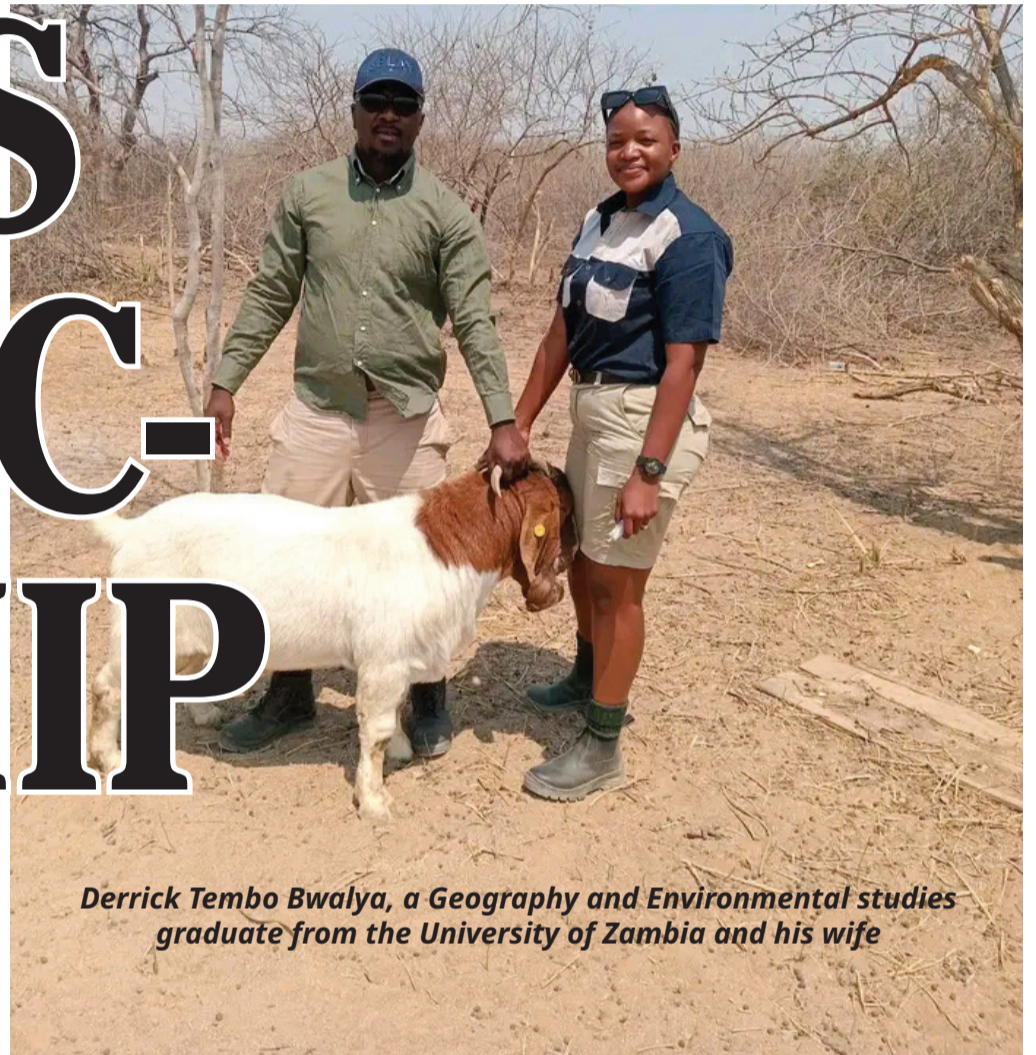




# YOUNG COUPLE THRIVES IN AGRIC-NEURSHIP



*Derrick Tembo Bwalya, a Geography and Environmental studies graduate from the University of Zambia and his wife*



*A customer selects the best buy from the goats on display at Derrick Tembo Bwalya and his wife's farm.*

**By Alexis Chilumbwe**

A young couple in Lusaka narrates an inspiring story of

how it is utilizing the vast arable land in the country to bridge the gap between food production and

sustainable farming practices that help them achieve commercial yields. *(Continues on P2)*

## Zambia, Paraguay Push for Stronger Trade and Investment Ties

**By Mubanga Mubanga**



Zambia's Ambassador to Brazil with extra-accreditation to Paraguay, Sitali Dennis Alibuzwi, has reaffirmed Zambia's commitment to strengthening bilateral relations with Paraguay through enhanced trade, investment and industrial cooperation. *(Continues on P4)*

## 276 Groups Benefit from K5.5 Million CDF Grants in Mansa District *(Continues on P2)*



# Young Couple Thrives in Agric-neurship

(From front page)

Derrick Tembo Bwalya, a Geography and Environmental studies graduate from the University of Zambia and his wife, an Environmentalist, are the ultimate couple goals that are mastering the formula to juggling both lucrative careers and entrepreneurship in agriculture.

