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# FOOTBALL BETTING A GROWING CANCER - KEITH MWEEMBA

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OQBP MOURNS THE PASSING OF FORMER PRESIDENT EDGAR LUNGU

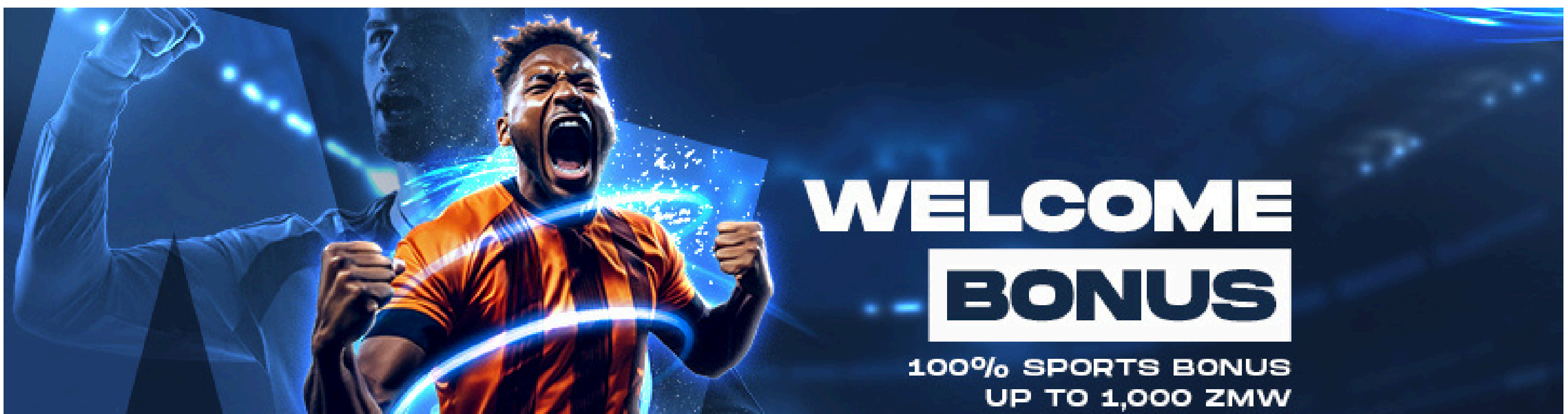
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# FAZ PRESIDENT MWEEMBA VOWS CRACKDOWN ON BETTING, TARGETS VAR IMPLEMENTATION

By Lucky Chama



The Football Association of Zambia (FAZ) President Keith Mweemba has issued a strong call for integrity in football officiating, warning against the growing influence of illegal betting, while reaffirming Zambia’s ambitions to roll out Video Assistant Referee (VAR) technology in the near future.

Speaking at the FIFA Elite Referees Member Association Course workshop, Mweemba emphasized the importance of well-trained and ethical referees as the cornerstone of fair competition, especially as Zambia prepares for the 2025/26 season.

"The integrity of the game depends largely on the quality of match officiating," Mweemba stated. "Referees training was one of the pillars I anchored my football

development message on when I sought the opportunity to lead this great association."

While welcoming the expertise of FIFA and CAF instructors leading the course, Mweemba warned against the "growing cancer" of betting in football, describing it as a threat to the sport’s credibility.

"FAZ will deal sternly with anyone found engaging in this vice. We have a duty to protect the game’s integrity and project it in a positive light," he said.

On technological progress, Mweemba reaffirmed Zambia’s commitment to introducing VAR technology into domestic football. He revealed that Cosafa’s recent training of 44 match officials in VAR and FAZ’s pilot test during

the ABSA Cup final two years ago were major steps toward this goal.

"We are working closely with Cosafa, CAF, and FIFA to ensure we meet all requirements. Our plan is to implement VAR in a phased approach, as recommended by FIFA experts," Mweemba disclosed.

He congratulated the referees attending the course and urged them to take full advantage of the opportunity, describing the workshop as a vital part of preparing for the demands of a competitive new season.

"This course brings us closer to having a cadre of well-trained and incorruptible match officials—a key ingredient for the future of Zambian football," Mweemba concluded.

