



SEPTEMBER 30, 2026

ZAMBIA EMBASSY IN ETHIOPIA



NEWSLETTER



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"ZAMBIA'S PRESIDENT HICHILEMA INAUGURATED FOR SECOND TERM, UNVEILS 'GROW ZAMBIA' AGENDA"

Zambia's Seventh President, Mr. Hakainde Hichilema, and Vice-President Dr. W.K. Mutale Nalumango, were on Tuesday, 1 September 2026, sworn into office for their second five-year term at a colorful inauguration ceremony held at the National Heroes Stadium in Lusaka.



**H.E. President Hakainde Hichilema- President of the
Republic of Zambia**





Ambassador's Message

His Excellency Mr. Albert Muchanga

Ambassador to the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and Permanent Representative to the African Union And UNECA

The current edition of our newsletter features articles, among others, on the inauguration of our President Mr. Hakainde Hichilema after his re-election for a second term of office. We also feature engagements of the Mission in economic, trade and investment areas. In all these articles, the issue which comes out prominently is the Grow Zambia Agenda. The Zambian Mission in Addis Ababa is well positioned to contribute in the implementation of the Grow Zambia Agenda.

At the bilateral levels, Zambians are working hard and smart to enter the Ethiopian market as investors and exporters. One of the articles featured is the presence of Nutra Sip drink on the retail shelves of one of the leading supermarkets in Addis Ababa. We plan to have more products exported from our country within the framework of export-led growth under the Grow Zambia Agenda. We also feature the participation of Ethiopian exhibitors at this year's edition of the Zambia International Trade fair in Ndola.

At the level of the African Union, the Grow Zambia Agenda aligns closely with the African Union Agenda 2063 in several policy frameworks, strategies and programmes. We can list, among several others, the first and second ten-year implementation plans of Agenda 2063; the Strategic Framework on Key Actions to Achieve Inclusive Growth and Sustainable Development in Africa; the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA); African Mining Vision; Commodity Strategy; Small and Medium Enterprises Strategy; Youth Start-Up Programme; Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme; Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa; Digital Transformation Strategy 2020-2030; and Continental Artificial Intelligence Strategy.

One example of alignment is that Agenda 2063 calls on all African Union Member States to grow their economies at 7% or more per annum beginning 2023. In the first quarter of this year, the Zambian economy grew at 7.7%. If this is sustained, the economy can double every seven years. In this connection, it would be important to have in the Ninth National Development Plan, an econometric model showing growth trends of Zambia's Gross Domestic Product and Gross National Income per capita between 2027 and 2063 when Agenda 2063 comes to an end.

The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), co-hosted, during September, with the Governments of Ethiopia and the State of Qatar, the Africa Mid-Term Review of the Doha Programme of Action on Least Developed Countries (LDCs). The global review will be in March, 2027 in Doha. Zambia entered the ranks of LDCs in 1991. As shown in the article in this newsletter, prospects for her graduation by 2033 are good and the Grow Zambia Agenda will give added impetus to this. UNECA is also assisting Zambia and Zimbabwe in the development of inter-country agro-parks which in the context of the Grow Zambia Agenda will contribute to the country's agricultural transformation and food security. With respect to environmental sustainability, UNECA has partnered with the Government of Ethiopia deliver a successful 32nd session of the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 32). When members of the Zambian Delegation come for COP 32 in March 2027, they will have at the back of their minds the need to promote environmental sustainability in our countries within the framework of Nationally Determined Contributions. Curbing deforestation and fossil fuels as well as promoting climate smart agriculture are some of the issues with a bearing on environmental sustainability. Zambia's export-led growth will succeed with evidence of promoting environmental sustainability in all our socio-economic activities.

As we all welcome the Grow Zambia Agenda, the expectations for improved livelihoods across Zambia are high. For ordinary Zambians, the prime expectations are lower cost of living, decent employment and rising household incomes. As a Mission, we stand ready to contribute to meeting these valid expectations by also contributing to increased productivity across all sectors of the national economy, which is critical to generating more wealth, which can be shared, unlike poverty, which the President counsels, cannot be shared.

Enjoy the newsletter. Your comments are welcome.



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Her Honor, Dr. W.K Mutale Nalumango – Vice President of the Republic of Zambia.



The ceremony, attended by thousands of jubilant Zambians, regional leaders, members of the diplomatic corps and senior government officials, marked the beginning of a new chapter for Zambia, with President Hichilema declaring that the country's focus would now shift from economic stabilisation to growth, expansion, opportunity and prosperity for all.



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The inauguration was graced by President Emmerson Mnangagwa of Zimbabwe, President Samia Suluhu Hassan of Tanzania, President William Ruto of Kenya, President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah of Namibia, President Duma Boko of Botswana and while Prime Minister Sam Matekane of Lesotho. The event also attracted senior representatives from China, the United States of America, the United Arab Emirates and other governments and international partners.



From Stabilization to Growth

In his inaugural address, President Hichilema said his first term had been largely dedicated to restoring economic stability and laying the foundation for recovery, while his second term would concentrate on translating that foundation into tangible economic opportunities for all citizens.



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He announced the “Grow Zambia Agenda”, centered on accelerating economic growth, creating decent jobs, expanding business opportunities, strengthening communities and ensuring that economic progress reaches households across the country. The President said his ambition is to triple the size of Zambia’s economy over the next five years, with increased participation by citizens and the private sector.

At the heart of the agenda is the ambitious 10-10-5-3-3-1-1-1 production target, which seeks to raise maize production to 10 million tonnes, electricity generation to 10,000 megawatts, annual tourist arrivals to five million, copper production to three million tonnes, soya production to three million tonnes, wheat production to one million tonnes, sugar production to one million tonnes and build a US\$1 billion beef export industry. There is also a target of creating 2 million jobs between 2026 and 2031.



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President Hichilema stressed that economic growth must ultimately translate into improved livelihoods of the people. His vision places emphasis on wealth creation, job creation, increased productivity, investment, agriculture, mining, tourism, energy, industrialisation and infrastructure, with greater value addition to Zambia's natural resources.



The President also acknowledged that although significant progress had been made in stabilising the economy, many households continued to face cost-of-living pressures. He therefore called for an economy in which more citizens participate directly in production and wealth creation, rather than relying solely on Government.



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He urged Zambians to work hard and smart, produce more of what the country consumes, increase exports, support enterprise and investment, and embrace a culture of productivity and self-reliance.



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From Stabilization to Growth

Emphasizing the importance of wealth creation, President Hichilema observed that Government and citizens must work together to address poverty. He said: “No matter how good-hearted one may be to their children and families, the truth is, you cannot share poverty.” He stressed that Zambia must therefore focus on creating wealth and expanding opportunities that enable citizens to generate incomes.

The President's message was that Government's role is not merely to redistribute limited resources, but to expand the economic base so that more Zambians can participate in productive activities and generate revenue for reinvestment and redistribution. This is reflected in the message contained in the inauguration material:

“Our attention now turns to shaping our growth agenda of the economy so that more citizens can generate revenue for reinvestment and for redistribution.”





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A President for All Zambians

President Hichilema also extended a message of reconciliation and inclusion to Zambians who did not vote for him in the 13 August 2026 election.

He stated that, his Government, would serve all citizens equally and without discrimination, regardless of their political choices. "To those who did not vote for us, we respect your democratic choice. We will serve you on an equal basis, without discrimination, because you are our fellow citizens and an equal part of this great Republic."