Bwalya, who is a Research Associate at one of the organizations in Lusaka spoke to Peza News about time division and the motivation that has helped him to find grip in Agricultural businesses.

"You have to want it so bad. Desire, determination, and focus have brought me this far and I found my wife doing goat business. We acquired a farm in Mpongwe and in the same year we bought goats from Turn Pike to start the business," he said.

Bwalya was not hesitant to speak about unprogressive myths that surround Agric businesses calling on young people to take advantage of the arable land that the country is endowed with.

He also acknowledged the importance of shared dreams and concerted efforts for young couples that wish to achieve big dreams and contribute positively to the economic growth of the country.

"My wife grew up in Monze. She is also into farming. I found her doing goat business. While others say that farming is for old people, we have a boar goat farm in Kafue and another in Mpongwe. We prioritize. I also learnt a few things from her and collaborated with her to diversify the Agric business to producing sunflower, groundnuts, and boar goat rearing for

both commercial and consumption purposes," said Bwalya.

Meanwhile, Agriculture Extension officer Hignal Munsanje commended the couple while appealing to youths in the country to be strategic in surviving the harsh global economic times.

"It is from such couples or young people that others should emulate as means of surviving the current tough economic times that the whole world is faced with. Agriculture doesn't take anything away from being youthful. In fact young people should be Agric champions because they are more energy and can teach sustainable agriculture practices that help the land stay fertile," said Munsanje.




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## 276 Groups Benefit from K5.5 Million CDF Grants in Mansa District



**Joel Norman Kashi, Mansa municipal council public relations officer**

**By Alexis Chilumbwe**

The Mansa Municipal Council has disbursed more than K5.5 million under the 2026 Constituency Development Fund (CDF) grants to empower community groups and cooperatives in Bahati and Mansa Central constituencies.

A total of 276 groups and cooperatives have benefited from the grants valued at K5,586,689.50, in what the council described

as a major step towards promoting sustainable livelihoods and accelerating grassroots development.

According to a statement released to the media, the grants were approved by the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development through the Luapula Provincial Local Government Office in accordance with Section 12(a) and Section 25(2) of the CDF Act No. 1 of 2024.

**(Continues on P6)**

## Editorial

# CDF: A Critical Lifeline for Youth Economic Transformation

The Constituency Development Fund (CDF) stands out as one of the most practical government interventions that can significantly transform the economic fortunes of Zambian youths, yet its full potential remains underutilised. It is increasingly clear that if properly structured, monitored, and expanded, CDF could become a decisive turning point in addressing youth unemployment and unlocking grassroots entrepreneurship across the country.

There is an urgent need for lawmakers and policymakers

to intensify research and policy refinement on how Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) can effectively access and benefit from this initiative. The current economic landscape demands more than just funding allocation; it requires deliberate frameworks that ensure funds translate into sustainable businesses across key growth sectors such as technology, manufacturing, agriculture, and creative industries.

Across urban and peri-urban areas, particularly in places like Mandevu in Lusaka, there is already visible evidence of youth potential waiting to

be fully harnessed. Young carpenters in this area are producing quality furniture that competes directly with imported goods,

supplying both local shops and the Lusaka Central Business District. Their products are not only affordable but also demonstrate that local production can meet market standards if adequately supported.

Similarly, a growing number of

youths in the CBD are venturing into electronics and digital commerce, importing laptops, computer accessories, and related equipment

through online platforms. These emerging enterprises reflect innovation, adaptability, and a strong entrepreneurial spirit among young Zambians.

However, despite this potential, access to affordable and

genuine financing remains a major barrier. Many youths have viable business ideas and technical skills but lack the capital and institutional support required to scale their operations. High-interest lending environments and limited financial literacy support continue to constrain growth.