# ORIENTAL QUARRIES BOXING PROMOTIONS MOURNS THE PASSING OF FORMER PRESIDENT EDGAR LUNGU

By Lucky Chama



Oriental Quarries Boxing Promotions (OQBP), led by renowned promoter Christopher Katuna Malunga, has joined the nation in mourning the death of Zambia’s Sixth Republican President, Dr. Edgar Chagwa Lungu, who passed away on June 5, 2025, in South Africa.

In a condolence message, Malunga expressed deep sorrow over the loss and extended heartfelt sympathies to the late president’s family, describing Dr. Lungu as a humble, dedicated leader who valued peace, unity, and national development.

“President Lungu will be remembered as a man who devoted his life to serving the people of Zambia. His contributions to the

country's democratic growth and stability will forever be appreciated and never forgotten,” said Malunga.

Within the sports community, particularly boxing, President Lungu leaves a lasting legacy. Malunga fondly recalled the moment when the former Head of State personally honored Catherine Phiri after she became the first African woman to win the prestigious WBC Bantamweight title. The recognition from the highest office in the land was seen as a significant boost not only for Phiri but for the entire Zambian boxing fraternity.

“His support for sport, especially his recognition of Catherine Phiri’s historic achievement, meant a great

deal to us all. It showed his genuine appreciation for Zambia’s sporting talent,” Malunga added.

As Zambia reflects on Dr. Lungu’s life and service, OQBP has called for national unity during this period of mourning. Malunga urged citizens to set aside their differences and honor the late president in a peaceful and dignified manner.

“This is a time to come together as one nation and uphold the values he stood for,” he said.

Malunga concluded by wishing that Dr. Lungu’s soul rests in eternal peace, praising his legacy both in politics and as a supporter of Zambian sports development.

# MUFULIRA WANDERERS, LUCKY SIKANYIKA PART WAYS AFTER SIX MONTHS

By Lucky Chama



Zambian football giants Mufulira Wanderers have officially confirmed the departure of midfielder Lucky Sikanyika, ending his brief six-month stint with the club.

In a statement released on Saturday, June 8, 2025, the club expressed gratitude for Sikanyika’s contribution since joining from Mutondo Stars, describing him as a "significant figure" during his time at Shinde Stadium.

Sikanyika, reflecting on his departure, said: "I wish this journey would have been longer, but that's football. I’m proud to have been part of the most decorated club — it’s huge and big. Hopefully, this club returns to its glory days soon. There’s no forever in football. If another opportunity to represent this

club arises, I will be there."

Acting Club CEO Evans Chinyanta also paid tribute to Sikanyika's efforts: "Everybody at Mufulira Wanderers thanks Lucky and his contributions during his time at Shinde Stadium, and wishes him the best of luck for the future."

Sikanyika’s future destination remains unclear, but speculation is rife that several Super League clubs are monitoring the midfielder’s availability.

Mufulira Wanderers, one of Zambia’s most successful and storied football clubs, continue their squad adjustments ahead of the upcoming season as they seek to reclaim their place among the country's elite.





# KANSANSHI MINE CELEBRATES ELIZABETH MUKOLOMA’S HISTORIC RUN AT 2025 COMRADES MARATHON

By FullTime Desk



Kansanshi Mine Plc has hailed the incredible performance of Elizabeth Mukoloma, who made history at the 2025 Comrades Marathon in South Africa on Sunday. Representing Zambia for the first time at the world-renowned ultramarathon, Mukoloma finished an impressive 18th in the women’s category, completing the punishing 87-kilometre course in 6 hours, 45 minutes, and 17 seconds.

Mukoloma, a long-time member of the Kansanshi Athletics Club, stunned spectators by leading for much of the race’s early stages — maintaining dominance over the first 61 kilometres. Her performance earned admiration from fans across Zambia and especially from her home base at Kansanshi Mine, where her journey as an athlete began.

“Elizabeth has been with the Kansanshi Athletics Club for 15 years, and it is clear she is maturing into a world-class athlete,” said Ryan

Ellis, Corporate Affairs Superintendent at Kansanshi Mine.

“Her progress motivates us even more to keep investing in sports development in Zambia.”

Kansanshi Mine has invested over K30 million annually in sports development, supporting disciplines ranging from athletics and football to netball and cycling. The mine’s flagship initiative, the Kansanshi Marathon, serves as a platform for both community and elite-level runners to grow, compete, and connect.

