PEZA NEWS

No. 017 Tuesday 30 June - 7 July, 2026 | www . pezanews . com

ZDA SIGNS US$240 MILLION SOLAR POWER AGREEMENT WITH METROGOLD

By Mubanga Mubanga

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Scenes from the Africa Public Service Day commemorations held at Piazza, East Park Mall in Lusaka under the theme, "Enhancing Public Service Institutions and Empowering Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships to Achieve Universal Water Availability and Safe Sanitation by 2030." Pictures by Mubanga Chileshe.

TAZAMA Declares K120.4 Million Dividend to Government

By Staff Reporter

Acting Secretary to the Treasury Mwaka Mukubesa says TAZAMA Limited has remained resilient despite... ***"(Continues on P2)"***

ZRA Recovers K21.6 Million from Luanshya Firm Convicted of Tax Evasion

(Full story on P5)

ZDA Signs US$240 Million Solar Power Agreement with MetroGold

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The Zambia Development Agency (ZDA) has signed an Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement (IPPA) with MetroGold Limited, a Zambian-owned renewable energy company, for the development of a 200-megawatt solar photovoltaic (PV) power plant in Luanshya District on the Copperbelt.

The project, valued at approximately US$240 million, is expected to contribute significantly to Zambia's efforts to increase electricity generation and diversify its energy sources.

Speaking during the signing ceremony, ZDA Director General, Albert Halwampa, commended MetroGold Limited for investing in the country's energy sector, noting that the project aligns with the Government's target of generating 6,000 megawatts of electricity over the next five years.

Mr Halwampa said the recent drought had exposed Zambia's heavy dependence on hydropower, resulting in widespread electricity shortages and highlighting the urgent need to diversify the country's energy mix.

"We are encouraged to see Zambians actively contributing to the Government's aspirations of stabilising the national electricity supply," he said.

Mr Halwampa urged local entrepreneurs and investors to collaborate in developing bankable projects and actively pursue financing opportunities to support national development.

He also revealed that ZDA, working with various stakeholders under the leadership of President Hakainde Hichilema, established the Zambia Investment Deal Room, an initiative designed to connect project developers with global financiers.

Mr Halwampa reiterated ZDA's commitment to promoting and facilitating investment for both local and foreign investors.

Meanwhile, MetroGold Limited Director, Kebby Muteteete, thanked President Hichilema for creating an enabling environment that has allowed Zambians to invest in the energy sector, particularly in response to electricity challenges caused by one of the worst droughts in recent years.

Dr Muteteete said the solar power project will cost more than US$240 million and is expected to create employment opportunities for over 200 people in Luanshya and surrounding communities.

ZDA Director General, Albert Halwampa

He noted that the investment demonstrates the growing role of local companies in supporting Zambia's energy security and economic development through renewable energy solutions.

The project is expected to boost electricity generation capacity, support industrial growth and contribute to the country's transition towards a more resilient and diversified energy sector.

TAZAMA Declares K120.4 Million Dividend to Government

By Staff Reporter

Acting Secretary to the Treasury Mwaka Mukubesa says TAZAMA Limited has remained resilient despite the challenges facing the energy sector, while continuing to play a vital role in Zambia's economic development.

Speaking during the handover of a K120.4 million dividend from TAZAMA to the Government on Thursday, Ms Mukubesa said the pipeline company remains a strategic national asset that guarantees a stable and reliable supply of petroleum products critical to economic growth.

"The role of TAZAMA Pipelines in Zambia's economic development cannot be overstated. As a strategic energy infrastructure asset, the pipeline remains critical in ensuring a stable and reliable supply of petroleum products to support economic activities across the country," she said.

She noted that a reliable fuel supply is essential for the growth of key sectors such as mining, agriculture, manufacturing, transport and commerce.

"TAZAMA, therefore, occupies a strategic position in supporting productivity, investment and national development. Government remains committed to creating an enabling environment that allows strategic State-Owned Enterprises such as TAZAMA to thrive while maintaining high standards of efficiency, accountability and sustainability," Ms Mukubesa said.

She commended the company for its continued outstanding performance, attributing the achievements to the strategic leadership of the board, the dedication of management and the commitment of staff to operational excellence.

Among the company's key achievements, she cited the operationalisation of the TAZAMA Pipelines Open Access Framework, which has enhanced efficiency, transparency and competitiveness in petroleum transportation, as well as the introduction of a Drag Reducing Agent (DRA) that has improved the pipeline's flow rate.

Other milestones include the successful offloading of Zambia's first diesel consignment under the Open Access Framework, sustained support to national energy security through efficient fuel transportation, and improved financial performance that has resulted in higher returns to shareholders.

