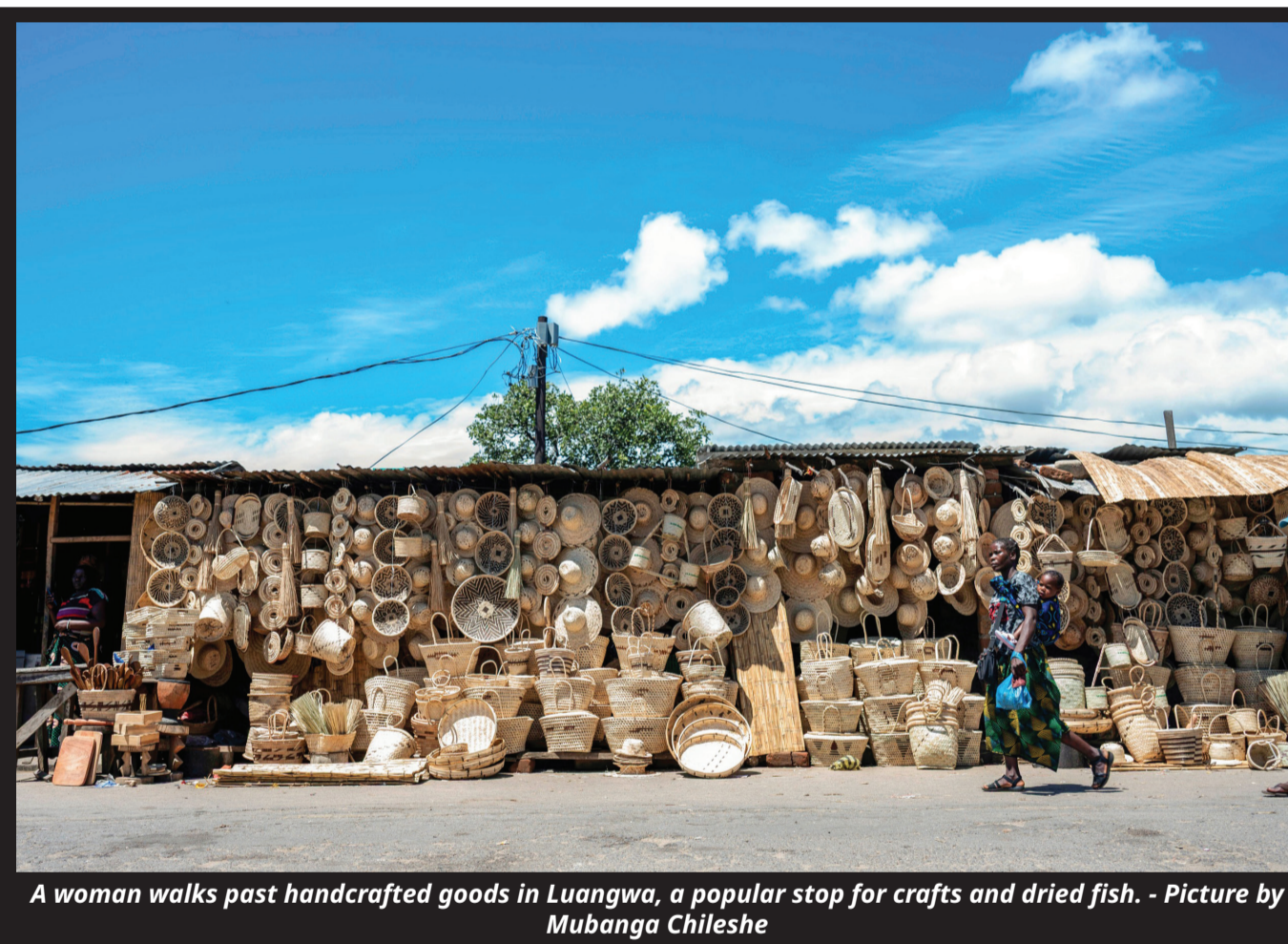


24-HOUR BUSINESS OPERATIONS GET GREEN LIGHT

By Alexis Chilumbwe
Government has approved the extension of business operating hours to up to 24 hours for markets, bus stations and other commercial establishments as part of efforts to stimulate economic transformation.

