



NO EXTENSION A FOR OLD KWACHA DEADLINE, BANK OF ZAMBIA WARNS

By Charles Tembo
Assistant Director for
Communications at
...(Story on P2)



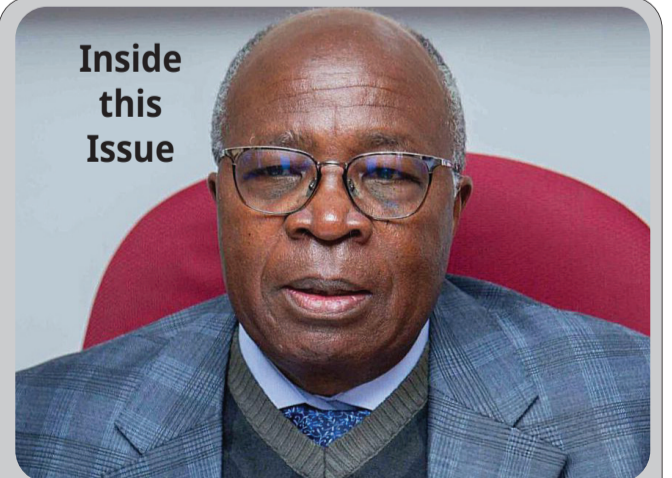
No Holiday: A woman sells bananas to marchers during the International Women's Day celebrations in Lusaka, turning the event into a business opportunity. Picture by Muba Chileshe

March 31 Deadline for Old Currency: Weighing the Pros and Cons



March 31, 2026 marks the final day for the use of Zambia's old banknotes as legal tender.

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Musokotwane Highlights 57% Female Representation in Ministry Leadership



No Extension for Old Kwacha Deadline, BOZ Warns

By Charles Tembo

Assistant
Director for

Communications at the Bank of Zambia, Besnart Mwanza, has announced that there will be no extension to the March 31, 2026 deadline for the withdrawal of old currency notes as legal tender.

In a statement issued yesterday, Mwanza explained that although the old banknotes are still currently legal tender, they will cease to be accepted for transactions after the set deadline. She urged members of the public to use the remaining time to exchange the old currency through designated financial institutions.

"There will be no extension. The deadline is in the law and contained in Statutory Instrument No. 9, the Bank of Zambia (Withdrawal and Exchange of Currency) Regulations, 2025, which was issued by the Minister of Finance and National Planning on March 31, 2025," Mwanza said.

She further explained that the regulations clearly outline the expiry date for the old banknotes.

"The law states that the old banknotes that remained legal tender prior to the appointed date will continue to circulate until the expiry date. The expiry date is March 31, 2026. We therefore urge members of the public to

exchange the old banknotes within the remaining time," she said.

Mwanza, however, noted that the response from the public during the exchange period has been encouraging, with many people utilizing designated exchange points.

She said strong public participation has been recorded at Bank of Zambia cash distribution centres, National Savings and Credit Bank branches and various commercial banks across the country.

"Public turnout during the exchange period has generally been strong. This high level of participation highlights the effectiveness of public awareness campaigns and communication strategies in encouraging timely engagement and widespread adoption of the new currency," she said.

Mwanza disclosed that as of January 31, 2026, about 93.6 percent of the total currency that was in circulation at the time of the new currency launch had already been withdrawn.

She expressed optimism that the remaining banknotes will be exchanged before the deadline, with authorities expecting to recover close to 100 percent of the old currency by the end of the exchange period.



Fugu shines as Ghanaians participating in the Fugu and Kente exhibition in Lusaka join the march past during Women's Day celebrations. Picture by Mubanga Chileshe



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Editorial

March 31 Deadline for Old Currency: Weighing the Pros and Cons

March 31, 2026 marks the final day for the use of Zambia's old banknotes as legal tender. After this date, the old currency will no longer be accepted for transactions following the currency changeover introduced by the Bank of Zambia (BoZ). The transition has been underway for several months, giving citizens and businesses time to exchange the old notes for the new currency. While the

introduction of the new banknotes was initially met with mixed reactions from members of the public, many people have gradually adjusted to the change and are now using the new notes as part of their daily transactions. Currency reforms such as this are not unusual in modern economies. One of the major advantages of changing banknotes is the improvement of security features that help reduce counterfeiting and protect the integrity

