ECONOMY · BUSINESS · GOVERNANCE · POLICY

The Zambian Economist

Your Brand. Our Platform. Maximum Impact.

MONTHLY EDITION | 1 TO 31 OCTOBER 2026 | 108 STORIES

Monday 2 November 2026 | Lusaka | zambianeconomist.com | Free to read and share



FOUR DAYS TO BUDGET DAY

THE MONTH IN REVIEW | BUDGET DAY IS FRIDAY 6 NOVEMBER

US$1.47 billion of support. K6.9 billion to choose with.

October gave Zambia an IMF deal, the largest Parliament in its history, a Cabinet of 30 ministries and a 2027 Budget with very little room. November shows what the money buys.

US$1.47bn	K271.9bn	K6.9bn	+24%	30
IMF staff-level deal, 9 October	2027 resource envelope	Left for other programmes	Pump prices from 1 October	Ministries, Cabinet complete

By The Zambian Economist Analyst

The month the plan met its arithmetic

October was the month the Grow Zambia Agenda met its arithmetic. On 9 October the IMF announced a staff-level agreement on a new three-year Extended Credit Facility of about US$1.47 billion. Two days earlier the Treasury had opened the 2027 Budget Hearings with a resource envelope of about K271.9 billion, then told ministries that once arrears, social cash transfers, CDF, free education and school feeding are paid for, about K6.9 billion is left for every other programme.

The rest of the month filled in the pressure points. Pump prices rose about 24 per cent on 1 October as excise duty returned. The kwacha gave back much of its first-half gain and touched 21 to the dollar in one session on 6 October. On 22 October the Finance Minister tabled a K19.9 billion supplementary budget, K14.7 billion of it for farmers who sold maize to the Food Reserve Agency, which bought 2.7 million tonnes against a plan of 500,000.

Politics moved as fast. President Hichilema opened the 14th National Assembly, now 226 constituencies plus 40 reserved seats, on 9 October. On 26 October he asked it to approve 30 ministries, and by 29 October every one of them had a minister. Abroad, Zambia took the COMESA vice-chair in Harare, won a UN Human Rights Council seat with 177 votes and hosted Lobito Corridor talks with a US$28 billion investment pipeline.

This edition gathers all 108 stories we published from 1 to 31 October, organised by desk, with new charts, a day-by-day timeline, a minister of the month and the figures to carry into Budget Day.

▶ READ EVERY STORY *Click here to browse the full articles on our website*

INSIDE THIS EDITION

02 From the editor: October, day by day
03 Budget 2027 and the K19.9bn supplementary
04 The IMF deal, Bangkok and the bond market
05 CDF, school grants and the K700 question
06 Fuel, the kwacha and getting by
07 Grow Zambia: eight targets, many jobs
08 Parliament, reserved seats and the ECZ
09 Thirty ministries and the new Cabinet
11 Audit, accountability and the law
12 Minister of the month: Dr Musokotwane
13 Diplomacy: Lobito, COMESA, the UN and Moscow
14 El Niño, farms, food and trees
15 Lusaka, tourism and housing
16 Zambia at 62 and our communities
17 Ideas, voices and the EAZ month
18 October in pictures: the photo gallery
19 October in numbers
20 Every story in this edition
21 Our partners and advertisers

WHAT TO WATCH ON 6 NOVEMBER

- How the K6.9bn of free space is shared out
- New tax measures, or compliance alone
- FRA and FISP funding after a K14.7bn top-up
- The CDF rate across 226 constituencies



PAGES 9 AND 10
All 30 ministries filled: meet the 40 ministers



PAGE 12
Minister of the month: the man with the purse strings



PAGE 14
Super El Niño: the drought plan, the heat and the rivers

NEXT ▶ Page 2 | *From the editor, and October day by day*

Share: +260 775 574 228

Why a monthly edition

Our weekly editions follow the news as it lands. This one steps back and reads the whole month as a single story.

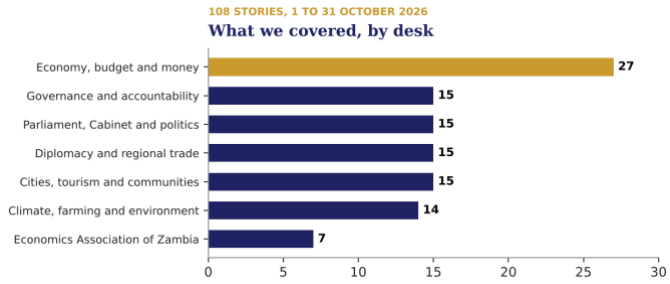
A week is a good length for news and a poor one for judgement. In October we published 108 stories, more than in any month since the site began. Read one at a time, they look like separate events: a fuel review, a swearing-in, a summit, an audit. Read together, they describe one problem. Zambia has set itself production targets for 2031 that would more than double the economy, and it entered November with an IMF programme, a tight budget and a larger government with which to deliver them.

This edition is organised by desk rather than by date. Each section brings the month's reporting on one subject into a single page, condensed from the full articles on zambianeconomist.com. Where our analysts and contributors disagreed with official claims, we kept the disagreement in. Where a figure is a target or an estimate rather than a result, we say so.

We have also added what the weekly editions cannot carry: a timeline of the month, a minister of the month, a page of the figures that matter for Budget Day, and an index of every story with its date. If you read only one page, read page 19.

Thank you to our contributors: Kelvin Chisanga, Nathan Meleki, Dr Kelvin Kamayoyo, Chiti Mulenga Bwalya, Dr Bruce Ernest, Lewis Chingi, Dr Krisztián Galánthai Fekete and Meamui Mwendaweli. Thank you also to the advertisers who keep this edition free.

The Editor, The Zambian Economist



Stories published on zambianeconomist.com, 1 to 31 October 2026, grouped by this edition's desks. Counts from the index on page 20.

OCTOBER, DAY BY DAY

Date	What happened
1 Oct	Petrol K31.46, diesel K33.27 as excise duty returns. HH back from Abu Dhabi with US$2.14bn in MoUs.
3 Oct	Operation Clear Path starts clearing street vending from the Lusaka CBD.
5 Oct	Lobito Corridor talks open in Lusaka; World Bank lists US$28bn in investment openings.
6 Oct	Kwacha falls as much as 6% in one session as fuel importers return to the market.
7 Oct	Budget Hearings open: K271.9bn envelope, K6.9bn free. Mwewa sworn in and installed as Lusaka Mayor.
8 Oct	350 public internal auditors to be trained and certified through NIPA.
9 Oct	HH opens the 14th National Assembly. IMF staff-level deal on a US$1.47bn facility.
11 Oct	ECZ rejects claims that reserved seats were "stolen".
12 Oct	K806.1m in fourth-quarter school grants released. Treasury team lands in Bangkok.
13 Oct	Zambia wins a UN Human Rights Council seat with 177 votes. MoH sends 123 officers back to stations.
16 Oct	Police say former Petauke MP Emmanuel Jay Banda has been apprehended.
18 Oct	World Bank minerals compact sets 250,000 jobs as the 2031 target.
19 Oct	Auditor General's 2025 report: K3.56bn in health arrears. ICGLR ministers meet in Lusaka.
20 Oct	Heat alert to 24 October. HH backs a US$1.6bn UCF fertiliser expansion.
21 Oct	Poho Kawina elected PAC chair, Jacqueline Sabao re-elected deputy.
22 Oct	COMESA Summit in Harare: Zambia becomes vice-chair. K19.9bn supplementary tabled.
23 Oct	Independence Eve address. K31.7m released for relief food.
24 Oct	Zambia at 62: wreaths at the Freedom Statue, investiture at State House.
26 Oct	HH asks Parliament to approve 30 ministries. Great East Road diversion begins.
28 Oct	24 Cabinet and 10 provincial ministers sworn in at State House.
29 Oct	Milupi and Kalila complete the Cabinet. Ministers sent to "budget school". Haimbe speaks in Moscow.
31 Oct	Student essay asks what growth should deliver for ordinary households.

BEFORE AND AFTER

What changed in October

Petrol K25.29 to K31.46 a litre
Kwacha K17.87 in June to K20.11 on 23 Oct
Ministries 25 to 30, all filled by 29 Oct
Constituencies 156 to 226, plus 40 reserved seats
Inflation 6.2% in August to 6.1% in September
IMF No programme to a US$1.47bn staff deal

108 stories published in October

9 contributors and guest writers

22 dates on the timeline

7 new charts in this edition

FREE EVERY FRIDAY

Follow the Grow Zambia targets with The Ledger

Our weekly briefing tracks the numbers behind the agenda, from maize and copper to megawatts.

Subscribe free at zambianeconomist.com/subscribe

NEXT ▶ **Page 3** | *Budget 2027 and the K19.9bn supplementary*

Share: +260 775 574 228

A bigger envelope, a thinner slice, and a K19.9 billion top-up

The Treasury opened October by telling ministries how little room they had, and closed it by asking Parliament for more money for maize.

K271.9bn	K6.9bn	K15.0bn	K19.9bn	2.7m t
2027 envelope, up 7.4%	Free for other programmes	To clear arrears	Supplementary, 22 Oct	FRA maize bought

BUDGET HEARINGS | 7 OCTOBER

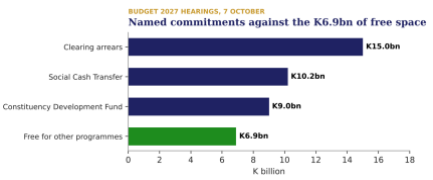
K271.9 billion to spend, but only K6.9 billion left over

By The Zambian Economist Analyst

Opening the 2027 Budget Hearings, Secretary to the Treasury Felix Nkulukusa told ministries, provinces and agencies to stay within their ceilings and show measurable results for anything they propose. Total resources are projected at about K271.9 billion, K18.8 billion more than the K253.1 billion approved for 2026.

The discretionary budget rises from K67.8 billion to K86.8 billion, but existing commitments absorb most of it. The largest named item is K15.0 billion to clear arrears, followed by K10.2 billion for the Social Cash Transfer and K9.0 billion for the Constituency Development Fund. Government wants domestic revenue to climb from K206.5 billion in 2026 to K290.1 billion by 2029, about 12 per cent a year.

▶ READ THE FULL ARTICLE *Click here to continue on our website*



Source: 2027 Budget Hearings, Ministry of Finance and National Planning.

THE RUN-UP | 27 OCTOBER

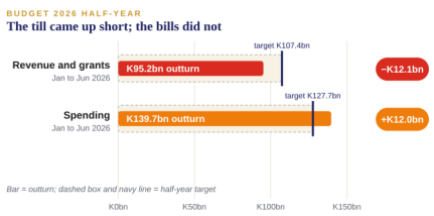
The 2026 accounts explain the squeeze

By The Zambian Economist Analyst

Our special report, Budget 2027: The Run-Up, set the first half of 2026 against plan. Revenue and grants reached K95.2 billion against a K107.4 billion target, a K12.1 billion gap, while spending ran K12.0 billion ahead. VAT was the weakest line in the second quarter, partly by design: fuel relief from April to June cost about K1.3 billion a month. Grants came to K2.5 billion, less than half the K5.6 billion planned.

