



Modalities yet to be fully implemented to operationalise ATI Act – Info Ministry

By Mubanga Mubanga

Government is not deliberately delaying to operationalise the Access to Information Bill, Ministry of Information Director Morden Mayembe has said.

(To page 2)

No.87 K10 Monday, April 22-23, 2024 www.dailyrevelationzambia.com

## You can't stop HH from going anywhere...

# BAROTSE ACTIVISTS

# ACTIONS SEDITIONOUS

## – IG

### ... We will open an inquiry file against them

By Staff Reporter

Inspector General of Police Graphael Musamba says police will open an inquiry file against the Barotse activists as their actions of telling President Hakainde Hichilema against travelling to Western Province amounted to sedition.

(To page 2)

## People can choose their own friends they want - Mpezeni



By Patson Chilemba

Paramount chief of the Ngoni people of Eastern Province, Mpezeni says anyone has the right to choose their own friends they want.

(To page 2)

Paramount Chief Mpezeni of the Ngoni people

## I must justify why I'm President -

### Hichilema

By Agness Changala

I must justify why I'm President through my performance, say President Hakainde Hichilema.

(To page 2)



The Litunga, King of the Lozi people with Paramount chief of the Bemba people Chitimukuku during the recently held Kuomboka traditional ceremony in Mongu





# I must justify why I'm President - Hichilema

(From front page)

And President Hichilema said he was very happy to attend the 2024 Kuomboka Ceremony as an ordinary guest.

Speaking when he attended a service at a Roman Catholic Church in Mongu yesterday, President Hichilema challenged himself and those in government to work hard.

"This President here must justify why he is a servant of the people out of 20 million Zambians. We must work hard, be responsible and fair," he said.

In his homily Bishop Evans Chinyemba said the whole world was praying for vocations.

Bishop Chinyemba said part of the prayer for vocations was the experience of good leadership that the Church

would like to see happening in the country.

He said the work of the Church was to pray for anyone who was in the position of authority so that the Lord would protect them and give them wisdom to respond to situations that the nation could face.

President Hichilema's attendance of the Kuomboka Traditional Ceremony faced opposition from the Barotse Royal Establishment (BRE) and the opposition who urged him to stay away from the event as they anticipated confusion.

But the President insisted on travelling and attended the event on Saturday.

President Hichilema said he didn't have to attend the event as a guest of honor.

"I was very happy yesterday to be an ordinary guest at the Kuomboka where I have been for 30 years also. I don't have to be a guest of honour. We are servants of the people but my message is simple. We have a duty to do what is right," President Hichilema said.

On Saturday, President Hichilema attended the Kuomboka Traditional Ceremony despite not being the guest of honour.

During the time there were calls for him to stay from the event, State House argued that the President always attended such events while respecting the standing of the Litunga and guest of honor Chitimukulu.

The Kuta and the Barotse Youth Alliance had expressed their disapproval of the

President attending the event, with groupings such as the United Kwacha Alliance (UKA) saying that the situation was likely to escalate into possible chaos that might have led to violence.

Earlier, President Hichilema said climate change was here to stay and urged all leaders beginning at family level to work hard for their families and the nation at large.

The President said the few people who were privileged to serve the public among the 20 million Zambians must justify their service.



## People can choose their own friends they want - Mpezeni

(From front page)

Speaking on the new traditional cousinship between the Bembas and the Lozis accepted by Paramount chief Chitimukulu during the Kuomboka traditional

ceremony over the weekend, Mpezeni said he could not create any cousinship.

On the Bemba and Lozi cousinship, Mpezeni said: "Yayi pitilizani ukazeni. Pitilizani (Continue with that cousinship. Continue)."

Asked if he thought the new cousinship could hold, Mpezeni said: "Kaili mwamene anavi onela beve (That's how they looked at it themselves). Kaili ali ense alinamuzake wamene wafuna. Sure (Each one can choose their own friends they want. Sure)."

But asked if he was envious, Mpezeni said in

fact he was happy with the new arrangement.

