



MANSA YOUTHS TURN K15,000 CDF GRANT INTO THRIVING MUSHROOM BUSINESS



By Alexis Chilumbwe
An 18-member youth cooperative group in Namwandwe Ward of Mansa District has transformed a K15,000 Constituency Development Fund (CDF) grant into a thriving mushroom ... *(Continues on P2)*



Part of the 18-member youth cooperative group in Namwandwe Ward of Mansa District has transformed a K15,000 Constituency Development Fund (CDF) grant



No Mineral Worth Human Life, Says ZASAA Chief



By Staff Reporter

Zambia Safety Awards for Excellence (ZASAA) Chief Executive Officer (CEO)

Hellen Mwamba says no amount of wealth can outweigh the value of a human life.

Five illegal gold miners are trapped underground at Matala gold mine in Nangoma Mumbwa district in Central Province.

In a statement issued on Friday, Mwamba stated that the government and other key stakeholders had repeatedly warned small scale miners and illegal miners of the dangers associated with unsafe mining. He stated the advice had been falling on deaf ears. *(Continues on P2)*



Youth Cooperative Turns K15,000 CDF Grant Into Thriving Mushroom Business in Mansa

By Alexis Chilumbwe

An 18-member youth cooperative group in Namwandwe Ward of Mansa District has transformed a K15,000 Constituency Development Fund (CDF) grant into a thriving mushroom production business that is now creating jobs and inspiring other young people in the area.

Driven by ambition, hope and determination to improve their livelihoods, the youths under the Mansa Mushroom Youth Cooperative are now earning sustainable incomes while contributing to local economic growth.

The cooperative's journey reflects resilience, innovation and the positive impact of the CDF on youth empowerment.

Speaking to Peza News, cooperative chairperson Danny Chama recounted the difficulties the group faced in the early stages of the project.

"We decided that we were not going to let this opportunity go to waste. CDF gave us a starting point, but hard work, teamwork and discipline have helped us grow. Agreeing and consistency was a challenge, but we pushed through," he said.

Chama explained that although the cooperative struggled for nearly a year before making meaningful profits, the business has now become firmly established and continues to grow.

"What started as a small community initiative has now grown into a reliable business supplying Oyster mushrooms to Choppies Supermarket and many individual customers within and outside Mansa District. The demand continues to grow, with the cooperative now earning at least K3,000 every week from mushroom sales," he said.

The success of the enterprise has already

begun transforming the lives of the young people involved. Using proceeds from the business, the cooperative recently purchased a motorcycle worth K16,000 to improve deliveries and enhance operational efficiency.

In a bid to diversify its income streams and strengthen sustainability, the cooperative has also ventured into the production and supply of Mamu Juice.

Beyond profitability, the initiative has become a source of livelihood for many families in the community. Eight young people are currently employed through the venture and are earning monthly incomes, while members have also acquired valuable skills in agribusiness, financial management and marketing.

And Mansa Municipal Council Public Relations Officer Joel Norman Kashi says the cooperative is a shining example of what can happen when young people are empowered with resources and opportunities.

"In a community where unemployment among youths remains a challenge, this cooperative has become a symbol of hope and determination. Many young people are now showing interest in entrepreneurship after witnessing the success of the cooperative," said Kashi.

As the cooperative continues to expand, its members remain focused on increasing production, accessing larger markets and demonstrating that with support, commitment and vision, local youths can become drivers of economic transformation in their communities.



No Mineral Worth Human Life, Says ZASAA Chief



(From front page)

"Wealth must never outweigh the value of human life. No mineral, no amount of gold, and no financial breakthrough is worth a life lost in a preventable accident. Over the years, government and key stakeholders have repeatedly warned small-scale miners and illegal miners of the dangers associated with breaking the ground and operating in confined spaces without proper technical knowledge,

expertise, equipment, and supervision," Mwamba stated.

