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“IT BELONGS TO ZAMBIA” - KAUNDA CONFIDENT AHEAD OF COSAFA U-17 TITLE DEFENCE

By Lucky Chama



Zambia Under-17 head coach Chris Kaunda has declared that the COSAFA Under-17 Championship trophy “belongs to Zambia” as his side prepares to defend their crown at this year’s tournament in Harare, Zimbabwe.

The regional competition kicks off this afternoon, with 12 nations vying for three spots at the 2025 Africa Cup of Nations in Morocco. The continental finals will, in turn, act as qualifiers for the expanded 48-nation 2026 FIFA Under-17 World Cup in Qatar, where Africa will be represented by 10 teams.

Zambia, reigning champions after lifting the COSAFA title last year, have been drawn in a challenging

Group B alongside rivals South Africa, Madagascar, and Malawi. Hosts Zimbabwe head Group A with Mozambique, Comoros, and eSwatini, while Angola, Botswana, Mauritius, and Lesotho make up Group C.

Kaunda revealed that continuity in his squad could be a crucial advantage, with several players returning from last year’s successful campaign.

“We have about five boys from the previous team that qualified for the World Cup, and they’re guiding the newcomers,” he explained. “The preparation time has been short, but so far so good—they are responding well. Me, I don’t believe in the

names of countries. The game is played on the pitch, and anything can happen.”

The coach emphasized that Zambia’s focus is not on past glories but on maintaining high standards.

“Of course we would love to retain the title. No one wants to lose. It belongs to Zambia,” he said. “Other teams have new boys too, and with the new system where you must qualify every year for AFCON, squads change often. We just need to stay focused and prepare the boys.” Zambia open their campaign against South Africa on Friday at 15:00 in Harare.

MALUPANDE CONFIDENT AS ZAMBIA TARGET BACK-TO-BACK COSAFA U-17 TITLES

By Lucky Chama



Zambia Under-17 captain Nthasilwe Malupande has expressed confidence that the defending champions are motivated to push through a challenging group and retain the 2025 COSAFA Under-17 Championship trophy.

The regional tournament kicks off this afternoon in Harare, Zimbabwe, featuring 12 teams vying for three places at next year’s Africa Cup of Nations in Morocco. The continental finals will, in turn, serve as qualifiers for the expanded 48-nation 2026 FIFA Under-17 World

Cup in Qatar, where Africa will be represented by 10 teams.

Zambia, who lifted the COSAFA crown last year, are drawn in a tough Group B alongside long-time rivals South Africa, as well as Madagascar and Malawi. Group A includes hosts Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Comoros, and eSwatini, while Group C features Angola, Botswana, Mauritius, and Lesotho.

Malupande admitted the group stage will not be easy but insisted that the squad’s morale and preparations remain high.

“Our preparations are going well, and we are really confident we are going to defend the COSAFA title,” he said. “So far the morale is okay. Everyone is pushing, and we are going to do it and qualify again for AFCON. It’s a tough group. We are not going to underrate any teams. Starting with South Africa, we just have to make sure that we beat South Africa, and we’ll beat Malawi and Madagascar too.”

The young skipper believes Zambia’s experience as defending champions will give them an edge, but stressed that focus and discipline will be vital. The Junior Chipolopolo open their campaign on Friday against South Africa at 15:00 in Harare, a fixture already shaping up to be one of the tournament’s early highlights.

RADEBE CONFIDENT AS SOUTH AFRICA AIM FOR COSAFA GLORY AND WORLD CUP SPOT

By Lucky Chama



South Africa Under-17 captain and first-choice goalkeeper Lwandiso Radebe says his team’s mission at the COSAFA Under-17 Championship is clear: win the regional title and secure a path to the FIFA U-17 World Cup.

The 12-nation tournament kicks off this afternoon in Harare, Zimbabwe, with three qualifying spots for the 2025 Africa Cup of Nations in Morocco at stake. The continental finals will in turn determine Africa’s representatives at the expanded 48-team 2026 FIFA Under-17 World Cup in Qatar, where 10 African nations will feature.