(Story on page 2)



A woman walks past handcrafted goods in Luangwa, a popular stop for crafts and dried fish. - Picture by Mubanga Chileche



Zambia, Vietnam Sign Agriculture MoU to Boost Productivity

(Story on page 2)

Govt Faults Weak Project Supervision in Road Durability Concerns

By Alexis Chilumbwe

Government has attributed the premature deterioration of some recently constructed roads to weak supervision, enforcement and management of projects under Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs).

(Continues on P4)



ERB Assures Nation of Stable Fuel Supply Amid Iran War Concerns

(Story on page 5)



24-Hour Business Operations Get Green Light

By Alexis Chilumbwe

Government has approved the extension of business operating hours to up to 24 hours for markets, bus stations and other commercial establishments as part of efforts to stimulate economic transformation.

Minister of Information and Media, Cornelius Mweetwa, described the move as a deliberate policy and legislative intervention aimed at accelerating national economic development.

In a statement

released to the media yesterday, Mr Mweetwa said the decision is anchored on the need to maximise productivity, enhance competitiveness and expand inclusive economic opportunities across various sectors.

"Cabinet has indicated that going forward, there is a need to see more supermarkets, markets, bus stations and other business places operating on a 24-hour basis," he said.

He explained that the extended hours are expected to unlock economic



potential by increasing trading time, creating employment opportunities and improving service delivery, particularly in urban centres.

Meanwhile, Mr Mweetwa also disclosed that Cabinet has approved the publication and introduction of the Education

(Amendment) Bill, 2026 in Parliament during the current sitting.

He noted that the proposed legislation seeks to guarantee the right to free education for learners in public

institutions, covering early childhood education through to secondary school.

"The Bill is intended to provide for the right to free education for a child enrolled in a public educational institution, from early childhood care, development and education to secondary school level, while also revising the education system," the statement read.

Once enacted, the law is expected to strengthen access to education and reinforce Government's commitment to human capital development.

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Zambia, Vietnam Sign Agriculture MoU to Boost Productivity



By Alexis Chilumbwe
Zambia has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Vietnam aimed at enhancing

agricultural productivity, particularly among small-scale and subsistence farmers.
(Continues on page 4)

ASK PEZA

Hello Peza:
How do I know if a job opportunity is genuine or a scam?

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Editorial

24-Hour Business Operations Get Green Light

The move to allow 24-hour business operations is a positive step for Zambia's economy. In recent years, the country has witnessed a steady rise in entrepreneurship, with many small businesses expanding and a growing number of young people successfully venturing into business. Extending operating hours presents an

opportunity to further accelerate this momentum by increasing trading time, boosting sales, and creating employment. A round-the-clock economy means consumers can access goods and services at any time, enhancing convenience and stimulating demand. For businesses, it opens up new revenue streams and encourages competitiveness. Over time, this shift

can help transform the country's commercial landscape and improve overall productivity. However, while the policy presents clear benefits, its success will depend on addressing several critical challenges. Security

remains a major concern, as some areas are affected by criminal activity and substance abuse. Without improved safety measures, many businesses may be reluctant to operate at night. Additionally, persistent power

