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'I'M A ROCK' - NORA ON UNPAID SALARY CLAIMS

As the Copper Queens gear up for two high-profile international friendlies against Botswana and South Africa, off-field drama briefly took the spotlight ...

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“NCHANGA RANGERS GAVE ME JOY”:- MACKY 2

By Lucky Chama



Zambian music icon Mulaza Kaira, popularly known as Macky 2, has once again proven that fame and fortune haven’t made him forget where he comes from. The award-winning rapper and philanthropist made an emotional return to his roots this week by donating K10,000 to Nchanga Rangers Football Club, the team that captured his imagination during his formative years in Chingola.

The donation was made to reward the Man of the Match in Nchanga Rangers’ crucial Week 30 MTN Super League match against Power Dynamos, underscoring Macky 2’s ongoing commitment to uplifting his hometown club.

“Nchanga Rangers made my childhood exciting,” Macky 2 said. “Growing up in Kabundi East, going to watch players like Elijah Tana, Evans ‘Nkalamu’ Chewa, and Harry Milanzi left a mark on me. This team is part of my story.”

The rapper, who began his music career at Danger Zone Studios in

Chingola and attended Nchanga Primary and Kabundi High School, spoke with heartfelt pride as he emphasized the sentimental value the club holds in his life.

You can support Barcelona or Manchester United, but nothing compares to the team you grew up watching in your own backyard,” he said.

Macky 2’s K10,000 donation is more than a financial gesture—it’s a motivational tool aimed at encouraging excellence and pride among Nchanga Rangers players. Speaking directly to the team, he urged the players to wear their jerseys with pride and understand the weight of representation.

“You don’t only represent the club. You represent the people of Chingola, the Copperbelt, and Zambia,” he said. “To the football players, we love you. And to the supporters, let’s keep backing our team.”

As the MTN Super League season

concluded, Macky 2’s gesture came at a critical time, offering a morale boost to players and fans alike. His act of generosity is a shining example of how public figures can use their platforms to impact local communities meaningfully.

Despite his national and international fame, Macky 2’s message was one of humility and loyalty, characteristics that have endeared him to fans beyond music. His donation to Nchanga Rangers serves as a reminder of the powerful intersection between sports, music, and community identity.

As Nchanga Rangers continue their journey in the Zambian top-flight league, they do so with the backing of one of Chingola’s most successful sons—a man who never forgot the club that gave him joy.

“This is my home. This is where my career started. Supporting Nchanga Rangers is the least I can do to give back,” Macky 2 concluded.

KALUSHA BWALYA SALUTES CHAMANGA AS ZAMBIAN LEGEND BOWS OUT

By Lucky Chama



As James Chamanga hanged up his boots last weekend after a remarkable 25-year playing career, the Zambian football fraternity has continued to reflect with pride and admiration on the legacy of one of its most dedicated servants. Among those paying tribute is legendary Zambian football icon Kalusha Bwalya, whose own career, from the 1994 AFCON final to leading Zambia to continental glory in 2012, has been deeply intertwined with the evolution of the nation’s football journey.

Kalusha, who played in Zambia’s emotional 1994 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) final and later coached the Chipolopolo to qualification for the 2006 tournament, also served as FAZ President during Zambia’s historic 2012 AFCON triumph. In a heartfelt message, he honoured Chamanga not just for his longevity in the sport, but for the values and character he consistently embodied.

“James Chamanga’s illustrious career is coming to a close this weekend, and I would like to extend my warmest congratulations to him,” Bwalya wrote. “Throughout his 25-year journey, Chamanga has exemplified the values of discipline, dedication and perseverance, serving as a shining example for aspiring footballers.”

Chamanga, now 45, has defied the norms of age in elite football, continuing to play at a high level long after many of his peers have retired. A strong, tireless striker known for his athleticism and professionalism, he has played across the globe, from South Africa and China to representing the Zambian national team with pride on the continental stage.

Bwalya, who has worked closely with Chamanga at various stages, highlighted one particularly poignant memory from the 2006 AFCON qualifying campaign.

“One of my fondest memories is of Chamanga’s impactful performance during our qualifying campaign for AFCON 2006. He seized the opportunity, made his mark and went on to achieve great things,” Bwalya recalled. “His goal in our opening match against Tunisia was a highlight of his impressive career.”

More than just his on-field exploits, Chamanga has earned respect for his humility, leadership and unwavering commitment to the team.