"Sadly, such warnings are often met with hostility, suspicion, and the belief that the government is against citizens' entrepreneurial efforts. ZASAA wishes to firmly remind the nation that safety guidance is not persecution, it is protection. It is true that human beings will always take risks. But what must change is our attitude toward preventable risk."

(continues on P4)



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Three boys carry water at Chinsali Main Market as they earn a living by supplying traders with water for daily business operations. Picture by Mubanga CHileshe

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Editorial

CDF: A Critical Lifeline for Youth Economic Transformation

The Constituency Development Fund (CDF) stands out as one of the most practical government interventions that can significantly transform the economic fortunes of Zambian youths, yet its full potential remains underutilised. It is increasingly clear that if properly structured, monitored, and expanded, CDF could become a decisive turning point in addressing youth unemployment and unlocking grassroots entrepreneurship across the country.

There is an urgent need for lawmakers and policymakers

to intensify research and policy refinement on how Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) can effectively access and benefit from this initiative. The current economic landscape demands more than just funding allocation; it requires deliberate frameworks that ensure funds translate into sustainable businesses across key growth sectors such as technology, manufacturing, agriculture, and creative industries.

Across urban and peri-urban areas, particularly in places like Mandevu in Lusaka, there is already visible evidence of youth potential waiting to

be fully harnessed. Young carpenters in this area are producing quality furniture that competes directly with imported goods,

supplying both local shops and the Lusaka Central Business District. Their products are not only affordable but also demonstrate that local production can meet market standards if adequately supported.

Similarly, a growing number of

youths in the CBD are venturing into electronics and digital commerce, importing laptops, computer accessories, and related equipment

through online platforms. These emerging enterprises reflect innovation, adaptability, and a strong entrepreneurial spirit among young Zambians.

However, despite this potential, access to affordable and

genuine financing remains a major barrier. Many youths have viable business ideas and technical skills but lack the capital and institutional support required to scale their operations. High-interest lending environments and limited financial literacy support continue to constrain growth.

It is therefore imperative that lawmakers urgently revisit the implementation framework of CDF. There must be stronger accountability systems, improved accessibility criteria, and targeted support for youth-

led enterprises. Without such reforms, a powerful national resource risks being reduced to fragmented, underwhelming impact.

CDF, if strategically aligned with youth enterprise development, can become a catalyst for job creation, industrial growth, and economic resilience. The time for action is now—delay risks wasting one of the most important development tools available for transforming Zambia's youthful population into productive economic actors.



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Kawimbe Calls for Growth of Eco-Friendly Businesses



By Alexis Chilumbwe
Sustainable business expert Dr. Sydney Kawimbe has described green

entrepreneurship as a key driver of sustainable economic development in Zambia, especially in tackling environmental

degradation and youth unemployment.

Speaking to Peza News on the sidelines of the Eco-friendly Business Forum in Chisamba, Dr. Kawimbe identified renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, eco-tourism and waste management as sectors with strong potential for green enterprise growth.

"While we have key sectors like sustainable agriculture, renewable energy and eco-tourism, we have not seen many people fully explore them. These are areas that are critical to driving national development," he said.

Dr. Kawimbe, who is also a lecturer at the Zambia Centre for

Accountancy Studies (ZCAS) University School of Business, noted that green businesses in Zambia continue to face several challenges, including limited access to finance, inadequate policy support, low public awareness and insufficient technical expertise.

"Despite these opportunities, the growth of green businesses in Zambia is constrained by several barriers. Many youths are also reluctant to venture into such businesses," he said.

He further emphasized the need for stronger collaboration among stakeholders, targeted policy incentives, accessible green financing mechanisms and practical capacity-building initiatives tailored to the Zambian context.

"Collectively, we have to be intentional about collaboration and ensure youths are active participants in these ventures. Financing mechanisms should be accessible and policy incentives deliberate. Otherwise, we risk talking more and doing very little," said Dr. Kawimbe.

Meanwhile, youth eco-friendly entrepreneur Justine Kalasa urged young people to conduct more research on available funding opportunities for green businesses, describing such funding as underutilized.