He further called on Zambians to put the elections behind them and concentrate on building the nation, emphasising that political differences should not undermine national unity, peace and development.





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Mnangagwa: Zambia and Zimbabwe to Deepen Cooperation

President Emmerson Mnangagwa congratulated President Hichilema on his re-election and pledged continued cooperation between Zambia and Zimbabwe.



President Mnangagwa highlighted the longstanding historical, fraternal and economic ties between the two neighboring countries, noting that cooperation within SADC and broader international fora would continue to be strengthened in pursuit of peace, security and shared interests. He also recalled President Hichilema's 2025 working visit to Zimbabwe, during which the two countries co-chaired the inaugural session of their Bi-National Commission.



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President Mnangagwa further underscored the responsibility of African countries to drive their own modernisation and industrialisation by harnessing the continent's abundant natural resources and emerging economic opportunities. He called for greater regional cooperation to accelerate Africa's development and transformation.





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Ruto: Africa Must Turn Political Freedom into Economic Freedom

Kenyan President William Ruto, in his address, congratulated President Hichilema and urged him to use his second mandate to transform Zambia's economic stability into jobs, incomes and opportunities for citizens.



President Ruto observed that elections should determine who governs but should never determine who belongs. He urged African leaders to ensure that political competition does not become national conflict, stressing that national unity, credible institutions and respect for the rule of law are important foundations for economic prosperity.

Turning to Africa's economic transformation, President Ruto challenged the continent to move beyond exporting raw materials and importing finished products. He called for increased industrialisation, manufacturing, value addition and intra-African trade through the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).



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He noted that Africa possesses land, energy, minerals, markets and human capital necessary for transformation, but must harness these resources more effectively. Drawing inspiration from Zambia's founding President, Dr. Kenneth Kaunda, President Ruto said the previous generation secured political freedom, while the present generation must work towards economic freedom. He concluded with a powerful message: "They gave us freedom. Our duty is to turn that freedom into prosperity."



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A New Growth Agenda for Zambia

The inauguration has generated considerable excitement among Zambians, particularly around the President's declaration that the next five years will be defined by growth, expansion, opportunity and prosperity rather than economic stabilisation alone. The message contained in the inauguration material captures this transition: "Having done the heavy lifting in our first term, the next five years is all about growth, expansion, opportunity, and prosperity for all our people."



For Zambia's international partners, the President's emphasis on economic expansion, investment, tourism, trade, value addition and regional integration presents significant opportunities for strengthened economic diplomacy and international cooperation.



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Zambia's Foreign Policy and Economic Diplomacy

The Zambian Mission in Addis Ababa looks forward to contributing to the implementation of President Hichilema's vision by advancing Zambia's economic diplomacy, promoting trade and investment, strengthening tourism diplomacy, and deepening cooperation with Ethiopia, Djibouti, Sudan Somalia, the African Union, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa as well as with other Diplomatic consular Mission in Addis Ababa.

The Mission will continue to support Zambia's interests in peace and security, regional integration, multilateral cooperation, trade, investment and tourism, while projecting Zambia as a peaceful, stable and investment-ready country.





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One Zambia, One Nation, One People.

As President Hichilema begins his second term, the Government's Grow Zambia Agenda provides a renewed framework for transforming economic stability into inclusive growth and sustainable development. The Mission looks forward to playing its part in advancing this vision and strengthening Zambia's engagement with Africa and the wider international community.





PRESIDENT HICHILEMA REAPPOINTS HON. MULAMBO HAIMBE S.C., M.P., AS FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTER

Mr. Hakainde Hichilema, President of the Republic of Zambia, has nominated Hon. Mulambo Haimbe, S.C., as Member of Parliament and appointed him Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.

Hon. Haimbe previously served as Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation until 2026, leading up to the dissolution of Parliament ahead of the 2026 General Elections.

Speaking during the Swearing-in Ceremony held at State House today, President Hichilema tasked Hon. Haimbe with advancing Zambia's Economic Diplomacy Agenda by ensuring that the country's Embassies and Missions Abroad actively promote investment and trading opportunities.





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President Hichilema emphasised the importance of Zambia's diplomatic missions in facilitating trade and investment, urging diplomats to ensure that "trade keeps going" and to actively sell Zambia as an attractive investment destination. He said Zambia's diplomacy must deliver tangible results in support of the Government's Grow Zambia Agenda.

The President noted that Government worked hard to strengthen and maintain Zambia's image abroad, stressing that the country's reputation must be protected and continuously enhanced.

President Hichilema further directed the Minister to safeguard Zambia's sovereignty and territorial integrity, including ensuring that there is no encroachment in border areas.

Other Ministers sworn in during the first phase of President Hichilema's Cabinet for his second term include Hon. Dr. Situmbeko Musokotwane as Minister of Finance and National Planning; Professor Roma Chilengi as Minister of Health; and Dr. Gilbert Siame as Minister of Green Economy and Environment.

President Hichilema called on all Cabinet Ministers to serve the Zambian people with humility, urging them to prioritise national interests and the needs of the people above personal interests.





ZAMBIA REAFFIRMS LEADERSHIP ON AFRICA'S WATER AGENDA AT 49TH AU EXECUTIVE COUNCIL SESSION

Zambia reaffirmed its commitment to advancing Africa's sustainable development priorities and strengthening collective African action at the 49th Ordinary Session of the Executive Council of the African Union (AU), held at the AU Headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.



The two-day Executive Council session brought together Ministers responsible for Foreign Affairs and other designated senior officials from AU Member States to deliberate on a range of issues central to Africa's integration, development and engagement in the global system. The discussions focused on advancing the implementation of Agenda 2063, addressing emerging continental priorities and strengthening the effectiveness and sustainability of the African Union.



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Zambia was represented at the session by H.E. Albert Muchanga, Ambassador of the Republic of Zambia and Permanent Representative to the African Union and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA). He was accompanied by senior officials from Cabinet Office, the Ministry of Finance and National Planning, the Ministry of Water Development and Sanitation, and the Embassy of the Republic of Zambia in Addis Ababa.

Water and sanitation take centre stage

For Zambia, one of the key areas of significance during the session was the continent's water and sanitation agenda. The Executive Council underscored the role of President Hakainde Hichilema as the AU-mandated lead on the Africa Water Vision and Policy and its Implementation Framework.

Zambia reaffirmed its commitment to working closely with AU Member States towards the successful implementation of the Africa Water Vision and Policy, reflecting the importance of sustainable water availability and safe sanitation to Africa's development aspirations.



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The focus on water and sanitation is particularly significant within the framework of the 2026 AU Theme: “Assuring Sustainable Water Availability and Safe Sanitation Systems to Achieve the Goals of Agenda 2063.” The theme places water availability and sanitation at the heart of the continent’s efforts to achieve the broader objectives of Agenda 2063.

Zambia also highlighted its role as Co-Chair of the Interactive Dialogue on Water for Cooperation, in preparation for the 2026 United Nations Water Conference. Through these engagements, Zambia continues to contribute to continental discussions on water as an important component of Africa’s sustainable development agenda.

Strengthening Africa’s collective voice

Beyond the water agenda, the Executive Council considered a broad range of matters affecting the continent’s development and its role in the international system. These included the implementation of Agenda 2063, the AU’s participation in the G20, the 2027 AU Budget, and African candidatures in the international system.