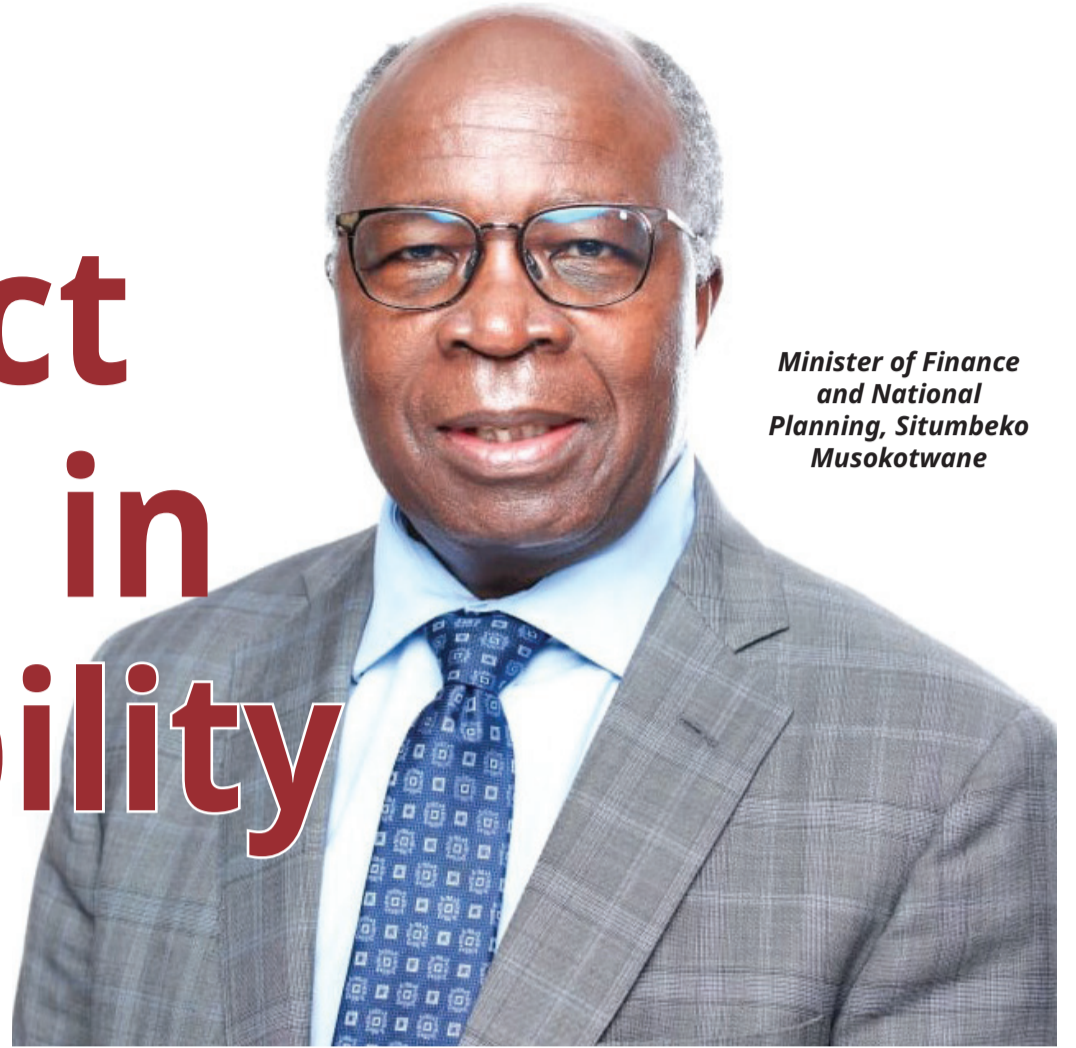
outages pose a serious threat to productivity, as reliable electricity is essential for sustained operations. There is also a need for a mindset shift among business operators and the public. Adapting to a 24-hour economy requires discipline, professionalism, and a commitment to maintaining standards both during the day and at night.

For this initiative to succeed, Zambia must invest in improved security, stable power supply, and stronger business practices. With the right adjustments and coordinated efforts, 24-hour operations can significantly enhance trade, drive economic growth, and modernize the way business is conducted in the country.



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Govt Faults Weak Project Supervision in Road Durability Concerns



Minister of Finance and National Planning, Situmbeko Musokotwane

By Alexis Chilumbwe
 Government has attributed the premature deterioration of some recently constructed roads to weak supervision, enforcement and management of projects

under Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs). Minister of Finance and National Planning, Situmbeko Musokotwane, says while floods have contributed to road damage in some instances, there remains

a strong expectation for durable, safe and cost-effective infrastructure. His remarks follow growing concern from sections of traditional and social media over the rapid wear and damage of newly built roads across the country.

In a statement posted on the ministry's Facebook page, Dr Musokotwane announced that independent technical supervision will now be mandatory on all major PPP projects. He stressed that no construction will commence without proper oversight mechanisms in place.

"Over the last few days, you have raised valid concerns about the quality of some road projects whose damage, in some cases, has been accelerated by floods. Like you, we expect roads that last, roads that are safe, and roads that give value for money. That expectation is correct—and Government agrees with you," he said.

He added that accountability must be clearly defined at every stage of a project—from design and construction to maintenance—so that responsibility for quality is never ambiguous.

Dr Musokotwane clarified that PPPs themselves are not the problem, but rather the manner in which some projects have been supervised and managed.

"Public-Private Partnerships are simply a way of building infrastructure using private sector financing and expertise instead of Government borrowing heavily upfront. When done properly, PPPs enable Zambia to develop infrastructure

faster while preserving public finances. However, even the best model requires strong supervision," he explained.

He said Government is now taking decisive steps to strengthen oversight and enforcement in PPP projects.