of the financial system. New currency designs often incorporate advanced technology that makes it harder for criminals to reproduce fake notes. Another benefit is that a currency change allows authorities to remove worn-out and damaged notes from circulation,

improving the quality and durability of money in everyday use. It can also help formalize parts of the economy by encouraging people holding large amounts of cash outside the banking system to exchange it through regulated financial institutions. However, the

exercise is not without its challenges. Some members of the public, particularly those in rural or remote areas, may find it difficult to access exchange points within the stipulated period. Small traders and informal businesses may also experience temporary disruptions as they adapt to the new currency. There are also concerns about the cost of printing and distributing

new notes, as well as the time and effort required for businesses to adjust accounting and cash-handling systems. Despite these concerns, the deadline remains firm. As March 31 approaches, the public is encouraged to ensure that all old banknotes are exchanged in time to avoid inconvenience once they cease to be legal tender.



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ASK PEZA

Dear Peza,

Should I apply for a job even if the deadline is today?

Peza Response:

Yes, you can still apply as long as the deadline has not passed.

However, submitting an application at the last minute increases the chances of mistakes such as:

- Missing attachments
- Incorrect documents
- Poorly written application letters

Whenever possible, apply early. This gives you enough time to review your application carefully and present yourself professionally.

Question 2

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Peza Response:

While it may save time, sending the same CV to every employer is not the best strategy.

Different jobs require different skills and experiences. Employers prefer candidates who align their CV with the job requirements.

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Question 3.

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What should I bring when going for a job interview?
 Answer:

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- Printed copies of your CV
- Copies of your certificates
- Your identification document
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Being prepared shows seriousness and professionalism.

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Youth from various walks of life gathered at the Lusaka Showgrounds to commemorate Youth Day under the theme "Arise and Soar." The event attracted young people from different backgrounds, all united in celebrating the role of youth in national development and reflecting on the opportunities and challenges facing the younger generation.

The celebrations were

officialled by Sheal Mulyata, the Minister for Lusaka Province, who underscored the importance of empowering young people to take an active role in shaping the country's future. In her remarks, she encouraged the youth to remain focused, innovative and committed to personal growth, while also contributing positively to their communities.

The event featured a range of activities,

including youth exhibitions, entertainment, and motivational messages aimed at inspiring young people to rise above challenges and pursue their ambitions. The theme "Arise and Soar" resonated strongly with participants, highlighting the need for resilience, hard work and determination among the nation's youth.

Many attendees expressed appreciation for

the platform, noting that such gatherings provide opportunities for networking, sharing ideas and celebrating the achievements of young people across different sectors.

— Pictures by Mubanga Chileshe



Musokotwane Highlights 57% Female Representation in Ministry Leadership

By Alexis Chilumbwe

Minister of Finance and National Planning Situmbeko Musokotwane has disclosed that women currently occupy about 57 percent of top management positions at the ministry, describing the development as a strong reflection of the value and leadership women bring to national development and public administration.

Dr Musokotwane said the representation demonstrates the ministry's recognition of the competence, professionalism and leadership capabilities of women in driving economic management and policy implementation.

He explained that out of the ministry's seven top management positions, four are currently held by women. These include Prudence Kaoma, Permanent Secretary for Planning and Administration; Nsandi Manza, Accountant

General; Mwaka Mukubesa, Permanent Secretary for Budget and Economic Affairs; and Jammy Mukuwa, Controller of Internal Audit.

The minister made the remarks in line with activities commemorating International Women's Day. As part of the celebrations, staff from the Ministry of Finance and National Planning donated various items to female inmates and children at Chimbokaila Correctional Facility in Lusaka on March 7, 2026.

Dr Musokotwane commended members of staff at the ministry for demonstrating compassion, unity and a strong sense of duty through the initiative.

"I wish to commend members of staff at the Ministry of Finance and National Planning for the compassion, unity and sense of duty they demonstrated



Minister of Finance and National Planning Situmbeko Musokotwane

through their initiative to mobilize their own resources, together with support from well-wishers, to make donations to female

inmates and children at Chimbokaila Correctional Facility in Lusaka," he said.

He further noted that the gesture reflected

the values that public servants should uphold in serving society.

"As we commemorate International Women's

Day, I also wish to acknowledge the strong contribution of women to leadership within the ministry. Approximately 57 percent of the ministry's top management is made up of women," Dr Musokotwane said.

He added that the initiative by ministry staff was a thoughtful and humane gesture that reflected solidarity, dignity and service.