Community and Sports Liaison Officer Eugene Kasempa reflected on Mukoloma’s journey, noting that she joined the club in 2010 as a teenager through Kansanshi’s school and community running programs. Over the years, she has not only developed as a competitor but emerged as a mentor and role model for the next generation of athletes.

“This performance isn’t just a personal victory,” said Kasempa. “It is a milestone for Zambian athletics and a source of inspiration for many young athletes in our communities who now see that international excellence is within reach.”

Mukoloma’s run at the Comrades Marathon marks another chapter in her growing list of international appearances, which include events in Botswana and South Africa. Her dedication and leadership embody Kansanshi Mine’s holistic approach to sport — one that prioritizes long-term development, exposure, and mentorship.

Kansanshi Mine reiterated its commitment to using sport as a tool for community upliftment, youth empowerment, and lifestyle improvement in the North-Western Province and beyond.

# OYDC ZAMBIA HOSTS THRILLING WEEK 3 OF LUSAKA COMMUNITY YOUTH NETBALL LEAGUE

By OYDC Media



OYDC Zambia was abuzz with energy over the weekend as it hosted Week 3 of the Lusaka Community Youth Netball League – League

Two, bringing together teams from across Lusaka for an action-packed round of fixtures. In one of the closest encounters of

the weekend, OYDC Zambia’s netball team suffered a narrow 24-25 defeat to Olympafrica.

Here are the full Week 3 results:  
\* *Olympafrica* 25 – 24 *OYDC*  
\* *Garden Queens Netball Club* 35 – 22 *Matero Blue Queens*  
\* *Future Stars* 25 – 27 *Young Ellensdale*  
\* *Young Zingalume Queens* 20 – 27 *Young Chawama Secret Girls*  
\* *Young Golden Angels* 0 – 40 *Amazing Grace*

These results reflect the growing talent and fierce competition within the league, with several matches decided by narrow margins.

As the Lusaka Community Youth Netball League continues, anticipation builds for the next round of games where teams will look to climb the table and showcase their skills even further.

# WILLARD MWANZA DESERVED THE GOALKEEPER OF THE SEASON AWARD - ZPL CEO

By FullTime Desk



Zambian Premier League (ZPL) Chief Executive Officer Joseph Chimpampwe has revealed that the voting for the goalkeeper of the season is done by coaches and captains.

A week ago, Power Dynamos goalkeeper Willard Mwanza beat competition from Nkwazi’s Luka Mainza and Toaster Nsabata to be crowned the goalkeeper of the season.

Mwanza played 20 games in the season and managed to keep 11 clean sheets, as he only conceded eight goals compared to Nsabata, who conceded 9 goals, keeping 10 clean cleansheets in 19 matches, while Mainza played 32 matches in which he conceded 24 goals and kept 12 clean cleansheet.

Chimpampwe says Mwanza was a deserving winner as his performance was validated by the coaches and captains.

He also added that the adjudication panels also included the Zambia Football Coaches Association (ZAFCA).

“It is simple. The coaches and captains chose who can be better than those?” he questioned.

“They are the ones watching the teams. If you look at the goalkeeper of the season, Willard Mwanza, he played 19 games and conceded only eight goals with 11 clean sheets. What can be better than that?”

The ZPL CEO believes that the statistics favored the Power Dynamos goalkeeper, so he was rightfully given the award.

“If people can come and challenge using statistics, well and good. But just like the Ballon d’Or, the people who choose are the coaches and the captains. This time we also involved ZAFCA, by the way, and we got the same views.”





# TWO ZAMBIAN PLAYERS TRAINING WITH CAPS UNITED

By Soccer24 Zimbabwe



CAPS United has announced that two **Zambian** players are undergoing trials with a view to signing them.

The Harare giants did not reveal the names of the players in their announcement.

The club said: “Two talented

Zambian players, a top striker and midfielder, have arrived at CAPS United for a thorough assessment by our coaching staff.

“If they impress, they could be joining our squad!

“We’re building momentum for a

strong second round of the PSL season.”

Meanwhile, Soccer24 understands that the club has pursued Zambian player Chitoshi Chinga, who recently parted ways with Zambian Premier League side Nkana FC.

