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WEEKLY EDITION Monday 12 to Friday 16 October 2026 Lusaka | zambianeconomist.com

GROW ZAMBIA AGENDA

From Stability to Production Zambia Puts Jobs on the Table

World Bank talks focus on farm markets, transport and private investment. Energy and manufacturing plans face the test of delivery.



Zambia's engagements at the IMF and World Bank Group Annual Meetings in Bangkok. Photo: Ministry of Finance and National Planning, via The Zambian Economist.

By The Zambian Economist | 15 October

Zambia's talks with the World Bank are moving from economic stabilisation to the practical conditions for higher production: buyers for farmers, dependable transport, reliable power and investment that creates employment.

Finance Minister Dr Situmbeko Musokotwane is in Bangkok for the Annual Meetings, running from 12 to 18 October. The Ministry of Finance says the World Bank welcomed the Grow Zambia Agenda. No specific new financing amount or project approval was announced in its account of the discussions.

Agriculture is central. The talks cover storage, affordable transport, finance and access to buyers. The World Bank's AgriConnect initiative could help address constraints facing smallholders and agricultural businesses.

Markets need infrastructure

Feeder roads, the Lobito Corridor, TAZARA and Zambia Railways feature among priorities for bringing farm produce and minerals to customers. Government wants commercial farms, medium-scale producers and smallholders to expand together.

The copper target remains three million tonnes a year by 2031. Reaching it will require investment, electricity, infrastructure and supportive policies. Energy security and preparedness for possible El Niño disruptions also entered the discussions.

The test is whether economic expansion creates work and raises household incomes while public finances remain disciplined. Friday's energy story and Thursday's manufacturing priorities sharpen that delivery question.

[Read the full article online](#)

INSIDE THIS EDITION

02 Economy and policy

IMF credit, tax reform, school grants and lasting investment.

03 Growth and enterprise

Power, factories, youth skills and farm management.

04 Governance

UN Council seat, electoral rules, public pay and health.

05 Numbers and diary

Independence Week, dates to watch and all 21 stories.

21 ARTICLES · 5 DAYS

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IMF AND CREDIT

IMF Deal Must Leave Room for Private Borrowers

EAZ backs concessional finance, but wants less domestic borrowing by Treasury so that banks can lend more to businesses.

By The Zambia Economist | 12 October

The Economics Association of Zambia has welcomed the proposed US\$1.47 billion IMF Extended Credit Facility, rounded in its statement to US\$1.5 billion. The 36-month arrangement follows a staff-level agreement reached on 9 October.

EAZ describes the facility as zero-interest concessional finance and says stability in inflation, interest rates, the exchange rate and reserves is essential to the Grow Zambia Agenda. Its strongest request is for Treasury to borrow less at home, leaving banks more room to finance businesses.

The agreement still requires policy commitments, any prior actions and approval by IMF Management and the Executive Board. There is no automatic disbursement at the staff-level stage.

[Read the full article online](#)

BANGKOK MEETINGS

Bangkok's US\$1.47bn question

The Zambia Economist | 12 October



The delegation's agenda combines the successor IMF programme with project finance, energy security, infrastructure and private capital. Musokotwane's stated test is investment that improves employment, household income and living standards. The meetings continue until 18 October.

[Read the full article online](#)

TAX AND BUSINESS

Tax rules must support confidence

The Zambia Economist | 15 October



EAZ called for clear tax rules, predictable administration and fair treatment at the second HLB Tax Indaba at Ciela Resort. National Secretary Dr John Musantu spoke on behalf of President Dr Edna Kabala-Litana.

The 15–16 October event brings together revenue authorities, accountants, business leaders and economists. EAZ wants reforms judged by competitiveness, business growth and household welfare as well as revenue. Taxpayer education, consultation and consistent administration should build compliance alongside enforcement.

Participants were urged to propose reforms that can be implemented and measured.

[Read the full article online](#)

EDUCATION FINANCE

K806.1m completes school grants

The Zambia Economist | 12 October

Treasury released K806.1 million for fourth-quarter school grants, completing more than K2.3 billion in 2026 funding. The money supports feeding, materials, learner welfare and maintenance.

The tranche arrived within the first two weeks of the quarter. School authorities must prioritise essential spending and meet procurement and accounting rules. Timely cash helps schools plan; better learning conditions remain the outcome to demonstrate.

[Read the full article online](#)

DEVELOPMENT FINANCE

IDA support meets the jobs agenda

The Zambia Economist | 14 October

Musokotwane called for sustained International Development Association support and investment in Africa's productive capacity. World Bank figures cited in the report put private capital mobilised across Africa at US\$22 billion in FY2026, against about US\$9 billion in FY2022.

That is an Africa-wide figure, not a new allocation to Zambia. Zambia's priorities include viable project preparation, private investment and skills matched to emerging work. The engagement announced no new financing commitment to Zambia.