In line with privacy regulations governing correctional facilities, photographs of the inmates were restricted, although the gesture by the ministry staff remained a meaningful demonstration of support and compassion toward the female inmates and their children.

Business Development Executive (2) (B2B)

Location: Lusaka

Gross Salary: K25,000 Gross

Employment type: Full Time

Territory: Zambia (Primary) + Southern Africa Region

Application deadline: 18th March 2026

Our client is a leading African enterprise communications platform providing SMS, USSD, Voice, VoIP, WhatsApp Business API and Chatbot services to businesses across the continent, they enable banks, fintechs, startups, logistics companies, healthcare providers and enterprises to communicate effectively with their customers through reliable, scalable CPaaS (Communications Platform as a Service) solutions, they are seeking experienced Business Development Executives to join their Lusaka office and take ownership of B2B sales activities across Zambia and Southern Africa.

Role Overview

The successful candidates will be responsible for identifying new business opportunities, generating qualified leads, conducting discovery and sales calls, and closing deals with enterprise customers.

This is a revenue-generating role for ambitious sales professionals who thrive in fast-paced, target-driven environments and have a proven ability to build pipelines, engage senior stakeholders, and close complex B2B sales.

Key Responsibilities

Lead Generation & Prospecting

- Research and identify target accounts in banking, fintech, e-commerce, logistics, healthcare, insurance, gaming and other sectors with high messaging and voice communication needs
- Build qualified prospect lists using lead mining tools such as Lusha, Apollo, ZoomInfo, LinkedIn Sales Navigator or similar platforms
- Execute outbound prospecting campaigns via cold calls, email sequences, LinkedIn outreach and other channels
- Track all prospecting activities, leads and opportunities accurately in the CRM system

Sales Cycle Management

- Conduct discovery calls to understand client pain points, business requirements and communication needs
- Present and demo Africala's SMS, USSD, Voice, VoIP, WhatsApp Business API and Chatbot solutions tailored to client use cases
- Prepare compelling proposals, commercial offers, RFP responses and presentations for prospects
- Negotiate pricing, contract terms and service agreements to close deals
- Own the full sales cycle from initial contact through contract signing and handover to delivery teams

Relationship Building & Account Management

- Build and maintain strong relationships with C-level executives, IT managers, marketing heads and procurement decision-makers
- Act as the trusted advisor for prospects, understanding their communication challenges and positioning Africala solutions effectively
- Collaborate with internal technical, product and customer success teams to ensure smooth onboarding and client satisfaction
- Identify upsell and cross-sell opportunities within existing accounts

Market Intelligence & Reporting

- Stay informed about market trends, competitor activities and emerging opportunities in Zambia and Southern Africa
- Provide regular sales reports, pipeline updates and revenue forecasts to management
- Share client feedback and market insights with product and marketing teams to improve offerings

Market Intelligence & Reporting

- Stay informed about market trends, competitor activities and emerging opportunities in Zambia and Southern Africa
- Provide regular sales reports, pipeline updates and revenue forecasts to management
- Share client feedback and market insights with product and marketing teams to improve offerings

Required Experience & Qualifications

- 3-4 years of proven experience in Business Development or B2B Sales roles within IT, Telecom, Technology or SaaS companies
- Demonstrated track record of meeting or exceeding sales targets and revenue goals
- Experience selling to business customers including SMBs, mid-market enterprises and large organizations
- Strong understanding of B2B sales methodologies, consultative selling and solution-based sales approaches

Technical Skills & Tools

- CRM Systems: Hands-on experience with CRM platforms such as Salesforce, HubSpot, Zoho CRM, Pipedrive or similar tools for managing leads, opportunities, deal stages and sales reporting
- Lead Mining Tools: Proficiency with prospecting and lead generation tools such as Lusha, apollo.io ZoomInfo, LinkedIn Sales Navigator or equivalent platforms
- Email Outreach: Experience with email campaign tools (e.g., Mailchimp, Outreach, Lemlist) and crafting effective cold email sequences
- Productivity Tools: Comfortable with Microsoft Office Suite or Google Workspace (Excel/Sheets, PowerPoint/Slides, Word/Docs)

Core Competencies

- Excellent verbal and written communication skills in English
- Strong presentation, negotiation and persuasion abilities
- Ability to engage and influence senior decision-makers and C-level executives
- Self-motivated, results-oriented and capable of working independently with minimal supervision
- Strategic thinking combined with attention to detail in pipeline management and forecasting
- Ability to research markets, identify opportunities and build actionable sales strategies