And speaking on the recent delegation which was sent to him from Zimbabwe by that country's President to trace the roots of the Ndebele chief Lobengula who died in Chipata, and who like the Ngonis migrated from South Africa, Mpezeni said if they were aiming to start their own traditional ceremony in Zimbabwe, he would travel there "kaili niba Ngoni anzatu baja. Ndise bantu amozi (Those are our fellow Ngonis. We are one people)."

## Modalities yet to be fully implemented to operationalise ATI Act – Info Ministry

(From front page)

Reacting to calls by the Coalition on Access to Information who demanded that government immediately operationalise the ATI Bill, Mayembe said the delay was due to the legal issues which needed to be sorted out before it was operationalised

"So what is going on is we are doing the guidelines, the rules and the regulations. If you check the Act ... if you check section 38, 39 and 40. It requires that those should be in place and those are not done by the Ministry of Information alone. We just participate, as you know all the legal issues are done by the Ministry of Justice, so the Ministry of Justice are the ones now to help us in that team that the PS (Permanent Secretary) has put ... has put together. There is someone from the Ministry of Justice, three people from the Human Rights Commission, you know how the Human Rights Commission comes in? It is going to provide oversight, if you are not given information then you report to the Human Rights Commission. So they are very much part of it," Mayembe explained.

"Then if the Human Rights Commission does not help you then you have a right to go to court. So when you go to court, there are court rules there that should be able to guide the court. So the Judiciary is also on board to help us with the court rules. So it is when we have done those processes ... because even the form if you check section 10, it requires the person requesting for

information to use a form. So that form will be part of the regulations, it is not there. So that is why you can't use that Act now because those things are not there."

Mayembe said if the Coalition on Access to

Information wanted to know the progress on the operationalisation of the ATI Bill, they would have gotten in touch with his Ministry.

"In fact if the coalition was helpful they could have even come to the Ministry

## Info Ministry

and say where are you? How can we help you? They could have even helped to put that team together," said Mayembe.

# Barotse activists' actions seditious – IG

(From front page)

And Musamba said he treats whatever proceeds from the mouth of Emmanuel Mwamba with a pinch of salt, as he rarely tells the truth and is full of innuendos, when asked on Mwamba's assertions that police failed to arrest UPND officials Charles Milupi, Obvious Mwaliteta and Gilbert Liswaniso for advocating violence.

Speaking with *Daily Revelation*, Musamba said the Barotse youth activists went beyond by telling President Hichilema not to go to Western Province as that bordered on sedition.

"You know that borders on, what they were stating borders on sedition, even prison and so on. How can you say such things to the head of state? He is a head of state and as such people should accord him the respect that he has," Musamba said. "You don't just start talking carelessly about the head of state like that. And he doesn't owe it to them not to go anywhere. He is entitled to go anywhere that he feels like going. He's citizen number one in this country. So those were idle

comments. We will check them out."

Musamba said once the police investigate, they will do what is necessary.

"Otherwise we are just watching, but we will open an inquiry file because if you start making comments which border on breaking the law, and the police are expected to keep the mouth shut or their eyes closed, it won't be like that," he said.

And Musamba claimed that he was not aware of any advocacy to commit violence by Milupi, Mwaliteta and Liswaniso.

He said he treats whatever comes out of Mwamba's mouth with a pinch of salt.

"I treat whatever Mr Mwamba says with reservations because in my view he hardly states the truth. If he states the truth, (it means) he has maybe spiked it with a lot of innuendos, not factual per say. That's why I usually take Mr Mwamba's comments with some kind of pinch of salt because he's never up to the truth," Musamba said. "That's why I can't even comment. If it comes from Mr Mwamba I



Zambia Police IG Mr Graphel.C.Musamba

know who he is, he hardly says the truth."

In his Facebook posting, Mwamba posted that President Hakainde Hichilema was heard in a live microphone when there was a power cut at Mongu Airport using derogatory terms that promote hate speech against a people.

