



News.  
Updates.  
Stories.  
More.



# JOHNSON GOES FROM THE BENCH TO BELIEF

“We're settling in well. We're excited for, obviously, playing the second round of the qualifiers, so ...” **pg 2**

## NKANA FC TRIO ARRESTED

Three members of the Nkana Football Club have been arrested for causing malicious damage to government property... **pg 2**



## ZAMBIA U-20 HANDBALL COACH EYES VICTORY AT IHF ZONE 6 CHAMPIONSHIP

Three members of the Nkana Football Club have been arrested for causing malicious damage to government property... **pg 3**

#22BETALWAYS PAYS

#22BETALWAYS PAYS

EMMANUEL ADEBAYOR

**22BET AMBASSADOR**



#22BETALWAYS PAYS

#22BETALWAYS PAYS

WWW.22BET.CO.ZM

# FROM THE BENCH TO BELIEF: JESSICA JOHNSON GAINS CONFIDENCE AS ZAMBIA TARGETS WORLD CUP BERTH

By Lucky Chama



Jessica Choolwe Johnson, a midfielder for the Zambia Under-17 Women's team, mentions that entering the game as a substitute in the first leg of the third round of the U17 FIFA Women's World Cup has boosted her confidence.

The Aston Villa midfielder is part of the squad that is in Lome, Togo, for the second leg of the U17 FIFA Women's World Cup qualifiers against Benin at the Stade de Kegue.

The Copper Princesses are ahead 2-1 on aggregate after Mercy Chipasula scored twice at the Levy Mwanawasa Stadium in Ndola last Saturday. The victor in Saturday's match will secure a place at the FIFA U17 Women's World Cup in

Morocco scheduled for October.

During an interview, Johnson disclosed that the team has adjusted effectively to the conditions in Lome.

She adds that the team has exhibited high energy levels ahead of the decisive match against Benin.

"We're settling in well. We're excited for, obviously, playing the second round of the qualifiers, so we're very high in energy," she said.

Johnson, who has played in three matches as a substitute for the Carol Kanyemba-coached team, mentioned that entering as a substitute has aided her in adjusting

to the team's style of play and boosting her confidence.

She is optimistic of the team's chances of clinching a consecutive qualification to the FIFA Women's U17 World Cup.

"I think that's helped with my confidence and also knowing how the girls play. So when I come in to play more minutes, I'll know how to adapt better for the team," Johnson stated.

She adds, "Obviously, I feel amazing playing with the country. Also, it's the second time the girls will be going to the World Cup, so it would mean everything for the team."

# BROTHERHOOD AND GLORY: CHRISTOPHER KATONGO REFLECTS ON AFCON TRIUMPH AND PLAYING ALONGSIDE FELIX

By Lucky Chama



2012 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) winning skipper Christopher Katongo has reminiscised on his Zambia National team partnership with his young brother – Felix.

The Katongo brothers were part of the triumphant Chipolopolo side that won the AFCON against all expectations in 2012 under the guidance of Herve Renard.

In an interview with CAFOnline, Katongo revealed that playing on the same team with his brother brought additional pressure when a mistake was made by the young brother.

Katongo, who is now Nkana FC assistant coach, also remembers getting some wonderful assists from his brother, especially during the 2014 World Cup qualifier between Zambia and Ghana at the opening of Levy Mwanawasa Stadium.

"The downside is that when your brother makes a mistake, you feel even more pressure. But I was lucky—he also gave me some great assists. I remember one against Ghana in the first match at the Levy Mwanawasa Stadium during 2014 World Cup qualifying," Katongo

remarked.

He also adds that his brother didn't get preferential treatment as he was appropriately corrected when necessary during the match.

"I was captain, so I had to set the example. I corrected him when necessary but always tried to be fair. It brought us closer."

Zambia has seen several sets of brothers representing the national team, such as the Lota brothers (Dennis, Charles, and Lawrence) and the Bwalya brothers (Kalusha, Johnson, and Joel).

# NKANA FC TRIO ARRESTED FOR DAMAGING REFEREE'S ROOM AT LEVY MWANAWASA STADIUM

By Lucky Chama



Three members of the Nkana Football Club have been arrested for causing malicious damage to government property: defender Clement Mwape, team captain Harrison Chisala, and forward Idris Mbombo.