Advantageous Skills (Preferred but Not Required)

- Prior experience working in CPaaS, A2P messaging, SMS aggregation, VoIP, WhatsApp Business API, USSD or other telecom value-added services
- Experience selling to enterprise clients in African markets, particularly in Zambia, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Malawi, Tanzania or other Southern African countries
- Familiarity with telecom ecosystem players such as mobile network operators (MNOs), mobile virtual network operators (MVNOs), aggregators and enterprises
- Fluency in English and French; French language skills are preferred but not mandatory for this role
- Knowledge of industry verticals such as banking, fintech, e-commerce, logistics, healthcare, insurance, iGaming or government sectors
- Understanding of API integrations, technical documentation and ability to discuss technical requirements with client IT teams

Compensation & Benefits

- Salary: Competitive base salary commensurate with experience, skills and performance potential, offered at par with prevailing industry norms for B2B sales roles in Lusaka, Zambia
- Incentives: Performance-based commissions and bonuses tied to revenue targets and deal closures
- Career Growth: Opportunity to grow into senior sales, account management or regional leadership roles as Africala expands
- Work Environment: Collaborative, fast-paced startup culture with a focus on innovation, execution and impact

Application Details:

If you meet the above requirements send your CV to recruitment@pezajob.com
Deadline: 18 March, 2026

Economist Highlights Financial Barriers Facing Female Entrepreneurs

By Alexis Chilumbwe

Economist Faith Kangasa says improving women's access to finance requires a combination of accessible financial products, stronger financial literacy, proactive outreach and secure digital financial systems.

Kangasa noted that although meaningful progress has been recorded in expanding financial inclusion for women in recent years, more work still needs to be done to remove the barriers that limit female entrepreneurs from fully participating in the economy.

Speaking in an interview with Peza News, Kangasa, who is also a former banker and Business Improvement Specialist, said Zambia has made notable strides since the World Bank intensified its global push for financial inclusion around 2016.

She commended major financial institutions in Zambia for introducing women-focused banking services designed to provide tailored financial solutions.

"We have seen meaningful progress in Zambia. Today, most major banks offer dedicated women's banking products that provide tailored financial solutions such as preferential loan packages, savings products and financial advisory services specifically for women entrepreneurs," she said.

Kangasa added that one of the most significant developments in Zambia's financial sector has been the rapid growth of mobile money platforms, which are helping to bridge the gap for individuals who previously had limited

access to traditional banking services.

"Mobile financial services are playing an important role in improving financial inclusion by enabling more people, particularly women and those in remote areas, to access financial services," she explained.

Despite these developments, Kangasa expressed concern that many women still face structural challenges that limit their ability to take advantage of available financial opportunities.

She observed that although there is a strong global and national push to empower women through scholarships, mentorship programmes and business grants, many women are unable to access these opportunities due to barriers such as education gaps, limited access to capital and geographic disadvantages.

Kangasa emphasized that financial literacy remains a critical component of women's economic empowerment, encouraging women entrepreneurs to build strong financial habits such as consistent saving, responsible debt management and strategic investment.

She also called on the media to broaden coverage of women's success stories beyond urban centres.

According to Kangasa, greater attention should be given to women in rural and peri-urban communities, where structural barriers are often more pronounced, in order to ensure that empowerment initiatives reach women from all backgrounds.

UN's failure to stop Iranian attacks sending 'dangerous signal': Qatar



'The Security Council must act [and] fulfill its responsibility,' says Qatar's UN ambassador, Sheikha Alya Ahmed bin Saif Al Thani [File: Jeenah Moon/Reuters]

Qatar has called on the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) to take immediate steps to halt Iranian attacks on countries across the Middle East, warning that a failure to act sends a "dangerous signal".

Sheikha Alya Ahmed bin Saif Al Thani, Qatar's ambassador to the UN, on Wednesday condemned Iran's missile and drone strikes on targets across the region as "a clear violation of international law and the UN Charter".

"The continued targeting of our territory by the Islamic Republic of Iran does

not reflect good faith, and impacts deeply the foundation of understanding upon which bilateral relations between our countries have been built," she told reporters at the UN headquarters in New York.