The Council also reaffirmed the importance of a coordinated African voice in global governance. Member States and AU institutions were encouraged to continue advancing Africa’s shared priorities in international fora, underscoring the importance of collective engagement in shaping issues of relevance to the continent.

For Zambia, this emphasis aligns with its continued support for collective African solutions to continental challenges and the domestication of Agenda 2063. Zambia reiterated its commitment to working with fellow Member States to strengthen Africa’s voice and ensure that continental priorities translate into tangible outcomes for African citizens.



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The Executive Council further considered reports and recommendations from the Permanent Representatives' Committee (PRC), Specialized Technical Committees, the African Union Commission and other AU organs, providing an important platform for advancing matters requiring consideration at the ministerial level.



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Looking ahead

The 49th Ordinary Session also advanced preparations for the 8th Mid-Year Coordination Meeting, scheduled for October 2026 in El Alamein, Egypt. Decisions adopted by the Executive Council will subsequently be submitted to the AU Assembly of Heads of State and Government in January 2027.

As the session concluded, Zambia reaffirmed its commitment to working with fellow AU Member States in advancing the continent's shared priorities, strengthening Africa's collective voice in global affairs and supporting the implementation of Agenda 2063.



With water and sanitation featuring prominently under the AU's 2026 theme, Zambia's engagement at the Executive Council further highlighted the country's contribution to shaping Africa's water agenda and advancing sustainable solutions to one of the continent's critical development priorities.



THE ZAMBIA EMBASSY IN ADDIS ABABA CALLS ON LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES TO GRADUATE TO MIDDLE INCOME COUNTRIES

Standing in for the Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Zambia's Ambassador to Ethiopia and Permanent Representative to the African Union and UNECA H.E. Albert Muchanga, called for the graduation of Least Developed Countries (LDCs) to middle income countries. This was during the African Ministerial Mid-term Review of the Doha Programme of Action (DPoA) for the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) for the Decade 2022–2031 held from 8th to 9th September 2026 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The objective of the Meeting was to take stock of progress, identify obstacles and emerging challenges, recommit to the full implementation of the DPoA, and provide substantive African regional inputs to the Comprehensive Global Mid-term Review scheduled for 25th to 27th March 2027 in Doha, Qatar.

The Meeting was organised by the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLS) and UNECA, with the support of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and the State of Qatar.

It was attended by Ministers, Heads of Delegations and Representatives of African LDCs. The Zambian delegation was led by H.E. Albert Muchanga, Zambia's Ambassador to Ethiopia and Permanent Representative to the African Union (AU) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA). He was accompanied by senior officials from Cabinet Office, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Ministry of Finance and National Planning, and the Zambian Embassy in Addis Ababa.





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The Meeting was structured around the following six thematic sessions:

- Investing in People and Eradicating Poverty: Enhancing social safety nets, health, and basic education;
- Leveraging Science Technology and Innovation: Mobilising voluntary financial and technical support for the UN Technology Bank for LDCs;
- Structural Transformation and Industrialisation: Leveraging the AfCFTA, building agro-processing capabilities, and moving into Medium-High Technology (MHT) sectors;
- Trade Enhancement: Maximising preferential market access and integrating into global value chains;
- Climate Action and Resilience: Scaling climate finance, implementing Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and fully operationalising the DPoA Resilience Building Mechanism; and
- Mobilising Partnerships and Smooth Graduation: Raising tax-to-GDP ratios (>15%), establishing the International Investment Support Centre, and operationalising the iGRAD multi-donor trust fund (US\$20 million target) prior to 2027.

Zambia advanced the following positions during the deliberations:

- Continued commitment to the DPoA and to Zambia's sustainable and irreversible graduation, notwithstanding the 2024 reversal;
- Graduation with momentum, earned with sufficient productive capacity, diversification, and resilience to ensure that the withdrawal of LDC-specific support does not reverse hard-won gains;
- Predictable and gradual transition support, guaranteeing continued access to concessional finance, technical assistance, trade preferences, and climate finance during and after graduation;
- Reform of the global financing architecture, including debt restructuring that does not erode ODA, so as to restore fiscal space for investment;
- Structural transformation and diversification through value addition in mining and agriculture, agro-processing, energy, tourism, and MSME growth; and
- Regional integration and peer learning, leveraging the AfCFTA, SADC and COMESA markets and benchmarking against peers.





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The Mid-Term Review Meeting adopted the Outcome Document of the African Ministerial Mid-term Review of the Doha Programme of Action for LDCs (2022–2031).

The meeting further underscored that achieving sustainable, irreversible graduation for LDCs requires urgent structural reform, domestic resource mobilisation, and dependable global partnerships.

It should be noted that a country's graduation from LDC status is determined by the United Nation's Committee for Development Policy (CDP) through triennial reviews against three criteria based on:

- Income (GNI per capita): inclusion below US\$1,088 and graduation at or above US\$1,306 (2024 review), the graduation threshold being 20% above the inclusion threshold;
- Human Assets Index (HAI): health and education outcomes, including under-five and maternal mortality, adult literacy, and gender parity in secondary enrolment, with graduation at a score of 66 or above; and
- Economic and Environmental Vulnerability Index (EVI): exposure to shocks, including remoteness, dependence on agriculture and vulnerability to natural disasters, with graduation at a score of 32 or below.

Graduation eligibility requires the thresholds in two of the three criteria to be reached at two consecutive triennial reviews or, alternatively, income alone at three times the graduation threshold.

Zambia was admitted to the LDC category in 1991 and entered the graduation pipeline in 2021. The country will next be considered at the 2027 triennial review.

Currently Zambia has GNI per capita of approximately US\$1260 which is US\$46 below the minimum threshold for graduation. Zambia also has a human asset index of 71.4 which is above the minimum graduation threshold of 66.0. However, Zambia has an economic and environmental vulnerability index of 39.8. The minimum threshold for graduation is 32.0 or below. From the foregoing, it can be seen that the country could reach the per capita in 2027 and if this and the human asset index are sustained in 2030, the country could be recommended for graduation in 2033. With the Grow Zambia Agenda, led by the President of the Republic of Zambia, Mr. Hakainde Hichilema, Zambia's graduation to middle income status is within reach.





PROUDLY ZAMBIAN PRODUCTS, PROUDLY ON THE SHELVES IN ETHIOPIA



260 Brands (Seba Foods) of Zambia has successfully managed to export various flavours of its premium juice - Nutramilk, to Ethiopia. The Mission in Addis Ababa continues to work with the company and other Zambian companies to facilitate the export of even more Zambian products into Ethiopia. This is in line with the Grow Zambia Agenda under the leadership of President Hichilema, that is advancing export-led growth.



ZAMBIA ASSUMES LEADERSHIP OF AU STC ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT, LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT

Zambia has assumed a strategic leadership role within the African Union (AU) following its election as Chair of the Bureau of the Specialised Technical Committee on Social Development, Labour and Employment (STC-SDLE) for the 2026–2028 term.

The election took place during the Sixth Ordinary Session of the STC-SDLE, held in Windhoek, Namibia, from 27 to 31 July 2026. The session was convened under the theme, “Investing, Strengthening and Expanding Social Protection Systems in Africa: Critical Enablers for Inclusion, Resilience and Social Justice.”