After commitments and K44.9 billion of planned borrowing, the report estimates roughly K6.9 billion of free space, under 3 per cent of the envelope. Holding CDF at K40 million across 226 constituencies would cost K9.04 billion on its own.

▶ READ THE FULL ARTICLE *Click here to continue on our website*



Half-year outturn against target. Source: MoFNP Q1 and Q2 2026 Economic Reviews.

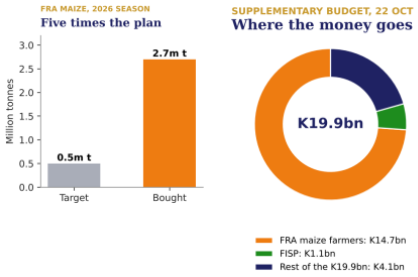
SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES | 22 OCTOBER

K19.9 billion more, K14.7 billion of it for maize farmers

By The Zambian Economist Analyst

Dr Situmbeko Musokotwane tabled a K19.9 billion supplementary budget, the second of the year after K26.3 billion in May. K14.7 billion will pay farmers who sold maize to the FRA, which bought 2.7 million tonnes this season against a target of 500,000 tonnes as government built reserves ahead of an El Niño year. The Ministry of Agriculture receives K15.8 billion in total, including K1.1 billion for FISP. Most of the package is financed by about K18 billion of domestic borrowing.

▶ READ THE FULL ARTICLE *Click here to continue on our website*



Source: supplementary estimates statement, 22 October 2026.

BUDGET SCHOOL | 29 OCTOBER

Line by line: new ministers told to know and defend their votes

By The Zambian Economist Analyst

A day after the swearing-in, the Finance Ministry held a budget orientation for Cabinet ministers. Dr Musokotwane told them to review their portfolio budgets line by line with permanent secretaries and controlling officers, and to propose reallocations only through formal amendments in Parliament. Emoluments Commission Director General Chembo Mbula attended, since the salary lines his commission sets sit inside non-discretionary spending.

▶ READ THE FULL ARTICLE *Click here to continue on our website*

WHAT TO WATCH

- Budget Day: Friday 6 November.
- Watch whether the K218.6bn revenue target rests on compliance alone.
- Watch for a third supplementary in 2027 if FRA and FISP are under-funded again.

K271.9bn	K86.8bn	K290.1bn	6 Nov
2027 envelope	Discretionary budget	Revenue target, 2029	Budget presented

NEXT ▶ Page 4 | *The IMF deal, Bangkok and the bond market*

Share: +260 775 574 228

A US$1.47 billion deal on paper, and a Treasury told to leave room for business

The IMF staff-level agreement arrived on 9 October. Within a week the Finance Minister was in Bangkok, and economists were asking who the domestic market would lend to.

IMF | 9 TO 12 OCTOBER

Zambia goes to Bangkok with a US$1.47 billion question

By The Zambian Economist Analyst

The IMF announced a staff-level agreement on a new 36-month Extended Credit Facility of SDR 1.076 billion, about US$1.47 billion, saying the programme builds on the Grow Zambia Agenda while requiring prudent fiscal management. Three days later Dr Musokotwane landed in Thailand for the IMF and World Bank Annual Meetings. Staff level is not Board approval: the money flows only after the Executive Board signs off, usually after prior actions are met.

▶ READ THE FULL ARTICLE *Click here to continue on our website*

EAZ | 12 OCTOBER

Economists back the deal, with a warning on crowding out

By The Zambian Economist Analyst

The Economics Association of Zambia called the facility the cheapest money the country can borrow and said it should help hold inflation, rates, the exchange rate and reserves steady. National Secretary Dr John Musantu added the condition: the deal should reduce government borrowing at home, so that banks lend more to businesses and less to the Treasury.

▶ READ THE FULL ARTICLE *Click here to continue on our website*

BANGKOK | 13 AND 14 OCTOBER

A stronger African voice on debt, and a plea for IDA

By The Zambian Economist Analyst

At the first Governing Council of the Borrowers' Platform, which has 31 member countries, Dr Musokotwane spoke for its African members and asked for practical results rather than more structures. The Platform is not a negotiating bloc against creditors; its purpose is technical cooperation and information sharing.

At a separate session he urged sustained support from the World Bank's International Development Association alongside private investment. The Bank says private capital it mobilised in Africa rose from about US$9 billion in FY2022 to US$22 billion in FY2026. On 19 October Zambia thanked Thailand, the IMF and the World Bank for hosting, and on 23 October the minister said Thailand's path showed why job-ready technical skills should come first over the next five years.

▶ READ THE FULL ARTICLE *Click here to continue on our website*



Dr Musokotwane at the launch of the Borrowers' Platform, Washington DC, April 2026. Photo: UNCTAD, CC BY-SA 4.0.

CAPITAL MARKETS | 5 OCTOBER

A 20-year government bond tests the depth of the market

By Kelvin Chisanga

The Bank of Zambia has introduced a 20-year bond, the longest tenor yet on the domestic market. The fourth-quarter programme provides for K2.2 billion in Treasury bills and K6.3 billion in bonds, with bond auctions on 20 November and 18 December.

A long benchmark gives pension funds and insurers a closer match for long-term liabilities and could ease refinancing pressure. Over two decades, though, investors must price inflation, currency and sovereign risk, and the first clearing yield will set the cost. Chisanga's harder question is what the money will build.

▶ READ THE FULL ARTICLE *Click here to continue on our website*

BANKING | 2 OCTOBER

EAZ and the Bank of Zambia agree to work together

By The Zambian Economist Analyst

An EAZ delegation led by President Dr Edna Kabala-Litana met Governor Dr Denny Kalyalya and Deputy Governors Dr Francis Chipimo and Rekha Chifuwe. Both sides agreed on joint research, policy dialogue, training and public economic literacy.

▶ READ THE FULL ARTICLE *Click here to continue on our website*

☰ DATES AND FIGURES

- US$1.47bn: proposed 36-month ECF, staff level, 9 October.
- Board approval still pending at month-end.
- 20 Nov and 18 Dec: first auctions including the new 20-year bond.
- 25 to 26 Nov: next Monetary Policy Committee meeting.

EXPLAINER
Staff level is not Board approval

A staff-level agreement means IMF staff and the Treasury agree on the programme. Money flows only after the IMF Executive Board approves it, usually once agreed prior actions are met.

US$1.47bn Proposed IMF facility

31 Borrowers' Platform members

K6.3bn Q4 bond programme

10.75% Policy rate

The CDF question: is the money arriving where it was promised?

Seventy new constituencies make CDF the hardest line in the 2027 Budget. Our contributors asked whether the fund, school grants and the K700 pay rise reach the people they were meant for.

GUEST EXPERT | 27 OCTOBER

K40 million times 226

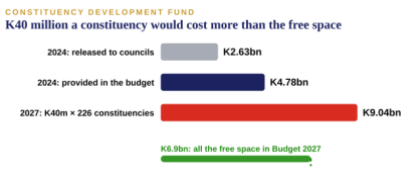
By Lubinda Sinyani, economist

Holding K40 million per constituency across 226 constituencies would cost K9.04 billion, a rise of K2.80 billion on 2026 and about 40 per cent of the uncommitted envelope. Holding the 2026 total instead would mean about K27.6 million each, a 31 per cent cut per constituency.

Sinyani argues the headline rate is not the real constraint. In 2024 the Treasury released K2.63 billion of the K4.78 billion provided, about 55 per cent. The Auditor General's 2024 CDF report found 3,060 of 4,879 projects completed and 526 not started; 71,301 desks worth K130.7 million had not arrived by September 2025; and councils had recovered K63.8 million of K375.3 million in CDF loans due, about 17 per cent.

He proposes an equal base, for example K30 million released in full and on time, with up to K10 million more only for councils that complete projects and account for the base.

▶ READ THE FULL ARTICLE *Click here to continue on our website*



Source: Budget 2027: The Run-Up; Auditor General CDF report 2024.

ANALYSIS | 8 OCTOBER

Is CDF money reaching small farmers and students?

By Kelvin Chisanga

The K30.6 billion fund no longer has a size problem, Chisanga writes. It has a delivery problem. The secondary school component carries K3.6 billion, about K31.0 million for each of 116 rural constituencies, and skills bursaries hold K4.8 billion. Absorption has run weak and slow, and the Ministry of Community Development has yet to show that the money reaches small farmers and vulnerable students in the quantities intended.

▶ READ THE FULL ARTICLE *Click here to continue on our website*

EDUCATION | 12 OCTOBER

K806.1 million completes 2026 school grants

By The Zambian Economist Analyst

The Treasury released fourth-quarter school grants of K806.1 million, completing the year's allocation for school feeding, learning materials, learner welfare and maintenance. This tranche arrived within the first two weeks of the quarter; the first tranche in January had been late enough to draw public complaint.

▶ READ THE FULL ARTICLE *Click here to continue on our website*

PUBLIC PAY | 8 OCTOBER

The K700 question: is the pay rise making a difference?

By Nathan Meleki

Public servants have received K700 more in monthly basic pay since January, and the daily meal allowance rose from K150 to K175. Annual inflation eased to 6.1 per cent in September, the lowest since February 2018, with food inflation at 5.8 per cent. Meleki's point is simple: lower inflation means prices are rising more slowly, not falling, so the real value of the K700 still shrinks every month.

▶ READ THE FULL ARTICLE *Click here to continue on our website*

EMOLUMENTS | 14 OCTOBER

Emoluments Commission and ZESCO discuss fair, affordable pay

By The Zambian Economist Analyst

The Commission met ZESCO management on job analysis, evaluation and the harmonisation of salaries and conditions of service. Director General Chembo Mbula said pay should attract and retain skilled staff while staying affordable, and linked ZESCO's role to the 10,000 MW target.

▶ READ THE FULL ARTICLE *Click here to continue on our website*

> ***Council capacity to finish projects, enforce contracts and recover loans limits what CDF delivers, more than the headline rate.***
>
> Lubinda Sinyani, Budget 2027: The Run-Up

CDF AND PAY IN FIGURES

- K30.6bn: total CDF envelope in the current cycle.
- 55%: share of 2024 CDF provision actually released.
- 17%: CDF loans recovered by councils.
- K175: new daily meal allowance, up from K150.

DID YOU KNOW?