Ms Mukubesa said the payment of K120,378,353.23 in dividends to the Government through the Ministry of Finance and National Planning demonstrates the important role State-Owned Enterprises continue to play in generating value for the economy, supporting national development priorities and improving the welfare of citizens.

"This occasion marks another important milestone for TAZAMA Pipelines and underscores our collective commitment to advancing sustainable economic development in Zambia," she said.

Meanwhile, TAZAMA Board Chairperson Professor Ephraim Munshifwa revealed that the company recorded a net profit of K722.3 million in 2025, up from K635.6 million in 2024.

Prof. Munshifwa attributed the improved financial performance to increased throughput volumes, enhanced operational efficiency, strategic investments in pipeline security and improved operational uptime.

Zambia, US Sign Amendment to Realign $491 Million MCC Compact Programme

...A deal that must change ordinary Zambian lives

By Mubanga Mubanga

The decision by the Government of Zambia and the United States, through the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC), to realign the US$491 million Compact Programme towards the Lobito Corridor presents an opportunity that should go beyond diplomatic handshakes and official statements. For ordinary Zambians, the true value of this agreement will not be measured by the amount of money committed, but by the difference it makes in their daily lives.

For years, citizens have watched the country sign major investment agreements with the hope that they would create jobs, improve infrastructure and stimulate economic growth. While some have delivered results, others have fallen short of public expectations. This latest compact offers Government another chance to prove that international partnerships can directly improve the welfare of its people.

The programme's focus on agriculture, roads and critical minerals is well placed. Agriculture remains the backbone of many rural households, yet farmers continue to struggle with poor roads, inadequate irrigation systems and limited access to affordable financing. Improving transport infrastructure along the Lobito Corridor will make it easier and cheaper for farmers to move their produce to markets, reducing post-harvest losses while increasing their profits. It will also encourage agro-processing industries to invest closer to farming communities, creating employment opportunities where they are needed most.

Equally significant is the programme's support for access to finance for electricity, irrigation, logistics and processing equipment. Small and medium-sized enterprises often have the ideas and determination to grow but lack the capital to expand. If these resources are made accessible in a transparent and inclusive manner, thousands of local businesses could increase production, employ more people and contribute meaningfully to the country's economic growth.

The compact's emphasis on strengthening governance in the mining sector is another welcome development. Zambia's mineral wealth should not only attract foreign investors but also create opportunities for local businesses, engineers, technicians and young professionals. Strong governance, transparency and accountability will be essential in ensuring that increased investment translates into lasting benefits for Zambian communities.

However, infrastructure alone does not guarantee development. Roads can be built, financing can be provided and reforms can be introduced, but without deliberate efforts to involve local contractors, suppliers and workers, the broader economic benefits may not reach the majority of citizens. Government must therefore ensure that Zambians are not merely observers but active participants in every stage of the programme's implementation.

The Lobito Corridor has the potential to transform Zambia into a regional trade and investment hub. If this opportunity is managed prudently, it can lower the cost of doing business, increase exports, strengthen food security and create thousands of decent jobs. More importantly, it can restore public confidence that major development partnerships are capable of delivering tangible results.

Ultimately, the success of this US$491 million compact should not be celebrated because of its size alone. It should be remembered for creating opportunities for farmers, empowering entrepreneurs, expanding employment for young people and improving the quality of life for ordinary Zambians. That is the legacy this agreement should strive to leave behind.

Editorial

Zambia Must Unlock the Creator Economy

The digital economy is no longer the future—it is the present. Across the world, millions of young people are earning legitimate incomes through content creation on platforms such as TikTok, YouTube and Facebook. They are educating, entertaining and influencing global audiences while contributing to their countries' economies. Zambia has no shortage of creative talent, but it continues to lag behind because many social media monetisation opportunities remain unavailable.

While eligible Zambians can earn through YouTube, monetisation on TikTok and several Facebook creator programmes is still limited. This means many local creators, despite attracting thousands of followers and millions of views, cannot fully convert their creativity into sustainable income.

If social media monetisation were fully unlocked, the benefits would be far-reaching. Thousands of young people could build careers from their talents instead of relying solely on the shrinking formal job market. The growth of the creator economy would also create demand for videographers, photographers, editors, graphic designers, digital marketers and software developers, generating employment beyond the creators themselves.

PEZA NEWS
Published by Peza Job Zambia
(Peza Career Hub Limited)
new@pezanews.com | ask@pezanew.com
ask@pezanews.com / 260773821612

The country would also gain economically. Money earned from international audiences would bring much-needed foreign exchange into Zambia. Government would benefit from increased tax revenue as more creators register businesses and declare their earnings. At the same time, local businesses would have greater opportunities to market their products through Zambian creators, while tourism, culture and investment would receive free global exposure through locally produced content.

