



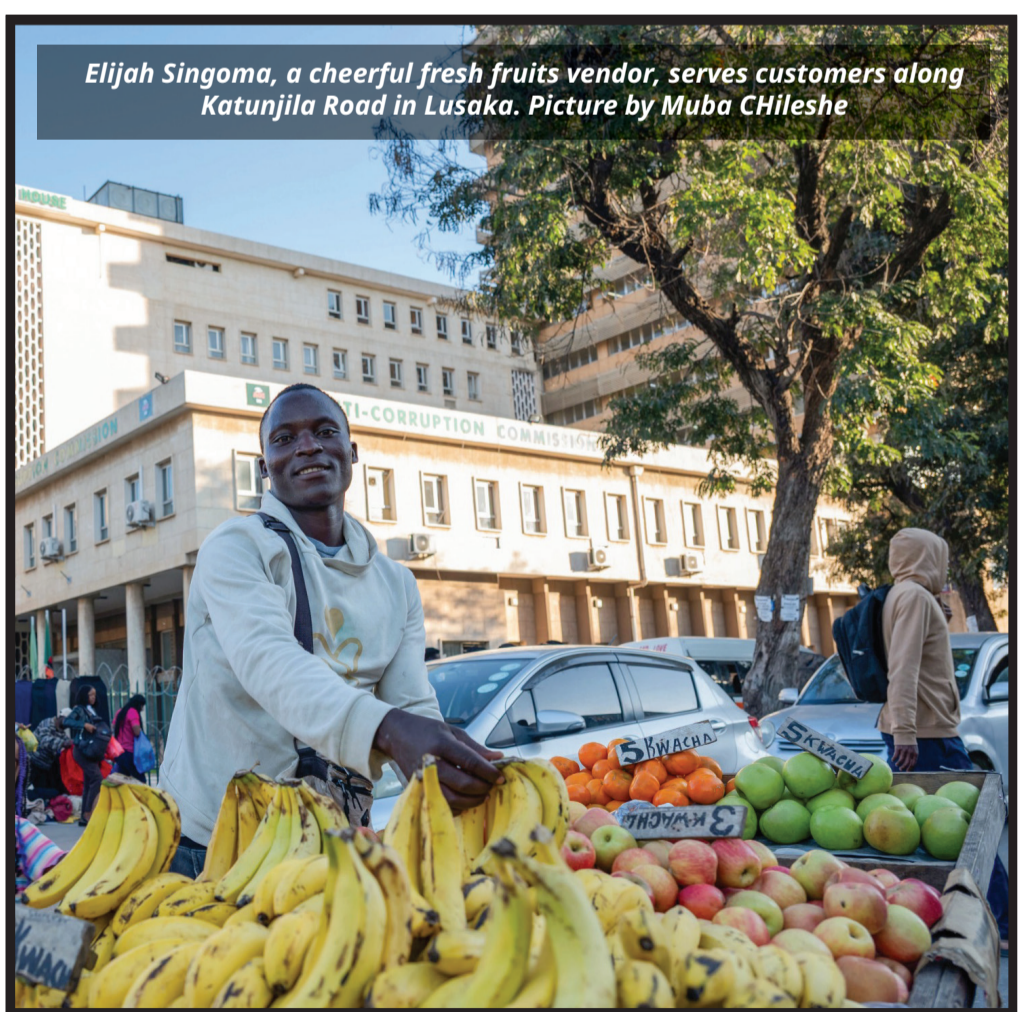
TRADITIONAL EXPORTS DECLINE AS INFLATION EASES TO 6.6 PERCENT

By Mubanga Mubanga
Zambia's traditional exports declined ..."(To P2)



@Andy luki jr. Photography

The Management & Staff of Peza News hereby join the Ngonis and the rest of country in mourning the death of Paramount Chief Mpezani IV. Picture by Andy LUKi Jr Photography



Elijah Singoma, a cheerful fresh fruits vendor, serves customers along Katunjila Road in Lusaka. Picture by Muba CHileshe



Traditional Exports Decline as Inflation Eases to 6.6 Percent

By Mubanga Mubanga
Zambia's traditional exports declined by 6.8 percent in April 2026, largely driven by reduced earnings and export volumes of refined copper, according to the latest monthly trade and inflation bulletin released by the Zambia Statistics Agency (ZamStats).