The Minister further highlighted the benefits of PPP arrangements, noting that they shift key risks to the private sector.

"Under PPPs, the private partner carries the risk of defects. If a road develops faults, it is the concessionaire—not Government—that must fix it. Maintenance is therefore not a burden on taxpayers, and Government still earns through taxes and revenue sharing," he said.

He contrasted this with traditional infrastructure projects where Government

borrow funds for construction and later incurs additional costs for maintenance and repairs.

Dr Musokotwane added that a strengthened PPP framework allows Zambia to expand infrastructure without increasing public debt, while preserving borrowing capacity for critical sectors such as health, education and social services.

He emphasized that the country has the technical expertise and institutional capacity to deliver high-quality infrastructure, but must now ensure that procurement systems, supervision and enforcement mechanisms are equally robust.

"Our task is to ensure that our systems match our capability to build world-class infrastructure," he said.



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ERB Assures Nation of Stable Fuel Supply Amid Iran War Concerns

By Charles Tembo
The Energy Regulation Board (ERB) has assured the nation that fuel stocks remain stable, attributing the situation to continued monitoring of stock levels and coordinated supply management.

The reassurance follows concerns from members of the public and stakeholders that Zambia's fuel supply could be disrupted by tensions involving Iran, one of the world's major oil suppliers.

However, in a statement issued on

Saturday, ERB said there is no need for panic buying, as the country has sufficient fuel reserves to meet current demand.

According to the regulator, the national average fuel stock cover stands at 29.4 days, with petrol at 22.6 days—

figures that remain above the minimum threshold required for supply security.

"Zambia's petroleum supply remains stable due to continued monitoring of stock levels by ERB. Strategic supply arrangements are in place to replenish

Concerns

national fuel depots, supported by regular coordination with industry players," the statement read.

The Board emphasized that there is no justification for panic buying of petroleum products, noting that systems are in place to ensure consistent supply across the country.

"Zambia has sufficient fuel stocks. There is no need for panic buying of petrol and diesel. The ERB will continue to monitor stock levels and supply arrangements at retail sites nationwide," it added.

ERB further disclosed that as of March 13, 2026, the country had

significant volumes of fuel in storage. Diesel stocks stood at 158.1 million litres in Ndola and 147.1 million litres at Kigamboni in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, while petrol stocks were recorded at 38.7 million litres.

The Board noted that daily national consumption averages 5.4 million litres for diesel and 1.72 million litres for petrol—figures used to determine stock adequacy.

ERB reaffirmed its commitment to ensuring fuel security and maintaining stability in the petroleum supply chain despite global uncertainties.

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God First and General Traders in Mpulungu, Zambia is looking for a suitably qualified individual to full-up the position of Assistance Production Manager.

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- Advises on the suitability of plant and machinery used for production.
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- Production of various production reports in the department.
- Time management system implementation in the production department.
- Answering of audit queries as they relate to production.
- Ensures that the production premises are kept clean and suitable for production of food stuffs at all times.
- Staff performance appraisal and evaluation.
- Attending of management meetings and presentation of production reports.
- Implementation of new product policy.
- Any other duties that may be assigned by the Managing Director.
- Reports to the Branch manager

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Strong leadership, problem solving and communication skills

Experience with production planning and inventory management

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lawrencebanda2121@gmail.com or hard copy application letters at the Bakery in Mpulungu, copies of academic and professional qualifications and curriculum vitae on or before 28th march, 2026.

Fertilizer prices bring more pain for American farmers amid war in Iran



A soybean harvest in Harvard, Illinois, on October 17, 2025. Christopher Dilts/Bloomberg/Getty Images

The war in Iran is pushing up prices for already-strained farmers, with higher costs for fertilizer and energy on top of last year's tariffs. And the increasing pressure on American agriculture could lead to even bigger price tags at the grocery store.

John Yeley, an Illinois farmer who grows corn and soybeans, said prices for nitrogen — a key fertilizer component — are going up so fast that he can't even get suppliers to commit to a price ahead of

purchases.

"When I call a retailer right now ... I could not get a price on any nitrogen source out there," he said.

The war has effectively blocked the Strait of Hormuz, a major chokepoint through which one-fifth of the world's oil and one-third of the world's fertilizer pass. It's a shock to the global fertilizer supply as American farmers prepare for the spring planting season, which can start as early as March.