Representing Zambia, Mr. Givens Muntengwa, Labour Commissioner, chaired the Experts’ Session held from 27 to 29 July 2026 in his capacity as Chair of the Bureau. During the Ministerial segment, Hon. Fillemon Wise Immanuel, Minister of Justice and Labour Relations of the Republic of Namibia, accepted the instruments of power on behalf of Zambia.





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A Continental Platform for Social and Economic Development



The STC-SDLE is one of the AU's specialised technical committees and serves as an important platform through which Member States develop, coordinate and advance continental policies on social development, labour and employment.

Its mandate encompasses critical issues including social protection, decent work, employment creation, labour migration, skills development, youth employment, social inclusion and the protection of vulnerable groups. The Committee also provides a platform for governments to exchange experiences, develop common approaches and strengthen cooperation on challenges affecting Africa's workforce and social development.

The work of the STC is closely aligned with the objectives of Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, particularly the aspiration for an Africa whose development is people-centred, inclusive and driven by the potential of its citizens.





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What the Chairmanship Means for Zambia



Zambia's election to lead the Bureau provides the country with an important opportunity to shape continental policy discussions and priorities in areas that have a direct bearing on national development.

The Chairmanship places Zambia at the centre of discussions on how African countries can expand social protection, create decent employment opportunities and build more resilient societies. It also gives Zambia an avenue to share its experiences and policy perspectives while learning from innovative approaches being implemented by other AU Member States.

For Zambia, this presents opportunities to strengthen cooperation in areas such as youth employment, skills development, labour administration, social protection and labour mobility. These are particularly significant as Africa continues to grapple with a rapidly growing youthful population and the need to create sufficient productive and decent employment opportunities.

The position can also strengthen Zambia's engagement with Regional Economic Communities, AU institutions, development partners, employers' organisations and workers' organisations, creating opportunities for knowledge exchange, technical cooperation and partnerships.



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Advancing Zambia's Economic Diplomacy

The chairmanship also complements Zambia's broader engagement with the African Union and its commitment to multilateralism and African-led solutions to Africa's development challenges.

From a diplomatic perspective, leadership of the STC-SDLE enhances Zambia's visibility within the continental policy-making architecture and provides an additional platform for advancing national priorities. It enables Zambia to contribute to shaping policies that promote inclusive economic growth, decent work, human capital development and social resilience.

The role is also consistent with Zambia's broader efforts to promote economic diplomacy, particularly by creating platforms for cooperation, investment in human capital, skills development and partnerships that can contribute to sustainable socio-economic development.





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Putting People at the Centre of Africa's Development

The theme of the Sixth Ordinary Session underscores the growing recognition that social protection is not simply a welfare intervention, but an important instrument for building inclusive, resilient and productive economies.

For Zambia, leading the Bureau during the 2026-2028 period provides an opportunity to help ensure that Africa's social and labour policies respond to the realities faced by ordinary citizens, including young people, workers, vulnerable households and communities affected by economic shocks.



As Chair of the Bureau, Zambia will therefore have an opportunity to contribute to building consensus among Member States and advancing practical solutions that strengthen social protection systems, promote decent employment and advance social justice across the continent.

Zambia's election to the STC-SDLE Bureau is consequently both a recognition of the country's contribution to continental affairs and an opportunity to provide leadership in an area fundamental to Africa's development: ensuring that the continent's economic transformation translates into improved livelihoods and greater opportunities for its people.



TODAY'S PROFILE; GET INSPIRED BY CHAPI MONGO'S STORY.



Please tell us about yourself. What inspired your career in regional diplomacy, policy, and international cooperation?

I often say that my journey into diplomacy began before I even knew what diplomacy was. I was born into two worlds. My father was Zambian and my mother is Ethiopian, and growing up between these two cultures gave me a unique appreciation for Africa's diversity from an early age. Home was a place where different traditions, languages and perspectives came together naturally. Rather than seeing differences, I learned to see connections. My late father believed deeply in service, integrity and representing Zambia with pride wherever life took you. My mother complemented those values with resilience, compassion and an unwavering commitment to education.

Together, they taught me that success is not measured only by personal achievement, but by the positive impact you leave on others. That foundation shaped every decision I have made. Studying Operations Management in Canada broadened my perspective on global systems, while pursuing a Master's degree in Public Policy and Management at SOAS University of London strengthened my understanding of governance and public institutions. Today, working at the SADC Permanent Representation to the African Union feels like a natural continuation of that journey.

Every day I have the privilege of contributing, however modestly, to conversations that influence peace, regional integration and development across our continent. For me, this is more than a profession, it is a way of serving both the country of my father and the country of my mother while contributing to Africa's shared future.



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Can you share your professional journey and how it led you to your current role as Junior Programme & Policy Officer at the SADC Permanent Representation to the African Union?

My career has never followed a straight line, and I believe that has been one of its greatest strengths.

I began in operations, procurement and project management, where I learned discipline, organization and the importance of delivering results. Working with GIZ introduced me to international development and donor-funded programmes, while my time at the Institute for Peace and Security Studies allowed me to contribute directly to policy research on governance and peacebuilding across Africa.

Each experience added another piece to the puzzle. Procurement taught me systems. Research taught me analysis. Project management taught me coordination. Together, they prepared me for multilateral diplomacy.

Today, at the SADC Permanent Representation to the African Union, I help coordinate meetings, prepare policy briefs, support visiting delegations and contribute to regional policy discussions. Looking back, every step, even those that seemed unrelated at the time helped prepare me for where I am today.



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One of the things I enjoy most about my role is that, no two days are ever the same. Working at the SADC Permanent Representation to the African Union means that every day brings a different set of priorities, whether they involve diplomacy, administration, protocol or policy.

My day usually begins by reviewing schedules and preparing for upcoming meetings. This often involves coordinating calendars, organizing logistics, preparing briefing notes, talking points and background documents to ensure our Permanent Representative and the programme team are fully prepared for engagements with the African Union, other embassies and development partners.

A significant part of my role is administrative coordination. Behind every successful diplomatic engagement is careful planning; managing correspondence, tracking action points from meetings, coordinating travel and delegation programmes, maintaining institutional records and ensuring that information flows efficiently across the Mission. While this work often happens behind the scenes, it is essential to keep the Mission operating effectively.

Protocol is another fascinating aspect of my work. Whenever visiting delegations arrive, I help coordinate their programmes, from arranging meetings and transportation to ensuring that official engagements run smoothly. Diplomacy is built on relationships, and protocol provides the structure that allows those relationships to flourish with professionalism and mutual respect.





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I also have had the opportunity to contribute to the Mission's policy work. This includes researching regional developments, monitoring decisions of the African Union and other regional bodies, preparing policy briefs, drafting reports and presentations, and supporting discussions on governance, peace and security, regional integration and development. I enjoy translating complex information into concise and practical recommendations that support informed decision-making.

What I find most rewarding is seeing how these different responsibilities come together. A meeting that appears seamless often reflects hours of preparation, coordination and teamwork. Knowing that my contributions, whether through administrative support, protocol coordination or policy analysis help strengthen regional cooperation and advance SADC's engagement within the African Union gives me a genuine sense of purpose. Every day reminds me that diplomacy is not only about what happens around the negotiating table. It is also about the dedication, preparation and collaboration behind the scenes that make meaningful dialogue and cooperation possible.