The report shows that traditional exports fell from K17.5 billion in March 2026 to K16.3 billion in April 2026. However, non-traditional exports (NTEs) recorded strong growth during the same period, increasing by 20.9 percent from K7.5 billion to K9.2 billion.

ZamStats noted that non-traditional exports accounted for 35.6 percent of total exports in April, highlighting the growing contribution of sectors outside the country's traditional mining industry.

The decline in traditional exports was

largely attributed to lower copper export earnings. According to the bulletin, export earnings from refined copper dropped by 7.2 percent, falling from K17.3 billion in March to K16.1 billion in April.

The reduction in earnings was accompanied by a decrease in export volumes, which fell by 6.3 percent from 68.6 thousand metric tonnes in March to 64.3 thousand metric tonnes in April.

Despite the slowdown in export performance, the country recorded an improvement in inflation, with the annual rate easing to 6.6 percent in May 2026 from 6.8 percent in April.

ZamStats said the latest inflation figure means that, on average, prices of goods and services increased by 6.6 percent between May 2025 and May 2026.

The agency attributed the slowdown in inflation mainly to reduced price



increases in food items.

Annual food inflation declined to 6.9 percent in May from 7.3 percent in April.

The agency said food prices were influenced by movements in the cost of cereals such as

breakfast mealie meal, roller mealie meal, maize grain, imported rice and wheat flour. Other contributors included vegetables, sugar, cooking oil and eggs.

"This means that on average, prices of food

items increased by 6.9 percent between May 2025 and May 2026," ZamStats stated.

Meanwhile, non-food inflation edged up slightly to 6.1 percent in May from 6.0 percent recorded in April.

According to ZamStats, the increase was mainly driven by higher prices of pharmaceutical products, including paracetamol, aspirin, tetracycline and multivitamins, as well as fuels and lubricants such as diesel, paraffin, engine oil and brake fluids. Hammer milling charges also contributed to the rise.

The agency further noted that inflation in the Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages category stood at 6.9 percent in May, significantly lower than the 17.9 percent recorded during the same period in 2025, while the Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels category recorded inflation of 7.1 percent.

The latest figures suggest that while Zambia continues to face challenges in its export sector, particularly in copper, easing inflation may provide some relief to households and businesses as economic conditions gradually stabilise.

ZCCM-IH, Wonderful Group Partner to Revive Lime and Cement Production

By Mubanga Mubanga
Zambia Consolidated Copper Mines Investment Holdings (ZCCM-IH) has entered into a joint venture agreement with Wonderful Group to establish and operate an integrated lime and cement production facility aimed at revitalising industrial production and enhancing value creation in the mining sector.

According to a transaction

announcement issued by ZCCM-IH, the new joint venture company will be known as Ndola Lime 2026 Limited.

ZCCM-IH described Wonderful Group, which was established in 2011, as one of Zambia's leading industrial conglomerates with extensive experience in developing and managing both greenfield and brownfield industrial projects.

(Continues on P5)

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Economist Urges Zambia to Prioritise Mineral Value Addition and Youth Skills Development



Economist Yusuf Dodia

By Alexis Chilumbwe
Economist Yusuf Dodia has expressed concern over Zambia's continued failure to aggressively pursue mineral value addition despite being one of the world's leading copper producers.

Mr Dodia said while the country has made significant strides in attracting investment and improving investor confidence, the benefits have not translated into sustainable economic

gains and widespread industrial development.

Speaking in an interview with Peza News, he noted that Zambia continues to export much of its mineral wealth in raw or minimally processed form, missing opportunities to create jobs, expand manufacturing and increase export earnings through value-added products.

He cited Metal Fabricators of Zambia Plc as an example of the

limited progress made in mineral beneficiation, noting that the company remains the country's only major producer of copper cables despite Zambia's vast copper resources.