Former Kenyan minister reappears after disappearance sparks alarm

Former Kenyan cabinet minister Raphael Tuju has said he went into hiding after suspecting he was being followed, a day after his disappearance prompted fears he may have been abducted.

Speaking to Citizen TV on Monday, Tuju said he noticed an unmarked vehicle trailing him and took evasive action, changing routes before abandoning his car to avoid being tracked.

He described the experience as distressing for his family and said his decision was influenced by concerns over past cases of abductions in Kenya. He added that this was why he did not immediately seek police help.

Tuju had last been seen on Saturday while heading to a radio interview. His family later reported him missing, prompting concern.

Police said his car was found abandoned in Karen, an affluent suburb of Nairobi, with its hazard lights on. His phone was switched off at the time.

Authorities launched an investigation and appealed for information as speculation grew about his whereabouts.

The former minister is currently involved in a long-running court dispute over properties linked to his company, Dari Limited. Lenders are seeking to recover more

than \$15m in unpaid loans, a move he has challenged in court.

He has also alleged that security officers previously entered his property and took control of business premises, claims the government has not commented on.

Opposition figures welcomed news of his return but renewed concerns about alleged abductions, calling for respect for the rule of law.



Former Kenyan Foreign Minister Raphael Tuju

Trump postpones strikes on Iran's power plants for five days

Trump postpones strike threat: President Donald Trump told CNN there are 15 points of agreement between the US and Iran after talks this weekend. He announced earlier he will hold off strikes against Iranian energy

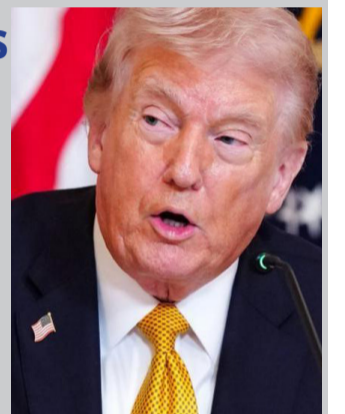
sites for five days, after threatening to attack if Tehran did not allow the full reopening of the Strait of Hormuz.

• Iran responds: Iran's foreign ministry said there was "no dialogue" between Tehran and Washington, according

to state affiliated media. Multiple nations have been passing messages between the US and Iran over the last several days to de-escalate the mounting tensions, sources have told CNN.

• Latest strikes: The number of people

reported killed in Iran and Lebanon since the start of the conflict is now in the thousands. Several locations across Tehran have been targeted in the latest wave of Israeli attacks, according to Iranian state media. **CNN**



Viral Geopolitical Claims Spark Debate Over Iran War, Global Power Shifts

Professor Jiang — the man nicknamed "The Professor" because he is truly one of the most dangerous geopolitical minds in the world — revealed to Tucker Carlson words you will not hear anywhere else:

Iran's war is an American quagmire with no bottom... China is the biggest long-term loser... and the UAE will be affected in a way no one expected.

This man is not an ordinary analyst. He predicted Trump's victory years ago — and he won. He predicted America entering a war with Iran — and it did. And today, he speaks about the future with the same confidence.

1. Iran War = Second Ukraine

The war will be long and exhausting. No side will admit defeat.

America is stuck between two bad options: withdrawal = collapse of prestige... continuation = endless bleeding.

My view: this is exactly what happened in Ukraine. Americans have no exit strategy, only an entry strategy.

2. Why can't America

exit?

Iran will demand \$1 trillion in compensation + complete US withdrawal from the region.

If America withdraws:

Gulf states will become clients of Iran.

Petrodollar will collapse.

America — with \$39 trillion in debt — will face a real economic collapse.

The point no one talks about: America is not fighting for Iran... it is fighting so it does not collapse itself.

3. Iran's smart plan — \$800 billion per year

Iran plans to impose a 10% passage fee on every ship crossing the Strait of Hormuz.

Expected revenue: \$800 billion per year.

This amount will rebuild Iran stronger than before.

If this is correct — and I see it as not far-fetched — Iran will emerge from the war richer than it entered.

4. The biggest loser is not America — but China

China imports 40% of its energy from the Gulf.

Its economy is entirely built on cheap energy.

Even artificial intelligence — which everyone talks about — requires cheap



Professor Jiang — the man nicknamed "The Professor"

energy.

Any disruption in energy supplies will hit China more than any other country.