Where a CDF kwacha is meant to go

Projects Classrooms, clinics, roads and desks

Bursaries Skills and secondary school support

Loans Empowerment loans to groups and firms

Grants Small grants to community groups

226 Constituencies sharing CDF

K806.1m Q4 school grants

K700 Monthly pay rise since January

3,060 of 4,879 CDF projects completed, 2024

NEXT ▶ Page 6 | *Fuel, the kwacha and getting by*

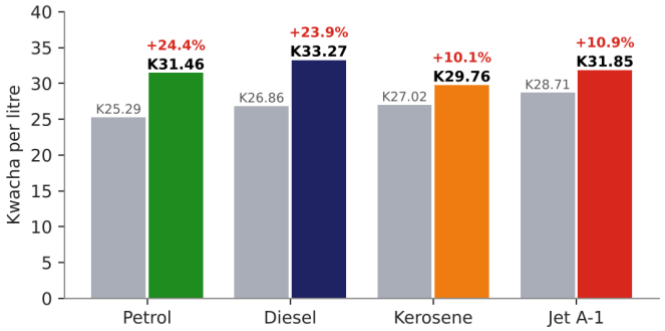
Share: +260 775 574 228

A 24 per cent fuel rise, a kwacha in reverse, and a household budget that runs out early

Five pieces this month traced one chain: from the pump price, through the exchange rate, to the trader, the commuter and the payslip.

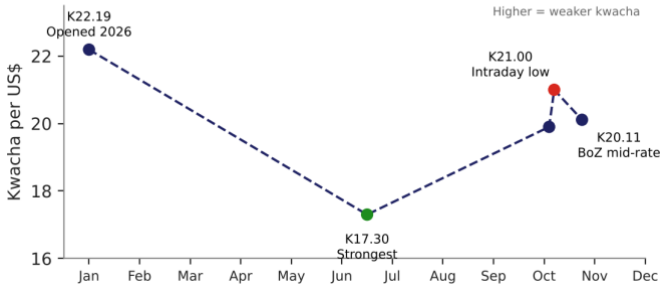
PUMP PRICES, ERB REVIEW OF 30 SEPTEMBER 2026

October's jump at the pump



KWACHA PER US DOLLAR, REPORTED POINTS, 2026

A strong first half, then much of the gain given back



Sources: ERB review of 30 September 2026; Bank of Zambia and Bloomberg reported rates. The kwacha line joins reported points and is not a daily series.

FUEL | 1 OCTOBER

The fuel price shock carries several layers

By Kelvin Chisanga

Petrol rose from K25.29 to K31.46 a litre and diesel from K26.86 to K33.27, about 24 per cent each. The ERB cited higher international prices, a weaker kwacha and the return of excise duty after the April to September relief. Diesel worries Chisanga more because it runs through transport, farming, mining and construction. The risk is second-round pressure on food and transport fares.

▶ READ THE FULL ARTICLE *Click here to continue on our website*

FUEL | 27 OCTOBER

What December could bring

By Chiti Mulenga Bwalya

A 50-litre petrol refill now costs K308.50 more; an operator using 1,000 litres of diesel a month pays K6,410 more. VAT on fuel is due back on 1 December at 16 per cent. Bwalya treats that as a reason to budget cautiously, not a confirmed price, since import costs and the exchange rate will move too.

▶ READ THE FULL ARTICLE *Click here to continue on our website*

INFORMAL ECONOMY | 18 OCTOBER

Rising fuel squeezes informal workers

By Nathan Meleki

ZamStats estimates 3,015,487 people, 63.4 per cent of the employed, worked informally in 2025. Higher transport and restocking costs can cut a trader's earnings even when sales rise.

▶ READ THE FULL ARTICLE *Click here to continue on our website*

EXCHANGE RATE | 8 OCTOBER

Why copper dollars are not enough

By Kelvin Chisanga

With copper near US$14,000 a tonne and a K30.1 billion trade surplus in the first seven months, the kwacha still slid from K17.87 in June to about K19.9 in early October. Chisanga calls it a rebalancing, not a collapse: mines bring dollars on their own payment calendar, while the fuel bill falls due every month. The policy rate cut to 10.75 per cent was a supporting factor, not the cause.

▶ READ THE FULL ARTICLE *Click here to continue on our website*

BANKING AND FINANCE | 26 OCTOBER

What decides where the kwacha closes each day?

By Lubinda Sinyani

Nobody announces the closing rate. It is the last price at which commercial banks agreed to swap dollars for kwacha on the interbank market. The Bank of Zambia sets the rules, not the price: boards update at 09:30, 12:30 and 15:30, and since 26 December 2025 domestic deals settle in kwacha. When foreign exchange waivers for energy importers ended on 6 October, their demand arrived at once and the kwacha fell as much as 6 per cent in a session, touching 21 before recovering to about 19.84. Copper had not moved. The queue had.

▶ READ THE FULL ARTICLE *Click here to continue on our website*

COST OF LIVING | 18 OCTOBER

Why the money finishes before the month ends

By The Zambian Economist Analyst

FinScope 2025 records wide worry about paying monthly bills. A monthly shortfall and a cash gap before payday are different problems, and borrowing can move a bill's date while adding to its cost.

▶ READ THE FULL ARTICLE *Click here to continue on our website*

☰ NUMBERS TO KEEP

- K31.46 / K33.27: petrol and diesel per litre in October.
- 6.1%: annual inflation in September, lowest since 2018.
- 1 December: VAT on fuel scheduled to return.
- K20.11: BoZ mid-rate on 23 October.

YOUR EXTRA FUEL COST

What October's rise means

50 L petrol +K308.50 a fill
50 L diesel +K320.50 a fill
1,000 L diesel +K6,410 a month

Eight numbers, one plan: what it takes to double the economy by 2031

The 10-10-5-3-3-1-1-1 targets dominated October's policy talk. The jobs, power and investment stories show how far each still has to travel.

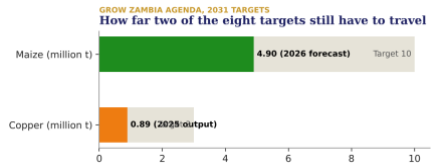
EXPLAINER | 9 OCTOBER

The eight numbers behind the plan

By The Zambian Economist Analyst

The Grow Zambia Agenda aims to more than double the economy by 2031. Copper must climb from 890,346 tonnes in 2025 to 3 million; output in the first half of 2026 grew 0.45 per cent. Agriculture is closest: maize is forecast at a record 4.9 million tonnes this season against a 10 million tonne goal. The IMF deal announced the same day sets the fiscal limits inside which all of it has to happen.

▶ READ THE FULL ARTICLE *Click here to continue on our website*



Sources: Zambian Economist, 9 October; ZamStats; Ministry of Agriculture forecast.

Measure	2031 target	Lead ministry
Maize	10 million tonnes	Agriculture
Installed electricity	10,000 MW	Electricity
Tourist arrivals	5 million a year	Tourism
Copper	3 million tonnes	Mines and Minerals
Soya beans	3 million tonnes	Agriculture
Wheat	1 million tonnes	Agriculture
Sugar	1 million tonnes	Agriculture, with Industry
Beef exports	US$1 billion a year	Fisheries and Livestock

Targets are ambitions, not forecasts.

CONTRIBUTOR | 6 OCTOBER

The formation Zambia has drawn for growth

By Nathan Meleki

Read one by one, the targets look like separate ambitions. Placed on the same pitch, Meleki writes, they describe an economy in which power, farms, mines and hotels depend on one another: electricity sits under almost every other target, and a bag of maize from Mkushi passes through transporters, millers and traders before it reaches a shelf in Kitwe.

▶ READ THE FULL ARTICLE *Click here to continue on our website*

MINING | 18 OCTOBER

A minerals compact targets 250,000 jobs

By The Zambian Economist Analyst

The World Bank compact's 2031 targets are 100,000 direct and 150,000 indirect jobs. The direct figure starts from about 56,000 today, so 250,000 is not a promise of that many new posts. In a companion piece, Kelvin Chisanga argued that local content must help Zambian suppliers win contracts and build the capacity to deliver them.

▶ READ THE FULL ARTICLE *Click here to continue on our website*

INDUSTRY | 20 OCTOBER

US$1.6 billion urea expansion at Chilanga

By The Zambian Economist Analyst

President Hichilema welcomed UCF's fertiliser plant expansion at Wonderful Industrial Park. The company targets 10,000 direct jobs. Lower retail fertiliser prices will depend on production costs, competition and distribution, not output alone.

▶ READ THE FULL ARTICLE *Click here to continue on our website*

ENERGY | 16 OCTOBER

10,000 MW and electric vehicles

By The Zambian Economist Analyst

Government restated its 10,000 MW goal through solar, thermal and other sources with stronger transmission, and directed public institutions to buy electric vehicles, with private partners for charging.

▶ READ THE FULL ARTICLE *Click here to continue on our website*

FORESTRY AND SKILLS | 15 TO 23 OCTOBER

Forests, factories and farm markets

By The Zambian Economist Analyst

ZAFFICO manages 62,733 hectares of plantations and aims for 100,000 by 2028, a rise of about 59 per cent. A manufacturing briefing named economic zones and value addition but gave no budget or jobs target. World Bank talks covered farm markets, transport and energy, and the Finance Minister said the next five years will prioritise practical technical skills.

▶ READ THE FULL ARTICLE *Click here to continue on our website*

FARM TO SHELF

One bag of maize, many jobs

A bag of maize from Mkushi passes through transporters, millers, traders and retailers before it reaches a shelf in Kitwe. Each step is a job the Grow Zambia targets depend on.

10m t Maize target

10,000 MW Electricity target

250,000 Mining jobs targeted

US$1.6bn UCF urea expansion

ZAMBIA BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Doing business in all ten provinces?

List your company so customers in every province can find you. From K600 a year.

zambianeconomist.com/directory

The largest Parliament in Zambia's history, and an argument over 40 seats

A House of 226 constituencies and 40 reserved seats opened on 9 October. The rules for filling those seats, and one allegation about them, took up the month.

226	40	61	145	5 Nov
Constituency seats, up from 156	Reserved PR seats	Seats held by women	Mandevu polling stations	Mandevu by-election

STATE OPENING | 9 OCTOBER

What the economy needed to hear

By The Zambian Economist Analyst

President Hichilema addressed the First Session of the 14th National Assembly with inflation at 6.1 per cent, the policy rate just cut to 10.75 per cent and growth projected at 5.3 per cent this year. The harder questions were jobs, copper output up only 0.45 per cent in the first half, power, and a 2027 Budget with very little room. After five years of stabilisation, the test he set himself is growth fast enough to create work.

▶ READ THE FULL ARTICLE *Click here to continue on our website*

GUEST ANALYSIS | 10 OCTOBER

Forty seats, many questions

By Lewis Chingi, Kitwe

The Constitution (Amendment) Act No. 13 of 2025 added 20 seats for women, 15 for youths and 5 for persons with disabilities, filled by proportional representation under rules in the Electoral Process (Amendment) Act No. 12 of 2026. Chingi supports the seats but not the machinery: parties without a presidential candidate receive none, and only two parties qualified in 2026, with the governing party taking most of them on top of its constituency seats.

▶ READ THE FULL ARTICLE *Click here to continue on our website*

FACT CHECK | 11 OCTOBER

The ECZ says no seats were stolen. Here is the arithmetic

By The Zambian Economist Analyst

The Commission dismissed as false a claim, attributed to Antonio Mwamba, that seats meant for the New Restoration Party went to the UPND. We worked through the formula. On 15 October the ECZ added that Section 36C(1) gives parties seven days to submit a list, and Section 36C(9) allows redistribution when a party misses that deadline.