Although global technology companies make the final decision on where to introduce monetisation, Zambia's authorities have an important role to play. The Ministry of Technology and Science, ZICTA, the Ministry of Finance and National Planning, the Bank of Zambia, and the Zambia Development Agency should work together to engage companies such as TikTok, Meta and Google to address issues relating to payment systems, digital regulations and the ease of doing business. The private sector must also increase investment in digital advertising to demonstrate that Zambia has a viable creator economy.

Social media monetisation should no longer be viewed as a luxury or entertainment issue. It is an economic development opportunity. With the right policy environment, stronger digital infrastructure and constructive engagement with global platforms, Zambia can unlock a thriving creator economy that empowers its citizens, creates jobs, earns foreign exchange and contributes meaningfully to national GDP.

Scenes from the Africa Public Service Day commemorations held at Piazza, East Park Mall in Lusaka under the theme, "Enhancing Public Service Institutions and Empowering Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships to Achieve Universal Water Availability and Safe Sanitation by 2030." Pictures by Mubanga Chileshe.

ZRA Recovers K21.6 Million from Luanshya Firm Convicted of Tax Evasion

By Mubanga Mubanga

The Zambia Revenue Authority (ZRA) has recovered more than K21.6 million in revenue following the conviction of Amfube Investment Limited for tax evasion by the Economic and Financial Crimes Court in Luanshya.

According to a statement issued by ZRA Corporate Communications Manager, Oliver Nzala, the recovery followed criminal proceedings initiated against the company over allegations of providing false returns and statements in contravention of the Value Added Tax Act.

Mr Nzala said investigations revealed that between October 1, 2021 and September 30, 2023, Amfube Investment Limited, acting jointly with other unknown persons, submitted information to ZRA falsely claiming that the company had received taxable supplies from various entities.

ZRA Corporate Communications Manager, Oliver Nzala

"Facts presented before the court are that between 1 October, 2021 and 30 September, 2023 in Luanshya, jointly and whilst acting together with others unknown, in purported compliance with the law, the taxpayer provided information to the Zambia Revenue Authority purporting to show that Amfube Investments Limited was supplied with taxable supplies by different companies which were false in material particular," Mr Nzala stated.

He added that the company also failed to submit its income tax return for the 2023 charge year, resulting in a loss of Government revenue through unpaid Value Added Tax and Income Tax amounting to more than K21.6 million.

Mr Nzala said the matter came before the Economic and Financial Crimes Court on June 23, 2026, with Dr. Samson Mumba presiding.

The company pleaded guilty to 10 counts of furnishing false returns and statements contrary to Section 43 of the Value Added Tax Act, Chapter 331 of the Laws of Zambia.

"The Court convicted and sentenced the convict to a fine of K30,000 to be paid on or before July 16, 2026, in default of which a warrant of distress will be issued. The convict further paid the evaded Value Added Tax and Income Tax of K21,602,751.10 to ZRA and refunded the State K250,000 in prosecution expenses incurred," Mr Nzala said.

He said the successful prosecution demonstrates ZRA's commitment to combating tax evasion and protecting public revenue.

Mr Nzala urged taxpayers to comply with tax obligations and pay their fair share of taxes, warning that the authority has intensified enforcement operations against tax evasion schemes.

He said the ongoing crackdown targets offences such as false income declarations, smuggling and the failure to use the Smart Invoice system.

ZRA has reiterated its commitment to strengthening tax compliance and ensuring that all taxpayers adhere to the country's tax laws in order to support national development through increased domestic revenue mobilisation.

South Africa vows firm response to anti-migrant violence

South African President Cyril Ramaphosa vowed on Thursday to crush any attempts to destabilise the nation during planned anti-immigrant marches next week, amid a wave of xenophobia.

Citizen-led groups have set Tuesday 30 as a deadline for undocumented foreigners to leave and called for nationwide marches against illegal immigration, marking a crescendo in months of protests that have at times turned violent.

The unofficial ultimatum has stoked fears of a resurgence of xenophobic violence that has claimed several lives in the past.

"We will not tolerate any attempts to destabilise the country by anyone, whether marching or otherwise," said Ramaphosa.

"Our security forces are ready and those who transgress the measures that we are putting in place will definitely meet the might of the law," he told the upper house of parliament.

The police have announced tightened security across the nation for June 30 while government officials have stepped up efforts to ensure calm, including meeting the influential Zulu Royal House.