Working at the African Union places you at the heart of continental affairs. What has been your most memorable professional experience so far?

Without question, one of the defining moments of my career so far was supporting the African Union Summit. Until then, many of the rooms where Africa's biggest decisions were discussed were places I had only ever seen on television or read about in newspapers. Walking through those same corridors, supporting high-level engagements and witnessing diplomacy unfold in real time was both surreal and deeply humbling. The experience gave me a front-row seat to how continental decisions are shaped. From the outside, major declarations often appear to happen overnight. But being there showed me something very different. Every communiqué, every agreement and every policy position is the product of countless conversations, careful preparation, negotiation and collaboration among people who are working towards a common goal.



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Living in Addis Ababa, the diplomatic capital of Africa, what has your experience been like? Are there aspects of the city, its culture, or its people that have particularly impressed you?

My experience of Addis Ababa is perhaps a little different from most because, in many ways, I am both an insider and an outsider. Having grown up here through my Ethiopian mother, Addis has always felt familiar. I know the rhythm of the city, the warmth of Ethiopian hospitality, and the traditions that make this place so special. Yet, as a Zambian working in a diplomatic environment, I also experience Addis through the eyes of someone representing another African nation.

That dual perspective has allowed me to appreciate the city in a unique way. People often describe Addis as the political capital of Africa because of the African Union, but to me it is equally a city of everyday human connection. Business meetings begin with coffee. Conversations are rarely rushed. Relationships are valued just as much as results. There is an understanding that meaningful dialogue takes time, and I think there is something the rest of the world can learn from that.



One of my favorite things about Addis is that every neighborhood has its own personality. Whether it's spending time in the cafés of Bole, enjoying traditional cuisine with friends, or watching people gather around a coffee ceremony, the city has an energy that is both vibrant and deeply rooted in tradition. Living here has also reminded me that Africa's greatest strength is its diversity. On any given day at the African Union, I may interact with colleagues from every region of the continent and then step outside into a city that has welcomed Africans for generations. It is a constant reminder that Addis Ababa is not only Ethiopia's capital, it is a home for Africa.



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Outside of work, what hobbies or interests do you enjoy, and how do you usually spend your free time?



Working in a multilateral environment can be both exciting and demanding. The pace is often fast, priorities can shift quickly, and there are times when important meetings, events or deadlines require complete focus.

Over time, I have learned that maintaining a healthy work-life balance is not about dividing time equally between work and personal life, but about being intentional with how I invest my time and energy. One of the ways I maintain that balance is by making time for activities that help me recharge mentally and physically. I enjoy exercising, exploring different parts of Addis Ababa and spending time with family and friends whenever possible. Those moments allow me to step away from work, reflect and return with a clearer perspective. I also believe strongly in continuous learning. Perhaps most importantly, I make a conscious effort to stay connected to the people and values that keep me grounded.

How do you maintain a healthy work-life balance while working in a demanding multilateral diplomatic environment?

Outside of work, I enjoy activities that allow me to keep learning, connect with people and continue growing both personally and professionally. One of my greatest passions is public speaking. I am actively involved in Toastmasters International, where I have had the privilege of serving in leadership roles and mentoring fellow members. Toastmasters has been much more than a speaking club for me, it has become a community where I have developed confidence, strengthened my leadership skills and built lasting friendships. The experience has taught me that effective communication is one of the most valuable tools anyone can possess, particularly in diplomacy, where listening can be just as important as speaking. I also have a genuine love for learning languages.

I have been studying French for the last 3 years because I believe language is more than a means of communication, it is a gateway to understanding different cultures and building stronger relationships across our continent. Every new phrase I learn reminds me that Africa's diversity is one of its greatest strengths.



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Family often provides an important support system. How has your family influenced your career, and how do they support you while you are serving abroad?

Whenever people ask me about my career, they often see the degrees, the professional experiences and the institutions I've worked with. What they don't always see are the people who made that journey possible.

Growing up with a Zambian father and an Ethiopian mother gave me the privilege of being raised between two cultures. From an early age, I learned to appreciate different perspectives, traditions and ways of thinking. Looking back, I realize that this dual heritage quietly prepared me for a career built on understanding people, building relationships and working across cultures. One of the greatest influences in my life was my father. He believed deeply in service, humility and representing Zambia with dignity wherever life took you. Although he is no longer with us, those values continue to guide me every day. Whenever I walk into a meeting or represent my institution, I often think about the example he set not through grand speeches, but through the quiet way he treated people with respect and integrity. He taught me that success is measured not only by personal achievement, but by the positive impact we have on others.

My mother has been a source of unwavering strength throughout my journey. Her resilience, sacrifices and constant encouragement gave me the confidence to pursue opportunities that once felt beyond my reach. Even today, her belief in me reminds me to keep striving, remain humble and never stop learning.



I am lucky to be close to my family but the few times I am abroad, I never forget that it's their support that got me this far. Whether through a phone call, words of encouragement or simply knowing they are cheering me on from afar, they continue to be my greatest source of motivation. As I continue building my career in regional diplomacy and international cooperation, I hope that the values they instilled in me; service, humility, perseverance and compassion, will remain the legacy I carry into every room I enter and every opportunity I am fortunate to receive.



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What advice would you give to young Zambians who aspire to build careers in diplomacy, international relations, or regional organizations such as SADC and the African Union?

- Never underestimate the value of preparation.
- Diplomacy is not only about politics; it is about solving problems, building relationships and understanding people.
- Invest in your education, develop strong communication skills, learn additional languages and remain curious about Africa and the world.
- Most importantly, be patient. Careers in international organizations rarely happen overnight. Every internship, volunteer opportunity and professional experience contributes to your growth.
- Stay committed, continue learning and be willing to begin wherever opportunities arise.

Looking ahead, what are your professional aspirations, and what legacy would you like to leave through your work in regional and continental cooperation?

My aspiration is to continue serving Africa through regional and international institutions while contributing to stronger governance, peace and economic integration across the continent.

I hope to take on increasing responsibilities in policy and programme management, helping shape initiatives that improve the lives of Africans and strengthen cooperation among our nations.



If there is one legacy I would like to leave, it is that I helped build bridges between countries, institutions and people. Africa's future will depend on collaboration, and I would be honored if my career contributes, even in a small way, to advancing that shared vision.



ETHIOPIA BRIDGES MARKETS AT THE 60TH ZAMBIA INTERNATIONAL TRADE FAIR



True to the theme of the 60th Zambia International Trade Fair (ZITF) "Bridging Markets; Building the Future" held in Ndola, Zambia, from 1st to 7th July 2026; Ethiopia registered its presence at the Fair with the "Made in Ethiopia" headline.

As a result of the economic diplomacy efforts by the Zambia Embassy in Addis Ababa, LINU Trading of Ethiopia displayed various leather products made in Ethiopia. In addition, Chingola and Lusaka clusters trained by the All Leather and Leather Products Institute (ALLPI) headquartered in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, also displayed the works of their hands following capacity building by ALLPI.



ZAMBIA CALLS FOR STRONGER CONFLICT PREVENTION MECHANISMS IN AFRICA



Zambia has called for stronger and more effective mechanisms for conflict prevention and resolution in Africa, stressing the need to place prevention at the centre of the continent's peace and security agenda.