▶ READ THE FULL ARTICLE *Click here to continue on our website*

COMMITTEES | 21 OCTOBER

Kawina chairs Public Accounts, Sabao re-elected deputy

By The Zambian Economist Analyst

Solwezi Central MP Poho Kawina, elected in August as an independent, now chairs the 15-member Public Accounts Committee, succeeding Warren Mwambazi. Chikankata MP Jacqueline Sabao was re-elected deputy chair unopposed. The PAC works from the Auditor General's reports to examine how approved money is spent. Sesheke East MP Romeo Kangombe returns to the Energy, Water Development and Tourism Committee, which he once chaired, as an ordinary member.

▶ READ THE FULL ARTICLE *Click here to continue on our website*

BY-ELECTION | 14 OCTOBER

ECZ inspects Mandevu polling centres

By The Zambian Economist Analyst

The Mandevu parliamentary by-election is on Thursday 5 November, across 145 polling stations in 25 centres, including Chazanga and Chipata primary schools.

▶ READ THE FULL ARTICLE *Click here to continue on our website*

LAW AND ORDER | 16 OCTOBER

Former Petauke MP apprehended

By The Zambian Economist Analyst

Police said Emmanuel Jay Banda had been apprehended and was in Zambia awaiting formal arrest and charging. No charges had been published when we went to press.

▶ READ THE FULL ARTICLE *Click here to continue on our website*

BAROTSELAND | 14 OCTOBER

Ngambela retires; BRE says he was not fired

By The Zambian Economist Analyst

Mukela Manyando, installed in 2000 as the first Ngambela of the current Litunga's reign, has retired. Acting Ngambela Muchezi Kalonga said he left for personal and family reasons.

▶ READ THE FULL ARTICLE *Click here to continue on our website*

5 Nov	272	7 days	15
Mandevu by-election	Members addressed on 9 Oct	Party-list deadline	Members of the PAC

SPONSORSHIP

Sponsor the Parliament pages

Put your company name on this coverage in every weekly and monthly edition.

info@zambianeconomist.com | +260 775 574 228

Thirty ministries, a full Cabinet, and the bargain taxpayers should expect

On 26 October the President asked Parliament to create, merge and dissolve ministries. By 29 October all 30 had ministers. Our analysis asks what the larger structure must deliver.

25 → 30	40	18 of 38	16 of 38	0
Ministries, first term to proposed	Ministers in office	List a postgraduate degree	Held office before	Transition costings in the motion

POLICY PAPER | 27 OCTOBER

Thirty ministries, eight targets

By The Zambian Economist Analyst, drawing on a paper by Lubinda Sinyani

Five ministries split in two: Energy into Electricity and Petroleum; Commerce, Trade and Industry into Trade and Exports and Industry; Education and Skills and Higher Education; Housing out of Infrastructure; and Culture and Arts out of Youth and Sport. Going from 25 to 30 is a 20 per cent rise in ministries, not necessarily in spending.

The strongest case is electricity: a minister for the 10,000 MW goal has a narrower brief than one also handling fuel supply. Agriculture carries four of the eight targets, and wheat alone depends on irrigation, water and power across several desks. Sinyani notes the motion carries no transition cost estimate and proposes shared corporate services for two years, with the 2027 Budget showing gross cost, savings and the net increase.

A larger structure earns its place only if it solves a problem the old one could not, at reasonable cost. Are power cuts shorter? Do approvals move faster? Those answers will decide the case.

▶ READ THE FULL ARTICLE *Click here to continue on our website*

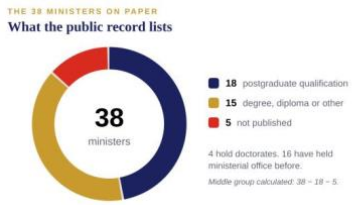
STATE HOUSE | 28 AND 29 OCTOBER

Cabinet complete with Milupi and Kalila

By The Zambian Economist Analyst

President Hichilema swore in 24 Cabinet and ten provincial ministers on 28 October; four had been sworn in on 14 September. Charles Milupi (Transport and Logistics) and Dr Christopher Kalila (Housing) followed on 29 October. On 22 October he reappointed seven presidential advisers, with Bradford Machila remaining Principal Private Secretary.

▶ READ THE FULL ARTICLE *Click here to continue on our website*



Qualifications as listed in public records, mainly National Assembly profiles, not verified with awarding institutions.

HOUSING | 30 OCTOBER

Plan, service, build, occupy

By The Zambian Economist Analyst

Dr Kalila cited a deficit of about 1.5 million homes, possibly 3 million by 2030. Serviced land before settlement, affordable finance and upgrades to existing areas will decide whether the new ministry changes how people live.

▶ READ THE FULL ARTICLE *Click here to continue on our website*

THE FIVE SPLITS

Old portfolio	New ministries
Energy	Electricity; Petroleum
Commerce, Trade and Industry	Trade and Exports; Industry
Education	Education; Skills and Higher Education
Infrastructure, Housing and Urban Development	Infrastructure and Urban Development; Housing
Youth, Sport and Arts	Youth and Sports; Culture and Arts

Source: Thirty Ministries, Eight Targets, 26 October 2026.

THE SMALL PRINT

The paper places the Zambia Metrology Agency under both Trade and Industry, the Environmental Protection Fund under both Mines and Green Economy, and ZUT under both education portfolios. The Energy Regulation Board, listed under Petroleum, also regulates electricity. These need checking in the final instruments.

30	28 + 10	4	1.5m
Ministries	Cabinet and provincial	Ministers with doctorates	Housing deficit, homes

SPONSORSHIP

Sponsor the Cabinet and Government pages

Put your company name on this coverage in every weekly and monthly edition.

info@zambianeconomist.com | +260 775 574 228

ZAMBIA BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Doing business in all ten provinces?

List your company so customers in every province can find you. From K600 a year.

zambianeconomist.com/directory

NEXT ▶ Page 10 | *Who holds what: all 40 ministers*

Share: +260 775 574 228

Who holds what: the full Cabinet and the ten provincial ministers

THE CABINET, 30 MINISTRIES

Minister	Portfolio	Highest qualification listed
Situmbeko Musokotwane	Finance and National Planning	PhD, Monetary Economics
Mulambo Haimbe	Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation	LLM, Construction Law
Gilbert Siame	Green Economy and Environment	PhD, City and Regional Planning
Roma Chilengi	Health	MBChB; MSc Epidemiology
Lufuma Ambrose	Defence	MA, Community and Regional Planning
Clement Andaleki	Home Affairs and Internal Security	PhD in Laws
Moses Moyo	Agriculture	Bachelor of Business Administration
Olive Chibola	Fisheries and Livestock	MSc, Agricultural Economics
Caroline K. Katotobwe	Trade and Exports	PhD, Business Management
Noel Nkhoma	Industry	Postgraduate diploma (UK)
Lackson Sichone	Small and Medium Enterprise Development	Not published
Brenda M. Tambatamba	Mines and Minerals Development	MA, Social and Community Work
Peter C. Kapala	Electricity	Master's, Civil and Structural Engineering
Makozo Chikote	Petroleum	BA
Princess Kasune	Tourism	Master of Divinity; Master's, Non-Profit Admin.
Collins Nzovu	Infrastructure and Urban Development	Master's, Water Engineering
Patrick Mucheleka	Lands	Not published
Elisha Matambo	Water Development and Sanitation	MBA
Elvis Nkandu	Information and Media	Diploma, Business Management
Douglas Siyakalima	Skills and Higher Education	MSc, Applied Psychology
Felix C. Mutati	Technology and Science	ACCA; Bachelor of Accountancy
Harry Kamboni	Education	BA Education
Gift S. Sialubalo	Local Government and Rural Development	Not published
Jack J. Mwiimbu	Justice	LLB
Misheck Nyambose	Labour and Social Security	Degree, Human Resource Management
Sheal Mulyata	Community Development and Social Services	Banking certificates
Likando Mufalali	Youth and Sports	Diploma in Management
Chris Chibuye	Culture and Arts	BA, Public Administration
Charles Milupi	Transport and Logistics	Engineer; University College Cardiff
Christopher Kalila	Housing	Medical doctor; degree not published

PROVINCIAL MINISTERS, SWORN IN 28 OCTOBER

Provincial minister	Province	Highest qualification
Mwabashike Nkulukusa	Central	MBA
Emmanuel Kasambo	Copperbelt	Not published
Yamikani Phiri	Eastern	Not published
Lesley Mulwanda	Luapula	Bachelor of Mineral Science
Obvious Mwaliteta	Lusaka	Grade 12
Jairos Simbeye	Muchinga	Grade 12
Wedden Chileshe	Northern	Master's, Development Innovation
Robert Lihefu	North-Western	Bachelor of Business Administration
Edgar Singombe	Southern	Diploma in Legal Studies
Kapelwa A. Mbangweta	Western	BA, Public Administration

WHAT THE LINE-UP SHOWS ON PAPER

Finance is held by a monetary economist, Fisheries and Livestock by an agricultural economist and Electricity by a structural engineer. Mines goes to a social worker by training and Agriculture to a business administration graduate.

Postgraduate training is concentrated in Cabinet: 16 of 28 against two of ten provincial ministers. Two provincial ministers list Grade 12. Sixteen of the 38 sworn in on 14 September and 28 October have held office before.

Qualifications come from public records, mainly National Assembly profiles supplied by members, and have not been checked with awarding institutions.

40 Ministers in office

18 of 38 Postgraduate degree

16 of 38 Held office before

5 of 38 Qualifications not published

PARTNER WITH US

Research, events and public dialogue

We work with companies, banks, universities, NGOs, development agencies and government institutions.

zambianeconomist.com/contact | info@zambianeconomist.com

MEDIA KIT 2026

Know who reads us before you buy

Audience, formats and rates in one download.

zambianeconomist.com/media-kit

NEXT ▶ Page 11 | *Where did the money go? The 2025 audit*

Share: +260 775 574 228

Where did the money go? The 2025 audit, and the people who check it

The Auditor General's report on the 2025 accounts landed in the same month the audit office planned its budget and its next five years, and Parliament chose a new Public Accounts chair.

K3.56bn	K626.64m	27	374 of 947	350
Health ministry arrears, end 2025	Mining penalties uncollected	Audit paragraphs unresolved	Planned boreholes drilled	Internal auditors to certify

AUDIT REPORT | 19 OCTOBER

K3.56bn in health arrears, K626.64m in mining penalties

By The Zambian Economist Analyst

The Auditor General's report on the 2025 accounts carries 27 audit paragraphs still unresolved at 30 September 2026. The Ministry of Health owed K3.56 billion at the end of 2025, and K626.64 million in mining penalty fees remained uncollected at 31 August 2026. Auditors also found farm-input redemptions by inactive or unapproved beneficiaries, and education payroll entries that stations could not account for.