"Masholi (thieves) are at it again," Mwamba stated that Hichilema was heard

saying accusing the unknown masholi and apparently suspecting unfounded sabotage.

Mwamba further asserted that Infrastructure minister Charles Milupi was heard directing UPND national youth chairperson Gilbert Liswaniso to deal, beat and violate perceived critics of the President.

He also charged that Obvious Mwaliteta

threatened former president Edgar Lungu with violence and ordered him to "behave" or he would face violent consequences.

Mwamba accused Liswaniso of accepting public instructions to break the law and plan to cause violence against the critics of the President, and that President Hichilema showed apparent nodding approval to the same.



# “If Edgar committed wrong, does it make HH’s wrong right?”

By Daily Revelation Editor

It cannot be denied that Hakainde Hichilema is presiding over a government where tribalism is rife, despite his promises to the contrary.

Any honest person who has not buried their head in the sand, and are not subjective will agree that key appointments to government institutions in government, parastatals and quasi government institutions are dominated by our good people from the Zambezi regions. Of course this is not to say that they do not deserve those appointments, but in a country like ours where positions people are appointed to are at a premium, any wise leader will remember to balance up, going by Hakainde’s own mantra.

It is indisputable

that Hakainde’s predecessor Edgar Lungu also presided over a tribal administration which was largely dominated by people from the Eastern and Northern regions of the country. However, that too did not help him when it came to the 2021 general elections going by how people voted in those elections.

Hakainde promised that he would do things differently from how Edgar managed affairs, not only in terms of tribal balancing but on other national matters. However, the two years he has been in office have shown that he was merely politicking in order to be voted into office, so that he could implement his own narrow agenda.

In fact, if there is a President who should have the incentive to work towards balancing, it’s Hakainde, going by how national his election was, as aside from his traditional strongholds of Southern, Western,

North-Western and part of Central Province, this time he managed to get significant votes on the Copperbelt, Lusaka, Eastern, Northern and other provinces to put him greatly over the top, almost 60 percent of the vote total. Hakainde for instance obtained 49 percent votes to Edgar’s 51 percent in Eastern Province. In Northern Province he won in Kaputa, Mpulungu, Senga Hill, Mbala etc. In Luapula Province he won Chienge, and was getting almost equal votes to Lungu in places like Isoka in Muchinga Province.

In short, Zambians generally rejected voting on tribal lines because

they were convinced that they were voting for a better alternative that manage matters better than what they had at that time.

Hakainde points to his cabinet whenever he’s challenged over appointments in cabinet, of course some have debated that too. But a glimpse into appointments beyond cabinet will prove just how balanced or not balanced his appointments are, in fact the appointments are not even balanced. Any neutral mind which is not buried in partisanship and tribalism will have no difficulties seeing that.

His supporters argue

that what is happening now is nothing different from how Edgar conducted affairs. But that argument alone shows the level of foolish, base thinking and how lowly some of our people have allowed their minds to sink so low. If you are going to base your argument on what Edgar was doing then why did the people vote for change in the first place? Did Zambians vote so that Hakainde should start committing the same mistakes which cost Edgar power? This behavior has been happening repeatedly where even in times when police have misbehaved for instance, Hakainde’s supporters refer to how police used to conduct matters during Edgar’s time. Do people really try to reconcile with their minds before spewing out such nonsensical arguments? Do Hakainde’s supporters think through some of the most ridiculous arguments they put forth on most matters they try to refer to how

things used to be under Edgar, or they have completely degazetted their brains in praise singing? So if Lungu committed a mistake, then Hakainde’s mistake should become a right? What kind of strange thinking is this?

If you are going to allow yourself to indulge in the same errors your predecessor who was voted out was committing, then you don’t deserve to remain in office as well at the next elections, unless you change course and begin operating completely different from the person you removed from office.

Politicians are not doing this country justice when they continue to foment tribalism through appointments in government. This is not how you build national unity and cohesion. Rather than alienating other groups, you are better off working hard towards unity. Zambians are not difficult people, they notice and appreciate effort when they see it.