Drawn into a challenging Group B, South Africa will open their campaign against regional rivals Zambia on Friday at 15:00. Madagascar and Malawi complete the group. Hosts Zimbabwe headline Group A alongside Mozambique, Comoros, and eSwatini, while Group C features Angola, Botswana, Mauritius, and Lesotho.

Speaking to COSAFA media ahead of the Zambia clash, Radebe expressed optimism about his squad’s potential.

“Our group is very good, very talented. It’s not a very well-known group, but it will be once people see our style of play,” he said. “I have a lot of confidence in the way we’re going to play and the way we’ll go about this tournament—it’s very exciting. Everyone’s excited to play, and I think the results will show that.”

The young goalkeeper underlined South Africa’s ambitions beyond the group stage.

“Of course, we want to win the tournament. We want to qualify for AFCON and then go on to the World Cup,” Radebe said, adding that lifting the COSAFA trophy would inspire belief as the team targets its first Under-17 World Cup appearance since 2015.

LATEST OFFERS & EXCITING

BONUSES

An illustration featuring various casino-related items: several gold coins with the Mojabet logo, stacks of red and white chips, playing cards (including a King of Spades and a Queen of Hearts), and dice. The background is dark purple with faint Mojabet logos.

MOJABET

18+

ZAMBIA AIM FOR HAT-TRICK OF COSAFA UNDER-17 TITLES

By COSAFA



The TotalEnergies CAF Under-17 Africa Cup of Nations 2026 | COSAFA Qualifiers will be staged in Harare, Zimbabwe from September 11-20 with 12 teams hoping to reach the continental finals that are to be held next year.

It will be fascinating to see which sides emerge to not only take the crown, but also advance with the chance of becoming African champions.

The 11th part of our team profiles looks at Zambia, who are record four-time winners of the tournament, including the last two editions.

ZAMBIA
Last five tournament finishes:
2019 – Winners
2020 – Runners-up
2021 – Runners-up

2022 – Winners
2024 – Winners

Zambia have been to the last five finals of the COSAFA Under-17 Championships, winning three of those, including the last two.

They will therefore be going for a unique hat-trick this time round, with no side having claimed the regional title three editions in a row.

They are already the most successful side in the competition with four wins in all, one more than South Africa.

They are the defending champions having edged Angola 2-1 in the final last year, and South Africa 1-0 in the previous edition in 2022, which made up for the disappointment of back-to-back runners-up places in 2020 and 2021.

They were also winners in 2019 as they edged Mozambique 2-0 in the final, with their two recent victories both coming in Malawian soil.

Their other tournament win came in Mauritius in 2017, having had a long wait for their maiden title in this age-group.

The side has been to the continental finals three times before, but exited in the group stages on the first two occasions in 2015 and 2023, before earning a quarterfinal spot in 2025.

That has allowed them to qualify for the 2025 FIFA Under-17 World Cup that will be staged in Qatar later this year. It will be their first appearance at the global finals event.

CHIPATA CITY COUNCIL FC SEAL FIRST HOME WIN, RISE TO 7TH IN NATIONAL LEAGUE

By Lucky Chama



Chipata City Council FC head coach Vincent Chisanga praised his players after securing their first home victory of the season, a hard-fought 1-0 win over River Plate FC on Sunday at David Kaunda Stadium.

The result lifts Chipata City Council into 7th place in the ZPL National League standings, boosting their hopes of pushing into the top four by the end of the first round.

Speaking after the match, Chisanga expressed delight with the outcome, describing the win as vital for his team’s ambitions.

“It feels nice as a coach if you are picking maximum points, especially at home,” Chisanga said. “This was a tough game, but a good one as well. Every point matters if we are to finish in the top four in the first round.”

He explained that the team had hoped to extend their lead in the second half but instead focused on protecting their slim advantage.

“We wanted to add another goal as we planned at halftime, but that didn’t come. So we held on to what we had, and the substitutes we introduced helped us keep the lead,”

he added.

The coach emphasized that the three points were crucial in their pursuit of a place in the top four, which would secure them qualification for the prestigious ABSA Cup.

Chisanga also thanked the home fans for their role in the win.

