Remmy Chanda, Titus Chivunga, Thomas Tembo, Kelvin Kapumbu, Clinton Lubula, Mathews Tolopa, Francisco Madinga, a trialist and Dalitso Lungu started the second match.

Zulu started in goal before Gregory Sanjase took over for the second half, while Musonda Kapemba and Gary Mulwa were also introduced.

Gwazani was rested as a precaution as he continues to recover from a minor knock.

The two matches provided the technical bench with an opportunity to assess the squad and give players valuable match minutes ahead of the Transitional League.

Kansanshi Dynamos will remain in Kitwe for pre-season, with two more friendly matches lined up for Thursday and Saturday as preparations continue.

FC LEOPARDS BOLSTER SQUAD AHEAD OF TRANSITIONAL SEASON

By FT Reporter



FC Leopards have strengthened their squad ahead of the 2026 ZPL National Division League Transitional Season with a series of signings, contract renewals and promotions from their feeder team.

Striker Field Mwanwa has returned to the club following the completion of his loan spell at Real Nakonde. Mwanwa has signed a new six-month contract that will keep him at President Stadium for the remainder of the transitional season.

The club has also confirmed the return of right-back Edison Kasokomba, who has rejoined FC Leopards after completing his loan spell at Mines United. Kasokomba has renewed his contract with the club.

Striker Kasema Musonda has been promoted to the senior team from

Kamfinsa Correctional Rangers FC, having previously featured for the Young Leopards. Musonda has signed a six-month contract running until January 2027.

FC Leopards have further completed the permanent signing of defensive midfielder Charles Chanda from Mines United on a six-month contract, with an option for an extension.

Another former Mines United player, right-back Leonard Kabata, has joined the club on a permanent transfer. He has signed a seasonal contract covering the 2026 Transitional Season.

Midfielder David Monde has also arrived from Forest Myooye on a permanent transfer, signing a one-season deal with an option for an extension.

In defence, former Mines United defender Fanwell Visuwa has signed a two-year contract that will keep him at President Stadium until 2028.

The club has also brought back striker Steven Lungu from Jumulo FC on a six-month contract, with an option to extend beyond the Transitional League.

Goalkeeper Elvis Lungu, formerly of Tazara Police, has joined the Super Correct Boys on a seasonal contract running until the conclusion of the Transitional League.

The moves form part of FC Leopards' efforts to strengthen the squad as the club prepares for the Transitional Season.

MINISTRY TARGETS STRONGER TALENT PATHWAYS THROUGH SPORT

By Lucky Chama



The Ministry of Youth, Sport and Arts is seeking stronger partnerships to expand sports development and create clearer pathways for young athletes from communities and universities into national teams.

The Ministry discussed potential areas of collaboration with Sport in Action and its United Kingdom partners during a courtesy call on Permanent Secretary Kangwa Chileshe.

Chileshe said the Ministry was prioritising sports infrastructure, including the upgrading of National Heroes Stadium with hybrid turf and a new tartan track to meet international standards.

He also highlighted plans to strengthen university sport through improved facilities at the University of Zambia and Copperbelt University.

According to Chileshe, stronger links between university leagues and national sports associations could improve talent identification and development.

He further called for increased funding and capacity building for local authorities to strengthen grassroots sports development.

Director of Sport Gibson Muyaule said the Ministry valued Sport in Action's contribution to sports

development and social transformation.

Muyaule said partnerships should focus on maximising existing infrastructure, facilities and human resources to create more opportunities for young people.

Assistant Director of Youth Brenda Chasaya said sport could serve as an entry point for young people at Youth Resource Centres, where they could subsequently access skills development, education and health-related services.

Sport in Action Executive Director Frank Mushindu said the organisation had worked with UK partners through the Wallace Group of Universities for about 20 years, supporting sports infrastructure and youth development.

Mushindu said more than 20 sports facilities had been created or upgraded in Lusaka, while the organisation had also worked with national federations and the National Sports Council to develop pathways for young athletes from schools and communities into national teams.

He said Sport in Action was keen to deepen its partnership with the Ministry and explore community sports initiatives, including opportunities under the Constituency Development Fund.



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NDOLA UNITED APPOINT MWANSA AS NEW HEAD COACH

By Lucky Chama



Ndola United Football Club has appointed Steven Mwansa as its new head coach ahead of the upcoming ZPL National Division Men’s League Transition League.

Mwansa takes over from Tenant Chembo, who has left the club to join Zesco United.

The new coach joins Ndola United with experience from several clubs, including Mutondo Stars, Trident FC and Chambishi FC.

The club says Mwansa’s appointment reflects its confidence in his leadership, technical expertise and understanding of the team’s philosophy.