The country has been on edge following weeks of sometimes violent xenophobic unrest that has left at least three people dead, according to official sources. Mozambican authorities put the toll among their nationals at five.

The anti-migrant campaign has already spurred voluntary repatriations of thousands of foreigners from elsewhere in Africa, including Ghana, Malawi, Mozambique and Nigeria.

Makeshift camps have mushroomed in the eastern port city of Durban and financial capital Johannesburg as thousands await transport to their home countries, prompting warnings from aid groups of a deepening humanitarian crisis.

South African President Cyril Ramaphosa speaks to reporters after meeting with Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva in Brasília, Brazil, on Monday, March 9, 2026

"We are taking measures to ensure that the 30th becomes a normal day where people will be able to work, to go about their business," said Ramaphosa.

Among Africa's largest and most industrialised economies, South Africa has long been a prime destination for people seeking work even though its own unemployment rate hovers around 32 percent.

Competition for scarce work has fuelled resentment, and some South Africans blame migrants for both poverty and crime.

While Ramaphosa and major labour unions say migrants are being scapegoated for the country's problems, some politicians have seized on the issue to court populist support ahead of local elections later this year.

Past flare-ups of violence targeting undocumented foreign nationals have been deadly, with 62 people killed in riots in 2008.

Violence in 2019 saw armed mobs descend on foreign-owned businesses around Johannesburg, leaving at least 12 people dead - 10 of them South African citizens.

Africanews

AFRICA-FX-Currencies expected to be steady or under mild pressure

A teller handles Kenya shilling banknotes and U.S. dollar banknotes inside the cashier's booth at a forex exchange bureau in downtown Nairobi, Kenya, February 16, 2024.

The currencies of Zambia and Kenya are likely to be little changed in the next week to Thursday, while those of Ghana and Uganda may weaken slightly, traders said.

ZAMBIA

Zambia's kwacha should draw support from hard-currency sales by local companies to meet their month-end obligations.

On Thursday commercial banks quoted the kwacha at 18.20 per dollar, from 18.05 a week ago.

"In the coming sessions the local unit might receive some support from month-end local-currency obligations, which should bolster liquidity," Access Bank said in a note.

KENYA

Kenya's shilling is also expected to hold steady against the dollar.

Commercial banks traded the shilling at 129.45/65 per dollar, compared with last Thursday's close of 129.55/75.

GHANA

Ghana's cedi could either trade around its current levels or weaken slightly, as corporate dollar demand has picked up.

LSEG data showed the cedi at 11.20 to the dollar, compared to 11.15 a week earlier.

"The currency is likely to remain range-bound in the coming week, as mining-sector FX receipts broadly offset rebounding demand from the energy sector," said Andrews Akoto, head of trading at Absa Bank Ghana.

Another trader expected the cedi to lose a little ground due to strong dollar demand on the interbank market.

UGANDA

Uganda's shilling is seen trading with a weakening tone on the back of higher month-end foreign-currency demand from importers in sectors like manufacturing.

"We are seeing some moderate pressure (on the shilling) ... from this demand wave," a trader said, adding the currency would likely swing in the 3,680-3,720 range in the coming days.

Commercial banks quoted the shilling at 3,695/3,705 to the dollar, compared to last Thursday's close of 3,645/3,655.

Reuters

Zambia's state-owned miner seeks to revive London listing

The mining group hopes to secure capital to increase production and develop a metals trading operation © ZCCM

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Zambia's state-owned mining group is planning to revive its London listing and boost its freely traded shares, as it works to tap international capital markets to grow its production and expand into metals trading. Kakenenwa Muyangwa, chief executive of Zambia Consolidated Copper Mines. ***ft.com***

FNB Zambia Hands Over Refurbished Basketball Court to ZCAS University

PIctorial summary of the event - Pictures by FNB

(From P8)

Kasali M. Kaingu, reaffirmed the bank's commitment to youth empowerment and community development through strategic community investments.

Mrs Kaingu said the refurbishment of the facility demonstrates FNB Zambia's dedication to creating opportunities for young people while fostering healthy lifestyles and social development.

She further noted that the bank intends to continue supporting students through financial literacy programmes and other initiatives designed to positively impact communities.

Receiving the facility on behalf of ZCAS University, Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Research and Innovation, Burton Mweemba, commended FNB Zambia for the initiative and emphasized the importance of partnerships between institutions in creating environments that inspire learning, innovation and student development.

Dr Mweemba said collaborations between the private sector and academic institutions play a vital role in enhancing educational experiences and providing students with facilities that contribute to their overall growth.

The refurbished basketball court is expected to benefit students and the wider university community by providing a modern recreational and sporting facility.