"As youths, we tend to avoid business models that require intensive research. Yet there are funders for eco-friendly businesses, and many of these opportunities remain underutilized because very few people apply," said Kalasa.

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No Mineral Worth Human Life, Says ZASAA Chief

(From P2)

Mwamba stated that the Matala gold mine accident should not be treated as another mining accident. She stressed that the accident was not going to be the last one in Zambia, if decisive action was not taken on occupational health and safety.

"However, while rescue efforts continue, ZASAA strongly states that this incident must not simply be treated as "another mining accident." This is not the first such occurrence in Zambia, and unless decisive action is taken, it will not be the last. We must not normalize preventable tragedy. ZASAA is calling for the nation to urgently intensify Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) awareness programs aimed at educating and sensitizing citizens on the

value of safety, especially in high-risk activities such as mining," Mwamba stated.

"Zambia does not lack laws, regulations, or institutions meant to protect lives. The challenge remains one of implementation, enforcement, awareness, and attitude. We must reach a point where safety is not viewed as an inconvenience, an obstacle, or a government restriction, but as a personal duty and a national priority."

Mwamba called on all interested stakeholders like the occupational health and safety Institute in Zambia, the Mine Safety Department, traditional leaders among others to urgently corroborate in rolling out intensified safety awareness campaigns and community-based sensitization.

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Zambia Set to Hit One Million Tonnes of Copper This Year – Kabuswe

Minister of Mines and Minerals Development Paul Kabuswe says Zambia is on course to produce one million metric tonnes of copper this year as mining companies ramp up production across the country.

Speaking during the commissioning of the first ultra-small turning radius Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM) for underground mines at Non-Ferrous Mining Africa in Chambishi, Kabuswe said Zambia narrowly missed the target last year due to operational challenges experienced at some mining firms.

"I believe that this year we will hit one million tonnes for copper. I am very positive because last year we were short of about 165,000 metric tonnes because of certain challenges like the Sino Metals issues, which I think have now been resolved. We also had challenges at Trident in Solwezi," Kabuswe said. He added that

increased production from other mining companies would help the country surpass the one-million-tonne mark and move towards the government's long-term target.

"This year we will definitely hit the one million psychological barrier and then begin rushing toward the three million tonnes by 2031. That is our target," he said.

Meanwhile, Chairman of NFC Mining PLC Africa Wang Jingjun said China Nonferrous Metal Mining Group took over Chambishi Copper Mine in 1998 after it had been under care and maintenance for 13 years.

Jingjun said the company had since expanded operations from a single mine to three operating mines, namely the Main Orebody, West Orebody and South East Orebody mines.

"At present, the company's total production is approximately 80,000 tonnes per annum. Over the past 28 years, NFCA's

cumulative investment has reached US\$1.64 billion, created more than 6,200 jobs and paid a total of US\$578 million in taxes," he said.

He explained that the Chambishi West Orebody Copper Mine commenced production in 2010, while the Chambishi South East Orebody began operations in 2020.

Jingjun further stated that the company remained committed to advancing technological innovation and sustainable mining practices in Zambia.