## Editorial

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# Labour office pounces on Nakonde Radio for neglecting to place employees on contract

By Agness Changala

The Labour Ministry in Nakonde has pounced on Nakonde Radio Station for contravening labour laws among them neglecting to place its employees on contracts and has been directed to pay an administrative penalty of K10,000.

But Station manager Judge Chiluba has explained that the radio station is addressing the issues the labour office raised and contracts for all employees had been worked on and would be presented to the labour Commissioner this month end.

In a charge letter seen by Daily Revelation dated March 21, 2024, the labour officer Kalenji Zango Clive stated that the inspection at the radio station revealed that all its employees had been

working without written contracts of employment for over a period of two years contrary to section 22 (1) of the Employment Code Act, No 3/ 2019.

Clive stated that the contracts of employment between the station and the employees had not been attested contrary to section 25 (1) of the Employment Code Act.

He also stated that the company had not paid workers salaries and wages for more than five months contrary to section 66 (2) of the Employment Code Act.

Clive further stated that the station was liable to an administrative penalty subject to section 22 (7) of the Employment Code Act No 3 of 2019.

The labour officer stated that there was no annual leave plan at the

station established contrary to section 36 (3) of the Employment Code Act.

The labour office also stated that employees that went on annual leave were not paid leave benefits contrary to section 37 of the Employment Code Act, No 3 of 2019.

The company was also found that the company had not put in place and made available to employees an employment and harassment policy contrary to section 95 of the Employment Code Act No 3, 2019.

“In view of the above, the company is directed to remedy the above contraventions within 14 days from the date of receipt of this minute,” read the charge letter in part which was also copied to the labour Commissioner in Lusaka, principal labour officer in

Muchinga and the district commissioner.

The station has also been directed to develop contracts of employment for all classes of workers at the company within a period of 14 days.

It has further been directed to ensure that the employees sign contracts of employment and take copies of the said contract form of employment to the labour office for attestation without fail.

The station has also been asked to develop an employment policy, harassment policy, privacy and code of conduct.

“Your company as a result of the above contraventions has been charged an administrative penalty amounting to K10,000 pursuant to section 133 of the Employment Code Act No 3 of 2019. You are

therefore, directed to deposit a total amount of K10,000 not later than 22nd April, 2024 in the labour ministry account,” stated Clive.

When contacted by Daily Revelation, Chiluba said when the station started operating, directors used to pay salaries but a time came when they decided to let the work workers stand on their own.

“So now you know, that transition period can be difficult especially when business is not okay because being a commercial radio station, we survive on people bringing adverts and the programs we run,” Chiluba said.

He explained that the station experienced challenges and it was not easy to settle down.

Chiluba said it was during this period that

arrears accumulated and the directors had actually been working on it and they had started dismantling the debt mountain.

He said after the radio station was given a charge, a deadline was given in which to address some of the issues raised and he was hopeful that they will be able to beat the deadline.

Chiluba said the directors had assured him that they were going to pay the arrears.

He admitted that it had not been easy to run the radio station.

Chiluba also said he would not call those who leaked the information names because it was within their entitlement and right to do so, adding that he was also an employee and what affected them also affected him.



# Nigerian chess master plays for 60 hours in bid to set new world record



**N**igerian chess champion and child education advocate Tunde Onakoya played chess nonstop for 60 hours in New York City's Times Square in an attempt to break the Guinness World Record for the longest chess marathon. The 29-year-old initially set out to play the royal game for 58 hours but went beyond that ending at about 12:40

a.m. Saturday (Apr. 20). For every hour of game played, Onakoya and his opponent got only five minutes' break. The breaks were sometimes grouped together, and Onakoya used them to catch up with Nigerians and New Yorkers cheering him on. He even joined in with their dancing sometimes. Onakoya played against

Shawn Martinez, an American chess champion, in line with Guinness World Record guidelines that any attempt to break the record must be made by two players who would play continuously for the entire duration. If the achievement is confirmed by the Guinness World Record organization, Tunde Onakoya will become the new holder of the longest chess marathon record.