"Zambia is the third largest producer of copper in the world and there are so many other minerals that Zambia is producing. My view is that while we continue to attract investors, we should also be replicating companies like Zamefa

producing copper cables throughout our economic zones, 62 years after independence," Mr Dodia said.

He argued that establishing more mineral-processing industries across the country's multi-facility economic zones would help Zambia capture greater value from its natural resources while creating employment opportunities for citizens.

Mr Dodia further stressed the importance of placing young people at the centre of the country's economic development agenda.

According to the economist, Zambia has not done enough to equip its growing youth population with the practical skills required to participate meaningfully in the economy.

He called for the revitalisation of trade

and skills training institutions across the country to provide opportunities for young people who do not proceed to tertiary education.

"The role of youths in any economy is extremely important and must be incorporated into economic development models if a country is to prosper. For Zambia, we have not paid enough attention to developing youths in our country," he said.

Mr Dodia explained that strengthening vocational and technical training would enable school leavers to acquire skills that can either help them secure employment or establish their own businesses.

"One of the first things we need to do is resuscitate trade training institutions across the country and look at how we can skill youths who drop out of primary school, secondary

school, and those who do not make it to tertiary education," he said.

He further advocated for the creation of youth empowerment programmes and business incubation centres within economic zones to nurture entrepreneurship and innovation among young people.

"They must be able to develop skills which can either get them a job or allow them to start their own small business. There must be youth empowerment programmes and incubators in economic zones," Mr Dodia added.

The economist believes that combining mineral value addition with targeted youth skills development would help Zambia accelerate industrialisation, create jobs and achieve more inclusive economic growth.

Editorial

Zambia's Economic Survival Rests on Youth Innovation, But Urgent Funding is Needed Now

Zambia's economic future rests squarely on Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and youth-led innovation. Across Lusaka, young entrepreneurs are thriving independently in online trading, retail, and car dealerships. Yet, their remarkable success remains largely unrecognized in national economic discussions. Before debating future empowerment

schemes, we must address an urgent, immediate crisis: funding existing, viable youth businesses that are already operational but starving for capital to scale. These young business leaders face a critical tipping point. In a recent interview at Levy Junction Shopping Mall, one local youth entrepreneur emphasized that market survival demands intense focus, determination, and strict legal

compliance. However, sheer willpower is no

longer enough to sustain them against harsh macroeconomic realities. In sectors like electronics, carpentry, and clothing, Lusaka's youth are taking massive financial risks. They rent expensive

commercial spaces, often sharing shops to split exorbitant

costs. Despite their resilience, they are hitting a wall due to shared, systemic bottlenecks: high trading space rentals, crushing internet costs, and the challenge of sourcing quality inventory. To rise above these

hurdles, their collective strategy has been delivering genuine products to build consumer trust. They have proven their concepts, secured market share, and demonstrated compliance. What they lack is immediate financial runway. Without urgent intervention, targeted funding, and infrastructure relief, these self-made enterprises risk collapsing under the weight of high operational costs. We must act

now to capitalize on this momentum. Funding these existing youth innovations is not just an investment in individual businesses; it is an urgent economic necessity to secure Zambia's financial future. Readers, policy makers, and financial institutions must pivot their attention to these frontline drivers of our economy before this window of opportunity closes.



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Zambia Receives Medical Supplies from Egypt to Strengthen Healthcare Delivery

By Alexis Chilumbwe

The Zambian government, through the Ministry of Health, has received assorted medicines and medical supplies procured from the Egypt, in a move aimed at strengthening healthcare delivery and improving access to essential medicines across the country.

Speaking during a media briefing in Lusaka, Health Permanent Secretary for Technical Services Kennedy Lishimpi said the medical consignment underscores government's commitment to government-to-government procurement arrangements, which



Health Permanent Secretary for Technical Services Kennedy Lishimpi

promote collaboration, efficiency and knowledge sharing in the health sector.

Dr Lishimpi noted

that the procurement, undertaken through the Zambia Medicines and Medical Supplies Agency, marks an important

milestone towards achieving Universal Health Coverage by ensuring that health facilities have access to

critical medicines and medical supplies.