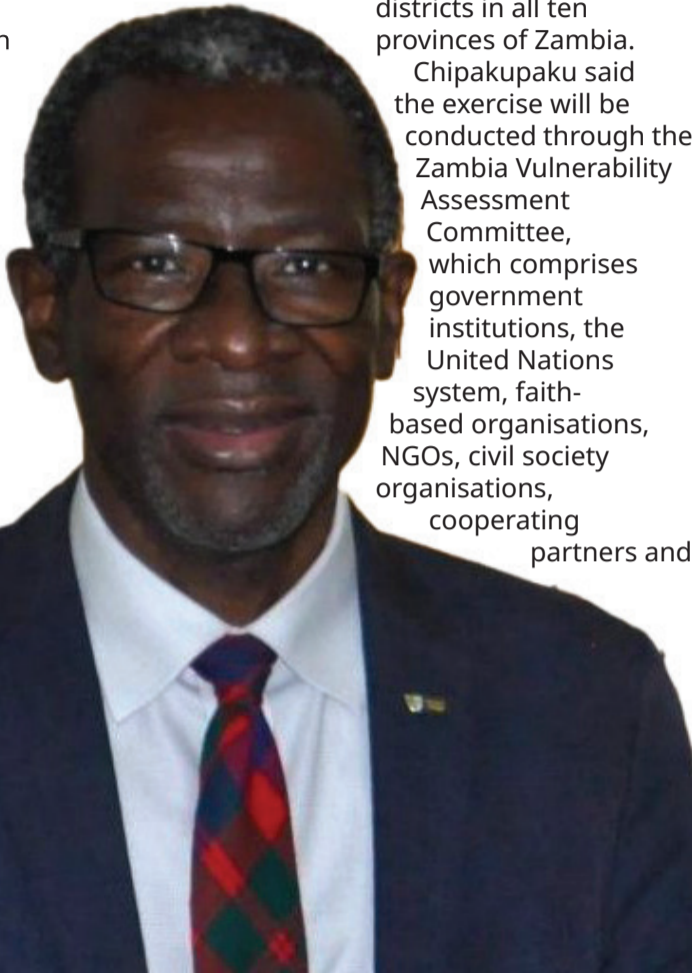
"Under the leadership of His Excellency President Hakainde Hichilema, the Government has set an ambitious vision of achieving annual copper production of three million tonnes by 2031. NFCA is fully committed to building a world-class, technology-driven mining company supported by advanced technologies, green processes and efficient management systems," he said.



Minister of Mines and Minerals Development Paul Kabuswe

Govt Launches Nationwide Vulnerability Survey to Strengthen Disaster Response

By Alexis Chilumbwe
Government, through the Disaster Risk Management and Mitigation Unit, has launched the 2026 In-depth Vulnerability and Needs Assessment Survey aimed at strengthening disaster response interventions across the country.
 DRMMU National Coordinator Norman Chipakupaku said the survey will run from May 11 to June 30, 2026, covering 93



districts in all ten provinces of Zambia. Chipakupaku said the exercise will be conducted through the Zambia Vulnerability Assessment Committee, which comprises government institutions, the United Nations system, faith-based organisations, NGOs, civil society organisations, cooperating partners and

humanitarian stakeholders.

"About 230 trained enumerators will be deployed nationwide to collect data on communities affected by climatic and socio-economic shocks. This survey is an evidence-based exercise aimed at helping Government and partners understand the impact of disasters and other challenges on livelihoods and key economic sectors," he said.

He explained that

**DRMMU
 National
 Coordinator
 Norman
 Chipakupaku**

the survey will collect data on agriculture, food security, livestock, fisheries, health, nutrition, education, WASH, infrastructure, livelihoods, income, expenditure and demographics.

Chipakupaku noted that findings from the assessment will help guide government and humanitarian interventions, resource mobilisation and resilience-building programmes in vulnerable communities.

"Zambia continues to face climate-related challenges such as floods, dry spells and pest infestations, making reliable data collection essential for effective interventions," he said.

The DRMMU National Coordinator further urged residents in

targeted districts not to politicise the exercise, stressing that it is purely technical and humanitarian in nature.

"The exercise is strictly technical, professional and humanitarian and should not be viewed as a political activity ahead of the August 2026 General Elections. The collected information will help shape interventions aimed at improving food security, resilience and livelihoods for vulnerable communities," said Chipakupaku.

He reaffirmed government's commitment to transparency, inclusivity, accountability and evidence-based decision-making in disaster risk management and humanitarian response.

ZDA Markets Zambia Investment Opportunities in Germany

By Staff Reporter
Zambia Development Agency has joined a high-level government delegation to Germany for bilateral negotiations on development cooperation between the governments of Zambia and Germany.

In a statement issued by ZDA Head of Communication and Public Relations Kwali Mfuni, the negotiations focused on cooperation for the 2027 to 2028 period in three key priority areas namely good governance, food and nutrition security, agriculture, and water.

