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+260 771 115 967 | hello@fulltimezambia.com | fulltimezambia.com

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“HE BETRAYED ME”: FASHION SAKALA EXPOSES ALLEGED CORRUPTION AND MANIPULATION IN FAZ

By Lucky Chama



Zambian international Fashion Sakala has addressed his absence from the national team and alleged a pattern of dishonest and potentially corrupt behaviour within the Football Association of Zambia (FAZ), specifically implicating President Andrew Kamanga and national team coaches.

In an interview on Hot FM’s Hot Seat Programme on Tuesday, Kamanga has attributed Sakala’s long absence from the national team to a strained relationship between the player and some of his teammates.

Sakala has not played for the national team since 21 January 2024. His omission came after he publicly criticised coach Avram Grant for favouring players that are under the agency of Israeli player agent Nir Karin.

Responding to the comments by Kamanga, Sakala went live on Facebook stream on his page, claiming that his current exclusion stems from a planned confrontation with coach Grant orchestrated by Kamanga, who subsequently betrayed him.

Sakala claims he consulted Kamanga before responding to Grant’s audio, with Kamanga instructing him to insult Grant, promising to remove the coach and reinstate the 28-year-old forward.

“Mr Kamanga started telling me now how I should respond to Grant.

Why would Grant send you such kind of voice notes? Does he know how far you’ve come with the national team? Does he know where you came from? You have been playing for the national team for years, and he’s being disrespectful to you like that,” Sakala revealed.

“You have to insult him. You have to send bad messages to him because he’s very stupid. I’m [Kamanga], the boss, and I’ll take him out of the national team. He can’t talk to you like that. You are the senior player.”

With over 12 matches since his last Chipolopolo cap as he remains frozen out of the squad, Sakala adds Kamanga is portraying a false narrative in interviews and that his exclusion from the national team is a result of Kamanga failing to uphold his promise.

“Mr Kamanga is not an honest person. He has been doing interviews. He has been saying all these things, but Mr Kamanga is not an honest person. So you get it from me.”

“Mr Kamanga is a betrayer. He betrayed me. You know, after all these things that I and he spoke about in secret, he’s going live, having interviews and starting to tell people, telling the whole country about No, the coach has the power to select the players, which is true, by the way.”

Sakala explicitly states that his response to Grant, which was leaked

in an audio recording, was planned in consultation with Mr Kamanga.

He also alleges that players are being pressured to sign with the coach’s agent to be considered for national team selection.

The Al Fayha forward recounted a specific instance involving his former roommate, Toaster Nsabata, who was allegedly threatened with exclusion if he didn’t sign with Karin, a FIFA agent. Sakala views this as detrimental to the integrity of Zambian football.

“After that meeting, I spoke to my teammate, who was my roommate in the Africa Cup. I told him, I said, You know, because that agent was telling my teammates that, you know, you have to sign with me. If you don’t sign with me, you won’t play for the national team.”

“The agent of the coach putting pressure on players. No, you have to sign with me. No, you have to, you know, be my player to play for the national team. No, we are Zambians. That should come first.”

Sakala maintains he has always been disciplined and respectful, and his reluctance to apologise stems from his belief that he was following Kamanga’s instructions and that the issue is not simply about his individual playing status but the integrity of Zambian football.

KAMANGA OPENS UP BURDEN OF FUNDING NATIONAL TEAMS OUTSIDE GOVT ARMBIT

FAZ



FAZ president Andrew Kamanga says he is happy that the financial investment Football House makes in supporting junior teams has repaid with qualification to major events.

Featuring on ZNBC TV on Monday Night, Kamanga thanked government for supporting the senior men and women’s national teams but stressed that FAZ still had to foot the bill for nine other national teams.

The FAZ chief revealed that FAZ had to source for funds for the various junior teams for men and women in their participation in various tournaments.

“First of all, I must state that thanks to government, they take care of the senior men’s team and senior women’s team. That is the obligation of government. However, we have under 15, which was never there for both men and women. We have got under 17, under 20, under 23 competitions,” he said.

“All these competitions FAZ has to pay today. We are proud, I have told you in 2022, we qualified to all competitions at both CAF. We have won more COSAFA competitions. But remember that when you compete in COSAFA, you don’t get prize money for it. You spend money to go into a competition even now.”

He added, “I will give you an example. The under 17 had to go to Morocco. Do you know how much we spent \$150,000 on tickets? The under 20 are currently in Egypt. Do you know how much we have had to spend on tickets? A hundred thousand dollars. The women under 17, they have just qualified to the World Cup. Do you know how much we spent on the qualifiers?”

Kamanga said his executive took a deliberate step to invest in women’s football to reap benefits that has seen the Copper Queens qualify to two Olympics, FIFA World Cup, WAFCON bronze and back-to-back FIFA World Cup qualification for the under-17 girls.

“We found it (women’s football). But what did we do? We prioritized it. We invested more in women’s football. We started winning COSAFA, started going to the Africa Cup, we have gone to the Women’s Africa Cup three times. We have gone to the Olympics twice in 2020

and 2024. We have gone to the world Cup for the first time. Senior women in 2023. We went to the World Cup for the women under 17 last year. Last week they qualified again back to the U17 World Cup. Back-to-back appearances to the World Cup. Are you telling me that has come at a zero cost?” he said.