It is therefore imperative that lawmakers urgently revisit the implementation framework of CDF. There must be stronger accountability systems, improved accessibility criteria, and targeted support for youth-

led enterprises. Without such reforms, a powerful national resource risks being reduced to fragmented, underwhelming impact.

CDF, if strategically aligned with youth enterprise development, can become a catalyst for job creation, industrial growth, and economic resilience. The time for action is now—delay risks wasting one of the most important development tools available for transforming Zambia's youthful population into productive economic actors.



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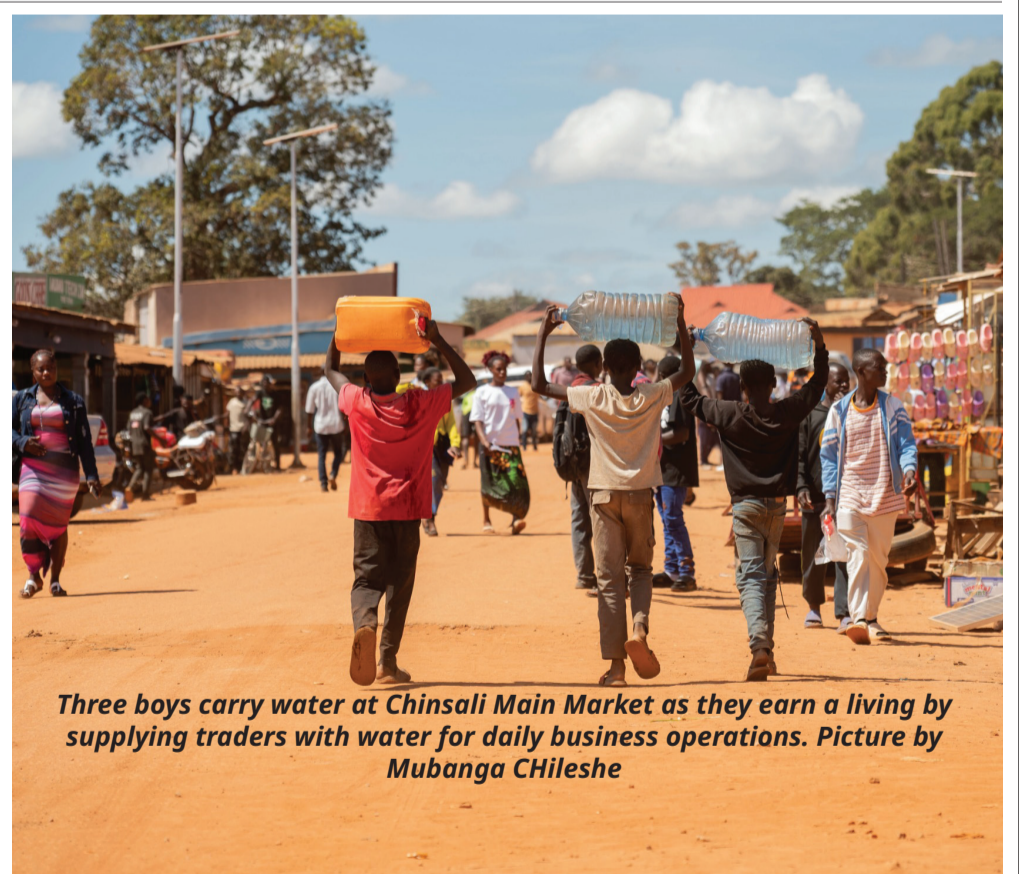
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*Three boys carry water at Chinsali Main Market as they earn a living by supplying traders with water for daily business operations. Picture by Mubanga CHileshe*

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# Zambia, Paraguay Push for Stronger Trade and Investment Ties

According to a statement issued by First Secretary for Press and Public Relations at the Zambian Embassy in Brazil, Lloyd Kapusa, Ambassador Alibuzwi made the remarks during a high-level engagement aimed at deepening economic collaboration between the two countries.

Lt. Gen. Alibuzwi said Zambia was particularly interested in forging partnerships in agro-processing, manufacturing, value addition, industrialisation, investment promotion and trade facilitation as part of its broader economic diversification agenda.