Mfuni said that on the sidelines of the negotiations, a high-level business forum was organised in partnership with the Embassy of Zambia in Germany, the German-African Business Association, the German Agribusiness Alliance, the German Chamber of Commerce and Industry-Southern Africa, GIZ and KfW Development Bank to showcase Zambia's investment opportunities to German and European investors.

Speaking during the forum, Permanent Secretary for Economic Management and Finance in the Ministry of Finance and National Planning



Mulele Mulele highlighted Zambia's improving economic fundamentals and investment climate.

Speaking on behalf of Secretary to the Treasury Felix Nkulukusa, Mulele cited policy consistency, fiscal discipline, mineral wealth and the recently concluded Extended Credit Facility programme with the International Monetary Fund as key drivers of macroeconomic stability.

Meanwhile, ZDA Director General Albert Halwampa highlighted investment opportunities in critical minerals, energy, agriculture, water and sanitation.

"Zambia has stable and predictable policies, which are key and matter most to investors. We also encourage investors to prioritise the employment of Zambians, ensuring that investments translate into local economic benefits," Halwampa said.

And Zambia's Ambassador to Germany Winnie Chibesakunda called for stronger investment partnerships between Zambia and Germany.

Chibesakunda said Germany is globally recognised for precision, reliability and industrial excellence, while

Zambia remains one of Africa's most peaceful and politically stable democracies committed to reform, open markets and inclusive growth.

"When these strengths meet, the result is not merely investment, but transformation," she said.

The forum also featured testimonials from existing investors, including Bayer Global Public Policy and Positioning Lead Anna Rainer and Level Build Zambia Chief Executive Officer Michael Woitag, who reaffirmed Zambia's attractiveness as an investment destination.

Iran says it will 'never bow' as Trump rejects peace counteroffer, prolonging Middle East conflict



In this picture obtained from Iran's ISNA news agency and taken on May 2, 2026, the Gambia-flagged tanker vessel Bili is pictured anchored in the Strait of Hormuz off Bandar Abbas in southern Iran

U.S. President Donald Trump rejected Iran's counterproposal to end the 10-week war in the Middle East, calling it "totally unacceptable," while Tehran vowed to "never bow," prolonging a standoff that has choked the Strait

of Hormuz and roiled global energy markets.

"I have just read the response from Iran's so-called 'Representatives.' I don't like it — TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE!" the president said in a Truth Social post Sunday.

CBNC

Spurs drag out safety battle to keep nerves jangling

The sight of Roberto de Zerbi pulling a black hood over his face as he stalked the touchline was a symbol of another night of self-destruction by Tottenham Hotspur.

New head coach De Zerbi was a picture of anguish after Richarlison squandered a simple chance to put Spurs in a comfort zone by blazing over the bar as they led Leeds United by Mathys Tel's spectacular strike.

It would not have settled the game - 2-0 is no guarantee with Spurs - but it might just have settled the nerves jangling around Tottenham Hotspur Stadium.

The Italian is learning quickly that no such territory as a comfort zone exists at Spurs, and certainly not when presented with the opportunity to put daylight between themselves and West Ham United and make their lives easier in the Premier League relegation battle.

And so it proved as goalscorer Tel went from hero to zero in a moment of total recklessness after 74 minutes to concede the penalty that allowed Leeds to equalise from the penalty spot and deprive Spurs of two precious points.

Tel had already shown his erratic side in the first half when he found himself in a tight spot in his own penalty box, then attempted to resolve the problem by delivering a perfect cross on to the head of an onrushing Leeds forward, only for Kevin Danso's desperate clearance to spare his embarrassment.

This was nothing compared to a bicycle kick in his own area that connected with Ethan Ampadu's head, leaving the Leeds captain in a heap.

The video assistant referee merely confirmed what everyone else in stadium knew, De Zerbi raising his eyes to the heavens as Dominic Calvert-Lewin slammed home the penalty.