The call was made during the Extraordinary Summit of the Assembly of the African Union on the Strengthening of Mechanisms for Conflict Prevention and Resolution in Africa, held in Luanda, Angola, on 30 August 2026. Zambia's participation underscored its continued commitment to multilateralism, preventive diplomacy and the peaceful resolution of disputes within the framework of the African Union and the United Nations Charter.

Representing the Republic of Zambia, H.E. Rev. Dr. Elias Munshya, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Zambia to Angola, delivered Zambia's statement on behalf of President Hakainde Hichilema and the Government of the Republic of Zambia. The Zambian Mission in Addis Ababa, which represents Zambia to the African Union, was represented at the session by



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In the statement, Zambia emphasized that preventing conflicts before they escalate is more effective, humane and less costly than rebuilding communities and institutions after they have suffered the consequences of instability. Zambia therefore called for continued investment in early warning and early response systems, preventive diplomacy, mediation, peacebuilding and peace support operations.

Zambia also welcomed the growing role of the African Union Peace Fund, which has disbursed approximately US\$31 million towards peace and security interventions across the continent. The country further welcomed the implementation of the African Union Peace Fund Mobilisation Strategy for 2025–2026, noting the progress being made towards strengthening African ownership of the continent's peace and security priorities.



Zambia underscored that international and regional partnerships remain important in supporting Africa's peace and security efforts. However, such partnerships should complement, rather than replace, the responsibility of African Member States to address peace and security challenges on the continent.

Zambia's participation in the Extraordinary Summit reaffirmed the country's longstanding commitment to preventive diplomacy, multilateralism, peaceful settlement of disputes and collective security, while supporting the African Union's efforts to strengthen its capacity to prevent and respond to conflicts across the continent.



ZAMBIAN MISSION JOINS ETHIOPIA IN CELEBRATING NEW YEAR 2019



The Embassy of the Republic of Zambia in Addis Ababa on 11th September joined the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia in celebrating the Ethiopian New Year. The country entered the year 2019 according to the Ethiopian calendar.

The Ambassador of the Republic of Zambia and members of staff joined the Mission's locally engaged Ethiopian staff in marking the dawn of the New Year, sharing in the joy and cultural significance of this important national celebration.

Ethiopia follows a unique calendar that is based on an ancient calendar system and differs from the Gregorian calendar used in most parts of the world. The Ethiopian calendar has 13 months-12 months of 30 days each, followed by a 13th month, Pagume, which has five days in a regular year and six days in a leap year. The Ethiopian New Year, known as Enkutatash, is traditionally celebrated on 1 Meskerem, which generally falls on 11 September in the Gregorian calendar.



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Melkam Addis Amet!

Enkutatash marks the beginning of a new year and is associated with renewal, hope and new beginnings. The celebration also coincides with the end of the main rainy season and the arrival of the beautiful spring season in Ethiopia, when the countryside is characterised by fresh greenery and the blooming of the yellow Adey Abeba flowers.

The Zambian Mission extends its warm wishes to the Government and people of Ethiopia, as well as to the Ethiopian community, for a Happy and Prosperous New Year 2019! May the new year bring peace, prosperity, good health and continued friendship between the peoples of Zambia and Ethiopia.



ZAMBIA'S ENG. KEZIAS KAZUBA MWALE ELECTED SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE AFRICAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS UNION.



Zambia secured new continental leadership position following the election of Engineer Kezias Kazuba Mwale as Secretary General of the African Telecommunications Union (ATU) during the Seventh Ordinary Session of the ATU Conference of Plenipotentiaries (CPL-26), held in Abuja, Nigeria, from 23 to 24 July 2026.

Eng. Mwale, who was endorsed by the ICT Ministers of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), emerged victorious after four rounds of voting, receiving 21 of the 34 votes cast in the final round. He will assume office on 1 January 2027 for a four-year term. His election places a Zambian national at the helm of Africa's specialised continental institution responsible for promoting the development and effective use of telecommunications and information and communication technologies across the continent.

The election followed a competitive process involving candidates from Zambia, Tunisia, South Africa, Cameroon and the Republic of Congo. Zambia's candidature had received SADC ICT Ministers' endorsement, while the African Union Executive Council also recorded Eng. Mwale's candidature for the position ahead of the July 2026 election at a meeting of the African Telecommunications Union.



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A seasoned telecommunications expert

Eng. Mwale brings extensive technical and institutional experience to the position. He has served at the ATU since 2012, most recently as Director for Radiocommunications, with particular expertise in spectrum management and telecommunications policy. Prior to joining the ATU, he worked at the Zambia Information and Communications Technology Authority (ZICTA), where he rose through the ranks in spectrum management.

His professional experience includes contributing to the development of Zambia's first national spectrum plan, regional spectrum planning and international radiocommunications processes. At the ATU, he has been involved in continental initiatives relating to spectrum management, digital transformation and the strengthening of the Union's institutional capacity. He has also served as Secretary to previous ATU Conferences of Plenipotentiaries. (IIC)

His candidature was anchored on experience, competence, credibility, innovation and a record of service to the ATU. In his campaign vision, Eng. Mwale proposed to advance the transformation of the ATU and deepen its contribution to Africa's digital transformation agenda, with priorities including connectivity, digital inclusion, innovation and Africa's participation in global digital governance. (African Telecommunications Union)

What the new Secretary General will do

As Secretary General, Eng. Mwale will head the ATU General Secretariat and coordinate the implementation of the Union's programmes and decisions. The position carries responsibility for the administrative, financial, technical and operational management of the Secretariat and for coordinating the work of the Union's various organs.

Among other responsibilities, the Secretary General is expected to oversee the preparation and implementation of the Union's programmes and budgets, provide secretariat support to ATU statutory meetings, monitor implementation of the organisation's strategic priorities and represent the Union in relevant continental and international forums. The position also involves working with Member States to strengthen cooperation and advance common African positions on telecommunications and ICT matters. (Space in Africa)



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Eng. Mwale assumes the position at an important time for Africa's digital development. The continent continues to address challenges relating to affordable and meaningful connectivity, broadband infrastructure, spectrum management, cybersecurity, digital skills, digital inclusion and the expansion of digital economies.

The Seventh ATU Conference itself adopted the 2026 Abuja Declaration on Meaningful Connectivity for Africa, which calls for greater efforts to expand connectivity through technology-neutral regulation, improved access to spectrum and fibre infrastructure, consumer protection, cybersecurity, digital affordability and digital literacy. Particular attention was given to women, young people, persons with disabilities and underserved communities. (FMCIDE)

These priorities provide an important framework for the work that Eng. Mwale will inherit and lead when he assumes office.

Strategic significance for Zambia

For Zambia, Eng. Mwale's election represents more than the appointment of a Zambian professional to a continental position. It provides Zambia with an opportunity to contribute more prominently to discussions and decisions shaping Africa's digital future.

His leadership of the ATU can enhance Zambia's visibility in continental ICT policy discussions, particularly in areas such as digital connectivity, spectrum management, broadband development, innovation, digital skills and the digital economy. It also creates opportunities for Zambia to strengthen technical and institutional cooperation with other African countries and to share its own experiences in developing the national digital sector.