And what no one notices: the war in Iran is not just an American war — it is a war on China's future as a great power.

5. The real beneficiaries? Israel and Russia

Israel:

Wants "Greater Israel" from the Nile to the Euphrates.

Draining America in a long war = pushing it out of the region.

Weakening the Gulf = removing any competitor. Russia:

America lifted sanctions on Russian oil (130 million barrels).

Russia sells its oil at record prices.

And finances its war in Ukraine from America's pocket.

In short: America is paying for others' wars while thinking it is winning.

6. The religious factor — the hidden power no one talks about

There are religious factions in Israel and America that genuinely believe this war is a prelude to the return of Christ.

Blowing up Al-Aqsa Mosque and building the Third Temple is part of the plan.

Netanyahu and Trump — according to Professor Jiang — are just tools in a project far older than them.

This is one of the most dangerous statements in the episode, because when political decisions are driven

by end-of-the-world ideology — there is no room for rationality.

7. The ground invasion is coming — a new Vietnam

America is considering sending 2,000 Marines to control Kharg Island (90% of Iranian oil exports).

But Professor Jiang said clearly: "You can take it, but you cannot hold it."

What begins with 2,000 soldiers could end with half a million — just like in Vietnam.

8. Weakening the UAE — the bubble is about to burst Dubai was built on the illusion of security.

Simple Iranian strikes revealed the model's fragility entirely.

What was a "safe haven" became a target. And the confidence upon which all those towers were built is eroding.

The UAE will not "end" — but its economic model will be severely shaken, because everything is based on the assumption of regional security — and that assumption has collapsed.

9. Japan will recover — and China will decline

Professor Jiang literally said: "If I had a billion dollars — I would put it all in Japan."

Japan has historically risen from anything: the

Mongols, World War II, nuclear bombs.

China, however: agricultural, closed, and unable to adapt to the new era.

10. The West is collapsing from within

Europe, Canada, and Australia are experiencing deliberate demographic change.

The "democracy" that emerges looks more like the "organized demolition" of Western civilization.

And the question: who is driving this? No one has a clear answer.

Conclusion

What Professor Jiang said tonight:

America is stuck in a quagmire it cannot escape.

Iran will return stronger after the war.

Israel achieves its expansionist dream.

China will be the biggest loser.

And the West destroys itself.

The remaining question:

If Professor Jiang predicted Trump's victory and the start of the war — and he was correct...

Will his predictions today come true?

Former France and West Ham attacking midfielder Dimitri Payet has retired aged 38. Payet joined the Hammers from Marseille for £10.7m in June 2015 before moving back to the French club in January 2017 for £25m.

He scored 15 goals, external in 60 games as he became a fan favourite at West Ham but left against the club's wishes to "return to his roots".

Payet won 38 caps for France and helped them reach the final of Euro 2016, which his country lost to Portugal.

He announced his retirement during a half-time interview in the match between Marseille and Lille on Sunday.

"I want to take two minutes to thank everybody, to thank all those who shared these 20 years with me. It was something exceptional," said Reunion-born Payet.

"I come from an island and my dream was to become a professional. I made it and did it for 20 years at the highest level.

"I managed to play for the national squad, and today is the end of a beautiful journey."

Payet also played for Nantes, St-Etienne, Lille and Brazilian side Vasco da Gama, who he left last summer and were the final club of his career. **BBC**

Ex-France and West Ham midfielder Payet retires



Dimitri Payet has announced his retirement from football **REUTERS/Stephane Mahe/File Photo**

Pogacar denies Pidcock to win first Milan-San Remo

World champion Tadej Pogacar overcame a crash to win his first Milan-San Remo by half a wheel from Britain's Tom Pidcock in a thrilling two-man sprint finish.

Four-time Tour de France winner Pogacar attacked with 22km

of the 298km one-day Monument remaining, with only Pidcock and Mathieu van der Poel able to follow.

Two-time winner Van der Poel was dropped on the final climb, the Poggio, leaving Pogacar and Pidcock to contest the finale.

Pogacar launched his sprint first and Pidcock fought to get alongside, but was just edged out as both threw themselves towards the line.

The Slovenian, already regarded as one of the greatest cyclists ever, has now won four of the five 'Monuments'

- the most prestigious one-day races in men's cycling - with only Paris-Roubaix left.