After being a relatively low-key presence in his early

Spurs games, which have included vital wins away at Wolverhampton Wanderers and Aston Villa, this was the night when the Italian's combustible temperament bubbled throughout.

De Zerbi jumped up and down on the spot in disgust at slow play from his team in the first half, then incurred the wrath of referee Jarred Gillett, who delivered a touchline dressing down as the Italian repeatedly left his technical area.

He received a yellow card as things threatened to boil over late on, with 13 minutes of added time increasing the unbearable tension around the stadium.

BBC

Roberto de Zerbi has won eight points in five games as Tottenham head coach



James unsure over future after Lakers eliminated



LeBron James is the only player to feature in 23 consecutive NBA seasons

NBA legend LeBron James said he is unsure "what the

future holds for me" after the Los Angeles Lakers were knocked

out of the play-offs. Widely regarded as one of the best players

of all time, 41-year-old James is out of contract in the summer.

He could have played his last game after reigning champions Oklahoma City Thunder beat the Lakers 115-110 to seal a 4-0 victory in the best-of-seven Western Conference semi-final.

"I've got a lot of time. I'll go back and recalibrate with my family and talk with them," James said.

"When the time comes, you guys will know what I decide to do.

"It's about the process - if I can commit

to still being in love with the process of showing up to the arena five and a half hours before a game to start preparing."

James is the leading points scorer in NBA history and has won four titles and four Most Valuable Player (MVP) awards.

"There's nothing I need to show in this league," he said.

"I've done it all; I've seen it all. Just trying to compete and trying to win championships - that's a motivating factor."

BBC

Airmen Sweep Top ABSA Cup Awards

(From P8)

Goalkeeper Charles Kalumba also earned recognition after winning the Golden Glove award, while Joseph Phiri, popularly known as "Dangote," sealed a memorable evening by being named Man of the Match in the final.

The Airmen described the achievement as total dominance after successfully combining

team success with individual brilliance.

In a statement posted on their official Facebook page, the club clarified that the dummy cheques displayed during the award presentation showed K15,000, but the actual prize money for each individual accolade — Player of the Tournament, Golden Glove and Top Scorer — was K25,000.