He called on stakeholders and members of the public to help safeguard the health commodities, emphasizing that the resources are intended to save lives and improve the wellbeing of citizens.

"We urge all stakeholders and the general public to join hands in safeguarding these resources so that they reach the intended beneficiaries and contribute to improved healthcare outcomes," Dr Lishimpi said.

Meanwhile, Presidential Advisor on

Health Professor Roma Chilengi said the arrival of the medicines reflects the strengthening partnership between Zambia and Egypt in the healthcare sector.

Professor Chilengi noted that the collaboration is expected to extend beyond the supply of medicines by supporting local pharmaceutical manufacturing and fostering greater cooperation between the two countries.

"The collaboration is expected to promote local pharmaceutical manufacturing and emphasize the importance of safeguarding health commodities. It is now ZAMMSA's role to ensure that medicines reach communities across the country," Professor Chilengi said.

And ZAMMSA Director General Liyoka Liyoka said the procurement will significantly improve medicine availability, strengthen health commodity security and reduce the risk of stock-outs and treatment interruptions in health facilities.

Mr Liyoka disclosed that the agency has already begun receiving 30 containers of medicines and medical supplies from Egypt.

"The consignments are expected to provide an average of eight months of stock coverage for several essential medicines and they will be distributed countrywide to improve service delivery and minimise stock-outs," he said.

The latest consignment is expected to enhance the availability of essential medicines in public health institutions and support government's efforts to provide reliable and equitable healthcare services to communities throughout the country.

15,000 Households Set to Benefit from NRDC's 22MW Solar Power Plant

By Alexis Chilumbwe

Net metering expert Kangwa Chanda has called for increased public awareness on net metering, urging authorities to embark on nationwide sensitisation campaigns to help citizens understand how they can benefit from feeding excess solar power into the national grid.

Mr Chanda said many Zambians, particularly homeowners and commercial farmers with solar installations, remain unaware of the opportunities offered through net metering, a system that allows consumers to export surplus electricity to the grid in exchange for credits that can offset future power costs.

In an interview with Peza News, he stressed that ZESCO Limited should take deliberate steps to educate the public on the programme and clearly explain its long-term benefits.

"We have private homes and especially farms that have had surplus power for a while now, but they are either uninformed



about net metering or just not encouraged to learn it. ZESCO should be deliberate about making it known so that there's relief on hydropower and those that contribute will have less to pay for when solar energy runs out," Mr Chanda said.

Meanwhile, government has disclosed that the soon-to-be commissioned Natural Resources Development College 22-megawatt solar power plant is already supplying approximately 18 megawatts of electricity to the national

grid.

The US\$17.5 million solar project was developed by NRDC in partnership with Kiyona Energy Limited as part of government efforts to diversify energy sources and reduce dependence on hydropower.

The initiative follows a presidential directive encouraging government institutions to install rooftop solar systems and alternative energy solutions to strengthen the country's energy security.

Government Information and Media

Director Henry Kapata said the project created significant employment opportunities during its construction phase.

According to a statement issued by Mr Kapata, about 150 people were employed during construction, while 25 workers have been retained to oversee operations and maintenance of the facility.

"Twenty-five people have been retained on the plant for operation and maintenance works from a total of 150 that were employed during its construction stage. On average, the plant is able to feed about 15,000 households, and from the 22MW, 2MW will be dedicated to NRDC," the statement read.

And Peter Sakala revealed that the solar facility has already injected approximately six gigawatt-hours of electricity into the national grid.

Speaking during a site tour organised by the Presidential Delivery Unit, Mr

Sakala explained that the project consists of 35,420 solar panels, each rated at 650 watts, producing a combined direct current output of 23.023 megawatts.

"The architecture is that we start with the solar panels, move into the inverters and then into transformers where the voltage is stepped up for transmission into the grid. The generation voltage is 0.8 kilovolts and we step it up to 11 kilovolts for transmission. With 35,420 solar panels rated at 650 watts each, we generate 23.023 megawatts in direct current, which converts to 22 megawatts of alternating current that is currently being injected into the grid," Mr Sakala said.