# SPURS OPEN TALKS WITH BRENTFORD OVER HEAD COACH FRANK

By BBC Sports



Tottenham have opened talks with Brentford over their head coach Thomas Frank following the sacking of Ange Postecoglou.

The Dane, 51, has emerged as a leading contender to replace Postecoglou.

Brentford would be entitled to compensation for Frank, with sources indicating it would cost Tottenham more than £10m to

extricate him from his contract which runs until 2027.

That figure could rise depending on how many members of staff Frank decides to bring with him if he is named Spurs boss.

Postecoglou was sacked on Friday, 16 days after leading Tottenham to victory in the Europa League final, their first major trophy for 17 years. However, it came towards the end of

their worst Premier League season, as they finished 17th after losing 22 of their 38 matches.

Frank took over at Brentford in 2018 and guided them into the Premier League, winning the Championship play-off final at Wembley in 2021 and establishing them as a top-flight club on a small budget.

Brentford finished 10th in the 2024-25 Premier League season, seven places and 18 points above Spurs.

# ZAMBIA CLASH OUT OF THE 2025 COSAFA CUP, FACE BOTSWANA TODAY

By COSAFA Media



Madagascar and Eswatini played to a 1-1 draw in their HOLLYWOODBETS COSAFA Cup Group C clash at the Petrus Molemela Stadium on Monday, while Comoros and Botswana could not be separated at 0-0 in Group D.

They are a pair of results that see East Africa guest nation Tanzania and record seven-time HOLLYWOODBETS COSAFA Cup Zambia eliminated from contention for the semi-finals in Bloemfontein | Mangaung.

After the Malagasy defeated Tanzania in their opener, the point gained against Eswatini means the Taifa Stars can't overhaul them at the top of the table.

But Eswatini will be able to do so when they face Tanzania on Wednesday.

Madagascar took the lead in their clash through Lailana in the first half, but Eswatini hit back via Andy Magagula just past the hour mark.

Comoros and Botswana played to a 0-0 draw in the second game in the three-team Group D, which has eliminated Zambia.

That is because Comoros have four points from their two games, and Zambia (0 points) only have a single fixture left against Botswana, who could yet reach the last-4 with a win. It will be a bumper set of fixtures on Tuesday when four matches are played, with both Groups A and B concluded and the semifinalists revealed from those pools.

Mozambique need a win against Zimbabwe at the Toyota Stadium (kick-off 3:00 p.m. CAT / 1:00 p.m. GMT) to be assured of top spot in

Group A, though all four teams remain in contention for a semifinal place.

The Mambas head the pool with four points, followed by South Africa (3), Mauritius (2) and Zimbabwe (1).

There are various scenarios that could even see Zimbabwe into the next stage, if they get a win against Mozambique, and South Africa and Mauritius draw at the Dr Petrus Molemela Stadium (kick-off 3:00 p.m. CAT / 1:00 p.m. GMT).

Zimbabwe have not lost to Mozambique (W3 D2) in their five previous HOLLYWOODBETS COSAFA Cup clashes. South Africa leads the head-to-head against Mauritius 3-1.

It is the exact same scenario in Group B, where Angola heads the table with four points, followed by Lesotho (3), Namibia (2) and Malawi (1).

Angola faces Malawi at the Toyota Stadium (kick-off 6:00 p.m.; 4:00 p.m. GMT) and victory will guarantee top spot. Anything else and it brings the other teams into play.