Mwansa has signed a one-year contract with the club.

He will work with a familiar technical team, with Watson Musonda retained as Assistant Coach, Henry Lusambo continuing as Physical Trainer and Robby Mwase serving as

Goalkeeper Trainer.

Mwansa expressed appreciation for the opportunity to lead the club as he begins his new assignment.

Ndola United says it remains committed to its long-term vision and has called for continued support from its fans, sponsors and other stakeholders as the club begins a new chapter under Mwansa.

HOW SHELTON DEFEATED ALCARAZ - AND WHAT IT MEANS FOR THE US OPEN

By ESPN



After a wild, drama-filled day of tennis, Tuesday -- or more accurately, Wednesday -- ended with the biggest stunner of them all.

Playing in front of a still-engaged crowd well into the early morning hours on Arthur Ashe Stadium, Ben Shelton, the top-ranked American man, earned one of the biggest victories of his career with a 6-7 (5), 6-1, 6-3, 1-6, 7-6 (7) win over reigning champion Carlos Alcaraz. It marked Shelton's first victory over a top-three player and, concluding at 3:33 a.m. local time, it was the latest finish in tournament history.

The 23-year-old is now into the third major semifinal of his career, and second in New York.

When it was over, after sealing the match with an ace, Shelton appeared to be almost in disbelief for a brief moment before sticking out his tongue and looking over at his box in celebration.

Alcaraz, who was 25-0 when winning the opening set at the US Open, immediately went over to congratulate him and the two exchanged friendly words. It was Alcaraz's first-ever loss to an American player at a Slam, and first defeat at a major to a lefty. It was also the end of an 18-match Slam win streak for Alcaraz.

BART’S QUEENS VICE PRESIDENT CHAMPIONS HOLISTIC DEVELOPMENT OF YOUNG WOMEN

By Lucky Chama



Bart’s Queens Football Club Vice President Kelly Barker says the club’s mission goes beyond developing footballers, with a strong focus on education, character, life skills and the overall wellbeing of young women.

Barker, who has served as the club’s Vice President for six years and has spent a decade working in youth ministry and as a Sunday School teacher, says her work at the Choma-based club is driven by a desire to serve and create opportunities for young women.

She also raised concerns over young players being vulnerable to relationships with older men who may offer money or football equipment.

She said Bart’s Queens responds through mentorship, life-skills training, spiritual guidance and practical support, including assistance with education and safe accommodation where necessary.

Speaking in an interview with the Zambia Premier League, Barker said the club was established around a broader mission after her family moved to Zambia as missionaries.

She said the family saw both the passion for football in Southern Province and the need for greater opportunities, equipment, mentorship and spiritual investment in young people.

“We didn’t come to Zambia simply to run a football club. We came as missionaries because we believed God was leading our family here,” Barker said.

She said football subsequently became an important avenue for building relationships with young people while helping them understand that their identity and future extend beyond the sport.

Barker highlighted several challenges affecting young female footballers, including education, transport, nutrition, equipment, accommodation and family financial expectations.

The club is also developing the HOPE Project, which Barker hopes will bring football, education, vocational opportunities, discipleship and personal development together.

For Barker, success is not measured only by trophies or promotion to the Zambian Women’s Super Division.

“I want Bart’s Queens to be remembered as a place where girls were valued as people first and footballers second,” she said.

She said the long-term ambition is also to give girls from Choma and Southern Province an opportunity to compete at the highest level of Zambian women’s football while building strong, capable women who can become leaders, professionals, mothers and community contributors.

REAL MADRID GOALKEEPER THIBAUT COURTOIS TO STEP AWAY FROM BELGIUM'S NATIONS LEAGUE CAMPAIGN

By ESPN



Real Madrid goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois will not play for Belgium in the Nations League campaign but has not retired from international football.

Courtois, 34, made the decision to take a break after a recent meeting with new national team manager Mark van Bommel.

"He [Van Bommel] said that he couldn't guarantee me a place in the

starting line-up," Courtois told Belgian newspaper HLN after making key saves to help Real Madrid win 2-1 against Inter Milan in Tuesday's Champions League game.

"I have decided not to play the entire Nations League campaign with the Red Devils. Unless the national team manager faces problems with injuries; in that case, I may be called up on an exceptional basis. That also means I won't be playing in a

potential [Nations League] Final Four."

Courtois had already indicated he would take a rest from the national team after starting for Belgium in their six games at the 2026 World Cup.

However, the veteran goalkeeper intends to return to the fold for the 2028 European Championship qualifiers, scheduled for March next year, knowing he will have to fight to regain his starting place.