The election also reflects the confidence placed by African Member States in Zambian technical expertise and leadership. Zambia's Ministry of Technology and Science described the election as an achievement that underscores the country's growing influence in shaping Africa's digital future through regional and international cooperation. (Ministry of Tourism and Arts)

The significance extends beyond government-to-government relations. A stronger continental digital environment can support Zambia's broader development priorities by creating opportunities for improved connectivity, digital entrepreneurship, e-commerce, innovation, access to digital services and participation in the knowledge economy.



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The successful election was also supported by Zambia's broader diplomatic campaign, in which the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation worked alongside the Ministry of Technology and Science to mobilise continental support for the candidature.

Zambia undertook high-level diplomatic engagements with African Member States in the period leading to the election. For example, on the margins of the International Telecommunication Union Council Session in Geneva, the Zambian Government engaged Heads of Delegation from Nigeria, Senegal and Egypt as part of efforts to mobilise support for Eng. Mwale's candidature. (Ministry of Foreign Affairs).

The Embassy of the Republic of Zambia in Addis Ababa, as Zambia's diplomatic representation in Ethiopia and its Permanent Mission to the African Union and UNECA, also played a supporting role in promoting the candidature within the diplomatic community in Addis Ababa.

The Mission provided an important platform for engagement with representatives of African Member States and other stakeholders based in Addis Ababa. In particular, the Mission hosted a diplomatic reception which introduced Eng. Mwale's candidature to stakeholders within the African Union ecosystem and the wider diplomatic community. The engagement provided an opportunity to highlight his professional experience, his contribution to spectrum policy and digital connectivity, and his vision for the future of the ATU. (LinkedIn)

Such diplomatic outreach formed part of the wider national effort to build awareness and support for Zambia's candidature. Through its engagement with the diplomatic community, the Mission helped position the candidature within the broader continental conversation on Africa's digital transformation and the importance of experienced African leadership in specialised regional institutions.

The Mission's role also demonstrates the importance of Zambia's diplomatic network in supporting national candidatures to regional and international organisations. Addis Ababa, as the headquarters of the African Union and a major centre of continental diplomacy, provides a particularly important platform for building relationships, communicating Zambia's priorities and supporting the country's participation in African multilateral affairs.



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A new chapter for Zambia's digital diplomacy



Eng. Mwale's election comes at a time when digital transformation is increasingly central to Africa's economic and social development. His technical background, long experience within the ATU and understanding of both national and continental telecommunications systems place him at the centre of an important period in the Union's development.

Speaking after his election, Eng. Mwale expressed gratitude to African Member States for the confidence placed in him and pledged to work collaboratively to advance digital transformation and strengthen telecommunications and ICT development across the continent. He also paid tribute to President Hakainde Hichilema and the Government of the Republic of Zambia for the support extended to his candidature throughout the campaign.

For Zambia, the election provides an opportunity to strengthen its contribution to Africa's digital transformation agenda while demonstrating the capacity of Zambian professionals to provide leadership in specialised continental institutions.

As Eng. Mwale prepares to assume office in January 2027, Zambia will look to his leadership at the ATU to further strengthen continental cooperation in telecommunications, promote meaningful digital connectivity and contribute to building an inclusive African digital economy.

His election therefore represents both a personal professional milestone and an important moment in Zambia's continued engagement in continental diplomacy, technology and development.



ZAMBIA JOINS ETHIOPIA'S GREEN LEGACY TREE-PLANTING INITIATIVE

The inauguration was graced by President Emmerson Mnangagwa of Zimbabwe, President Samia Suluhu Hassan of Tanzania, President William Ruto of Kenya, President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah of Namibia, President Duma Boko of Botswana and while Prime Minister Sam Matekane of Lesotho. The event also attracted senior representatives from China, the United States of America, the United Arab Emirates and other governments and international partners.



The exercise formed part of Ethiopia's nationwide environmental restoration campaign, which brings together government institutions, communities, the diplomatic community, security and defence institutions, and other stakeholders in efforts to increase forest cover and address environmental and climate-related challenges.

Launched in 2019 by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, the Green Legacy Initiative was established as a long-term national programme aimed at restoring degraded landscapes, combating deforestation and soil erosion, expanding forest cover, improving water and air quality, conserving biodiversity and strengthening Ethiopia's resilience to climate change. Over the years, the initiative has grown into one of Ethiopia's most prominent national development and environmental programmes.



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For 2026, the Ethiopian Government set a target of planting 8 billion seedlings during the rainy season, as part of the country's longer-term ambition of planting 65 billion trees. Ethiopia reported that more than 48 billion seedlings had already been planted since the launch of the initiative in 2019, demonstrating the scale of the country's sustained environmental restoration efforts.

The 2026 campaign was conducted under the theme "Let Us Plant Hope", reflecting the Ethiopian Government's emphasis on environmental restoration as an investment in future generations. The campaign also incorporates fruit-bearing trees, indigenous species, fodder and other varieties intended to provide environmental as well as socio-economic benefits, including improved food security, livelihoods and ecosystem protection.



The participation of Brigadier General Nthenga alongside Defence Attachés from other countries provided an opportunity for Zambia to demonstrate solidarity with Ethiopia's environmental conservation efforts and to support an initiative that has increasingly become a platform for international cooperation. The involvement of defence institutions also underscores the broader role that national institutions can play in supporting sustainable development and climate resilience.

The initiative has attracted growing participation from the diplomatic and international community in Ethiopia. Members of the diplomatic community have joined tree-planting activities as a demonstration of solidarity with Ethiopia's environmental agenda and its wider efforts to promote climate action and sustainable development.

Zambia's participation in the Green Legacy Initiative further reflects the warm bilateral relations between Zambia and Ethiopia and the importance of cooperation among African countries in addressing shared challenges such as climate change, environmental degradation and sustainable development.

Through the participation of its Defence Attaché, the Zambian Mission reaffirmed its support for initiatives that promote environmental stewardship, international cooperation and a greener and more resilient Africa.



AFRICAN UNION ADVANCES COMMON UNDERSTANDING OF INTERNATIONAL LAW IN CYBERSPACE

The Republic of Zambia participated in a Regional Workshop entitled “Advancing the Application of International Law in the Cyber Context in Africa,” held from 1st to 3rd July 2026 at the African Union Headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The workshop was convened as part of a tailored capacity-building programme for legal and policy officers from African Union (AU) Member States, with a focus on strengthening understanding and application of international law in relation to cyber operations.

The three-day workshop provided a platform for capacity-building, technical reflection and coordination among Member States as they develop or refine their respective national legal and policy positions on international law and cyberspace. The workshop recognised that African countries have different legal traditions, policy priorities, institutional capacities and levels of cyber preparedness and, therefore, did not seek to prescribe a single approach to the application





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Particular attention was given to the Common African Position on the Application of International Law in Cyberspace (CAP) and how Member States may consider the common continental position alongside their respective national contexts and priorities.

The workshop examined key international legal principles, rules and regimes that are increasingly relevant to cyber operations and commonly addressed in national and common positions. These included sovereignty, non-intervention, due diligence, the prohibition of the use of force, international humanitarian law and State responsibility.

The sessions placed particular emphasis on African perspectives and the continent's evolving cyber threat landscape. Expert presentations were complemented by case-study discussions examining the practical implications of different legal approaches. Participants also considered the CAP, national and regional approaches, as well as positions expressed by other States on the application of international law in cyberspace.