"As Zambia pursues economic diversification, we believe closer engagement with Paraguay will unlock practical areas of mutual

benefit," Ambassador Alibuzwi said.

He further called for stronger collaboration between investment promotion agencies, chambers of commerce and private sector players from both countries in order to transform diplomatic relations into meaningful economic partnerships.

Meanwhile, Paraguay's Vice Minister of Industry, Javier Viveros, emphasized the need for the urgent establishment of robust bilateral economic relations between Zambia and Paraguay, citing vast untapped opportunities for cooperation.

Mr. Viveros said Paraguay was keen to initiate organised trade missions aimed at identifying investment opportunities and strengthening

commercial engagement between the two nations.

He noted that Paraguay currently has limited economic interaction with the African continent, but expressed optimism that Zambia could serve as a strategic gateway for Paraguay's entry into African markets.

"Paraguay is open

to discussions and is looking forward to formalizing engagements that will lead to trade missions between our two countries," Mr. Viveros stated.

**Zambia's Ambassador to Brazil with extra-accreditation to Paraguay, Sitali Dennis Alibuzwi**



## Musokotwane Hails SMEs as Backbone of Zambia's Economy



By Mubanga Mubanga

Finance and National Planning Minister Situmbeko Musokotwane says micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) remain the backbone of Zambia's economy due to their critical role in job creation and sustaining household incomes.

Speaking during the official signing ceremony of the concession agreement for the Public-Private Partnership project on the Supply Chain Finance Platform and

the development of the National Assessment and Certification framework in Lusaka on Thursday, Dr Musokotwane said many MSMEs continue to face serious financial challenges despite their importance to the economy.

He noted that delayed payments for goods and services supplied to buyers had continued to weaken cash flows for many businesses, making it difficult for them to expand operations or fulfil contracts.

(Continues on P5)

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# 276 Groups Benefit from K5.5 Million CDF Grants in Mansa District

(From P4)

Bahati Constituency received K2,793,344.75 benefiting 124 groups and cooperatives, while Mansa Central Constituency received K2,793,344.74 benefiting 152 groups and cooperatives.

Mansa Municipal Council Public Relations Officer Joel Norman Kashi said the funded groups are expected to undertake various income-generating activities aimed at improving livelihoods and boosting local economic growth.

"These ventures include livestock rearing, mobile phone and communication businesses, maize production, village banking initiatives, agro-business ventures, gardening projects, milling businesses, stationery and supply businesses among others," Kashi said.

He noted that the initiative reflects government's commitment to

decentralised development and citizen participation in economic empowerment programmes.

"The 2026 CDF Grants are expected to significantly improve household incomes, stimulate local economic activities, create employment opportunities especially among youths and women, and reduce poverty levels across communities in Mansa District," he said.

Kashi further urged beneficiaries to utilise the funds responsibly and channel them towards productive ventures that would enhance financial independence and contribute to national development.

He added that empowering cooperatives and community groups would also strengthen food security, improve

financial resilience among households and promote innovation and self-reliance at community level.

"By supporting

local enterprises, government is laying a strong foundation for sustainable development and improved living standards. Mansa

Municipal Council urges all successful beneficiaries to utilize the grants prudently, responsibly and for the intended purposes

in order to maximize impact and ensure long-term sustainability of their projects," said Kashi.

## Musokotwane Hails SMEs as Backbone of Zambia's Economy

(From P4)

"Additionally, our MSMEs face delays in receiving payments after they have delivered goods and services to buyers. These delays weaken their cash flows, constrain working capital and prevent MSMEs from honoring contracts or expanding operations. In many cases, this has stifled productivity by enterprises," Dr Musokotwane said.

"Not really on account of lack of market, but because of lack of liquidity," he added.

Dr Musokotwane disclosed that the concession agreement, which will run for 15 years, is expected to attract

about US\$21 billion in foreign direct investment.

He said the initiative is projected to onboard approximately 225,000 SMEs and 3,483 corporate entities, while the Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) is expected to contribute about US\$45 million in taxes and facilitate US\$383 million in financing for SMEs.

"The platform introduces a modern, technology-driven financing ecosystem. It will involve the development and full-scale national operationalisation of a digitally enabled, fully localized supply chain finance platform designed to address structural financing challenges of

micro, small and medium enterprises," he said.