The project is expected to play a significant role in improving Zambia's energy supply while supporting the country's transition towards renewable energy and enhanced electricity reliability.

ZCCM-IH, Wonderful Group Partner to Revive Lime and Cement Production

(From P3)

The company operates across several sectors, including fertilizer and agro-products manufacturing, porcelain and ceramic tile production, sanitary ware, packaging materials, PVC construction products, construction works, and silk cocoon and fabric manufacturing.

The project will be implemented in three phases. The first phase will involve the construction and commissioning of a lime production plant with a capacity of 600 tonnes per day. The second phase will focus on the development of either a cement processing plant or a second lime production facility, while the third phase will involve further expansion into cement or lime production depending on market demand and operational requirements.



Under the financing structure, Wonderful Group will contribute a shareholder loan of US\$5 million and an equity investment of US\$25 million.

The shareholding arrangement will see Wonderful Group hold a 55 percent stake in the venture, while ZCCM-IH will retain 45 percent ownership.

As part of the agreement, assets valued at K36.9 million (approximately US\$1.92 million) will be transferred from Limestone Resources Limited to Ndola Lime 2026 Limited. In addition, outstanding debt amounting to US\$9.8 million owed by Limestone Resources Limited will be written off.

ZCCM-IH said the transaction was necessitated by the operational challenges faced by Limestone Resources Limited since its establishment. The company inherited aging and unreliable plant equipment from the defunct Ndola Lime Company, which is currently under

Production

liquidation, resulting in reduced production capacity and loss of market share.

The investment holding company believes the partnership will introduce state-of-the-art technology and modern equipment that will significantly improve productivity, operational efficiency and long-term reliability.

“ZCCM-IH’s strategic decision will result in the installation of state-of-the-art equipment and technology which will improve productivity and long-term reliability, as evidenced by Wonderful Group’s experience in establishing complex

industrial operations,” the company stated.

ZCCM-IH further noted that Wonderful Group’s established regional marketing network is expected to improve market access and strengthen the competitiveness of the new venture.

The company expressed confidence that the partnership will create a sustainable industrial operation capable of generating long-term value for shareholders while contributing to Zambia’s industrialisation agenda and economic growth.

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Zambia Seeks New Investment Partnerships at AfDB Annual Meetings

By Mubanga Mubanga

Secretary to the Treasury Felix Nkulukusa says Zambia used the 2026 Annual Meetings of the African Development Bank Group to deepen strategic investment partnerships, strengthen economic diplomacy and position the country within emerging continental and global financing discussions aimed at supporting long-term growth and economic resilience.

According to a statement issued by the Ministry of Finance and National Planning, Mr Nkulukusa led the Zambian delegation to the AfDB Annual Meetings held in the Republic of Congo's capital, Brazzaville, from May 25 to 29, 2026, under the theme "Mobilising Africa's Development Financing at Scale in a Fragmented World."

The Zambian delegation included Permanent Secretary for Economic Management and Investment Mulele Maketo Mulele, Bank of Zambia Deputy Governor-Operations Francus Chipimo, and Bank of Zambia Director of Research Jonathan Chipili.

Speaking at the start of the meetings, Mr Nkulukusa said Zambia's participation reflected the Government's continued commitment to strengthening international cooperation, sustaining investor confidence and advancing the country's economic transformation agenda anchored on macroeconomic stability, debt sustainability, productive investment and long-term resilience.

"Zambia's presence here reflects the Government's continued strategy to strengthen engagement with development finance institutions, deepen investor confidence, and consolidate partnerships that support economic transformation, private sector growth and sustainable development," Mr



Secretary to the Treasury Felix Nkulukusa

Nkulukusa said.

He noted that the meetings provided Zambia with an important platform to showcase its development priorities while engaging financial institutions, investors, cooperating partners and policy leaders on

issues shaping Africa's economic future.

Among the key topics discussed were infrastructure financing, financial system resilience, industrialisation and regional integration.