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In addition to the technical discussions, the workshop incorporated four practical training sessions using scenario-based tabletop exercises and simulations. These sessions enabled participants to examine how different national legal and policy approaches could be applied to practical cyber scenarios, while taking into account the CAP and the respective national circumstances of AU Member States.

Zambia's participation in the regional workshop reaffirmed the country's commitment to strengthening its legal and policy capacity in addressing emerging challenges in cyberspace and to contributing to continental discussions on the application of international law to cyber operations.

The workshop further provided an opportunity for Zambia to engage with other AU Member States and relevant experts on emerging cyber-related legal issues, while contributing to efforts aimed at developing a common understanding of international law in cyberspace that takes into account Africa's specific circumstances and priorities.



ZAMBIA ADVANCES HEALTH PRIORITIES THROUGH STRONGER CONTINENTAL ACTION



Zambia has reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening health systems and advancing measures that address major health challenges affecting its population, through its engagement in the African Union's continental health agenda.

The commitment was reflected during the Extraordinary Session of the Assembly held in Accra, Ghana, from 21 to 22 July 2026, which brought together African stakeholders to consider key health priorities and strategies aimed at improving health outcomes across the continent.

The session focused on four priority areas: ending AIDS by 2030, reducing preventable maternal deaths, addressing communicable and non-communicable diseases, and strengthening health systems by 2030. These priorities have direct relevance to Zambia as the country continues to strengthen access to quality healthcare and address diseases that affect communities.



Discussions on ending AIDS as a public health threat by 2030 highlighted the importance of sustained prevention, treatment, care and support services. For Zambia, continued continental action in this area provides an opportunity to strengthen cooperation, share experiences and support efforts to ensure that people affected by HIV have access to essential services.

The session also placed emphasis on reducing preventable maternal deaths through improved access to quality maternal and reproductive health services. The discussions reinforced the importance of strengthening healthcare delivery at community level, particularly through improved access to essential services and interventions that can help prevent avoidable loss of life.



The growing burden of both communicable and non-communicable diseases was another key area of focus. Participants highlighted the need for stronger prevention, early detection, treatment and long-term management. These discussions are relevant to Zambia's efforts to address both existing disease burdens and emerging health challenges through stronger public health programmes and community-based interventions.



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A major outcome of the discussions was the emphasis on building resilient and sustainable health systems by 2030. Key areas identified included investment in health infrastructure, human resources for health, essential medicines, sustainable health financing, disease surveillance and emergency preparedness. Strengthening these areas remains important for Zambia in ensuring that its health system is better equipped to respond to both routine and emerging health challenges.

Zambia's engagement in the continental health discussions therefore provided an opportunity to contribute to shaping collective African approaches while drawing on experiences and priorities relevant to the country's own health development agenda. It also strengthened the role of diplomacy in advancing health priorities that have a direct bearing on national development, human capital and the well-being of Zambian communities.

The outcomes of the Extraordinary Session are expected to support continued continental cooperation in strengthening health systems, reducing preventable deaths and diseases, and advancing the shared African objective of healthier and more resilient populations by 2030.

Representing the Embassy of the Republic of Zambia were Counsellor Health, Dr. Dande Malawo, and Counsellor Political/Administration, Nawa Sibongo.



COPPER PRINCESSES BOOK MOROCCO WORLD CUP TICKET AFTER 1–1 DRAW IN ADDIS ABABA



The Zambia Under-17 Women's National Football Team, the Copper Princesses, secured their place at the 2026 FIFA Under-17 Women's World Cup after holding Ethiopia to a 1–1 draw in the decisive final-round qualifying match played at Abebe Bikila Stadium in Addis Ababa on 12 July 2026.

The result saw Zambia progress 3–2 on aggregate, having defeated Ethiopia 2–1 in the first leg played a week earlier at Levy Mwanawasa Stadium in Ndola. The qualification marked Zambia's third consecutive appearance at the FIFA Under-17 Women's World Cup, following their participation in the 2024 and 2025 editions.

The return leg in Addis Ababa was a closely contested encounter, with both sides going into the halftime break without a goal. Zambia, carrying the advantage from the first leg, made a decisive start to the second half when Precious Mwewa found the back of the net in the 46th minute to put the Copper Princesses ahead.

Ethiopia responded strongly in the closing stages and were rewarded in the 88th minute when Mihiret Ayene equalised. The late goal set up a tense finish as the hosts searched for the additional goal that would have changed the outcome of the tie. Zambia, however, held firm until the final whistle to secure the aggregate victory and qualification for Morocco.



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The achievement was the culmination of a determined qualifying campaign under Head Coach Carol Kanyemba, who guided the Copper Princesses through the African qualifying rounds. Zambia had earlier eliminated Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo before facing Ethiopia in the final qualifying round. Kanyemba consequently became the first Zambian coach to guide a Zambian national team to three successive FIFA World Cup qualifications. (Zambian Sports).

The Addis Ababa fixture was particularly significant for the Zambian Mission, which followed and supported the team during its stay in Ethiopia. The Mission, through its diplomatic and consular engagement, facilitated Zambia's presence around the decisive fixture and extended support to the young national team during its time in Addis Ababa. The Governor of the Bank of Zambia Dr. Denny Kalyaya, who was in Addis Ababa on duty also watched the match.

The participation of the Mission in supporting the Copper Princesses also reflected the broader role of Zambian diplomatic missions in promoting national interests beyond traditional political and economic diplomacy. Sporting events provide an important platform for strengthening people-to-people relations, promoting Zambia's image abroad and encouraging young Zambians who represent the country on the international stage.



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Following the final whistle, the qualification was widely celebrated in Zambia as another milestone in the development of women's football. FAZ President Keith Mweemba commended the players, technical bench and support staff for their character, discipline and determination in securing qualification away from home. He further indicated that the Football Association of Zambia would provide the team with the necessary support and preparations ahead of the global tournament.



The qualification also came on a poignant day for Zambian football, as the team played the match wearing black armbands in honor of former Copper Queens Head Coach Bruce Mwape, who was being laid to rest in Zambia on the same day.



Zambia Heads to Morocco

With qualification secured, attention now turns to Morocco, where the 2026 FIFA Under-17 Women's World Cup will be held from 17 October to 7 November 2026. The tournament will feature 24 teams, with Zambia drawn in Group D alongside Japan, Venezuela and France. The Copper Princesses will open their campaign against Japan on 18 October, face Venezuela on 21 October and conclude the group stage against France on 24 October.



For the Copper Princesses, the tournament represents another opportunity to build on their growing experience at the global level. Their qualification for a third consecutive edition demonstrates the progress being made in Zambia's women's youth football and provides a platform for a new generation of Zambian players to compete against some of the world's strongest youth teams.



As the team prepares for Morocco, the Zambian Mission in Addis Ababa congratulates the Copper Princesses, the technical bench and the Football Association of Zambia on this achievement and wishes the team success as they prepare to represent Zambia and the African continent on the global stage.



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Counsellor Political



Ikayi Mushinge
Counsellor Economic



Nawa Sibongo
Counsellor Political and
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Bri. Gen. Musonda Nthenga
Defence Attaché



Hambaya Munang'andu
First Press Secretary
and Tourism



Chonga N. Simulyamana
First Secretary
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Majorie Maila
First Secretary
Economic



Rita Mwansa Makayi
First Secretary
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ZAMBIA

MOVES YOU



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