FNB Zambia said it remains committed to transforming more community spaces across the country and creating environments where communities can thrive.

Lewis Hamilton reveals neck injury that hampered debut Ferrari season

Lewis Hamilton recently enjoyed his first GP win with Ferrari and is aiming for future repeats.

Lewis Hamilton revealed he went into his 2025 debut with Ferrari last year carrying a neck injury after a crash during preseason testing.

Hamilton claimed victory at the the Barcelona-Catalunya Grand Prix two weeks ago, his first victory since joining the team.

It marked a remarkable turnaround after his miserable first season in red, which saw him fail to score a single grand prix podium finish.

The seven-time world champion said his preparation for his stint racing with Ferrari was hampered by a bad crash in a TPC test in Barcelona in late January 2025.

"I hit the wall very hard last year in testing. Knocked out one of the discs in my neck, which was into the nerve," Hamilton said ahead of Sunday's Austrian Grand Prix.

"So, I couldn't do a lot for like nine weeks. I was having chiropractors every day, physically every day I couldn't sleep. I had painkillers, I had to get an injection, I did everything I could to try to fix it. So that's what I was basically trying to live with. It's not easy in the position that you're sitting in."

Hamilton's first Ferrari year started well enough, with a sprint race pole and victory at the second race of the year, but his form spiralled from that point on.

By the middle of the year, he infamously had declared himself to be "useless" and suggested Ferrari should sack him after a poor qualifying session in Hungary.

The Brit has appeared to be a man rejuvenated this season. ***ESPN***

Jesse Marsch, Alistair Johnston warn of South Africa threat ahead of Canada's World Cup round of 32 test

South Africa have reached the FIFA World Cup round of 32 for the firsat tim

Canada coach Jesse Marsch and defender Alistair Johnston say South Africa will provide a stern test in Sunday's FIFA World Cup round of 32 match at SoFi Stadium in Inglewood, California.

South Africa produced one of the tournament's biggest surprises, frustrating South Korea before Thapelo Maseko struck the decisive goal in the second half to secure a 1-0 win.

The result meant Bafana Bafana finished second in Group A behind Mexico and reached the knockout rounds for the first time in the country's history after exits in 1998, 2002 and as hosts in 2010.

Canada finished second in Group B after a 2-1 loss to Switzerland on Wednesday in Vancouver, with goals from Ruben Vargas and Johan Manzambi enough to hold off a late strike from substitute Promise David.

South Africa's qualification aside, Sunday's match also makes history for another reason. Canada becomes the first World Cup host nation ever to play a match outside its own borders. Japan and South Korea co-hosted the 2002 tournament, but neither nation needed to leave home for a match.

The United States and Mexico, the other two co-hosts in 2026, both won their groups and remain in their own countries for the round of 32. ***ESPN***

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MULENGA HANDS OVER COACHING CERTIFICATE

By Staff Reporter

The National Olympic Committee of Zambia (NOCZ) has welcomed home Wrestling Coach Raphael Mulenga following his successful completion of the prestigious 2026 International Coaches Course (ICC) and the KIMBA Mentorship Programme in Budapest, Hungary.

Upon his return, Mulenga paid a courtesy call on NOCZ Secretary General and Chief Executive Officer, Boniface Kambikambi, where he officially presented his International Coaches Course certificate. The qualification was earned after successfully completing the eight-week programme organised by the Hungarian University of Sports Science in collaboration with the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and supported by Olympic Solidarity.

Kambikambi congratulated Mulenga on the achievement, describing it as a significant milestone not only for the coach but also for the development of wrestling in Zambia.

He encouraged Mulenga to apply the knowledge, skills and international experience gained through the programme to support athlete development, mentor fellow coaches and contribute to the continued growth of the sport.

Mulenga expressed gratitude to NOCZ and Olympic Solidarity for the opportunity, saying the training and mentorship programme had broadened his coaching expertise and equipped him with modern techniques that he is eager to implement in advancing wrestling in Zambia.

Wrestling Coach Raphael Mulenga following his successful completion of the prestigious 2026 International Coaches Course (ICC) and the KIMBA Mentorship Programme in Budapest, Hungary

FNB Zambia Hands Over Refurbished Basketball Court to ZCAS University

By Staff Reporter

LUSAKA, June 24, 2026 —FNB Zambia has officially handed over a newly refurbished basketball court at ZCAS University under its Turq Town Initiative, a programme aimed at transforming community spaces and creating a lasting positive impact in communities.

Speaking during the handover ceremony, FNB Zambia Chief Marketing Officer, ...”

(Continues on P7)