Mr Nkulukusa further said Zambia intended

to use the meetings not only for the statutory engagements of the AfDB Group but also to intensify bilateral discussions aimed at attracting long-term investment into productive sectors of the economy.

"We are here to learn,

benchmark, engage and deepen partnerships that support Zambia's economic transformation agenda. Our objective is to strengthen investor confidence, mobilise support for our development agenda and create opportunities that translate into jobs, productivity and shared prosperity for our people," he said.

The Secretary to the Treasury identified mining, agriculture and agro-processing, tourism, renewable energy and infrastructure development through public-private partnerships as key sectors targeted for investment expansion,

value addition and employment creation.

He said strengthening investment in these sectors remains critical to accelerating economic growth, enhancing competitiveness and creating sustainable livelihoods for Zambians.

The AfDB Annual Meetings bring together policymakers, development finance institutions, investors and business leaders from across the continent and beyond to discuss solutions for financing Africa's development priorities and promoting sustainable economic growth.

U.S. proposes fresh tariffs on 60 economies over forced labor trade practices

The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative has proposed additional tariffs of up to 12.5% on imports from 60 economies over their failure to ban goods made with forced labor, in a sweeping action that would hurt most trading partners, including China, the European Union and Japan.

The determination, made under Section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974, found that all 60 countries have failed to impose or effectively enforce a prohibition on forced labor-related imports, creating what it called an "unlevel playing field" for American workers.

USTR has proposed a 10% duty rate for economies that have adopted a full or partial prohibition on forced labor trade, and 12.5% for all other economies.

The trade authority also proposed a separate textile mechanism that would allow for a certain volume of apparel and

textile imports from some economies to enter the U.S. at reduced rates. Written comments for the proposal are due by July 6, with public hearings scheduled on July 7, according to the notice.

"The failure of our most important trading partners to address the importation of goods made with forced labor is unacceptable. This creates a dynamic where American workers are forced to compete globally on an unlevel playing field," said U.S. Trade Representative Jamieson Greer. "We will no longer tolerate this disparity."

The proposal comes after the U.S. Supreme Court struck down most of President Donald Trump's "Liberation Day" tariffs earlier this year, prompting him to impose 10% global baseline duties under Section 122 — which are also set to expire in July.



People watch as the Doris Ocean container ship departs from the Port of Los Angeles on May 28, 2026 in Los Angeles, California.

The Section 301 authorizes the president to impose levies to counter unfair foreign trade practices harming U.S. commerce.

China opposes "all forms of unilateral restrictions," a spokesperson for China's commerce

ministry said in a press briefing Thursday, emphasizing that Washington and Beijing should "meet each other halfway" and maintain stability in the bilateral economic and trade relations.

An EU spokesperson described the reasoning

behind the latest barrage of U.S. tariffs as "unjustified."

"On the EU side, we are on track to ensure implementation of our Joint Statement tariff commitments by the end of June," they added in comments reported by Reuters. **CBNS**

Kansanshi Gives Heroes' Welcome to Cycling Stars



Kansanshi Mining PLC has honoured Zambia's young cycling champions with a hero's welcome following their outstanding performance at the African Continental Cycling Championships held in Ivory Coast. Picture by NOCZ

By Staff Reporter
Kansanshi Mining PLC has honoured Zambia's young cycling champions with a hero's welcome following their outstanding performance at the African Continental Cycling Championships held in Ivory Coast. The cyclists, who represented Zambia with distinction on the continental stage,

returned home with medals and remarkable achievements that have elevated the country's profile in African cycling. Leading the charge was 19-year-old Luwi Chikomba, who made history by winning the gold medal in the Under-23 Women's category. Her triumph marked a significant milestone for Zambian cycling, making her one of the country's most

successful young riders and placing Zambia firmly on the African cycling map. Another impressive performer was Margret Ngoma, aged 16, who secured a silver medal in the Under-16 category. Her achievement highlighted the growing depth of talent within Zambia's junior cycling ranks and underscored the promising future of the sport.