“The fans are important to us. They give us morale and support, which encourages the team to do well. They should keep supporting us, and we will keep giving them the positive results they want,” he said.

CHIRUNDU UNITED CREDIT GOOD PREPARATIONS FOR STRONG START

By Lucky Chama



Second-placed Chirundu United have attributed their bright start to the 2025/26 Zambia Premier League (ZPL) National League campaign to improved preseason preparations.

The club has collected 10 points from their opening four matches and remain unbeaten alongside log leaders Roan United and fourth-placed Forest Rangers.

On Saturday, Chirundu United defeated Kafue Celtic 2-0 to extend their fine run. Head coach Caston Chilekwa described the result as a massive boost, praising his players for executing the game plan effectively.

“This win is a massive win for the team. We played according to the plan and I’m happy with the boys and the way we performed today. We want to maintain the same winning spirit and consistency,” Chilekwa said.

Reflecting on the team’s transformation, the coach

highlighted how structured preparations had made a difference compared to last season.

“Last season we lacked proper preparation, but this time I give thanks to management. We had enough time to prepare the team and that has really helped us,” he explained.

Chilekwa noted that the target for the first round is to push for a top-four finish, adding that the overall performance so far gives confidence that the objective is achievable.

He also credited new signings for raising the level of competition within the squad.

“They have added value to the team and they have brought healthy competition, which is important for the progress of the club,” he said.

Chirundu United will now look to sustain their form as they travel to face Mpulungu Harbour this weekend.

LATEST OFFERS & EXCITING

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FRED MWILA BELIEVED IN ME—CHIYANGI

By Lucky Chama



Former Zambia international and current Green Buffaloes head coach Aggrey Chiyangi has opened up about his football journey, recalling the inspiration and encouragement he received from legendary coach Fred Mwila during his early days at Power Dynamos.

Chiyangi, who made his Chipolopolo debut in May 1993 and famously played in the 1994 AFCON final against Nigeria, said Mwila’s belief in him laid the foundation for a remarkable career.

“My first coach was Fred Mwila. When I joined Power Dynamos, they had a very strong team—Michael Musonda, Joseph Mwewa, Alex Chola, Peter Kaumba—these were

our seniors. I was just starting in the reserves,” Chiyangi said on the Godfrey Chikumbi podcast.

He vividly remembered a moment that changed his mindset.

“One day I was walking to training, and Coach Mwila stopped his Fiat 127, reversed, and picked me up. He said, ‘I like your height and speed. I think I’m going to use you as a number nine.’ Those words stuck with me. They built me to work extra hard and impress him.”

Chiyangi added that senior players from Nkana, like Dominic Mutale and James Njengela, also shaped his development. Although his preference was midfield, unexpected

situations sometimes required him to step into defense.

“There were times a teammate’s dismissal left us exposed at the back. I would volunteer to take on the toughest opponent, and when I performed well, it gave the team confidence,” he explained.

As a coach, Chiyangi has left his own mark, guiding Green Eagles to CAF interclub football and a runners-up finish in the MTN Super League. Now at the helm of Green Buffaloes, he continues to pass on the mentorship and belief he once received.

He also led Zambia to a fifth COSAFA title in 2019.

ZAMBIA FIGHT TO STAY ALIVE IN GROUP E AFTER MOROCCO DEFEAT

By Lucky Chama



Zambia are battling to keep their slim qualification hopes alive in Group E of the 2026 FIFA World Cup qualifiers after a damaging 2–0 home loss to Morocco left them on just six points. With two fixtures remaining, the Chipolopolo must win both and hope other results go their way to stand any chance of finishing second and reaching the play-offs.

Group leaders Morocco, already qualified with 21 points, have stretched far ahead of the pack, leaving the rest of the section contesting only for positioning. Tanzania’s unexpected 1–0 defeat to Niger in Dar es Salaam has tightened the race for the runners-up spot. The Taifa Stars remain on 10 points, but Niger’s Issa Sosah struck in the 58th minute to claim a vital away victory, lifting the Ménas to nine points with a game in hand.