Dr Musokotwane explained that the platform would digitally verify and validate invoices issued to buyers, allowing suppliers, especially MSMEs, to receive payments in real time.

"Furthermore, the platform will operate in such a way that it will ensure all invoices issued to buyers are verified and digitally validated, enabling suppliers, particularly MSMEs, to receive timely payment for goods and services rendered in real time. The

innovation fundamentally restructures the financing model," he said.

He added that financial institutions participating in the platform would no longer rely heavily on collateral from SMEs, but instead assess creditworthiness based on verified supply chain transactions.

"The platform will conduct the requisite verification and due diligence processes, thereby mitigating risk for participating financial institutions," Dr Musokotwane said.



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# Economist Calls for Inclusive Empowerment of Rural Women

By Alexis Chilumbwe

Economist Faith Kangasa has called for urgent measures to bridge the financial and opportunity gap between urban and rural women, saying inclusive development cannot be achieved while many women remain excluded from empowerment initiatives.

In an interview with Peza News, Kangasa observed that many girls in rural communities begin to internalize limited expectations about their future from an early age due to a lack of mentorship, exposure and empowerment opportunities.

She recalled her experience during a gap year spent in Kaniki township outside Ndola, where she volunteered

through a Bible programme at a local school and clinic.

"After high school, I spent my gap year in Kaniki, a rural township just outside Ndola, as part of a Bible programme where we volunteered at the local school and clinic. I spent many afternoons tutoring Grade 9 and Grade 12 students, and that experience opened my eyes to how early many girls begin to internalise limited expectations about their futures," she said.

Kangasa noted that in many homes, girls grow up carrying domestic responsibilities similar to those of their mothers, making education appear more like an obligation than a pathway to opportunity.

She acknowledged

the growing efforts by governments and organisations to empower women through scholarships, mentorship programmes and business grants, but stressed that many women still fail to access such opportunities because of structural barriers.

"These initiatives are important and necessary, and they have opened doors for many women. However, the reality is that many women still do not meet the requirements to access these opportunities, often due to structural barriers such as education gaps, limited access to capital or geographic disadvantage," she said.

The former banker further observed that women who manage to access empowerment opportunities often carry the burden of representing

and uplifting many others who remain disadvantaged.

Kangasa also highlighted the gender imbalance in the mining sector, noting that women account for only about 10 percent of the labour force despite growing conversations around inclusion.

"In sectors like mining, where I have spent most of my career, women still represent only about

10 percent of the labour force. While there may not be many programmes specifically labelled as 'male empowerment programmes,' men historically have had greater access to opportunities, networks and social encouragement that support ambition and leadership," she said.

She further



Economist Faith Kangasa

expressed concern that many success stories and empowerment programmes remain heavily concentrated in urban areas while the majority of Zambians live in rural and peri-urban communities.

"If we truly want women entrepreneurs to thrive, empowerment efforts must also reach rural and peri-urban

communities where the structural barriers are often greatest. So while the environment today is certainly more enabling than it was in the past, there is still significant work to do to ensure that empowerment is inclusive and reaches women across all backgrounds," Kangasa said.

## UK announces 'historic' trade deal with Gulf states in G7 first

The U.K. on Wednesday hailed a "historic" trade deal with the Gulf states that marks the first such agreement among Group of Seven (G7) nations.

The trade deal could boost the U.K. economy by an estimated £3.7 billion (\$4.9 billion) every year and increase wages by £1.9 billion annually in the long run, the U.K.'s Department for Business and Trade (DBT) said as the agreement was announced.

"The U.K. could see a boost to growth and higher wages for decades to come after becoming the first G7 country to secure a trade deal with the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) today — strengthening our economic partnership with the region, supporting jobs in the long term, and bolstering domestic resilience," the

DBT said in a statement.

The deal with the GCC, which comprises Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, reflected the U.K.'s "solidarity and long-term cooperation with its Gulf partners," according to the British government.

It said the deal will remove an estimated £580 million in duties a year, based on current U.K. exports to the GCC, once the agreement is fully implemented, with £360 million of this amount "to be removed on day one of the agreement entering into force."

British exports of cereals, cheddar cheese, chocolate and butter are just a few of the goods expected to become tariff-free under the terms of the deal.