▶READ THE FULL ARTICLE *Click here to continue on our website*

CITIZENS' GUIDE | 19 OCTOBER

Where did our money go?

Independently analysed and simplified by Lubinda Sinyani

Our 26-page downloadable guide translates the report for citizens. Government received K218.4 billion, including borrowing, and spent K216.3 billion. The K2.1 billion cash surplus is not a profit. Staff pay, financial charges and loan principal took about K53 of every K100 spent.

▶READ THE FULL ARTICLE *Click here to continue on our website*

ACCESS TO INFORMATION | 21 OCTOBER

The window to accountability

By Nathan Meleki

The Access to Information Act No. 24 of 2023 gives citizens a legal route to public records. Meleki uses the audit guide to show why it matters: only 374 of 947 planned boreholes were drilled. Requests are made on Form I under the 2025 Regulations, on paper or online.

▶READ THE FULL ARTICLE *Click here to continue on our website*

AUDIT OFFICE | 6 AND 29 OCTOBER

Protect core audit work, then plan five years

By The Zambian Economist Analyst

Acting Auditor General Patricia Malaila told staff to cost realistically and justify every provision so that core audits survive budget limits. On 29 October she opened talks on the 2027 to 2031 Strategic Plan, asking for a SMART plan tied to the Grow Zambia Agenda; Permanent Secretary Alfred Sakwiya asked that it remain a living document.

▶READ THE FULL ARTICLE *Click here to continue on our website*

INTERNAL AUDIT | 8 OCTOBER

350 public auditors to be certified through NIPA

By The Zambian Economist Analyst

Controller of Internal Audit Jamie Mukuwa opened the first five-day course at NIPA. Under Circular No. B4 of 2026, about 350 internal auditors across ministries will follow one professional standard. The first cohort has about 50 officers.

▶READ THE FULL ARTICLE *Click here to continue on our website*

HEALTH | 13 AND 21 OCTOBER

123 officers sent back to stations

By The Zambian Economist Analyst

The Ministry of Health redeployed 123 headquarters officers who were serving outside the approved establishment of 403 posts, about three in ten of that number. Minister Prof. Roma Chilengi later inspected medicines and services at Livingstone University Teaching Hospital; no findings were published.

▶READ THE FULL ARTICLE *Click here to continue on our website*

ENFORCEMENT | 16 AND 21 OCTOBER

Financial crime and a codeine seizure

By The Zambian Economist Analyst

The ACC and Irish Rule of Law International discussed investigation, prosecution and asset recovery capacity. The Drug Enforcement Commission said four people were apprehended in Kazungula and Livingstone over the alleged import of 100 boxes of Benylin with Codeine, and seized two vehicles.

▶READ THE FULL ARTICLE *Click here to continue on our website*

PROCUREMENT AND LAND | 22 OCTOBER

A title deed is a promise kept

By Dr Krisztián Galánthai Fekete

Of about 1.2 million numbered properties, only some 450,000 carry a title deed. The National Land Titling Programme had issued more than 232,000 offer letters by January. A title lets a family defend a plot, pass it on and, in time, borrow against it.

▶READ THE FULL ARTICLE *Click here to continue on our website*

AUDIT GLOSSARY

Four terms in the 2025 report

Arrears Bills that fell due but were not paid

Unresolved paragraph A finding not yet cleared by the ministry

Unaccounted payroll Pay a station cannot match to a worker

Penalty fees Money owed by mines for breaches



Dr Situmbeko Musokotwane takes the oath as Member of Parliament for Liuwa, National Assembly, 8 September 2026. Photo: TheZambianGov / Wikimedia Commons, CC BY 4.0.

Dr Situmbeko Musokotwane: one month, six jobs

UAE deals, budget hearings, an IMF agreement, two Bangkok platforms, a supplementary budget and a budget school. No other official appeared in more of our October stories.

Few officials have seen the Treasury from as many sides. Born on 25 May 1956, Dr Musokotwane trained in economics at UNZA, took a master's in monetary economics at Dar es Salaam and a doctorate at Konstanz. He rose to Deputy Governor of the Bank of Zambia, served as Secretary to the Treasury, was Finance Minister from 2008 to 2011 and returned to the post in 2021, when he led the debt restructuring.

In October he set the terms for almost every economic story we ran. He told the UAE delegation that memoranda count only when they become financed projects. He signed off a budget with K6.9 billion of room, then asked Parliament for K19.9 billion more. Abroad, he argued that borrowing countries need a stronger voice in debt decisions. At home, he told new ministers to know their budgets line by line.

His own measure is production. "Our job now is to produce, produce, produce and export," he said on ZNBC in September. The 2027 Budget on 6 November is the first full test of that line in his second term.



Speaking on the Lobito Corridor, Global Gateway Forum, Brussels, 2023. Photo: Nicolas Landemard / European Union, CC BY 4.0.

HIS OCTOBER

Date	What he did
1 Oct	Tells government ICT staff: 572 services online, K9.78bn collected through digital platforms.
2 Oct	Sets the test for US$2.14bn of UAE MoUs: bankable projects, exports and jobs.
9 Oct	IMF staff-level agreement on a US$1.47bn Extended Credit Facility.
13 Oct	Speaks for African members at the Borrowers' Platform, Bangkok.
14 Oct	Calls for stronger IDA support and private-sector-led growth.
22 Oct	Tables the K19.9bn supplementary; signs a US$6.17m Japanese rail grant.
23 Oct	Puts job-ready technical skills first, citing Thailand.
29 Oct	Budget orientation for new ministers; acting Agriculture Minister on FISP.

> *Our job now is to produce, produce, produce and export, export and export.*
> ZNBC Sunday Interview, 20 September 2026

FACT FILE

Fact	Detail
Born	25 May 1956
Office	Minister of Finance and National Planning
Constituency	Liuwa, Western Province (MP since 2011)
Party	UPND (formerly MMD)
Earlier posts	Deputy Governor, Bank of Zambia; Secretary to the Treasury; Finance Minister 2008 to 2011
Honours	Finance Minister of the Year 2026, African Banker Awards
On his watch	Inflation from 24.4% (Aug 2021) to 6.1% (Sept 2026)

Sources: National Assembly of Zambia; Ministry of Finance and National Planning statements; Zambian Economist reports of 1 to 31 October 2026. This profile describes the public record; it is not an endorsement.

US$1.47bn New IMF programme

K19.9bn Supplementary

58% Tax compliance, end 2025

572 Services online

EVENTS

Hosting an event in Lusaka?

Conferences, launches, expos and workshops: list yours on our events page for K1,000.

zambianeconomist.com/events | +260 775 574 228

From Abu Dhabi to Moscow: a month of asks, deals and seats

Zambia signed memoranda, hosted corridor talks, took a COMESA vice-chair and won a UN seat. The test in every case is what turns into money, trade and jobs.

US$2.14bn	US$28bn	177	US$6.17m	8
UAE memoranda, 29 Sept	Lobito investment openings	UN votes for Zambia	Japanese rail grant	Asks in Moscow

GULF | 1 AND 2 OCTOBER

Back from Abu Dhabi with US$2.14 billion on paper

By The Zambian Economist Analyst

The President returned from his first foreign trip since re-election, dismissing health rumours with one line: "I didn't go to the hospital, I was working." He had also pressed Mopani's Abu Dhabi owner on copper output. An MoU is intent, not capital; the figures to track are financial close and jobs.

▶ READ THE FULL ARTICLE *Click here to continue on our website*

CORRIDORS | 5 OCTOBER

Lobito talks open with a US$28 billion pipeline

By The Zambian Economist Analyst

The Second Lobito Corridor Coordination Meeting brought Angola, the DRC and the World Bank to Lusaka. IFC diagnostics list 118 anchor opportunities worth over US$28 billion. Zambia's planned link to the Angolan line, about 550 km on the Zambian side, has a US$255 million AfDB loan.

▶ READ THE FULL ARTICLE *Click here to continue on our website*

COMESA | 21 AND 22 OCTOBER

Zambia takes the vice-chair and hands over a headquarters plot

By The Zambian Economist Analyst

At the 25th Summit in Harare, Zimbabwe took the chair from Kenya and Zambia became vice-chair. President Hichilema urged the 21 members to trade with each other first, and handed over the title for land for a new COMESA headquarters in Lusaka.

▶ READ THE FULL ARTICLE *Click here to continue on our website*



Signing with EU Commissioner Jutta Urpilainen, Global Gateway Forum, 2023. Photo: European Union, CC BY 4.0.

UNITED NATIONS | 14 OCTOBER

177 votes: the highest tally of 2026

By The Zambian Economist Analyst

Zambia was elected to the Human Rights Council with 177 of 181 votes, against a required 97. Ghana, Nigeria and Burundi took the other African seats. Zambia sits on the 47-member Council from 2027 to 2029.

▶ READ THE FULL ARTICLE *Click here to continue on our website*

RUSSIA-AFRICA SUMMIT | 30 OCTOBER

Haimbe's eight asks in Moscow

By The Zambian Economist Analyst

Standing in for the President, Foreign Minister Mulambo Haimbe invited Russian investment in fertiliser, irrigation and the 10,000 MW goal, said Africa must stop exporting raw materials, and asked for anticipatory climate finance, noting that the 2023/24 drought hit over 9 million Zambians.

▶ READ THE FULL ARTICLE *Click here to continue on our website*

REGION AND PARTNERS | 7 TO 29 OCTOBER

Peace, rail and Germany

By The Zambian Economist Analyst

President Hichilema linked Great Lakes peace to jobs at the ICGLR meeting in Lusaka and congratulated Abiy Ahmed on his re-election in Ethiopia. Japan committed ¥999 million, about US$6.17 million, for railway maintenance equipment. Germany's ambassador reaffirmed support for farming, water and governance, without naming programmes.

▶ READ THE FULL ARTICLE *Click here to continue on our website*

OPINION | 15 OCTOBER

After the money

By The Zambian Economist Analyst

Investment, grants and loans carry different obligations. Foreign finance should leave behind local suppliers, skills and production, not only buildings.

▶ READ THE FULL ARTICLE *Click here to continue on our website*

THE DIPLOMATIC SCORECARD

Event	On the table	What to track
UAE visit	US$2.14bn MoUs	Financial close, jobs
Lobito talks	US$28bn openings	Rail link, cargo volumes
COMESA	Vice-chair; HQ land	Intra-COMESA trade
UN HRC	Seat for 2027 to 2029	Votes and positions
Japan	US$6.17m grant	Equipment delivered
Moscow	Eight asks	Signed projects

DID YOU KNOW?

COMESA HQ is moving to Lusaka

Zambia handed over the title for land on which the 21 member states will build the new COMESA headquarters.

550 km	21	118	3
Zambian side of the Lobito link	COMESA member states	Lobito anchor projects	Summits in one month

NEXT ▶ Page 14 | *El Niño, farms, food and trees*

Share: +260 775 574 228

A super El Niño is coming. October was spent getting ready for it

Inputs, relief food, heat warnings and the state of the rivers: the month's climate reporting, with three pieces from Dr Kelvin Kamayoyo of African Rivers.