The result means Zambia’s task is

even steeper. They must leapfrog both Niger and Tanzania while fending off potential upsets in their final matches. Their inconsistent campaign—marked by missed chances and defensive lapses—has now left them relying not only on maximum points but also on favorable outcomes elsewhere.

Zambia’s next clash will be pivotal, as another setback would effectively end their World Cup dream. The Chipolopolo will need sharper finishing and tighter defending if they are to recover from the disappointment against Morocco and make a late surge.

With Group E’s runners-up berth wide open, all eyes will be on Zambia’s response in the final window—whether they can summon the resilience and quality to keep their campaign alive.

SKY IS THE LIMIT ON

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TEAM ZAMBIA SET FOR WORLD ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS IN TOKYO 2025

By Joseph Tembo



Team Zambia is ready to shine on the global stage as the World Athletics Championships kick off this Saturday in Tokyo, Japan. The prestigious competition will run for nine days, featuring 147 medals across 49 events and a prize pool of \$8.5 million.

- Flying the Zambian flag high will be:
- Kennedy Luchembe (Zambia Correctional Service)
 - Choongo Malambo (Zambia Air Force – Red Arrows Athletics Club)
 - Sitili Kakene (Zambia Army – Green Buffaloes Athletics Club)
 - David Chanda Mulenga (ZNS – Green Eagles Athletics Club)

- Christopher Chikulo (Zambia Correctional Service)
- Muzala Samukonga (ZNS – Green Eagles Athletics Club)
- Edna Ng’andula (Zambia Army – Green Buffaloes Athletics Club)

Programme Highlights:

- Day 1 – 13 Sept 2025: Edna Ng’andula will compete in the 100m preliminaries, while Zambia’s 4x400m relay team takes part in the heats.
- Day 2 – 14 Sept 2025: All eyes will be on champion Muzala Samukonga as he takes to the track.

TIMETABLE

DAY 1 | 13 SEP

AM		
07:30	35KM RACE WALK	M
07:30	35KM RACE WALK	W
09:00	DISCUS THROW QUALIFICATION A	W
10:40	DISCUS THROW QUALIFICATION B	W
10:55	SHOT PUT QUALIFICATION	M
11:10	100M PRELIMINARY ROUND	M
11:40	4X400M RELAY HEATS	X
PM		
18:05	3000M STEEPLECHASE HEATS	M
18:30	LONG JUMP QUALIFICATION	W
18:55	100M HEATS	W
19:05	POLE VAULT QUALIFICATION	M
19:50	1500M HEATS	W
20:35	100M HEATS	M
21:10	SHOT PUT FINAL	M
21:30	10,000M FINAL	W
22:20	4X400M FINAL	X

DAY 2 | 14 SEP

AM		
07:30	MARATHON	W
09:00	HAMMER THROW QUALIFICATION A	W
09:00	1500M HEATS	M
10:45	HAMMER THROW QUALIFICATION B	W
11:05	100M HURDLES HEATS	W
PM		
18:40	HIGH JUMP QUALIFICATION	M
19:12	DISCUS THROW FINAL	W
19:25	400M HEATS	W
20:20	100M SEMI-FINAL	W
20:40	LONG JUMP FINAL	W
20:45	100M SEMI-FINAL	M
21:07	1500M SEMI-FINAL	W
21:30	10,000M FINAL	M
22:13	100M FINAL	W
22:20	100M FINAL	M

DAY 3 | 15 SEP

AM		
07:30	MARATHON	M
09:00	HAMMER THROW QUALIFICATION A	M
09:05	POLE VAULT QUALIFICATION	W
10:30	3000M STEEPLECHASE HEATS	W
10:45	HAMMER THROW QUALIFICATION B	M
11:20	400M HURDLES HEATS	W
PM		
19:35	400M HURDLES HEATS	M
19:40	LONG JUMP QUALIFICATION	M
19:49	POLE VAULT FINAL	M
20:23	110M HURDLES HEATS	M
21:00	HAMMER THROW FINAL	W
21:06	100M HURDLES SEMI-FINAL	W
21:30	1500M SEMI-FINAL	M
21:55	3000M STEEPLECHASE FINAL	M
22:20	100M HURDLES FINAL	W