[Read the full article online](#)

ANALYSIS

After the money, what remains?

The Zambia Economist | 15 October

The week's analysis argues that foreign investment, grants and loans should be assessed according to their different purposes and obligations. TAZARA illustrates both the value of externally financed infrastructure and the continuing need for maintenance, management and traffic.

The questions start before signing: what constraint will be solved, what capacity will remain, who pays running costs, how do local firms participate and how will results be checked? Attendance figures and completed buildings alone cannot establish lasting benefits.

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ENERGY AND MOBILITY

10,000MW and Electric Mobility

Power networks and charging infrastructure underpin the push for farms, factories and reliable services.

By The Zambia Economist | 16 October



Government is targeting 10,000MW of generation capacity under the Grow Zambia Agenda, with investment in solar, thermal and other sources. Transmission extensions and regional interconnections are also priorities.

The Ministry of Energy's 9 October statement says Government institutions will acquire only electric vehicles. Partnerships with the private sector are planned for charging infrastructure.

Generation capacity is a target, rather than a measure of dependable electricity already delivered. Investment in networks, generation and charging services will determine what reaches factories, farms and households.

[Read the full article online](#)

CLIMATE AND HYDROPOWER

Hydropower and climate resilience

The Zambia Economist | 15 October

The Foreign Affairs Ministry pledged support for stakeholder participation in the 36th African Hydro Symposium in Addis Ababa, scheduled for 3–6 November. Permanent Secretary Etambuyu Anamela Gundersen met KGRTC's Caristo Chitamfya at Charter House.

The engagement concerns coordination and participation. It announces no new electricity project or financing commitment.

[Read the full article online](#)

TRADITIONAL LEADERSHIP

BRE says Manyando retired

The Zambia Economist | 14 October

Mukela Manyando has retired as Ngambela to attend to family and personal matters. Acting Ngambela Muchezi Kalonga said he was not fired. No date for naming a substantive successor has been announced.

[Read the full article online](#)

MANUFACTURING

Manufacturing needs paying customers

The Zambia Economist | 15 October



The President's manufacturing priorities include stronger Multi-Facility Economic Zones, value addition, local production, lower business costs and wider export markets.

The briefing supplies no new funding allocation, implementation timetable or quantified employment target. Progress should be visible in factories operating competitively, repeat orders for domestic suppliers, sustained employment and manufactured exports.

Local raw materials create opportunity; turning them into products that customers buy requires dependable electricity, finance, logistics and productive firms.

[Read the full article online](#)

YOUTH AND INNOVATION

E-waste training targets 100 young people

The Zambia Economist | 14 October

Airtel Zambia donated discarded electronics for practical training as Government called for stronger collection, recycling and safe disposal systems. The donation's quantity and value were not stated.

The ILO's Japan-funded programme targets 100 young women and men in Central Province. That target is not a count of jobs already created. Equipment, financing and customers must follow training if participants are to build lasting businesses.

[Read the full article online](#)

FARM MANAGEMENT

Brushcutter mistakes cost farms

The Zambia Economist | 14 October

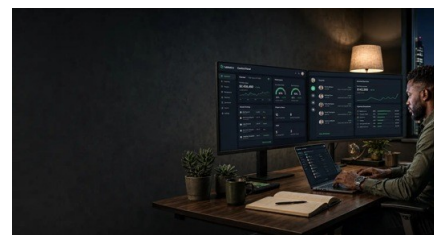
Before the rains, farmers should match attachments to vegetation, choose a suitable machine, inspect the ground for hidden obstacles and use controlled cutting movements.

A well-adjusted harness and full protective equipment matter as much as blades and fuel. Poor technique increases running costs, damages equipment and exposes operators to injury. The report draws on Husqvarna guidance for farm operators.

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ELECTION DIARY

Mandevu prepares for 5 November

The Zambia Economist | 14 October

Mandevu's parliamentary by-election is scheduled for 5 November. ECZ's update lists 145 polling stations across 25 centres. Its inspections are preparatory; the update does not establish that every centre is cleared as ready.

[Read the full article online](#)

Zambia Wins a UN Council Seat With 177 Votes

The 2027–2029 Human Rights Council term brings an international platform and sustained attention to Zambia's own governance record.

By The Zambia Economist | 14 October



Zambia won a UN Human Rights Council seat for 2027–2029 with 177 of 181 votes cast on 13 October, the highest tally among the 15 countries elected, according to the report. The majority required was 97.

The 47-member Geneva-based Council gives Zambia an international platform and sustained scrutiny of its own record. All 15 seats in this election were uncontested. The result does not settle concerns about domestic rights and governance.

[Read the full article online](#)

GLOBAL DEBT

Borrowers seek a stronger voice

The Zambia Economist | 13 October

Musokotwane spoke for African members at the Borrowers' Platform's first Governing Council in Bangkok. Launched in April, the platform has 31 formal members; more than 100 developing countries were invited. UNCTAD runs its Secretariat.