Adding to Zambia's medal haul was Richard Kashimoto, who claimed a bronze medal in the Under-23 category after a determined and spirited performance against some of Africa's best cyclists. Meanwhile, Emmanuel Kanguya also delivered a commendable performance, finishing sixth in the highly competitive junior race. Although he narrowly missed out on a podium finish, his result demonstrated the strength and potential of Zambia's emerging cycling talent. The team's success

was made possible through the support of Kansanshi Mining PLC, under the First Quantum Minerals (FQM) Zambia banner, which has continued to invest in youth development and sports programmes. The mining company has played a key role in nurturing cycling talent, providing young athletes with opportunities to compete at the highest levels both locally and internationally. Speaking during the reception, the athletes were celebrated for their determination, discipline and commitment to excellence, qualities that

helped them compete successfully against top riders from across the continent. Their achievements have not only brought pride to the nation but have also inspired a new generation of cyclists to pursue the sport. With such exceptional performances on the continental stage, the future of Zambian cycling appears brighter than ever, as the country continues to produce athletes capable of competing and winning at the highest level in Africa.

How Serena's British hitting partner kept comeback secret



David Quayle (right) travelled to Florida to train with Serena Williams in May

The recent wet weather in London has prevented much practice on grass, so Quayle has been helping to source indoor courts at venues like the Hurlingham Club and the National Tennis Centre. "The practices we have been having have

been pretty special," Quayle continued. "She's not lost it - she's still operating at a very high level. She is just the ultimate professional. "For me, she's the greatest of all time, and you see that in the way she does things on the

court. "It's incredible to just be a part of and witness - never mind to actually be learning from her and seeing her as a friend and an opponent." Despite being a well-established hitting partner on the professional tour. **BBC**

How can athletes play with ICDs, and what happens when one goes off?



When Christian Eriksen collapsed during Denmark's 2-1 friendly victory over Ukraine on Sunday, he was assisted by a device which was fitted to support his heart after he suffered a cardiac arrest during a Euro 2020 match. The implantable cardioverter defibrillator (ICD) sits in Eriksen's chest, with wires connecting it to

his heart. It provides a shock to either restart the heart if it stops beating, or to jolt it back into a regular rhythm if abnormalities are detected. "The pacemaker responded as it should," said Denmark's national team doctor Morten Boesen on Sunday. The sight of Eriksen dropping to the turf, before being surrounded by visibly upset team-mates

while being treated by medical staff behind a makeshift curtain, was frighteningly reminiscent of his previous collapse, which shocked football fans around the world. So, how can athletes return to elite-level sport after having an ICD fitted, what are the risks, and what happens when the device goes off?

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YOUNG OLYMPIC AMBASSADORS LEAVE FOR GREECE

By Staff Reporter

The National Olympic Committee of Zambia (NOCZ) has selected two young athletes, Paul Mkandawire of table tennis and Charity Maseko of basketball, to represent the country at the 66th International Session for Young Olympic Ambassadors in Greece.

The prestigious programme, organised by the International Olympic Academy, commenced on 6 June 2026 and brings together young people

aged between 20 and 30 from across the globe to promote friendship, cooperation and mutual understanding through the Olympic Movement.

During the two-week session, participants will engage in a range of educational and cultural activities, including lectures, group discussions, presentations, sports and artistic programmes, as well as visits to historical and cultural sites. They will also have an opportunity to interact with Olympians and other

representatives from different countries.

The NOCZ Executive Board has wished Mkandawire and Maseko a productive and memorable experience, expressing confidence that they will represent Zambia with distinction while acquiring valuable knowledge and skills to help advance Olympic

values among young people back home.

Their participation is expected to strengthen

Zambia's presence within the international Olympic community and contribute to the

development of future sports leaders and ambassadors for the Olympic Movement.



The National Olympic Committee of Zambia (NOCZ) has selected two young athletes, Paul Mkandawire (L) of table tennis and Charity Maseko(R) of basketball. Picture by NOCZ

Kansanshi Gives Heroes' Welcome to Cycling Stars



FILE: The Kansanshi Cycling Team has received a warm welcome back home following an impressive performance at the Absa Cape Epic in South Africa. Picture by Zambia footprints