"The Security Council must act [and] fulfil its responsibility. Failure to respond would send a dangerous signal that attacks against uninvolved neighbours carry no consequences," she said.

Her comments came shortly before the Security Council voted in favour of a draft resolution denouncing

the wave of Iranian attacks on Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries.

Iranian forces began firing ballistic missiles and drones at what it said were United States and Israeli targets across the Middle East after the two countries launched a war against Iran on February 28.

But the Iranian strikes also have targeted civilian infrastructure, disrupting energy production and grounding flights for several days, particularly in hard-hit Gulf nations.

Aljazeera

Zambia, Japan Strengthen Economic Ties Through Business Forum

By Charles Tembo
Zambia and Japan have strengthened their growing economic partnership following the successful hosting of the Zambia-Japan Business Forum in Lusaka, which brought together 21 Japanese investors, senior government officials and Zambian private sector leaders.

According to a statement issued yesterday by the Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry Principal Public Relations Officer

Everness Nankala, the forum builds on the progress made during Hakainde Hichilema's State visit to Japan in February 2025, which paved the way for enhanced cooperation between the two nations.

Officiating at the forum, Minister of Commerce, Trade and Industry Chipoka Mulenga described the meeting as a major milestone in strengthening trade and investment relations between the two countries.

Mulenga acknowledged Japan's

long-standing role as a trusted development partner and highlighted the recently signed Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT) as a key instrument aimed at boosting investor confidence and expanding opportunities for private-sector-driven growth.

Meanwhile, Zambia Development Agency Director General Albert Halwampa encouraged the visiting

Japanese delegation to explore investment opportunities across priority sectors such as energy, manufacturing, agriculture, mining and transport.

Halwampa noted that Zambia's political stability, pro-business reforms and access to regional markets through the Southern African Development Community, Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa and the African Continental Free

Trade Area position the country as an attractive destination for foreign investment.

He further urged businesses from both countries to build strong partnerships that would translate the engagements of the forum into concrete investment outcomes.

And Zambia's Ambassador to Japan Tobias Mulimbika said commitments made during President Hichilema's visit to

Japan to deepen cooperation and promote trade are already beginning to yield results.

Meanwhile, Japanese Ambassador to Zambia Mikami Akiteru emphasized that the forum represents an important step toward strengthening bilateral relations and expanding new areas of economic collaboration between the two countries.

Iran will not participate in 2026 FIFA

World Cup – Minister

Iran will not participate in the 2026 FIFA World Cup, the country's sports minister has announced.



Iran will not take part in the 2026 FIFA World Cup. The tournament will take place from June 11 to July 19, 2026, and will be jointly hosted by 16 cities—11 in the United States, three in Mexico, and two in Canada.

Iran's sports minister, Ahmad Donyamali, has reportedly said the country cannot

participate in the World Cup following the killing of their supreme leader by the United States and Israel, an act that has triggered a regional war.

The United States and Israel launched airstrikes on Iran nearly two weeks ago, killing the Islamic Republic's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

"Considering that

this corrupt regime has assassinated our leader, under no circumstances can we participate in the World Cup," the minister told state television.

"Our children are not safe and, fundamentally, such conditions for participation do not exist," Donyamali said.

"Given the malicious actions they have carried

out against Iran, they have forced two wars on us over eight or nine months and have killed and martyred thousands of our people. Therefore, we certainly cannot have such a presence."

Iran welcomes US – FIFA president

Iran were placed in Group G alongside Belgium, Egypt and New Zealand. All three of their Group G matches were scheduled to take place

in the United States, with two in Los Angeles and one in Seattle.

Iran was also the only nation absent from a FIFA planning summit for World Cup participants held last week in Atlanta.

FIFA President Gianni Infantino said he spoke with US President Donald Trump about Iran and that the team was welcome.

"We also spoke about the current situation in

Iran and the fact that the Iranian team has qualified to participate in the FIFA World Cup 2026. During the discussions, President Trump reiterated that the Iranian team is, of course, welcome to compete in the tournament in the United States," Infantino said in an Instagram post early Wednesday.

Bolanews

Ferrari to run radical 'Macarena' wing in China first practice



Ferrari will run its innovative 'flip-flop' rear wing during Friday's practice for this weekend's Chinese Grand Prix, seven-time world champion Lewis Hamilton said as the sport's most successful

team hunts down Mercedes at the front of the pack.