Chess in Slums Africa in 2018. The organization wants to support the education of at least 1 million children in slums across the continent. "My energy is at 100% right now because my people are here supporting me with music," Onakoya said Thursday evening after the players crossed the 24-hour mark.

On Onakoya's menu: Lots of water and jollof rice, one of West Africa's best-known dishes.

A total of \$22,000 was raised within the first 20 hours of the attempt, said Taiwo Adeyemi, Onakoya's manager.

"The support has been overwhelming from Nigerians in the U.S., global leaders, celebrities and hundreds of passersby," he said.

Onakoya's attempt was closely followed in Nigeria, where he regularly organizes chess competitions for young people living on the streets.

More than 10 million school-age children are not in school in the West African country — one of the world's highest rates.

[africanews.com](http://africanews.com)

## DEC search Lungu's associate's property



Edgar Lungu's Associate, Martin Mbaya

**By Staff Reporter**  
The Drug Enforcement Commission (DEC) yesterday morning picked up former president Edgar Lungu's close associate Martin Mbaya for an investigation into a matter of suspected proceeds of crime. Sources told Daily Revelation that Mbaya was picked up by 17 police officers who stormed a named Church in Nyumba Yanga where he was with his family and later drove him to his house for purposes of conducting a search. The sources said he was being followed for being a

close associate of president Lungu, and for being in possession of property suspected to be proceeds of crime. Efforts to contact DEC director General Nason Banda for confirmation failed as his phone went unanswered. The search at Mbaya's house was still ongoing by press time, with sources saying DEC was searching every corner of his property. Mbaya was recently spotted with Lungu at the former president's residence on the weekend of the Kuomboka Traditional Ceremony.

**By Mubanga Mubanga**

A 13-year-old boy has drowned at Mulamba harbour in Mongu, as he attempted to swim to an area where the Kuomboka Royal Boat was scheduled to dock.

And Deputy Inspector General of Police In-Charge of Operations Milner Muyambango has described this year's Kuomboka Ceremony as crime-free.

In a statement released by police spokesperson Rae Hamoonga, Muyambango has commended Police officers involved in policing the ceremony for their professionalism and commitment to duty.

The Deputy Police Chief, who was overseeing the security of the ceremony, noted that there was no report of illicit activities before and during the colourful event.

He thanked members of the public in Mongu and Limulunga districts for coordinating well with Police officers and other security personnel in order to ensure that peace and order prevailed.

"The Deputy Police Chief said he was happy

# 13-year old drowns during Kuomboka

with the way Police officers conducted themselves before and during the ceremony. He said the professional manner in which Police officers interacted with people who travelled to witness the 2024 Kuomboka Ceremony must be commended," he stated.

"We are happy with the professionalism and commitment exhibited by our officers who we deployed to police the ceremony in Mongu and Limulunga Districts."

Muyambango said enough officers were deployed in order to ensure people's lives and property were protected.

"We have heightened patrols especially in Mongu District and surrounding areas in order to maintain peace," he added.

And Muyambango revealed that Police officers in Mongu district recorded one case of drowning in which a 13-year-old boy died after drowning at Mulamba harbour.

He stated that the grade

8 boy at a named School within Mongu District identified as Siyanga Mukololo of Mongu's Ilute Compound is alleged to have attempted to swim from one side of the harbour to the area where the Kuomboka

Royal Boat was scheduled to dock. Muyambango stated that the incident happened on April 20, 2024, around 15:00 hours. He added that frantic efforts by Police Marine

officers to save the boy's life proved futile. Muyambango stated that marine officers managed to retrieve the lifeless body at 16:45 hours. He was rushed to Lewanika General Hospital

where he was pronounced dead and his body was deposited in the same hospital mortuary awaiting postmortem. The police have since opened an inquiry file into the matter.