The referee's dressing room at Levy Mwanawasa Stadium in Ndola is said to have had its locking mechanism damaged by the three.

Because of the alleged malicious damage to government property, Mbombo, Chisala, and Mwape are being held by the police pending their court appearance.

Charles Chisenga, a worker at the Cabinet Office connected to the Levy Mwanawasa Stadium, reported them to the police for causing damage to the locking system on Sunday following the

Kitwe Derby matchup with Power Dynamos.

"On Monday, 21.04.25, at 13:40 hours, the district, through Twapia Police Station, received a report from Charles Chisenga, aged 39, an employee from Cabinet Office in Ndola, attached to Levy Mwanawasa Stadium as an Acting Executive Member, who reported on behalf of the Zambian Government," Copperbelt Province Police Commanding Officer Pathias Siandenge confirmed.

Siandenge confirmed that the trio was reported by Chisenga.

The report indicated that Nkana FC players Idris Mbombo (aged 29), Clement Mwape Mulashi, and Harrison Chisala (aged 27) maliciously damaged the door to the referee's room and its locking system, valued at K5,000.





## Happy Birthday

**Nakaonga M. Kakoma**

The National Olympic Committee of Zambia (NOCZ) wishes Nakaonga M. Kakoma, the Vice President, a happy birthday. May your day be filled with love and joy.



[www.nocz.org](http://www.nocz.org)

# FLORENCE MWILA ADVANCES TO CAF A LICENSE MODULE 3 IN LIBERIA

By NOCZ



ZANACO Ladies coach Florence Mwila is back in Liberia for Module 3 of the CAF A License Coaching Course, currently underway at the Liberia Football Association (LFA) headquarters in Monrovia.

The prestigious CAF Elite Level Coaching Course, being hosted in Liberia for the first time since 2014, has brought together top coaching talent from Zambia, The Gambia and Liberia, with a focus on empowering coaches in high-level technical education.

Module 3 places a strong emphasis on tactical development, advanced coaching methodologies and technical proficiency, combining both theoretical and practical sessions to ensure a holistic learning experience.

As part of the programme, participants will also benefit from expert insights on the Laws of the Game, with former FIFA referee Alex Nagbo presenting updated interpretations and guidance on Tuesday.

Coach Mwila is participating in this elite training as a beneficiary of the FIFA Women's Development Programme, under the Coach Education Scholarship initiative, which supports the growth and professional development of women in football coaching.

# ZAMBIA U-20 HANDBALL COACH EYES VICTORY AT IHF ZONE 6 CHAMPIONSHIP

By Lucky Chama



Zambia Under-20 handball team head coach Bilo Kalenga has declared intent to win the upcoming IHF Zone 6 Championship in Harare, Zimbabwe.

Kalenga is currently training a 17-member squad selected from teams in both the Elite League and the second tier of the Handball Association of Zambia (HAZ) League.

The tournament, which will serve as a qualifier for the Youth Africa Cup in Algeria, is expected to attract the top eight teams from the region.

In an exclusive interview with

FullTime, Kalenga explained that the preparations for the championships have been going on smooth.

He is confident that the team's hard work and determination to qualify will lead to success in the regional qualifiers.

Kalenga also acknowledged the increasing interest from handball enthusiasts, which he believes will be advantageous for the team.

"Looking at how prepared we are, how prepared the girls are, and how they're responding to training, I think we expect expecting nothing

but wins," Kalenga said.

"This tournament is very important because we know once we win, it will automatically mean that we've qualified to the Africa Cup and the Continental Championship in Algeria. So based on all those reasons, the girls know how important it is and how it is important for our fans because we are growing our sports."

The confirmed participants at the IHF Zone 6 Championship include Eswatini, Malawi, Zambia, Mozambique, South Africa, Namibia, Lesotho, and the host country, Zimbabwe.

# NOCZ MARKS EARTH DAY WITH TREE PLANTING CEREMONY AT OLYMPAFRICA CENTRE

By NOCZ



In celebration of Earth Day, the National Olympic Committee of Zambia (NOCZ) reaffirmed its commitment to environmental sustainability with a symbolic tree-planting ceremony led by Secretary General Boniface Kambikambi.

The event took place at the Olympafrica Centre in Lusaka, which also houses the NOCZ Secretariat.