He also cited the grand steps made in bumping up sponsorship for the league that he found at a measly K7, 000.

“When I came, clubs were getting as low as K7, 000. I had to move that from K7, 000. We started with K200, 000. It went up to K400, 000. Today, it is K1.2 million,” he said. Kamanga said his executive worked hard to rebound the Chipolopolo after having failed to qualify for three consecutive Africa Cup of Nations.

“We had to struggle to qualify; we actually missed out on the AFCON three times. However, we took a decisive decision that we were going to invest in the grassroots and invest in the junior teams. So the first four years, we spent a lot of time without producing results, which eventually started showing in the second term, which started in 2022,” he said.

“As a result, we qualified to the 2023 Africa Cup for men and also qualified to the 2025 edition. Therefore, you can clearly see that the work we did in the first term has delivered in the second term. So for me, I am very, very happy that we have built a strong foundation.”

Kamanga hailed the work done by various independent bodies in the electoral process.

“They operate independently and we don’t even have access to these committees. I cannot instruct them to remove somebody or add somebody. It is not even possible. You can even verify independently,” he said.

“I am very happy that the process started that way, and I am also even happier that, the appeals process was able to still accommodate the others to come back. It cannot be a dent on my profile because it that is for the electoral committee to explain, but I am just giving you the appreciation of why we have judicial bodies and how important they are.”



ZAMBIA SNATCH FIRST WIN AT U-20 AFCON WITH LATE SABOBO PENALTY

By Joseph Tembo



Cairo, Egypt — Zambia claimed their first three points at the ongoing U-20 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) after a dramatic 1-0 win over Tanzania, thanks to a late penalty converted by Joseph Sabobo Banda. The result keeps Zambia’s hopes of reaching the quarter-finals alive and ends a frustrating run of winless performances in the tournament.

Head coach Boyd Mulwanda expressed relief and pride in his team’s resilience during the post-match press conference, acknowledging the intensity of the contest and Tanzania’s determination.

“It was a tough game. Tanzania came

to the party knowing a positive result would boost their chances of qualifying for the quarter-finals,” Mulwanda said.

Despite dominating large parts of the match, Zambia were wasteful in front of goal, missing several clear chances that could have put the game beyond doubt much earlier. Mulwanda admitted the team still has work to do when it comes to converting opportunities.

“We’ll keep pushing the boys to give them the confidence to convert the chances we are creating. That’s something we’ll focus on in training starting tomorrow,” he said.

The breakthrough finally came in the

dying minutes of the match when Sabobo calmly slotted home from the spot, sealing Zambia’s first victory of the tournament.

The win was a significant morale boost for the team, with Mulwanda emphasizing its importance ahead of their final group match against South Africa on Friday.

“This result is the motivation the boys needed. It gives them the belief that they can win. We were the only team that hadn’t won a game, so this gives us relief and confidence going into the next match,” he added.

Zambia will now look to build on the momentum and secure a spot in the knockout stages when they face South Africa in a crucial showdown.

RAMPANT AMAJITA OVERPOWER SIERRA LEONE IN CONVINCING GROUP A VICTORY



South Africa showcased their attacking prowess with a commanding 4-1 win over Sierra Leone in a TotalEnergies CAF U-20 Africa Cup of Nations Group A tie on Tuesday evening in Ismaila.

The match commenced with South Africa asserting early dominance as they looked to grab the early lead.

Jody Ahshene opened the scoring in

the 13th minute with a precise right-footed shot from outside the box, following a well-timed assist from Shakeel April.

Despite Sierra Leone's efforts to respond, the first half concluded with South Africa leading 1-0 who were disciplined in their defense.

The second half saw Amajita intensify their offensive efforts.

Neo Rapoo doubled the lead on the hour mark, capitalizing on a swift counter-attack initiated by Jody Ahshene.

Sierra Leone managed to reduce the deficit in the 69th minute when Momoh Kamara found the back of the net after a cross from Osman Kamara in a goal that brough back confidence to his side.

However, South Africa regained control, with substitute Thabang Mahlangu making a significant impact.

Mahlangu netted twice in quick succession—first in the 86th minute, assisted by Neo Rapoo, and again in the 89th minute, following a set-piece situation involving Patrick Autata—sealing a comprehensive victory for the South Africans.

The victory puts South Africa second behind Seirra Leone who remain top of Group A despite their disappointing loss.

TotalEnergies CAF U-20 AFCON action continues on Wednesday with Nigeria taking on Kenya, while Tunisia takes on Morocco, with both matches promising to produce fireworks.

ZPL CLUBS WARNED OVER UNILATERAL TV DEAL

By Joseph Tembo



Tensions have flared in Zambian football after Zambia Premier League (ZPL) clubs were cautioned against endorsing a newly publicised TV sponsorship deal announced by the Football Association of Zambia (FAZ) President. The move, described as unilateral and lacking club consultation, has drawn sharp criticism from stakeholders within the league.