Saturday's victory moves him level with Roger de Vlaeminck into equal second on the list of most Monument victories, with 11. Only the legendary Eddy Merckx

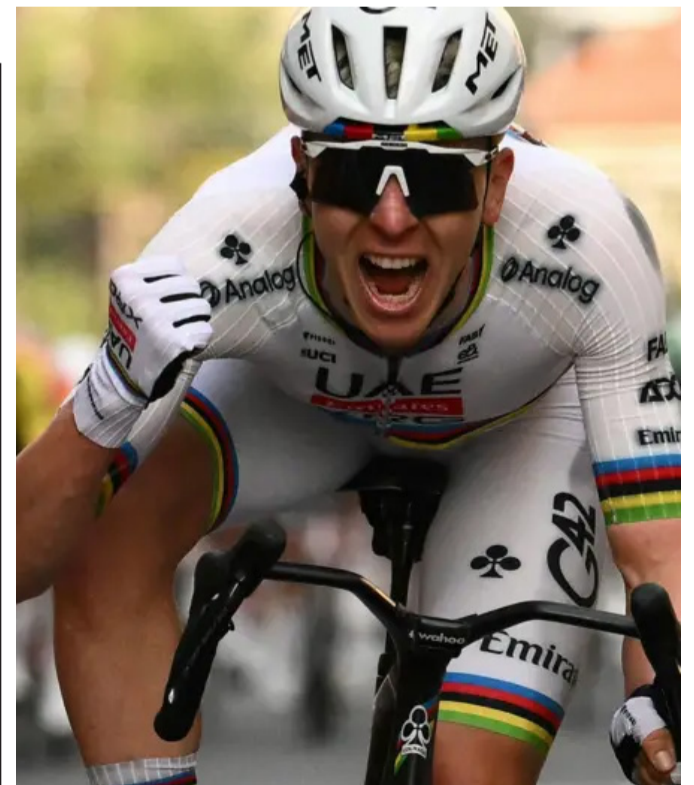
has more, with 19.

The 27-year-old's victory was even more remarkable given he recovered from a crash just before the key climb of the Cipressa to make it back to the main group.

"For a second I

thought it was all over but luckily I was quickly back on the bike," he said.

"Pidcock was really, really strong. I was lucky in the sprint, he's a really fast guy." **BBC**



Tadej Pogacar finished third in the previous two editions of Milan-San Remo

NSCZ Reaffirms Commitment to Sports Development

(From page 8)

"We wish to commend all nominees and winners for their outstanding performances during the 2025 season. Your hard work, discipline and commitment continue to inspire the nation and set a strong example for aspiring athletes," the statement read.

The NSCZ also extended special appreciation to the Government, through the Ministry of Youth, Sport and Arts, for its continued

support towards the development of sport in the country.

The council reiterated that with consistent investment, effective partnerships and recognition of talent, Zambia has the potential to elevate its sporting profile both regionally and internationally, while contributing to social and economic development.



Peza Sports

No. 007 Tuesday, 24 - 30 March, 2026

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By Alexis Chilumbwe

The National Sports Council of Zambia (NSCZ) has reaffirmed its commitment to creating opportunities, nurturing talent and promoting excellence in sport across the country.

The council says enhanced collaboration with key stakeholders, including Government, sports associations and athletes, is critical to transforming sport into a meaningful driver of national development.

This follows the successful

stakeholders to build a stronger and more vibrant sporting sector.

It noted that the achievements of

athletes continue to inspire the nation and set a high standard for upcoming talent.

(Story continues on P7)

NSCZ

REAFFIRMS

COMMITMENT

TO SPORTS

DEVELOPMENT



Simukwanya Chawe Ronald after scooping Sports Journalist of the year award at the NSCZ awards held in Livingstone last week.

hosting of the 2025 Zambia Annual Sports Awards held in Livingstone, an event that celebrated the country's top-performing athletes and recognised outstanding contributions within the sporting fraternity.

In a statement issued after the ceremony, the NSCZ commended all

stakeholders who played a vital role in ensuring the success of the event, describing the occasion as a significant milestone in promoting sporting excellence.

"We are truly grateful for the overwhelming support and enthusiasm shown in celebrating Zambia's finest sporting talent. Your presence

and participation played a vital role in making the event a memorable occasion that fittingly recognised excellence, dedication and achievement across our sporting fraternity," read part of the statement.

The council further emphasised the importance of sustained cooperation among