DAY 4 | 16 SEP

PM		
19:35	800M HEATS	M
19:40	TRIPLE JUMP QUALIFICATION	W
20:35	HIGH JUMP FINAL	M
20:40	110M HURDLES SEMI-FINAL	M
21:00	HAMMER THROW FINAL	M
21:07	400M SEMI-FINAL	W
21:35	400M SEMI-FINAL	M
22:05	1500M FINAL	W
22:20	110M HURDLES FINAL	M

DAY 5 | 17 SEP

PM		
19:05	TRIPLE JUMP QUALIFICATION	M
19:10	JAVELIN THROW QUALIFICATION A	M
19:30	200M HEATS	W
20:10	POLE VAULT FINAL	W
20:15	200M HEATS	M
20:45	JAVELIN THROW QUALIFICATION B	M
20:49	LONG JUMP FINAL	M
21:03	400M HURDLES SEMI-FINAL	W
21:30	400M HURDLES SEMI-FINAL	M
21:57	3000M STEEPLECHASE FINAL	W
22:20	1500M FINAL	M

DAY 6 | 18 SEP

PM		
19:05	5000M HEATS	W
19:15	HIGH JUMP QUALIFICATION	W
19:23	JAVELIN THROW FINAL	M
19:58	800M HEATS	W
20:55	TRIPLE JUMP FINAL	W
21:02	200M SEMI-FINAL	M
21:24	200M SEMI-FINAL	W
21:45	800M SEMI-FINAL	M
22:10	400M FINAL	M
22:24	400M FINAL	W

DAY 7 | 19 SEP

PM		
17:33	100M HURDLES HEPTATHLON	W
18:20	HIGH JUMP HEPTATHLON	W
19:30	JAVELIN THROW QUALIFICATION A	W
20:00	5000M HEATS	M
20:30	SHOT PUT HEPTATHLON	W
20:43	800 SEMI-FINAL	W
20:50	TRIPLE JUMP FINAL	M
21:00	JAVELIN THROW QUALIFICATION B	W
21:15	400M HURDLES FINAL	M
21:27	400M HURDLES FINAL	W
21:38	200M HEPTATHLON	W
22:08	200M FINAL	M
22:22	200M FINAL	W

DAY 8 | 20 SEP

AM		
07:30	20KM RACE WALK	W
09:00	DISCUS THROW QUALIFICATION A	M
09:28	100M DECATHLON	M
09:50	20KM RACE WALK	M
10:00	SHOT PUT QUALIFICATION	W
10:10	LONG JUMP DECATHLON	M
10:35	DISCUS THROW QUALIFICATION B	M
11:30	LONG JUMP HEPTATHLON	W
11:45	SHOT PUT DECATHLON	M
PM		
19:00	JAVELIN THROW HEPTATHLON	W
19:05	HIGH JUMP DECATHLON	M
19:35	4X400M RELAY HEATS	M
19:54	SHOT PUT FINAL	W
20:00	4X400M RELAY HEATS	W
20:25	4X100M RELAY HEATS	M
20:45	4X100M RELAY HEATS	W
21:05	JAVELIN THROW FINAL	W
21:11	800M HEPTATHLON	W
21:29	5000M FINAL	W
21:55	400M DECATHLON	M
22:22	800M FINAL	M

DAY 9 | 21 SEP

AM		
09:05	110M HURDLES DECATHLON	M
09:55	DISCUS THROW DECATHLON A	M
11:05	DISCUS THROW DECATHLON B	M
11:35	POLE VAULT DECATHLON A	M
12:20	POLE VAULT DECATHLON B	M
PM		
17:35	JAVELIN THROW DECATHLON A	M
18:47	JAVELIN THROW DECATHLON B	M
19:30	HIGH JUMP FINAL	W
19:35	800M FINAL	W
19:47	5000M FINAL	M
20:10	DISCUS THROW FINAL	M
20:20	4X400M RELAY FINAL	M
20:35	4X400M RELAY FINAL	W
20:49	1500M DECATHLON	M
21:06	4X100M RELAY FINAL	W
21:20	4X100M RELAY FINAL	M

WORLD ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS TOKYO 2025

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