“Chamanga has consistently demonstrated respect, kindness and a passion for the game. Zambia has been blessed to have players of his caliber, who have always put the team first,” Bwalya said. As Chamanga takes his final bow, hopes are high that his next chapter will still involve the sport he gave his life to.

“As Chamanga begins this new chapter, I hope he will remain involved in the sport, sharing his knowledge and experience with the next generation of players,” Bwalya concluded.

From fans in Ndola to old teammates across continents, Zambia joins Kalusha Bwalya in celebrating James Chamanga — not just for the goals and the games, but for the legacy of professionalism and humility he leaves behind. As one legend pays tribute to another, the torch of Zambian football burns ever brighter.

SKY IS THE LIMIT ON

MOJABET

SOAR TO NEW HEIGHTS WITH

Aviatrix

An advertisement for Mojabet featuring the Aviatrix game. It shows two women with dark skin and long hair, both wearing large headphones and goggles. They are looking forward with a slight smile. In the background, there is a small orange and blue airplane flying in a dark blue sky with white stars. A large gold coin is visible on the left side of the image.

An advertisement for Mojabet showing a smartphone displaying a betting interface. The screen shows various betting odds for different events, including a 'Double chance' bet. The phone is resting on a blue, hexagonal base. The Mojabet logo is visible at the bottom of the image.

COPPER QUEENS FINAL 24-PLAYER SQUAD NAMED FOR BOTSWANA AND SOUTH AFRICA FRIENDLIES

By Joseph Tembo



Zambia Women’s National Team head coach Nora Häuptle has announced her final 24-member squad ahead of the upcoming FIFA international friendlies against Botswana and South Africa, scheduled for May 31 and June 3, respectively.

The squad features a strong mix of experience and emerging talent as the Copper Queens prepare for the TotalEnergies Women’s Africa Cup of Nations (WAFCON) 2025. Captain Barbra Banda headlines the list of forwards, alongside key names like Grace Chanda and Racheal Kundananji, signaling Zambia’s serious intent to fine-tune their squad ahead of the continental showpiece.

- Goalkeepers:**
- Mwila Chishala Mufunte
 - Catherine Musonda
 - Eunice Sakala

- Defenders:**
- Martha Tembo
 - Lushomo Mweemba
 - Margaret Belemu
 - Margaret Gondwe
 - Judith Soko
 - Pauline Zulu

- Midfielders:**
- Ireen Lungu
 - Xiomara Mapepa
 - Racheal Nachula
 - Grace Chanda
 - Prisca Chilufya
 - Evarine Susan Katongo
 - Natasha Nanyangwe
 - Rhoda Chileshe
 - Mercy Chipasula
 - Mapalo Maluba
 - Mary Wilombe

- Forwards:**
- Barbra Banda
 - Fridah Mukoma

- Kabange Mupopo
- Racheal Kundananji

The squad is currently in camp, where they are undergoing intense training ahead of their clashes with Botswana and South Africa, key tests that will help assess the team’s readiness and depth.

FAZ President Keith Mweemba recently met with the team, encouraging them to aim high at WAFCON 2025 and to play with unity, discipline, and heart. With strong leadership, growing international experience, and promising young players, the Copper Queens are gearing up for what could be a defining year in Zambian women’s football.

NORAH HÄUPTLE ON UNPAID SALARY CLAIMS: “I’M A ROCK, NOTHING CAN SHAKE ME”

By Joseph Tembo



As the Copper Queens gear up for two high-profile international friendlies against Botswana and South Africa, off-field drama briefly took the spotlight when head coach Norah Häuptle was confronted with questions about her alleged unpaid salary.

During a pre-match press briefing, a

journalist cited reports claiming the Swiss tactician had not received her \$16,000 salary and referenced comments by Zambia’s Minister of Sport suggesting the payment had been made. The issue, while not officially on the agenda, prompted a rare moment of personal reflection from the usually football-focused Häuptle.

Rather than shying away, Häuptle responded with composure and conviction.

“I have never heard these numbers,” she said plainly. “Certain things are concluded between agencies and the FA, and it’s not for me to discuss here.”

She then made it clear that her focus remains firmly on the team and the journey ahead, adding, “I’m fully committed. I deliver 150%, or even more. I’m a rock, nothing can shake me.”

The Football Association of Zambia (FAZ) media liaison quickly stepped in to emphasize that such administrative matters are handled by the General Secretary’s office, reaffirming the press briefing was intended strictly for football matters. With the Women’s Africa Cup of Nations (WAFCON) on the horizon and crucial friendly matches against fellow WAFCON participants, Häuptle has emphasized preparation, tactical refinement, and team cohesion.