FISP 2026/27 as at 22 October. Source: Ministry of Finance and National Planning; percentages calculated from its figures.

FARM INPUTS | 29 OCTOBER

670,371 farmers redeem FISP inputs

By The Zambian Economist Analyst

About 65 per cent of 1,024,434 targeted beneficiaries had collected inputs by 22 October, the Finance Minister told Parliament as acting Agriculture Minister. 805 suppliers were approved from 1,734 applications, and about 600,000 farmers have had climate-smart training.

▶ READ THE FULL ARTICLE *Click here to continue on our website*

RELIEF | 23 OCTOBER

K31.7 million for relief food

By The Zambian Economist Analyst

Government released K31.7 million for relief food in prioritised districts across nine provinces. About 1.25 million people are projected to face crisis or worse food insecurity between October 2026 and March 2027.

▶ READ THE FULL ARTICLE *Click here to continue on our website*

HEAT | 20 OCTOBER

What to do in the heat

By The Zambian Economist Analyst

The Meteorological Department's alert ran from 20 to 24 October. Drink water, avoid strenuous work in the afternoon, and seek medical help for dizziness, confusion or fainting.

▶ READ THE FULL ARTICLE *Click here to continue on our website*

OPINION | 21 OCTOBER

Super El Niño makes African cities sweat

Analysis by Dr Kelvin Kamayoyo

The WMO reported on 8 October that the Pacific is heading for a super El Niño, with the Niño 3.4 anomaly projected near plus 3.7 degrees. Deforested cities can run 5 to 7 degrees hotter than vegetated surroundings, Kamayoyo writes.

▶ READ THE FULL ARTICLE *Click here to continue on our website*

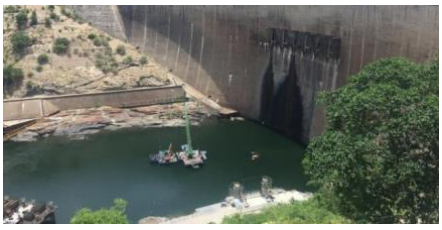
RIVERS | 4 OCTOBER

The poisoning of world rivers

Analysis by Dr Kelvin Kamayoyo

Low flows on the Zambezi, Kafue and Luangwa would hit hydropower and rural water at once. Small-scale gold mining releases about 1,400 tonnes of mercury a year.

▶ READ THE FULL ARTICLE *Click here to continue on our website*



Kariba Dam on the Zambezi. Hydropower supplies about 85% of generating capacity. Illustrative photograph.

OPINION | 24 AND 25 OCTOBER

War, El Niño and Grand Inga

By Dr Kelvin Kamayoyo

Kamayoyo proposes a 30-day global ceasefire with savings sent to El Niño response. In a second piece he warns that Grand Inga's 42,000 MW is potential, not supply; the World Bank's US$1 billion Inga 3 programme is rated high risk, and Zambia cannot wait for it.

▶ READ THE FULL ARTICLE *Click here to continue on our website*

TREES | 3 AND 18 OCTOBER

Trees are the nerves of the planet

By Dr Kelvin Kamayoyo

FAO puts deforestation at 10.9 million hectares a year in 2015 to 2025. Trees protect soils and pollinators that food production depends on.

▶ READ THE FULL ARTICLE *Click here to continue on our website*

PRACTICAL FARMING | 14 OCTOBER

Six brushcutter mistakes

By The Zambian Economist Analyst

Fit the attachment to the growth, buy a machine slightly above your lightest regular job, and walk the ground first: hidden stones and wire wreck blades.

▶ READ THE FULL ARTICLE *Click here to continue on our website*

ENERGY AND YOUTH | 14 AND 15 OCTOBER

Hydro symposium and e-waste skills

By The Zambian Economist Analyst

Zambia pledged support for the 36th African Hydro Symposium in Addis Ababa, 3 to 6 November. Airtel donated e-waste for a Japan-funded ILO course targeting 100 young people in Central Province.

▶ READ THE FULL ARTICLE *Click here to continue on our website*

A new Mayor, a cleared CBD and a tourism sector that knows its risks

Lusaka installed Chitambala Mwewa, cleared vendors from its streets and pitched itself in Busan. Our tourism research found most operators have no written crisis plan.

CITY HALL | 1 TO 7 OCTOBER

Mwewa sworn in, installed and on the street

By The Zambian Economist Analyst

Operation Clear Path, run by the council and police, began moving street vendors and bus drivers out of unauthorised CBD spots on 3 October. The Mayor linked it to public health, with 130 cholera cases in the district. On 7 October Mwewa, who won with 200,029 votes, 4,988 ahead of Gabriel Kibombwe, was sworn in before the Chief Resident Magistrate and installed that afternoon. He listed nine priorities led by waste, drainage and roads.

▶ READ THE FULL ARTICLE *Click here to continue on our website*

BUSAN | 26 OCTOBER

Lusaka sells itself abroad

By The Zambian Economist Analyst

At the Global City Tourism Summit in South Korea, the Mayor sought smart city, waste-to-value and digital marketing partners and said Lusaka, a city of about 3.1 million, should stop being a stopover. The test is at home: budgets for waste, toilets, parks and shade.

▶ READ THE FULL ARTICLE *Click here to continue on our website*

TRAFFIC | 25 OCTOBER

Great East Road diversion to 12 November

By The Zambian Economist Analyst

The Chongwe-bound lanes between the Levy Mwanawasa and Hybrid roundabouts are closed for the Mumana culvert works. Use Hybrid Road and Lubwe Road.

▶ READ THE FULL ARTICLE *Click here to continue on our website*



Mosi-oa-Tunya, the Victoria Falls.

RESEARCH | 27 AND 28 OCTOBER

Tourism knows its risks. Few operators have a plan

By Dr Bruce Ernest, University of Zambia

A study of 137 stakeholders with Norman Kachamba and Chaste Nsama found crisis awareness at 4.58 out of five but preparedness at 2.98. Only 23 per cent of domestic private operators and 12 per cent of community-based tourism groups have a written crisis plan. In 2020 international arrivals fell 75 per cent.

The authors propose a Zambia Crisis Management and Resilience Model with an SMS early-warning system, a resilience fund and a coordination centre. A companion study on who takes charge rests on 46 respondents and is not statistically conclusive; it identifies concerns, not settled answers.

▶ READ THE FULL ARTICLE *Click here to continue on our website*



Source: Ernest, Kachamba and Nsama (2026), Science Mundi.

LAND | 30 OCTOBER

HH and Chieftainess Nkomeshya on a 1958 boundary

By The Zambian Economist Analyst

In Chongwe the Soli leader raised boundary disputes dating to colonial demarcation and a chiefdom split across councils. The President directed that chiefs in such cases may nominate proxies to attend council meetings.

▶ READ THE FULL ARTICLE *Click here to continue on our website*

DIVERSION AT A GLANCE

Great East Road

Closed Chongwe-bound lanes, Levy Mwanawasa to Hybrid roundabouts
Dates 26 October to 12 November
Use Hybrid Road and Lubwe Road, Kaunda Square
Plan Allow extra time for journeys

3.1m Lusaka population, est.

137 Tourism stakeholders surveyed

12 Nov Great East Road reopens

200,029 Votes for the Mayor

EVENTS

Hosting an event in Lusaka?

Conferences, launches, expos and workshops: list yours on our events page for K1,000.
zambianeconomist.com/events | +260 775 574 228

NEXT ▶ Page 16 | *Zambia at 62 and our communities*

Share: +260 775 574 228

From stabilisation to growth: a self-funded Independence

Cabinet Office asked for an Independence Week run on available resources. The President used it to name the sectors where he wants measurable gains.



The Freedom Statue in Lusaka, where wreaths were laid on 24 October.

INDEPENDENCE | 12 OCTOBER

A week told to do more with less

By The Zambian Economist Analyst

Cabinet Office Circular Minute No. 29 of 2026 set the theme "Zambia@62: Our Journey, Our Growth, Our Future" and asked that Independence Week, 17 to 23 October, be run within available resources and what communities raise: cleaning schools and markets, donating food and books, planting trees.

▶READ THE FULL ARTICLE *Click here to continue on our website*

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE | 23 AND 24 OCTOBER

Six sectors, no new numbers

By The Zambian Economist Analyst

On Independence Eve the President said the Grow Zambia Agenda moves the country from stabilisation to accelerated growth. He named the freedom generation, from Kenneth Kaunda and Harry Nkumbula to Mama Julia Chikamoneka and Mama Betty Chilombo Chilunga, and listed maize, wheat, copper, electricity, tourists and exports. He gave no figures. On the day he laid wreaths and decorated citizens at State House.

▶READ THE FULL ARTICLE *Click here to continue on our website*

CENTRAL BANK | 25 OCTOBER

Kalyalya: resources must become jobs

By The Zambian Economist Analyst

Governor Denny Kalyalya, reflecting on Bangkok, called for "a goal-getting society". The useful test, our analysis argues, follows a project past disbursement: is it working, and did it create lasting work?

▶READ THE FULL ARTICLE *Click here to continue on our website*

LITERACY | 27 OCTOBER

Books for Mansa

By The Zambian Economist Analyst

The Library Development Foundation donated books to the Luapula Provincial Library STEM Study Hub and Kombaniya Secondary School, with the rest going to Mansa Secondary School. LDF, registered in 2022, plans a five-year civic and literacy programme.

▶READ THE FULL ARTICLE *Click here to continue on our website*



The handover at the Luapula Provincial Library in Mansa.

DONATION | 30 OCTOBER

200 hospital beds and 200 sewing machines

By The Zambian Economist Analyst

Five members of the Chinese Chamber of Commerce in Zambia funded the gift to the Office of the First Lady, for hospitals and cooperatives not yet supported.

▶READ THE FULL ARTICLE *Click here to continue on our website*

INFORMATION | 29 OCTOBER

Nkandu wants wider reach for government information

By The Zambian Economist Analyst

The new Information Minister asked staff to take policy to more citizens. New laws replacing the IBA and ZNBC Acts await commencement orders.

▶READ THE FULL ARTICLE *Click here to continue on our website*

COMMENTARY | 23 OCTOBER

Our independence, our shared responsibility

By The Zambian Economist Analyst

Sixty-two years on, the commemorative message asked citizens to mark independence through service: cleaning, giving and planting.

▶READ THE FULL ARTICLE *Click here to continue on our website*

> *"Let us turn our freedom into opportunity and our collective efforts into lasting progress.*
> President Hakainde Hichilema, 24 October 2026

HONOURED ON INDEPENDENCE EVE

The freedom generation

Kenneth Kaunda, Harry Nkumbula, Simon Kapwepwe, Alexander Grey Zulu, Humphrey Mulemba, Nalumino Mundia, Mama Julia Chikamoneka and Mama Betty Chilombo Chilunga.