SIMFUKWE SHOCKS TOP SEED MABO TO CLAIM U18 TITLE

By Lucky Chama



Emmanuel Simfukwe stunned top seed Kombe Mabo Jr in a thrilling contest to claim the Boys U18 title after a dramatic 10-point match tiebreak.

Simfukwe overcame Mabo Jr 6-2, 5-7, 12-10 in a closely fought encounter that saw the unseeded player hold his nerve in the deciding tiebreak to secure the championship.

In the Girls U18 category, Christabel Chisongo was crowned champion after sister Isabel conceded the final by walkover.

Top seeds Silumbwe S. Elisha and

Muimo R. Kayla dominated the U16 categories, winning the Boys and Girls titles respectively.

Silumbwe defeated his opponent 6-3, 6-1, while Muimo secured the Girls U16 crown with a 6-3, 6-3 victory.

The U14 categories also produced exciting contests, with Mulenga Mapalo overcoming younger brother Mulenga Gift 6-7(4), 6-1, 10-4 to win the Boys title.

Nalwizya Joyce claimed the Girls U14 title after her opponent, Shaney Sibusiso Mateta, retired injured at 2-2.

Mulenga Gift bounced back from his U14 defeat to dominate the Boys U12 category, winning 6-0, 6-0.

Chileshe Charity claimed the Girls U12 title after edging her opponent 7-6(3), 4-6, 10-8 in another tightly contested match.

In the U10 categories, Ulendo Nzelu won the Boys title through a match tiebreak, while Nakapundwa Repentance upset top seed Mwape Mercy 4-1, 4-1 to take the Girls U10 crown.

CHIEFS' YOUNG GUNS ON FIRE AS ZAMBIA WATCHES DUBA LEADS TEENAGE REVOLUTION WITH THREE GOALS

By Enock Phiri



Kaizer Chiefs are showing that youth can be more than just a development project it can also be the engine of a team’s attack.

The South African giants have started the 2026/27 league campaign with a youthful attacking unit that is already making an impact, with Wandile Duba, Mfundo Vilakazi, Mduduzi Shabalala, Luke Baartman and Langelihle Phili combining for seven goals and two assists.

Leading the charge is 22-year-old Duba, who has scored three goals, while Vilakazi and Shabalala have contributed a goal and an assist each. Baartman and Phili have also found the back of the net once apiece.

For Chiefs, the numbers offer an encouraging sign that investing in young players can produce immediate results.

Duba has emerged as the standout among the five.

Born on June 27, 2004, the versatile forward came through the Kaizer Chiefs academy before making his senior debut against Lamontville Golden Arrows on December 31, 2022.

His first senior goal came against the same opposition in March 2024.

Blessed with pace, physical strength and the ability to operate both out wide and through the middle, Duba has gradually developed into an important attacking option for Chiefs.

Now, at 22, he is leading a young frontline that is bringing energy, pace and unpredictability to the Chiefs attack.

And that development raises an interesting question for football in Zambia.

IS ZAMBIA FALLING BEHIND ON YOUTH?

While South African clubs continue to give young players opportunities to prove themselves at the highest level, the same cannot always be said about Zambian football.

Many Zambian clubs still appear more comfortable turning to experienced, already-tested players when strengthening their squads.

The recent transfer window provided another example, with several clubs opting for established names such as Kennedy Musonda and Joshua Mutale, rather than taking greater risks on emerging talent.

That approach is not necessarily wrong. Experienced players bring stability and can immediately strengthen a squad.

But the question is whether Zambian clubs are doing enough to create pathways for the next generation.

RED ARROWS SHOW THE WAY

There are, however, signs that some Zambian clubs are beginning to take a different approach.

Red Arrows' decision to give 19-year-old Eliya Mandanji an opportunity is one example.

Mandanji has already shown glimpses of what young players can offer, scoring his first continental goal in the CAF Confederation Cup preliminary-round first leg against Madagascar's Rogue.

It is precisely these kinds of opportunities that can accelerate the development of young footballers.

YOUTH OR EXPERIENCE?

The Chiefs example does not mean every young player will immediately deliver seven goals and two assists.

It does, however, demonstrate the value of giving talented youngsters meaningful opportunities.

A club willing to trust young players can potentially develop its own stars, reduce dependence on expensive signings and build a squad capable of competing for years.

For Zambia, the challenge is not simply identifying talented youngsters.

It is trusting them.

As Chiefs' young attackers continue to make noise in South Africa, the question for Zambian coaches and clubs becomes increasingly difficult to ignore:

Are we giving our own young stars enough opportunities to shine?

And for Chiefs, there is another question waiting to be answered: Can Duba, Vilakazi, Shabalala, Baartman and Phili maintain their hot start throughout the 2026/27 campaign?