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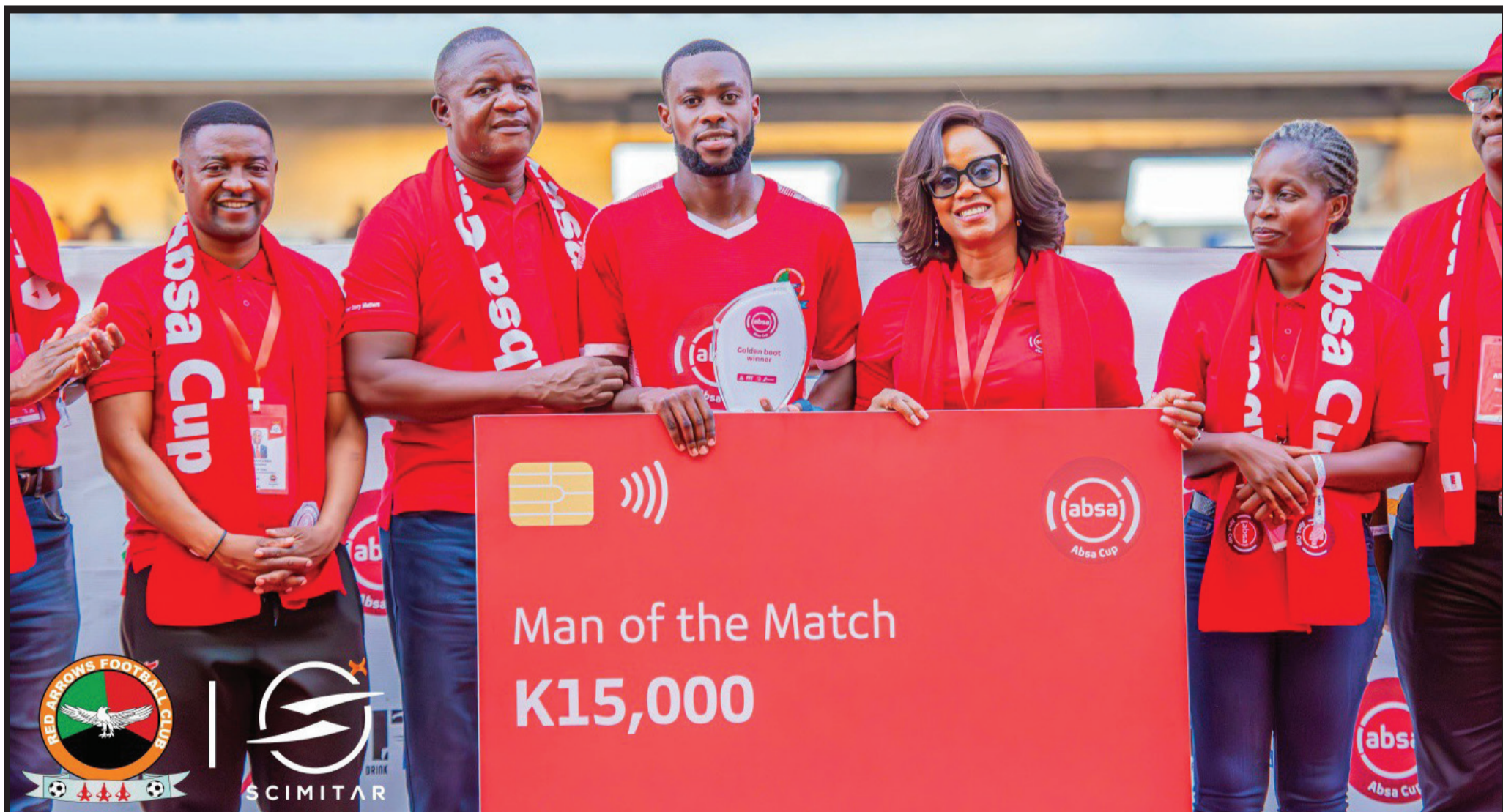
AIRMEN SWEEP TOP ABSA CUP AWARDS

By Staff Reporter
Red Arrows FC capped off a dominant 2026 ABSA Cup campaign by sweeping all the major individual accolades following

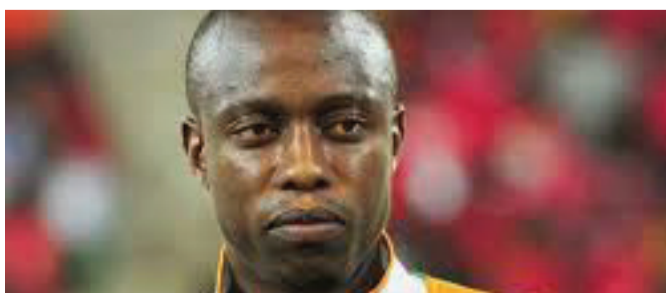
their cup triumph in Ndola. Striker Albert Kangwanda emerged as the biggest winner of the night after clinching both the Player of

the Tournament and Golden Boot awards following his outstanding performances throughout the competition.

(Continues on P7)



L-R : FAZ President Keith Mweemba, Minister of Youth, Sport and Arts Elvas Nkandu, Red Arrows Top man Albert Deddo Kangwanda, Mizinga Melu, the Managing Director of ABSA Bank Zambia, along with other dignitaries. Picture by Red Arrows FC



Himoonde explains why FAZ must appoint a permanent coach for the Chipolopolo Boys

Hichani Himoonde, a former Chipolopolo Boys defender and 2012

AfCON winner, has called on the Football Association of Zambia (FAZ) to quickly settle

on a permanent coach for the Chipolopolo coaching role. In an interview,

Himoonde believes appointing the coach before the start of AFCON 2027. **Bolanews**