62 Years of independence

3 Schools and libraries in Mansa

200 Hospital beds donated

24 Oct Investiture at State House

FREE EVERY FRIDAY

Follow the Grow Zambia targets with The Ledger

Our weekly briefing tracks the numbers behind the agenda, from maize and copper to megawatts.

Subscribe free at zambianeconomist.com/subscribe

Beyond growth: what development should deliver at the dispensary counter

A pharmacy student closed our month with the question every budget has to answer. Elsewhere, the Economics Association of Zambia spent October building partnerships.

STUDENT CONTRIBUTOR | 31 OCTOBER

Beyond economic growth

By Meamui Mwendaweli

Real GDP grew 3.8 per cent in both 2024 and 2025, by preliminary ZamStats estimates. The World Bank estimated that 64.3 per cent of Zambians lived on under US$2.15 a day in 2022, and in Afrobarometer's 2024 survey 73 per cent rated the economy fairly or very bad. Health spending rose from K24.9 billion in 2022 to K32.3 billion in 2024, yet current health spending per person fell from about US$72 to US$56 as the kwacha weakened.

Growth reaches people, Mwendaweli argues, only when it becomes affordable essentials, reliable services and decent work.

▶ READ THE FULL ARTICLE *Click here to continue on our website*

OPINION | 23 OCTOBER

Aliko Dangote must emulate Alfred Nobel

By Dr Kelvin Kamayoyo

Nobel left about 94 per cent of his estate to an endowment that still funds the prizes. Kamayoyo proposes a perpetual Dangote Prize for African innovation that would outlast any refinery.

▶ READ THE FULL ARTICLE *Click here to continue on our website*

THE EAZ MONTH

Date	Engagement
2 Oct	Bank of Zambia: joint research and literacy
5 Oct	FNB Zambia: post-budget dinner and a proposed MoU
12 Oct	Statement backing the IMF deal
13 Oct	Uganda economists: joint outlook and a shadow MPC
15 Oct	HLB Tax Indaba: clear rules, fair treatment
21 Oct	Student Spotlight launched
27 Oct	British High Commission: joint research and UK expert forums

THE NUMBER BEHIND THE ESSAY

Health spending per person fell

2022 about US$72 per person
2024 about US$56 per person
Why Total spending rose in kwacha, but the kwacha weakened

OUR OCTOBER CONTRIBUTORS



Lubinda Sinyani
Economist and governance specialist. CDF, the kwacha, thirty ministries and the audit guide. His views are his own and not those of the Emoluments Commission.



Dr Kelvin Kamayoyo
Technical Advisor, African Rivers. Six pieces on El Niño, rivers, trees, Grand Inga and philanthropy.



Chiti Mulenga Bwalya
Ndola. Metallurgy and economics; October fuel prices and December VAT.



Dr Bruce Ernest
University of Zambia. Two studies on tourism crisis readiness.



Meamui Mwendaweli
Student contributor and pharmacy student. What growth should deliver for ordinary households.

Also writing for us in October

Kelvin Chisanga (fuel, kwacha, bonds, CDF, mining) · Nathan Meleki (pay, informal work, Grow Zambia, access to information) · Lewis Chingi (reserved seats) · Dr Krisztián Galánthai Fekete (land titling)

Write for us:
zambianeconomist.com/submit-article

9 Contributors this month

1 Student essay

7 EAZ engagements

108 Stories in October

WRITE FOR US

Have an argument the economy needs to hear?

We publish analysis from economists, students, researchers and practitioners.

zambianeconomist.com/submit-article

PARTNER WITH US

Research, events and public dialogue

We work with companies, banks, universities, NGOs, development agencies and government institutions.

zambianeconomist.com/contact | info@zambianeconomist.com

YOUR BRAND HERE

Advertise in the monthly edition

Reach readers who follow the budget, the kwacha and the markets. From K1,500 for 30 days.

zambianeconomist.com/advertise | +260 775 574 228

NEXT ▶ Page 18 | *October in pictures: the month's events*

Share: +260 775 574 228

The month in nine frames

From a cleared CBD to a full Cabinet: the events behind our October stories, in the order they happened. Tap any caption to read the full article.



3 OCT

Operation Clear Path

Mayor Chitambala Mwewa briefs the press as council and police begin clearing street vending from the Lusaka CBD.

▶ READ THE STORY



5 OCT

Lobito Corridor talks

President Hichilema with delegates at the Second Lobito Corridor Coordination Meeting, InterContinental Lusaka.

▶ READ THE STORY



7 OCT

Budget Hearings open

Secretary to the Treasury Felix Nkulukusa tells ministries that only K6.9 billion is free in 2027.

▶ READ THE STORY



7 OCT

A new Mayor for Lusaka

Chitambala Mwewa is sworn in before the Chief Resident Magistrate and installed the same afternoon.

▶ READ THE STORY



22 OCT

COMESA in Harare

President Hichilema hands President Mnangagwa the title for the new COMESA headquarters in Lusaka.

▶ READ THE STORY



24 OCT

Zambia at 62

The Freedom Statue on Independence Avenue, where the President laid wreaths on Independence Day.

▶ READ THE STORY



27 OCT

Books for Mansa

LDF hands over books at the Luapula Provincial Library STEM Study Hub in Mansa.

▶ READ THE STORY



28 OCT

A full Cabinet

President Hichilema swears in 24 Cabinet and ten provincial ministers at State House. File photograph.

▶ READ THE STORY



29 OCT

A new Information Minister

Elvis Nkandu meets management and staff at the Ministry of Information and Media.

▶ READ THE STORY

9 Events in pictures

3 to 29 Oct From Clear Path to Cabinet

Tap Captions link to stories

Share +260 775 574 228

SEND US YOUR PICTURES

Were you at an event this month?

Share your photos of launches, conferences and community events for next month's gallery. Credit is given to every photographer.

WhatsApp +260 775 574 228 | info@zambianeconomist.com

NEXT ▶ Page 19 | *October in numbers and dates to watch*

Share: +260 775 574 228

Read the figures with their dates and sources

Targets are not results, memoranda are not money, and a national average is not a household budget.

Figure	Measure	Source and note
US$1.47bn	IMF Extended Credit Facility, staff level	9 October; Board approval pending
K271.9bn	2027 resource envelope	Budget Hearings, 7 October
K6.9bn	Free for other programmes in 2027	After commitments
K19.9bn	Second supplementary budget of 2026	K14.7bn for FRA maize farmers
2.7m t	Maize bought by the FRA	Against a 500,000 t target
K12.1bn	Revenue and grants shortfall, H1 2026	MoFNP Q2 Economic Review
K31.46 / K33.27	Petrol / diesel per litre	ERB, from 1 October; about +24%
K20.11	BoZ mid-rate, 23 October	Touched 21 intraday on 6 October
10.75%	Policy rate	After the 30 September cut
6.1%	Annual inflation, September	Lowest since February 2018
226 + 40	Constituency and reserved seats	14th National Assembly
30	Ministries	Up from 25; all filled by 29 October
US$28bn	Lobito investment openings	IFC, 118 anchor projects
US$2.14bn	UAE memoranda	Intent, not committed capital
177 of 181	UN Human Rights Council votes	2027 to 2029 term
K3.56bn	Health ministry arrears, end 2025	Auditor General, 2025 accounts
670,371	Farmers who redeemed FISP inputs	About 65% of target, 22 October
1.25m	People facing crisis-level food insecurity	October 2026 to March 2027
250,000	Mining jobs targeted by 2031	Direct and indirect; baseline about 56,000
K806.1m	Q4 school grants	Completes 2026 funding
4.58 / 2.98	Tourism crisis awareness / preparedness	UNZA study, out of five

DATES TO WATCH IN NOVEMBER

3 to 6 Nov African Hydro Symposium, Addis Ababa
5 Nov Mandevu parliamentary by-election
6 Nov 2027 National Budget presented
12 Nov Great East Road lanes due to reopen
20 Nov Bond auction, first with the 20-year tenor
25 to 26 Nov Monetary Policy Committee meets
November EAZ Post-Budget Analysis Dinner
1 Dec VAT on fuel scheduled to return

Sources

Ministry of Finance and National Planning statements, Budget Hearings, Q1 and Q2 2026 Economic Reviews and supplementary estimates; IMF staff statement of 9 October; ERB price review of 30 September; Bank of Zambia rates and MPC statement; Zambia Statistics Agency; Auditor General's reports on the 2024 CDF and the 2025 accounts; National Assembly of Zambia; State House and Cabinet Office statements; World Bank and IFC; Electoral Commission of Zambia; Ernest, Kachamba and Nsama (2026).

Full articles: zambianeconomist.com/news

6 Nov Budget Day | **5 Nov** Mandevu by-election | **25 Nov** MPC meets | **1 Dec** VAT on fuel returns

FREE EVERY FRIDAY
Follow the Grow Zambia targets with The Ledger
Our weekly briefing tracks the numbers behind the agenda, from maize and copper to megawatts.
Subscribe free at zambianeconomist.com/subscribe

WEEKLY AND MONTHLY EDITIONS
Read every past edition free
Download the PDF, share it with your groups, and catch up on the stories you missed.
zambianeconomist.com/weekly-edition

MEDIA KIT 2026
Know who reads us before you buy
Audience, formats and rates in one download.
zambianeconomist.com/media-kit

NEXT ▶ Page 20 | *Every story in this edition* Share: +260 775 574 228

All 108 stories, 1 to 31 October 2026

In order of publication. Every one is free to read in full at zambianeconomist.com.