It marks a fifth major

trade agreement made under the current U.K. government, following deals with India, the U.S., the EU and South Korea.

The deal is a welcome boost for British Prime Minister Keir Starmer,

who faces challenges to his leadership, as the U.K. economy comes under pressure from the Iran war.

"Today's agreement is a huge win for British business, and for

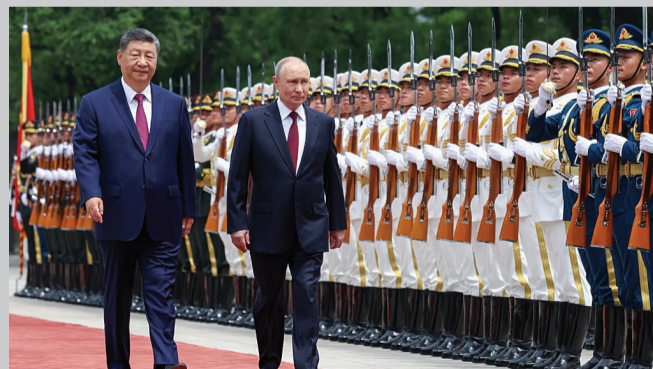
working people who will feel the benefits in the years ahead through higher wages and more opportunities," Starmer said of the latest trade deal.

"The Gulf states

are valued economic partners and this agreement deepens that relationship, building trust and unlocking new possibilities for trade and investment," he added.

CBNS

## China and Russia reaffirm close ties amid US visit



Russian President Vladimir Putin, right, and Chinese President Xi Jinping inspect an honor guard during a welcoming ceremony at the Great Hall of the People, in Beijing, China

President Xi Jinping hailed China and Russia's

"unyielding" ties in talks with Vladimir Putin on Wednesday, as the

pair met to underscore their alliance days after Donald Trump's visit to the Asian superpower economy.

After the US president was received with pomp last week but left without major breakthroughs including on help with reopening the Strait of Hormuz, Putin's visit will be scrutinised for tangible takeaways.

Putin is however weakened by years of Russia's war on Ukraine, as sanctions by Western

powers put the squeeze on energy revenues and increased Moscow's dependence on China, the main buyer of Russian oil.

The US war on Iran has however hampered crude and gas flows, giving an opportunity to Putin to offer Russian energy sources as an alternative.

Analysts believe that Putin could use the visit to push for progress on the major.

Africanews

# Giroud, Azpilicueta and McCarthy join BBC World Cup team

Olivier Giroud, Cesar Azpilicueta and Benni McCarthy have joined the BBC Sport team for the 2026 Fifa World Cup next month, with all 104 matches in the United States, Canada and Mexico to be covered across BBC platforms.

There will be 54 games broadcast live on BBC television, while audiences can follow every game across the BBC's digital platforms.

You can keep on top of the action across iPlayer, Radio 5 Live, BBC Sounds, the BBC Sport website & app, YouTube and social media.

The brand-new BBC Football YouTube and TikTok channels will include live streaming build-up and the opening 10 minutes of the biggest matches.

An all-star cast of pundits will join BBC Sport's television coverage of the tournament from Salford, while reporters on the ground in the United States, Canada and Mexico will bring the latest stories.

Kelly Cates, Mark Chapman, Gabby Logan and Alex Scott will lead BBC Sport's TV coverage, joined by pundits including Alan Shearer, Wayne Rooney, Micah Richards, Ellen White, Steph Houghton, Rachel Corsie, Giroud, Joe Hart, Azpilicueta, McCarthy, Lucas Leiva and Thomas Frank.

"The BBC is turning the biggest World Cup in history into the most iconic one yet. We're bringing fans closer to every match, every moment and every story than ever before," said Alex Kay-Jelski, BBC

Director of Sport.

"Sport truly unites people like nothing else so we can't wait for fans to enjoy not just the live matches with us but an abundance of football content, all day, every day across our platforms.

"Whether it's our new series on YouTube and iPlayer, the biggest news stories on our website and app, our daily podcasts on Sounds or the viral moments on social media - we're here for audiences 24/7 this summer, taking them straight to the heart of the World Cup."

BBC Scotland will provide in-depth coverage of Scotland's first men's World Cup since 1998.