DOMINIC KANDA VOWS REDEMPTION AFTER ZANACO FC’S CLOSE CALL WITH RELEGATION

By Lucky Chama



Following a turbulent season that saw Zanaco Football Club, one of Zambia’s most storied teams, narrowly avoid relegation from the 2024-25 MTN Super League, midfielder Dominic Kanda has broken his silence with a heartfelt message to fans, vowing a stronger comeback next season.

In a candid social media post, Kanda acknowledged the team’s struggles and expressed gratitude to the faithful Zanaco supporters who stood by the club in one of its most difficult campaigns in recent memory.

“We didn’t show enough, but I wanted to take a moment to thank the fans for your support this season, even when we didn’t deserve it,” wrote Kanda. “It was a tough season. We didn’t achieve our goals, but we will work extra hard next season and bring back Sensational Zanaco FC where it belongs.”

Zanaco, a seven-time Zambian league champion, has been a dominant force in domestic football for decades. However, this past season saw the team underperform dramatically, finding themselves perilously close to the drop zone as the final matches approached.

While the club ultimately managed to maintain its top-flight status, the experience has sparked a wave of reflection within the camp. Kanda, a central figure in the squad, was one of the first players to publicly confront the season’s shortcomings, balancing accountability with optimism.

“All in all, I have to thank God Almighty for protecting me throughout the season,” he added, closing his statement with humility and gratitude.

Kanda’s message has since resonated with fans, many of whom have praised him for his honesty and commitment to restoring pride at the Sunset Stadium. His post has also fueled hopes that Zanaco will regroup and return stronger in the 2025–26 campaign.

With the off-season now underway, Zanaco FC faces critical decisions in reshaping its squad and technical bench. Supporters, however, can take some solace in the fighting spirit expressed by players like Kanda, who remain determined to see the “Sensational” name rise again.





24-MEMBER COPPER QUEENS

SQUAD FOR FIFA INTERNATIONAL FRIENDLIES

31 MAY VS BOTSWANA | 3 JUNE VS SOUTH AFRICA

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CATHERINE MUSONDA

EUNICE SAKALA

DEFENDERS

MARTHA TEMBO

LUSHOMO MWEEMBA

MARGARET BELEMU

MARGARET GONDWE

JUDITH SOKO

PAULINE ZULU

MIDFIELDERS

IREEN LUNGU

XIOMARA MAPEPA

RACHEAL NACHULA

GRACE CHANDA

PRISCA CHILUFYA

EVARINE SUSAN KATONGO

NATASHA NANYANGWE

RHODA CHILESHE

MERCY CHIPASULA

MAPALO MALUBA

MARY WILOMBE

FORWARDS

BARBRA BANDA

FRIDAH MUKOMA

KABANGE MUPOPO

RACHEAL KUNDANANJI



“YOU CAN DO IT,” MWEEMBA TELLS COPPER QUEENS

By Joseph Tembo



Football Association of Zambia (FAZ) President Keith Mweemba delivered a stirring message of belief, unity, and ambition to the Copper Queens on Friday during his first visit to the national women’s team since assuming office earlier this month.

Addressing the players at Edwin Imboela Stadium in Lusaka, where the team is currently in camp preparing for upcoming international friendlies against Botswana (31 May) and South Africa (3 June), Mweemba urged the team to embrace a winning mentality and strive for silverware, not just qualification.

“I won’t waste much of your time, girls,” he began. “I’m very happy to be here. I’m glad to meet you. We trust you, and we want you to work very hard. There’s enough talent here, even among those not in camp.”

Mweemba stressed the importance

of mindset, patriotism, and character, emphasizing that victory begins with belief and preparation. “Winning begins right now,” he said. “Qualifying is good, but it’s not enough if you don’t win trophies. We need silverware, don’t we?”

He challenged the team to play for the badge and the nation, describing patriotism as the “first principle” and promising improved organization and accountability within the FAZ. “I’m a football person, a practical person. I don’t make empty promises. Before you step on a plane, there must be a budget. Players must be paid on time,” he stated.

While acknowledging the importance of financial motivation, Mweemba emphasized passion and discipline as the foundation of long-term success. “Money should not be the driving force. I want passion. I’m a winner, I want a team with character.”

The FAZ boss also called for unity and respect within the squad, highlighting teamwork as critical to achieving their goals. “T.E.A.M. — Together Everyone Achieves More,” he reminded them.