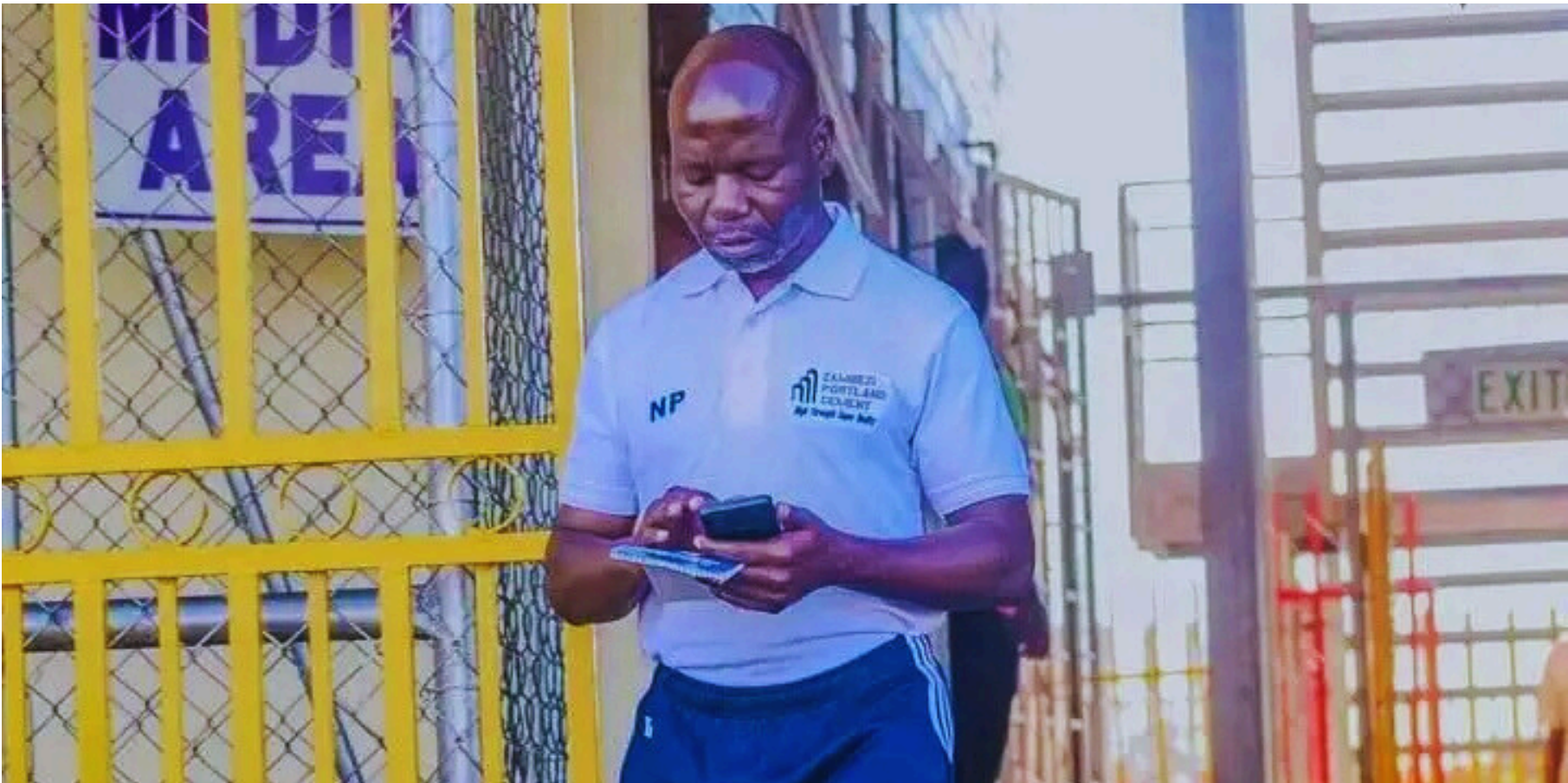
Namibia taking on Lesotho at the Dr Petrus Molemela Stadium (kick-off 6:00 p.m.; 4:00 p.m. GMT) with both knowing that victory is imperative.

Angola have clashed seven times before with Malawi in the HOLLYWOODBETS COSAFA Cup and there have been two wins each to go with three draws. Namibia leads Lesotho 2-1 in the head-to-head with two draws.



# AGE CHEATING, POOR TEAM SELECTION CONTINUE TO HAUNT ZAMBIAN FOOTBALL

By Lucky Chama



Concerns over age cheating and questionable team selection policies are once again at the center of controversy in Zambian football, following a disappointing national team performance at the ongoing COSAFA Cup.

A number of local football observers, including Nebart Phiri, the Silver Medal-winning coach of Zambezi Portland FC for the 2023/24 season, have raised alarm over the apparent age discrepancies among players in both the Zambian Premier League and the national side. According to Phiri, the average real age of players in the domestic league could be closer to 33 years, despite official records claiming players are as young as 25.