Joined by Secretariat staff, Kambikambi planted a tree within the grounds of the Centre to mark the global environmental day. The

act served not only as a gesture of ecological responsibility but also as an example of how sports institutions can take meaningful steps toward climate action.

By incorporating green practices into its operational culture, NOCZ continues to position itself as a proactive player in Zambia's sustainable development efforts.

The Earth Day event was a reminder that every action counts—and that institutions, no matter their focus, have a part to play in protecting the planet.

**zanaco**

**WEEKEND FIXTURE**

**REGIONAL GAMES**

**SAT. 26TH APRIL 2025**

**LUSAKA RUGBY CLUB VS GREEN BUFFALOES**

**15HRS | ENTRY K30**

**LUSAKARUGBY CLUB**

**CASH BAR | MUSIC | BRAAI**

# JAMIE VARDY ISSUES APOLOGY

By Fulltime reporter



Leicester City Football Club captain Jamie Vardy has issued an apology to the club's fans following their relegation from the Premier League for the second time in three years. The 2015-16 Premier League champions lost 1-0 to runaway log leaders Liverpool on Sunday to cap off a tough season that has seen them record only 4 wins, 6 draws and 23 defeats, accumulating only 18 points in 17th position after 33 matches. Ruud van Nistelrooy's side have been relegated for the fifth time from the Premier League, as they also became the team in English top-flight football history to fail to score in nine straight home matches.

Following the relegation, the 38-year-old, who has scored 7 goals in 31 Premier League matches this season, admits that the Foxes have performed below the expected standards.

Vardy, who has previously guided the team to the Premier League and FA Cup titles, has described the team's performance as a 'total embarrassment'. "At this point, I don't even know what to say. No words I have can ever express my feelings of anger and sadness with the way this season has gone. There are no excuses," Vardy said in a Facebook post.

"Collectively, as players and as a club, we failed. There is simply no hiding, and I refuse to entertain any suggestion of doing so." The striker explains that he understands the fans' frustrations after the relegation was confirmed on Sunday. "Having been at this club for so long, we've experienced so many highs and successes — and this season has been nothing but miserable and, for me personally, a total embarrassment. It hurts, and I know you're feeling it too," he said. He added, "To the fans: I'm sorry. Sorry we haven't performed, and sorry we end the 2025 season with such a s\*\*t show."

# REECE SILVERWARE AS CAPTAIN AFTER ACHIEVING CHILDHOOD DREAM"

By Fulltime Reporter



Reece James is only 25, but he has already accomplished many goals on his football bucket list.

The boyhood blue, who first joined Chelsea FC at the age of six, rose through the ranks of their esteemed Cobham academy, going on to make his first-team debut in 2019. Less than three years later, he was a UEFA Champions League, UEFA Super Cup and FIFA Intercontinental Cup™ winner, who had played more than a century of games for the Blues.

In 2023, he became the first academy graduate to be named captain since John Terry. Now, following in the footsteps of Terry and other iconic Chelsea skippers from the past, emulating them is next on James' to-do list.

"It's something I've always dreamed of since (I was) a little boy, to play

for the club and then to lift a trophy (as captain)," James told FIFA. "There are a few opportunities this season where I hope we can achieve that."

James has managed 830 minutes of play this season and scored his first goal in over two years against Bournemouth in January.

Chelsea coach Enzo Maresca, has played him right across the back four and, most notably, in central midfield.

He hopes to conclude this year of development by realizing his dream of hoisting a trophy as the Chelsea skipper. The Blues are into the Europa Conference League semi-finals, and will no doubt be eyeing the Wroclaw decider on 28 May. Following that, James will lead his side into battle in the USA, where they aim to become the first winners of the new FIFA Club World Cup.

**MAN CITY WIN THREE IN A ROW FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE OCTOBER**

**THE RUN IN**

**MAN CITY THREE WINS IN A ROW**

HOME	AWAY	HOME
<b>2-1</b>	<b>2-0</b>	<b>5-2</b>
MW33	MW33	MW32

**BET**

**LAMINE YAMAL'S SEASON TO REMEMBER**

- SUPERCOPA DE ESPAÑA
- LAUREUS BREAKTHROUGH OF THE YEAR
- LA LIGA, COPA DEL REY & UCL STILL IN SIGHT!