Kuomboka Ceremony - Photo Courtesy of Nkwazi Magazine



# SA company allegedly involved in gold smuggling scam receives jet from Zambia

An SA aviation company allegedly involved in a gold smuggling scheme has had its business jet returned after a Zambian court ruled that the seizure of the aircraft was unprocedural, according to Business Day of South Africa

The Bombardier Global Express jet, valued at about \$14m, arrived at Lanseria Airport last week after an order from Zambia's

economic and financial crimes court

The plane was last year seized at the Kenneth Kaunda International Airport (KKIA). Through open-source data and online flight trackers, matsada2sh was able to reveal a trail of suspicious flight paths in which the plane, a high-speed corporate Bombardier, appeared to fly unfettered across multiple locations.

According to the data, the

plane appears to have been registered in San Marino but operated by an office in Dubai that was connected to an aircraft rental service in Antwerp, Belgium. The aircraft owner had asked FlightAware, the world's largest flight tracking platform, not to track the plane's flights and to withhold flight information from the public.

The plane appears to have made 361 round trips

in two years, usually in and out of Cairo, to various destinations, Reuters reported last year.

It even made flights to Tripoli and Benghazi, two cities on either side of the ongoing conflict in Libya, within days of each other.

On another occasion, it took off from Cairo and

stopped over in Tel Aviv, and Doha, Qatar, before returning to the Egyptian capital.

The plane was stopped on August 14, 2023, at Kenneth Kaunda International Airport in Lusaka, having flown from Amman, Jordan, with an overnight stopover in Cairo.

Zambian authorities have so far arrested 13 people in connection with the plane, including six Egyptians, four Zambians, and individuals from Latvia, the Netherlands and Spain.

Matsada2sh has published details related to some of those individuals who appear to be a clandestine network ranging from a high-profile tycoon to lesser-known individuals with a shady trail of business stretching across Europe and the Middle East.

Some were relatively easy to find information on, including Zambian national Shadrack Kasanda, known as "the man of gold" and

"Mr Money", who regularly published pictures and videos of himself next to large quantities of what appeared to be gold.

On August 14, the day after the plane arrived in Zambia, the country's Drug Enforcement Commission (DEC) entered the aircraft.

According to a DEC statement, it had "received information that a chartered aircraft carrying dangerous goods had landed at Kenneth Kaunda International Airport on 13th August 2023 at 19:00 hours".

The next day, DEC reportedly seized more than \$5.5m stored in bags and boxes, five pistols, seven magazines and more than 100 rounds of ammunition.

In a further twist, more than 600 pieces of what was initially believed to be gold were found. However, on further inspection, the pieces were found to be mainly copper and zinc alloy.



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# Another African state moves to kick out US military – media



FILE PHOTO: People cross the N'Guéli bridge, marking the border between Chad and Cameroon near N'Djamena. © PHILIPPE DESMAZES / AFP

Chad has asked US troops to halt activities at an air base near the capital of N'Djamena, the sole place American military presence in the country, several media outlets reported this week, citing letters sent by the country's armed forces minister, Air Force Chief of Staff Idriss Amine Ahmed. The letters were reportedly addressed to the

US defense attaché. Reports, however, vary as to the contents of the missives. According to Bloomberg, which claimed to have seen one of the letters and verified it with a Foreign Ministry spokesman, Chad has merely alerted the US "to stop their activity at the base." However, earlier in the week CNN, citing intelligence sources, reported that in a

separate letter the US military was ordered to clear out of the Adji Kossei Air Base entirely. Chad also reportedly threatened to cancel the Status of Forces Agreement, the document that governs how the US military can operate in the country.

"Chad hasn't asked US forces to leave. The US and Chad have agreed that the period following the upcoming Chadian presidential election is an appropriate time to review our security cooperation," a US State Department spokesman allegedly told Bloomberg.

According to Reuters, in another letter addressed to Chad's transitional government, Amine Ahmed said he had told the US defense attaché to halt activities at the air base after American troops failed to provide documents justifying their presence there.