The Ferrari driver said he did not know whether the team had settled on an official name for the striking rotating rear wing, which surprised rivals during pre-season

testing in Bahrain due to the way the component completely flips upside down instead of simply switching from an

angled to flat position. So shocked was Haas driver Ollie Bearman, following the car during the Bahrain test, he told reporters he thought something had gone wrong with Hamilton's car when he first saw it.

Hamilton said the wing, which also attracted the moniker "the Macarena wing", was not supposed to be introduced until later in the season.

"It's great to see that the team are fighting, the team are pushing, the team are chasing, really working overtime back at the factory to bring the upgrades, because that's the name of the game," the Briton added.

The 105-times Grand Prix winner cut a forlorn figure at times during his first year with Ferrari in 2025.

Victory in last year's Chinese Grand Prix Sprint Race was the highlight of an otherwise underwhelming season as the Scuderia focused on their 2026 challenge and the rules overhaul.

Supersport

Ruthless Sinner subdues Fonseca to reach Indian Wells quarterfinals

Four-time major champion Jannik Sinner edged talented Brazilian teenager Joao Fonseca 7-6 (8/6), 7-6 (7/4) in a scintillating Stadium Court clash on Tuesday to reach the quarterfinals at Indian Wells.

The first meeting between the world No 2 Sinner and the big-hitting

19-year-old lived up to expectations, the fireworks sparking a raucous response from a crowd packed with enthusiastic Brazilian fans.

Sinner will face another fast-rising youngster in 20-year-

old Learner Tien of the United States for a place in the semifinals.

Fonseca went toe-to-toe with the Italian in a tense first set but was unable to convert his lone break chance and Sinner failed to capitalise on two.

A couple of

uncharacteristic Sinner errors helped Fonseca power to a 6-3 lead in the tiebreaker, but the Italian responded, denying one set point with an ace to launch a run of five straight points that sealed the set.

Sinner looked headed to a comfortable victory with a break for 4-2 in the second, but Fonseca wasn't about to go quietly.

He broke Sinner to love in the ninth game and held for 5-5 as they went to a second tiebreaker.

An ace gave Fonseca a 4-3 lead in the decider, but Sinner surged home

with four straight points, polishing off the win with a masterful forehand service return.

"I felt like trying to be as aggressive as possible was the key," said Sinner, who is chasing a first title in the prestigious Masters 1000 event in the California desert.

"Joao's an incredible talent, very powerful from both sides. He was serving very well.

"Maybe he dropped a little bit at the end of the second set, but I'm very happy to get through," Sinner added.

Tien saved two match points to reach his first Masters 1000 quarterfinal with a 4-6, 6-1, 7-6 (7/4) victory over Spain's Alejandro Davidovich Fokina.

Supersport



GEORGE 'CHICKEN' LWANDAMINA RETURNS AS CHIPOLOPOLO COACH



By Alexis Chilumbwe

The Football Association of Zambia (FAZ) has with immediate effect relieved national team coach Moses Sichone of his duties and appointed veteran tactician George Lwandamina as interim head coach ahead of the upcoming Four Nations Tournament in Francistown.

The tournament is scheduled to take place from March 23 to March 31, 2026, in Botswana.

Lwandamina, who

is currently head coach of Nchanga Rangers F.C., will be assisted by Oswald Mutapa Jr, the current coach of Power Dynamos F.C.. Mutapa replaces outgoing assistant coach Perry Mutapa.

According to FAZ Media and Communications Head Iva Lengwe, the changes are aimed at improving efficiency and strengthening the national team's performance following a disappointing showing at the 2025

Africa Cup of Nations.

Lengwe explained that the adjustments

affect only the top two positions on the technical bench.

"Only the positions of head coach and first assistant have been affected by these changes. The rest of the technical bench remains unchanged and will continue carrying out their respective responsibilities," Lengwe said.

Lwandamina is no stranger to the Chipolopolo top job, having previously served as head coach of the national team between 2015

and 2016 before making way for Wedson Nyirenda.

He now returns on an interim basis at a crucial time for the national team as preparations intensify for the Four Nations Tournament.

Lengwe said the newly constituted technical bench has been tasked with quickly assembling a competitive squad comprising both local and foreign-based players.

"In light of the

limited time before the start of the tournament, the technical bench has been tasked with assembling a competitive squad for the upcoming competition," Lengwe said.

Iran will not participate in 2026 FIFA World Cup – Minister

(Full story on page 7)