In a candid moment, Mweemba also addressed concerns over unpaid dues, assuring the players that he was aware of the issues and committed to settling any outstanding payments, regardless of when they were incurred. “An accrued right cannot be taken away. We shall make sure that money is paid,” he said, urging the team not to dwell on the past but to focus on the future.

Closing his remarks, Mweemba reaffirmed his full support for the Copper Queens and promised to remain closely involved with the team. “I’ve abandoned everything because I trust you. You’ll be seeing me very frequently. Please don’t let me down. I’m a winner, and I believe you are too.”

ORLANDO PRIDE HEAD COACH SEB HINES PRAISES BANDA

By Joseph Tembo



Orlando Pride forward Barbra Banda etched her name in the club’s history books on Saturday night, scoring the first-ever hat trick for the team in a commanding 3-1 win ahead of the international break.

Pride Head Coach Seb Hines was full of praise for his team and especially Banda, whose three-goal performance secured all three points after a string of solid performances that had gone unrewarded in recent matches.

“Priority was to come away with three before we go into the international break,” Hines said in his post-match comments. “We wanted to make sure we performed and got the result. It is great to come away from this game with three points with a nice 3-1 victory.”

Banda's goals came in three different styles—demonstrating her versatility and threat in the final third. Hines highlighted her patience and persistence: “She has been waiting patiently and getting half chances but no real clear-cut opportunities. Credit to her being patient and scoring the goals that we needed.”

The match opened with a blistering counterattack, with Ally Watt providing a sharp assist to Banda for the first goal. While Pride conceded shortly after, they remained focused and extended their lead, ultimately sealing the game.

“It was a quality first goal,” Hines noted. “To get that first goal is massive... we wanted to get more goals, and we did that and capitalized on our opportunities.”

Banda, speaking after the match, was emotional and grateful. “It was a fantastic match after coming off of the loss. We wanted to win this game so we were going to do whatever it takes,” she said. “I couldn’t have done it without the help of my teammates and our staff.”

Reflecting on her historic hat trick, Banda added, “In the last three games I didn’t score so I really wanted to today... I had to try my hardest and I wanted to score so bad so I am happy for the goals.”

With this win, Orlando Pride heads into the break with renewed confidence and a historic milestone, thanks to Banda’s star performance.

“NO MORE YANGO RIDES TO THE AIRPORT” - ZAMBIA PRESIDENT

By Joseph Tembo



Zambia Athletics President Major Bernard Bwalya has drawn a line in the sand over the logistical challenges that have long plagued the sport, vowing an end to the indignity of athletes relying on ride-hailing services like Yango to get to the airport for international assignments.

Speaking at a media briefing outlining his executive’s vision for the 2025–2029 period, Major Bwalya said the organization is prioritizing investment in infrastructure and transport logistics to better support national teams and restore professionalism in athletics.

“We don’t want our athletes to be using Yango going to the airport when they have national assignments,” said Major Bwalya. “It’s unacceptable, and we are going to ensure we secure vehicles for Zambia Athletics.”

The commitment forms part of a broader logistics overhaul that includes plans to acquire official vehicles, build or secure a permanent administrative home for Zambia Athletics, and equip clubs across the country with proper field event equipment.

“If we don’t manage to build our own structure by 2029, we will at least secure a place we can call home,” Bwalya added, signaling a shift from years of relying on rented spaces.

The president also emphasized the importance of distributing furniture, timing systems, and basic office equipment to support provincial operations and streamline event management nationwide.

This logistics revamp complements other ambitious reforms under the new administration, including athlete-centered policies, expanded national teams, and enhanced funding for clubs and area boards.

As Zambia prepares to send teams to upcoming continental championships and international events, the move to professionalize logistics could not come at a more critical time. With the global athletics calendar intensifying, Bwalya’s administration wants to ensure that Zambian athletes can compete on a level playing field, starting with how they get to the airport.



MINISTRY OF EDUCATION PS KELVIN MAMBWE CHAMPIONS INCLUSION AT SPECIAL OLYMPICS UNIFIED SPORTS FESTIVAL

By Lucky Chama



The spirit of unity and inclusion took center stage this week at the Special Olympics Unified Sports Festival, where Ministry of Education Permanent Secretary Kelvin Mambwe delivered an inspiring keynote as Guest of Honour, reaffirming the government’s commitment to inclusive education and sport.