"We ask you... to inform the Americans that we have made this decision," he reportedly wrote.

RT

## Cape Town named Africa's Best Airport 2024

Cape Town International Airport has been recognized as the top airport in Africa, according to a recent survey by Skytrax, a leading consumer ratings organization. This accolade reflects the airport's dedication to providing excellent customer service and efficient operations.

While celebrating this regional success, Cape Town International Airport has experienced a slight drop in its global ranking, currently standing at 54th place, down from 23rd in 2020. This change highlights the dynamic nature of international air travel and the evolving standards in the aviation industry.

Other South African airports also received praise in the survey, with

Durban's King Shaka International Airport taking the second spot and OR Tambo International Airport in Johannesburg claiming third place on the continental list.

This showcases the high standards maintained by airports in South Africa, solidifying their reputation as key gateways to the African continent.

Beyond South Africa, Addis Ababa Bole International Airport in Ethiopia secured a respectable seventh place in the African rankings. This reflects Ethiopia's emergence as a regional hub for international travel and trade.

Further north, Nairobi's Jomo Kenyatta International Airport secured the 10th position, highlighting Kenya's

enduring role in African aviation. Nairobi continues to play a crucial role in connecting East Africa to the global air transport network.

The Skytrax survey sheds light on the broader trends shaping the African aviation landscape, as airports strive to enhance passenger experiences and operational efficiency amid evolving industry dynamics and heightened traveler expectations.

africanews.com



## China writes off unspecified amount of Zimbabwe interest-free loan

China has written off an unspecified amount of

Zimbabwe's interest-free loans and has pledged to help the government find a way out of its ongoing debt crisis.

"China attaches great importance to resolving Zimbabwe's debt issues," said Beijing's ambassador to Harare, Zhou Ding.

As of September 2023, Zimbabwe's publicly guaranteed debt stood at \$17.7 billion, of which \$12.7 billion was external and \$5 billion domestic.

Most of its foreign debt was purchased from

China, as it is ineligible for loans from multilateral creditors after defaulting on repayments for over 20 years.

Since the fall of long-time ruler Robert Mugabe six years ago, Zimbabwe has been struggling to reach an agreement with creditors to restructure its unsustainable debt.

But critics warn that China's latest gesture is simply creating a permanent debt trap, providing Beijing with political leverage as it seeks to counter US

influence in Africa.

China vehemently denies these accusations, saying its relations with African countries are based on its policy of non-interference in other countries' affairs.

As Zimbabwe drowns in debt and faces a devastating drought, it recently relaunched its currency for the third time in a decade following periods of hyperinflation.

Authorities say this latest reinvention will provide relief to citizens, who are increasingly struggling to buy petrol and put food on the table.

africanews.com

## US Speaker Mike Johnson may pay political price for Ukraine deal

After months of delay and increasingly dire warnings, the US House of Representatives approved \$61bn in new aid to Ukraine by a comfortable margin.

The passage is a big win for Ukraine, which has been desperate for new military supplies to stave off a Russian offensive that is gaining ground.

The US Pentagon press secretary told reports on Thursday that US military supplies, including for air defence systems and artillery units, could be moved to Ukraine in a matter of days after final approval.

Saturday's rare moment of co-operation in Congress is also a cause for celebration for President

Joe Biden, who has been calling the Ukraine war a world-defining conflict that the US cannot afford to shrug off.

"Today, members of both parties in the House voted to advance our national security interests and send a clear message about the power of American leadership on the world stage," he said.

The president could sign the aid into law later this week, as the US Senate is expected to approve the House foreign aid package - which also includes funding for Israel and Taiwan - as early as Tuesday.

Republican Speaker of the House Mike Johnson also has reason to be encouraged by the result. It was his change of heart on Ukraine support, from a

reticence to active support, that proved the decisive factor in getting the foreign aid package approved.