"It's going to be thrilling to see the national team back



The 48-team 2026 World Cup is the biggest international tournament in history

on football's biggest stage after 28 years - a moment that's sure to bring huge pride and

excitement right across the country," said Louise Thornton, Head of Commissioning for BBC

Scotland. The 2026 World Cup begins on Thursday, 11 June, with the final

taking place on Sunday, 19 July. **BBC**

## Saka calls out critics as players celebrate title at Emirates at 5am



Arsenal players were pictured outside Emirates Stadium at 05:00 BST after they were crowned Premier League champions for the first time in 22 years, as their celebrations continued.

Eberechi Eze posted pictures on Instagram in the early hours of Wednesday, stood outside their stadium in north London alongside team-mates Declan Rice, Bukayo Saka and Jurrien Timber.

Dutch defender Timber posted a video alongside Saka stood by a blacked out Premier League trophy at the club's training ground that was designed to light up once the team won.

"Light that up," Saka says.

"Let me tell you something. Twenty-two years, 22 years. There was laughing, there was joking, they're not laughing any more. Look, it is going to be shining, it is going to be shining bright."

In another video

posted by Saka, 19-year-old defender Myles Lewis-Skelly is seen holding a champagne bottle.

"They called us bottlers," said academy graduate Lewis-Skelly. "And now we're holding the bottle."

Eze's Instagram post also included a picture of an Arsenal-branded bottle in another reference to criticism the team has received for finishing second in the league for three consecutive seasons.

An Instagram story post also showed captain Martin Odegaard with a bottle in his mouth.

Arsenal's record goalscorer Thierry Henry wrote on Instagram: "Special thanks to this generation - finally now my kids saw us winning the league".

The club will hold a trophy parade around Islington on Sunday, 31 May at 14:00 BST, the day after they face holders Paris St-Germain in the Champions League final in Budapest. **BBC**

## ZEKHETHELO SIYAYA: Another scrum-capped hot stepper arises



What is it about South African rugby with a scrum cap and a sidestep? It awakens something exceptional on a rugby field.

And just when we thought we had seen it all - all the exploits of Cheslin Kolbe, Kurt-Lee Arendse, and the others that have come after them, the Sharks have

unlocked a gem this season.

Their Vodacom United Rugby Championship may be over, but 18-year-old former Westville pupil Zekhethelo Siyaya has hardly been out of school for a year, and already he is carving up fields in the URC.

JP Pietersen's belief in Siyaya has paid off.

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# NAPSA STARS REMAIN TOP DESPITE FIRST DEFEAT TO BUFFALOES

By Alexis Chilumbwe

Netball fans were treated to thrilling encounters over the weekend as log leaders Napsa Stars faced Green Buffaloes in the women's category, while ZNS Makeni battled Buffaloes in the men's division during Weeks 5 and 3 of the Midlands Netball Association (MINA) League.

In the women's match, the army side handed the pensioners their first defeat of the season after edging them 33-31 in a pulsating contest.

Buffaloes dominated the opening two quarters, with five national team players combining quick intercepts and accurate passing to dismantle Napsa's defensive setup.

The pensioners fought back strongly in the third quarter through the brilliance of Centre Grace Sakala and towering Goal Keeper Faustina Mundia, reducing the deficit from six goals to just two.

However, Buffaloes' versatile defender Esther "Yellow" Kunda produced crucial interceptions that were calmly converted by former Napsa player Catherine Akalaluka, who excelled in the Goal

Shooter position to seal victory for the army side.

In the men's category, ZNS Makeni made a slow start and trailed by five goals in the opening quarter.

The ZNS side regrouped and mounted a comeback in the third quarter before leveling matters in the final stanza. But Buffaloes' resilience and compact defense proved decisive after Goal Defender Timothy Ngulukila Jr made two late interceptions that were converted into match-winning goals.

Despite the defeat, Napsa Stars remain top of the women's table with eight points. Green Buffaloes move into third



place with six points, behind 2025 champions Prison Leopards, who have a game in hand and

a superior aggregate.

In the men's standings, Nkwazi lead the table with four points,

while Green Buffaloes sit second with two points and a game in hand. ZNS Makeni are third without

a point after suffering consecutive defeats in their opening two matches of the season.