In a strongly worded statement released today, FAZ presidential candidate Keith Mweemba accused the current FAZ President of bypassing league leadership and club representatives in brokering and announcing the deal. Mweemba questioned both the timing and intent of the announcement, which comes just as the league heads into recess and with FAZ elections on the horizon.

“This sponsorship deal is fundamentally a ZPL matter,” Mweemba stated. “Your input, views, and consent are not just a procedural courtesy, they are a necessary requirement.”

The statement claims that the broadcasting deal was negotiated and publicised without proper

consultation, raising concerns about transparency and governance within the sport. Mweemba urged clubs to refrain from endorsing or celebrating the sponsorship until full contract details are disclosed and all stakeholders are given an opportunity to engage meaningfully.

“The Zambia Premier League belongs to you, the clubs,” Mweemba stressed, calling for a return to inclusive decision-making and a reaffirmation of the league’s autonomy. He also suggested that the deal may be politically motivated, aimed at boosting the FAZ President’s image ahead of the upcoming elections rather than advancing the league’s long-term commercial interests.

The latest development reignites debate over the independence of the Zambia Premier League, a long-standing issue within the country’s football administration. Clubs are now being called upon to insist on governance reforms and collective accountability to ensure that key decisions are not made in isolation.

No official response from FAZ had been issued by the time of publication.

22BET

BIG WIN

19,680 ZMW

STAKE : 6000 ZMW

ACCOUNT ID : 605***

FOOTBALL MULTIBET

ZAMBIA SET TO MAKE MARK AT IMMAF AFRICA CHAMPIONSHIPS AS ANGOLA, MAURITIUS SHINE ON DAY ONE

By Joseph Tembo



Luanda, Angola – The 2024 IMMAF Africa Championships kicked off in explosive fashion in Luanda yesterday, with host nation Angola and Mauritius grabbing early headlines—but all eyes are now turning to Zambia as six determined fighters prepare to enter the cage.

While Mauritius celebrated its first-ever gold through Aveer Jootun, who edged Angola’s Dinis Dinga Bravo in a hard-fought Youth B (72kg) final, it was Team Angola that stamped its dominance on Day One, securing a staggering 21 medals (10 gold, 10 silver, and one bronze) in the Youth B & C categories. The host nation, long known as a powerhouse in African MMA, proved once again

why it is feared across th continent.

However, the Zambian camp remains focused, proud, and poised to leave a lasting impact of its own.

Flying the flag for Zambia at the prestigious tournament are six promising athletes: Miracle Chipito, Mutinta Mweene, Killian Lungu, Tryford Mwangi, Jarcel Chimbwe, and Nathan Mufwaya. Draped in national colours and fired up with patriotism, these young warriors represent the grit, discipline, and determination that defines Zambian combat sports.

Zambia's campaign officially kicks off on Thursday, with four male

fighters set for back-to-back battles over four intense days. Meanwhile, the country’s two female fighters,

Mutinta Mweene and Miracle Chipito, will enter the cage on Friday and Saturday, both chasing gold with focus and belief.

As powerhouse nations like Angola and emerging contenders like Mauritius set early benchmarks, Team Zambia stands ready to rise, inspire, and bring glory back home.

The Pavilhão Multiusos do Kilamba is set for more fireworks as Zambia’s fighters step up to write their own chapter in the history of African mixed martial arts.

ZAMBIA'S 4X400M RELAY TEAMS LEAVE FOR CHINA AHEAD OF WORLD ATHLETICS RELAYS

National Olympic Committee of Zambia



Zambia Athletics (ZA) has announced the departure of the national relay teams for the World Athletics Relays, scheduled to take place on the 10th and 11th of May 2025 in China.

The men’s 4x400m relay team includes Kennedy Luchembe, David Mulenga, Patrick Nyambe, Sitali Kakeni, and Thompson Mbewe while, the women’s 4x400m relay team comprises Rhoda Njobvu, Niddy Mingilishi, Christabel Kunda, and Abigail Sepiso. The athletes are being accompanied by Coach Kezzias Nyendwa.

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and Abigail Sepiso. The athletes are being accompanied by Coach Kezzias Nyendwa.

In a statement issued to the media by ZA General Secretary Teddy Shimishi, it was revealed that the men’s team has been undergoing high-performance training at the renowned Bolt Grounds at the University of the West Indies in Jamaica, where they have demonstrated impressive form and strong team spirit.

Shimishi noted that the women’s team has been preparing diligently in Zambia, showing great commitment and resilience ahead of this prestigious event. He further stated that Muzala Samukonga will not be part of the relay team, as he is being strategically prepared for the World Championships to be held in Tokyo in September 2025.

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Semi-Finals, 2nd Leg

Agg: 7-6

INTER MILAN

Martinez 21, Calhanoglu 45 (pen), Acerbi 90+3, Frattesi 99

4

ET 122:12

BARCELONA

Garcia 54, Olmo 60, Raphinha 87

3

22BET

BIG WIN OF THE WEEK

Aviator

BIG WIN

ACCOUNT ID : 947***

STAKE : 1143 36 ZMW

PAYOUT:

9729 99 ZMW

Where fans meet.