Its role is cooperation, shared information and representation in debt discussions. It is not a restructuring mechanism or a negotiating bloc against creditors. The Minister called for practical results.

[Read the full article online](#)

PROFESSIONAL BODIES

EAZ opens Uganda partnership talks

The Zambia Economist | 13 October

EAZ met Uganda's Applied Economics Association on 12 October to discuss joint economic outlook reports, a continental summit and a shadow monetary policy committee. A memorandum of understanding is proposed; no signing date has been announced.

[Read the full article online](#)

PUBLIC SECTOR PAY

Emoluments Commission Reviews ZESCO Pay

The Zambia Economist | 14 October



The Emoluments Commission met ZESCO management on 14 October to discuss job analysis, evaluation and the harmonisation of salaries and conditions of service. Director General Chembo F. Mbula led the engagement with Managing Director Eng. Justin Loongo and his team.

Mbula said remuneration should attract and retain skilled employees, support motivation and strengthen institutional performance while remaining affordable and sustainable.

The engagement announced no salary increase, revised pay scale or implementation timetable.

[Read the full article online](#)

ELECTORAL ACCOUNTABILITY

ECZ cites seven-day list rule

The Zambia Economist | 15 October

ECZ says vacant proportional representation seats were redistributed after a qualifying party failed to submit its list on time. Chairperson Mwangala Zaloumis rejected allegations of political favouritism.

The Commission cites the seven-day submission rule in Section 36C(1) and redistribution provisions in Section 36C(9). Only two of 13 parties qualified, it says. Allocation notices and submission records are needed to show how the rules applied.

[Read the full article online](#)

PUBLIC SERVICE

123 health officers return to stations

The Zambia Economist | 13 October

An internal assessment found 123 headquarters officers working under temporary arrangements outside the approved 2021 establishment of 403 posts. They return to substantive stations and pay points.

Health Minister Professor Roma Chilengi announced no job losses. Qualifications of staff remaining in approved posts will be checked, with reassignment where credentials do not match requirements.

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THE WEEK IN NUMBERS

Page 5

US\$1.47bn Proposed IMF facility; approval still pending	10,000MW Government generation-capacity target	K806.1m Fourth-quarter school grants	177 Zambia's Human Rights Council votes
US\$22bn Private capital mobilised in Africa FY2026	3m tonnes Annual copper-production target for 2031	123 Health officers returning to stations	100 Young people targeted for e-waste skills
31 Borrowers' Platform member countries	145 Mandevu polling stations	25 Mandevu polling centres	62 years Independence anniversary on 24 October

COMING UP

Zambia at 62 Independence Week

17–23 OCTOBER 2026

Community service begins on Saturday 17 October ahead of Zambia's 62nd Independence Anniversary on 24 October.

Cleaning public facilities, donating food, clothes and books, and planting trees form part of the programme. Activities are to use available resources and support raised with communities and stakeholders.

[Read the full article online](#)

Our Journey, Our Growth, Our Future

The anniversary theme links Zambia's history with its growth ambitions. The programme places community participation and careful spending alongside the national ceremonies.

THE INDEPENDENCE DIARY

17–23 Oct

Community service and Independence Week activities nationwide.

23 Oct

President's address to the nation; Independence Eve flag hoisting at Lusaka Showgrounds.

24 Oct

Zambia at 62; wreath laying at the Freedom Statue in Lusaka.

DATES TO WATCH

Until 18 Oct

IMF and World Bank Annual Meetings, Bangkok.

3–6 Nov

African Hydro Symposium, Addis Ababa.

5 Nov

Mandevu parliamentary by-election.

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EVERY STORY THIS WEEK

All 21 stories | 12 to 16 October 2026

12 Oct	Zambia takes its IMF question to Bangkok	14 Oct	Airtel backs youth e-waste skills
12 Oct	K806.1m completes school grants	14 Oct	Musokotwane calls for stronger IDA support
12 Oct	EAZ backs the proposed IMF facility	14 Oct	Emoluments Commission and ZESCO pay talks
12 Oct	Zambia at 62 and Independence Week	15 Oct	ECZ explains PR seat redistribution
13 Oct	Borrowers' Platform begins work	15 Oct	Manufacturing jobs and export ambitions
13 Oct	EAZ opens Uganda partnership talks	15 Oct	Preparations for African Hydro Symposium
13 Oct	123 health officers return to stations	15 Oct	What foreign funding should leave behind
14 Oct	Zambia wins Human Rights Council seat	15 Oct	EAZ calls for clear tax rules at HLB Indaba
14 Oct	Ngambela Manyando retires	15 Oct	Grow Zambia talks focus on markets and jobs
14 Oct	Six brushcutter mistakes on farms	16 Oct	10,000MW and Government electric vehicles
14 Oct	Mandevu polling-centre inspections		

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