“You can see it from how they run on the pitch — the legs, the pace, the energy,” Phiri stated. “What is written on the national registration card might say 25, but the

performance clearly suggests they are over 30.”

Phiri blames this on a deeply rooted culture of age cheating, which he claims is encouraged at the club level to qualify players for Under-17 and Under-20 competitions.

"Some clubs knowingly encourage players to falsify their age so they can compete in youth tournaments," he said. "But the national team later suffers the consequences when these same players, now claiming to be 29, are actually 34 and lacking proper physical conditioning due to poor training programs and nutrition."

This age deception, Phiri argues, leads to underwhelming performances on the senior stage, as seen in Zambia’s latest COSAFA Cup outing. “We had a so-called 29-year-old striker who is likely 34, lacking the sharpness and stamina required at this level. The result was

a slow attack and a tired midfield that could not sustain pressure,” he added.

Criticism was also directed at the national team’s coaching decisions during the tournament. Phiri believes that the starting line-up lacked key players who could have changed the game early on. "Players like Fredrick Mulambwa were introduced far too late. When he came on, the attacking threat improved noticeably, but by then it was too late to turn the game around," Phiri said.

“The whole approach to team selection needs to change...Some coaches are more concerned with pleasing club executives and certain influential figures rather than fielding the best squad to win games. Coaching under pressure to satisfy the 'masters' compromises success. If you accept the job to lead the national team, your only master should be victory — not political survival.”

# CHIAMAKA NNADOZIE READY TO LEAD NIGERIA’S REDEMPTION AT WAFCON 2024

By Fulltime Reporter



As the 2024 TotalEnergies CAF Women’s Africa Cup of Nations (WAFCON) draws near, Chiamaka Nnadozie is stepping onto the continental stage not just as one of Africa’s finest goalkeepers, but as a symbol of Nigeria’s ambition, resilience, and hunger for redemption.

At just 24 years old, the Super Falcons shot-stopper is no longer playing just to prove herself. She is playing for a nation, a legacy, and a new generation determined to reclaim its place at the top of African women’s football.

“I don’t just want to participate in this tournament,” she says with quiet intensity. “I want to leave my mark on it.”

### “We Have to Earn It”

Nigeria has been drawn in Group B alongside Tunisia, Algeria, and Botswana, a line-up some might view as favourable. But Nnadozie isn’t letting her guard down.

“People might think it’s a manageable group, but the reality is very different,” she told CAFOnline.com. “Women’s football has made huge strides. Every team is improving. No one can be underestimated anymore. We have to treat this group with the seriousness it deserves. Qualification won’t be handed to us, we’ll need to earn it through hard work and discipline.”

Her words echo a growing understanding in the Nigerian camp: dominance is no longer guaranteed. It must be fought for.

### Still Hurting, Still Driven

The Super Falcons are still nursing the wound of a semi-final defeat to hosts Morocco in the last edition of WAFCON. It was a moment that stunned the football world, and deeply impacted Nnadozie.

“It was incredibly tough to accept,” she said. “We wanted to defend our

crown, but sometimes football doesn’t go your way. Morocco had a well-executed strategy. It’s not that Nigeria is weaker, it’s that other nations now see us as the team to beat.”

This reality, she adds, demands humility and evolution.

“They prepare for us. That forces us to stay humble and to keep raising our level.”

### Wearing the Weight of a Nation

With 11 WAFCON titles, Nigeria remains the most successful team in the competition’s history, a legacy both daunting and inspiring.

“Wearing the Super Falcons jersey means carrying a legacy,” Nnadozie admits. “We play for the generations before us who won everything. The spotlight is always on us. When Nigeria loses, it feels like a national crisis!”

But rather than feeling crushed by expectation, Nnadozie and her teammates are using it as fuel.

“We must keep calm. We’re athletes, we make mistakes too. The key is to turn that pressure into positive energy and motivation.”

### All Eyes on the Prize

As WAFCON 2024 kicks off, Nigeria’s mission is clear: redemption, revival, and a return to the summit of African women’s football. And leading that charge from the back will be Chiamaka Nnadozie, gloves laced, eyes focused, and ambitions higher than ever.

“Our goal is clear,” she says. “To go all the way, but with focus and intelligence.”

The Super Falcons are ready. And with Nnadozie between the posts, they believe the crown is within reach.