Speaking to a crowd of athletes, teachers, Special Olympics officials, and supporters, PS Mambwe praised the Unified Champion Schools program, calling it “a powerful movement that breaks barriers, brings people together and transforms lives.”

“We are gathered not merely to witness a competition but to celebrate something far greater,” Mambwe said. “This is not just a sporting initiative. It is a model of inclusive education and social development meant to shape the future of our nation.”

The Unified Champion Schools initiative brings together students with and without intellectual disabilities, promoting values such as empathy, respect, and teamwork. Mambwe described the event as a reflection of the Ministry’s broader efforts to foster holistic development and ensure that no learner is left behind.

He lauded Special Olympics Zambia for its nationwide efforts, including the training of 88 teachers under the Coach Education Program last December. These educators, drawn from across the country, were equipped to lead inclusive sporting activities in their respective schools.

“The knowledge gained must not end in workshops or classrooms,” Mambwe emphasized. “It must translate into action. You are the torchbearers of change and your efforts will define the success of inclusion in our education and sport.”

The PS also reiterated government’s alignment with the UPND manifesto and the 8th National Development Plan, both of which prioritize disability mainstreaming, inclusive education, and community empowerment. He highlighted the partnership between the Ministries of Education and Youth, Sport and Arts as central to building a sustainable and competitive sporting environment for all Zambians.

Addressing the athletes directly, Mambwe celebrated their courage, teamwork and determination. “To the athletes and their partners, you are the heartbeat of this movement. You remind us that sport is not just about competition

but about connection, friendship, and belonging.”

He called on schools across the country, not only in Lusaka or specific districts, to take part in Special Olympics programs, ensuring that inclusivity becomes a national standard.

“This event serves as both a celebration and a call to action. Every school, every educator, every stakeholder must get involved to expand, support, and sustain this program.”

In a heartfelt closing, PS Mambwe officially opened the festival, urging everyone present to carry forward the momentum.

“May today remind us of what we can achieve when we lead with inclusion, compassion, and a shared vision of equity,” he said. “Let us ensure that every school is a beacon of inclusion, and every trained teacher an active agent of transformation.”

The festival, a symbol of national unity through sport, served as both a celebration of progress and a reminder of the work still ahead in making inclusion a reality across Zambia’s educational and sporting landscape.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS AFRICA DIRECTOR ZAMBIA’S LEADERSHIP IN INCLUSIVE SPORTS

By Lucky Chama



The spirit of unity, joy, and inclusion lit up the Special Olympics Unified Sports Festival this week, as Ngawa Mumba, Director of Youth and Education for Special Olympics Africa, praised Zambia for its growing leadership in championing inclusion through sport.

Addressing the audience as Guest Speaker, Mumba described her joy in witnessing Special Olympics Zambia implement the Unified Champion Schools Project, a program that unites students with and without intellectual disabilities on the sports field.

“The reason why we’re here is because of the Unified Champion Schools Project, which Zambia is gladly a part of,” Mumba said. “We bring people with and without intellectual disabilities together to play, to laugh, to experience joy, and to share their gifts with their communities.”

She emphasized that sport is more than competition, it is a powerful tool for transforming mindsets and ensuring that no one is left behind.

“There is no disability that we see, we see abilities. Our athletes have the power to kick the ball, to throw the ball, to play just like anyone else,” she added passionately. “Our mission is to bring about an inclusive mindset where everyone plays together.”

Mumba outlined the three core components of the Unified Champion Schools model:

- Unified Sports – where athletes with and without intellectual disabilities compete side by side;

1. Inclusive Youth Leadership – building leadership skills through training for both athletes and partners;
2. Whole School Engagement – fostering a culture of inclusion involving teachers, students, and the broader school community.

She highlighted a recent leadership workshop as an example of the program’s success in empowering youth through shared responsibility and mutual respect.

Mumba also acknowledged the support from government, noting the presence of the Ministry of Education Permanent Secretary, Mr. Kelvin Mambwe, as a symbol of strong institutional partnership.

“Special Olympics Zambia is not walking this mission alone,” she said. “Partnership with the Ministry of Education shows a shared commitment to ensuring inclusivity in our schools.”

When asked about her overall impression of the festival, Mumba’s response was heartfelt:

“If I see a smile on the athletes’ faces, if I see them participating and happy, I am happy. That is why we are here.”

As the event continued, Mumba’s words served as a powerful reminder that inclusive sports do more than build athletes, they build communities. Through shared play, laughter, and teamwork, Zambia is taking meaningful steps toward a more inclusive future, one game at a time.

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