01 Oct Fuel price shock hits Zambia's pump stations, carrying multi-layer effects
01 Oct Musokotwane to Government ICT staff: 572 services online, K9.78 billion collected
01 Oct "I didn't go to the hospital, I was working": Hichilema dismisses health rumours
01 Oct Operation Clear Path: LCC and Police to remove street vendors from Lusaka CBD
02 Oct Hichilema returns from Abu Dhabi as Musokotwane sets the test for US$2.14bn UAE deals
02 Oct EAZ pays courtesy call on the Bank of Zambia
03 Oct Trees are nerves of planet Earth
04 Oct The looming super El Niño and the poisoning of world rivers
05 Oct Zambia's new 20-year government bond: a deeper capital market test
05 Oct Lobito Corridor talks open in Lusaka with a US$28 billion investment pipeline
05 Oct EAZ courts FNB Zambia for post-budget dinner support and a formal partnership
06 Oct The formation Zambia has drawn for growth
06 Oct Acting Auditor General Malaila calls for prudent budgeting to protect core audit work
07 Oct Zambia's 2027 Budget: K271.9 billion to spend, but only K6.9 billion left for other programmes
07 Oct Hichilema congratulates Abiy Ahmed on re-election as Ethiopia's Prime Minister
07 Oct Chitambala Mwewa sworn in as Lusaka Mayor ahead of afternoon installation
07 Oct Mwewa installed as Lusaka Mayor, puts waste, drainage and roads at the top of his list
08 Oct Zambia moves to standardise internal audit: 350 public auditors to be certified through NIPA
08 Oct The kwacha's October slide: why copper dollars are not enough
08 Oct Is CDF money reaching small farmers and students?
08 Oct The K700 question: is Zambia's salary increase making a difference?
09 Oct Hichilema opens Zambia's largest Parliament today. Here is what the economy needs to hear
09 Oct Grow Zambia Agenda: the eight numbers behind the plan to double Zambia's economy
10 Oct Forty seats, many questions: a close reading of Zambia's new reserved-seat rules
11 Oct The ECZ says no seats were stolen. Here is the arithmetic behind the argument
12 Oct Zambia goes to Bangkok with a US$1.47 billion question
12 Oct K806.1 million released for school grants, completing Zambia's 2026 funding
12 Oct EAZ backs US$1.5 billion IMF deal, wants Treasury to leave room for private borrowers
12 Oct Zambia@62: a self-funded Independence Week for an economy told to do more with less
13 Oct Musokotwane calls for stronger African voice in global debt decisions
13 Oct EAZ opens partnership talks with Uganda economists on joint outlooks and a shadow MPC
13 Oct Ministry of Health sends 123 headquarters officers back to their stations
14 Oct 177 votes: Zambia wins UN Human Rights Council seat with the highest tally of 2026
14 Oct Ngambela Mukela Manyando retires; BRE says he was not fired
14 Oct Six brushcutter mistakes that waste fuel, blades and labour on Zambian farms
14 Oct ECZ inspects Mandevu polling centres ahead of 5 November by-election
14 Oct Government, Airtel back e-waste skills drive for young Zambians
14 Oct Musokotwane urges stronger IDA support and private-sector-led growth in Africa
14 Oct Emoluments Commission and ZESCO discuss fair, sustainable pay structures
15 Oct ECZ defends PR seat redistribution, cites seven-day party-list rule
15 Oct Zambia's manufacturing vision: turning local production into jobs and exports
15 Oct Zambia backs preparations for African Hydro Symposium on climate resilience
15 Oct After the money: what foreign funding should leave behind in Zambia
15 Oct EAZ urges clear tax rules and measurable reforms at HLB Tax Indaba
15 Oct Grow Zambia: World Bank talks focus on farm markets, transport and jobs
16 Oct Zambia targets 10,000MW as Government pushes electric-vehicle procurement
16 Oct ACC and Irish Rule of Law International discuss financial-crime capacity
16 Oct Police say Emmanuel Jay Banda apprehended, awaiting formal arrest and charging
18 Oct Rising fuel prices squeeze Zambia's informal workers' income
18 Oct Zambia's mining revolution must begin with local businesses, value addition and jobs
18 Oct Why the money finishes before the month ends: the economics of getting by
18 Oct Zambia targets 250,000 jobs by 2031 under World Bank minerals compact
18 Oct Without trees, Zambia's food security and livelihoods are at risk
19 Oct Zambia congratulates Thailand, IMF and World Bank on successful Annual Meetings
19 Oct Hichilema links Great Lakes peace to jobs and regional growth
19 Oct Zambia's 2025 audit: K3.56bn in health arrears and K626.64m in uncollected mining penalties
19 Oct Where did our money go? A citizens' guide to Zambia's 2025 audit
20 Oct Hichilema backs US$1.6bn UCF expansion as company targets 10,000 direct jobs
20 Oct Zambia's heat alert: what households, outdoor workers and farmers should do
21 Oct ZAFFICO targets 100,000 hectares as forest out-grower partnerships come into focus
21 Oct DEC says four apprehended over alleged importation of 100 boxes of Benylin with Codeine
21 Oct Hichilema heads to Harare for 25th COMESA Summit as Zimbabwe takes the chair
21 Oct EAZ Student Spotlight invites Zambia's campus talent to step forward
21 Oct Chilengi checks Livingstone hospital's medicines and patient services
21 Oct Kangombe returns to Energy, Water and Tourism Committee, this time as a member
21 Oct Kawina takes the chair at Public Accounts Committee, succeeding Mwambazi
21 Oct Super El Niño makes African cities sweat
21 Oct The window to accountability: how the Access to Information Act empowers citizens
21 Oct Sabao re-elected Deputy Chairperson of Public Accounts Committee, unopposed
22 Oct Hichilema reappoints seven-member presidential advisory team
22 Oct Hichilema takes Grow Zambia Agenda to 25th COMESA Summit in Harare
22 Oct A title deed is a promise kept: Zambia's land titling push and the people behind it
22 Oct Zambia secures US$6.17 million Japanese grant to support railway revival
22 Oct Musokotwane seeks K19.9 billion supplementary budget, with K14.7 billion for FRA maize farmers
22 Oct Hichilema returns from COMESA Summit as vice-chair, hands over title for new headquarters
23 Oct Our independence, our shared responsibility: Zambia at 62
23 Oct Aliko Dangote must emulate Alfred Nobel
23 Oct Zambia targets practical skills and jobs, drawing lessons from Thailand
23 Oct Zambia disburses K31.7 million for food relief ahead of El Niño
24 Oct Zambia at 62: celebrate Independence Day with ZE's Special Edition
24 Oct Zambia at 62: Hichilema calls for shift from stabilisation to growth
24 Oct The world at war with itself and defenceless against Super El Niño 2026-2027
24 Oct Zambia at 62: Hichilema honours citizens, calls for freedom to become opportunity
25 Oct Kalyalya: Zambia must turn its resources into jobs and better livelihoods
25 Oct Great East Road: Chongwe-bound section to close from 26 October
25 Oct Grand Inga: can the Congo River help close Africa's power deficit?
26 Oct What decides where the kwacha closes each day?
26 Oct HH seeks Parliament's approval to create, merge and dissolve ministries
26 Oct Lusaka Mayor seeks smart city partnerships at Busan tourism summit
26 Oct Lusaka Mayor takes city tourism pitch to global summit in Busan
27 Oct Thirty ministries, eight targets: what Zambia should demand in return
27 Oct Budget 2027: a bigger envelope with only K6.9 billion of room
27 Oct Why Zambia's October fuel prices rose, and what December could bring
27 Oct EAZ pays courtesy call on British High Commission, proposes joint research
27 Oct Zambia's tourism sector knows its risks. Most operators have no plan for them
27 Oct Books for Mansa: LDF donates to Luapula Provincial Library and Kombaniya Secondary School
28 Oct Zambia's tourism crisis plans have a coordination problem
28 Oct Hichilema swears in newly appointed ministers at State House
29 Oct 670,371 farmers redeem FISP inputs as Zambia prepares for El Niño
29 Oct Nkandu calls for wider reach of Government information
29 Oct Zambia and Germany line up cooperation behind Grow Zambia Agenda
29 Oct Five years, one mission: OAG opens 2027-2031 Strategic Plan talks
29 Oct Line by line: Musokotwane sends new ministers to budget school ahead of 6 November
30 Oct Chinese Chamber donates 200 hospital beds and 200 sewing machines to First Lady's Office
30 Oct Plan-Service-Build-Occupy: how Zambia's new Housing Ministry can fix urban chaos
30 Oct Hichilema meets Chieftainess Nkomeshya, pledges to fix 1958 boundary dispute
30 Oct Zambia at the Russia-Africa Summit 2026: Haimbe's eight asks in Moscow
31 Oct Beyond economic growth: what should Zambia's development deliver for ordinary citizens?

Click Every title links to its article

108 Stories listed

31 Days of October

Free Every edition online

WRITE FOR US

Have an argument the economy needs to hear?

We publish analysis from economists, students, researchers and practitioners.

zambianeconomist.com/submit-article

WEEKLY AND MONTHLY EDITIONS

Read every past edition free

Download the PDF, share it with your groups, and catch up on the stories you missed.

zambianeconomist.com/weekly-edition

NEXT ▶ Page 21 | *Our partners and advertisers*

Share: +260 775 574 228

Our partners and advertisers

Businesses that keep this edition free to read. Advertising is separate from editorial opinion.



FEATURED PARTNER | EVENTS VENUE

Ferngrove Lodge

Events Centre | Kasupe, Lusaka West

Plan your next board meeting, workshop or post-budget briefing in a modern, fully equipped venue.

- Conference room set for productive meetings
- Space for corporate engagements and training
- Quiet setting away from the city centre

☎ **Bookings +260 979 045 193**

✉ **reservations@ferngrovelodge.com** ⌂ **www.ferngrovelodge.com**

ADVERTISEMENT

MELO FOODS



Bring the kitchen to your celebration

MOBILE FOOD TRUCK FOR HIRE

Private events • Weddings • Birthdays
Corporate functions • Outdoor catering

Freshly prepared meals at your venue.

BOOK YOUR DATE
+260 772 021 109
events@melo.events
facebook.com/melofoodszambia

ADVERTISEMENT

MELOHOSTS



A stronger home for your website

NVMe hosting • Free SSL
Business email • Domain registration
24/7 local support

Shared hosting from K69/month
VPS from K349/month

+260 965 616 873
info@melohosts.com
melohost.com

Listed prices at 16 October. See website for terms.

BUSINESS SOFTWARE

PeopleVanta

Big ambitions? Make room for growth.

People, payroll and daily operations in one secure workspace built for Zambian businesses.

- ✓ Staff records, attendance, leave
- ✓ Payslips with PAYE, NAPSA, NHIMA
- ✓ Clients, projects and deadlines
- ✓ Kwacha invoices and expenses
- ✓ Mobile money via Melo Pay

START FREE

www.peoplevanta.com

THIS SPACE IS AVAILABLE

Your advert could sit here next month.

Book now: +260 775 574 228

YOUR BRAND HERE

Put your business in front of readers who follow the budget, the kwacha and the markets. Our monthly edition stays in circulation all month.

☎ **+260 775 574 228**
info@zambianeconomist.com
zambianeconomist.com/advertise

K1,500	K4,500	K1,350	K600	K1,000
STARTER · for 30 days	GROWTH · for 30 days, most booked	FEATURED LISTING · a year	DIRECTORY · a year	EVENT LISTING · per event

THE LEDGER | FREE EVERY FRIDAY

Follow the Grow Zambia targets with us

Every Friday The Ledger tracks the numbers behind the agenda, from maize and copper to megawatts.

Subscribe free: zambianeconomist.com/subscribe

WEEKLY AND MONTHLY EDITIONS

Download every edition free

Weekly editions every Friday, and a monthly edition at the start of each month. Share them with your groups.

zambianeconomist.com/weekly-edition

WARNING! All rights reserved. This material and all other digital content on this website may not be reproduced, published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed, in whole or in part, without the prior express permission of The Zambian Economist. Where permission is granted, the content must be clearly credited to "The Zambian Economist", with www.zambianeconomist.com prominently displayed. Stories in this edition are condensed from articles published on zambianeconomist.com between 1 and 31 October 2026. WhatsApp: +260 775 574 228 | Email: info@zambianeconomist.com | © 2026 The Zambian Economist.

Work With The Zambian Economist: Advertise With Us | List With Us | Submit an Article | Subscribe to The Ledger: zambianeconomist.com/subscribe