He received a vote of confidence from Donald Trump just a week ago, and the former president - who has spoken out against more support for Ukraine in the past - could have caused untold headaches for Mr Johnson as aid moved through the House. Instead, he largely stayed silent, focused instead on his ongoing trial in New York City.

Mr Johnson may still pay a political price for Saturday's achievement, however. He relied heavily on Democratic support not just on the final votes but to clear procedural hurdles leading up to those votes.

BBC





# Chinese Grand Prix 2024: Max Verstappen wins with Lando Norris second

**M**ax Verstappen annihilated the competition to win the Chinese Grand Prix.

The Dutchman was in a league of his own again - even over his team-mate Sergio Perez - in a race punctuated by two mid-race safety cars in quick

succession.

Safety cars broke up Red Bull's cruise to a one-two finish, shuffling Perez behind McLaren's Lando Norris and Ferrari's Charles Leclerc.

The Mexican soon picked off Leclerc but Norris drove an exceptional final stint to hold on to second ahead of

Perez.

Verstappen underlined his superiority over everyone, including Perez, with a crushing first stint of the race.

The world champion converted his pole position into a lead at the first corner while Perez was passed

around the outside by Fernando Alonso's Aston Martin, which started third.

It took Perez until lap five to pass Alonso, by which time Verstappen was five seconds up the road.

And over the eight laps before his pit stop, Verstappen lapped at least 0.5 seconds faster than Perez to extend his lead to 10 seconds by the time he stopped for tyres for the first time on lap 13, a gap large enough for Red Bull to pit both cars on the same lap without losing any time.

The next demonstration of Verstappen's superiority came three laps later when he caught and passed Leclerc - he had made up a pit stop's worth of race time over a man battling for the final podium place in just 16 laps.

After that, he calmly navigated the rest of the race, well clear of the rest of the field, to take his fourth win in five races this year - victorious in all the events he has finished.

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he Chinese Grand Prix returned to the F1 calendar for the first time since 2019

## New FIFA Club World Cup a 'great opportunity' for African teams - Drogba

**D**rogba

Former Ivory Coast and Chelsea striker Didier Drogba said on Friday that the revamped FIFA Club World Cup provided a "great opportunity" for African teams to become world champions.

Drogba was endorsing FIFA's plans for the tournament next year which includes 32 teams playing in the United States.

There's already the (FIFA) World Cup, but the (FIFA) World Cup is every four years and not everybody has the chance to participate)) ((so it could be a great benefit for, let's say, so-called smaller teams.)) \*\*With the (FIFA) Mundial de Clubes it makes things a bit more recurrent, which means there's more competition every year, there are more

opportunities for players to be world champions. Imagine the feeling for someone who plays here in Côte d'Ivoire or anywhere in Africa being world champion in front of all the big clubs, like Chelsea, Barcelona, [Real] Madrid, etc.

The total includes four teams from Africa, Asia and America, six from South America plus 12 European clubs.

"When you look at the normal previous FIFA Club World Cup, when you've seen TP Mazembe, for example, being in the

final, at the time it was huge and for a team like that in Africa winning the (FIFA) Club World Cup or the Clubs World Cup competition, it will be, like I said, a huge achievement."

[africanews.com](http://africanews.com)



Didier Drogba

## Pep Guardiola hits out at schedule after FA Cup semi-final win



Pep Guardiola

**C**ity overcame Chelsea 1-0 to reach a second successive final but Guardiola criticised their schedule after the penalty shootout defeat by Real Madrid.

Guardiola said Coventry and Manchester United - who play on Sunday at Wembley - should have played on Saturday.

"I don't understand how we survived," added the City boss.

City lost on penalties to Real Madrid on Wednesday after the teams were locked 4-4 on aggregate after extra time.

Guardiola's argument is that the other FA Cup semi-final between Manchester United and Coventry, who are not in European

competition, should have been switched to Saturday to allow his players an extra day to recover.

"It's unacceptable to let us play today," he told BBC Sport. "It's impossible, for the health of the players. It's not normal."

"One hundred and twenty minutes, the emotions of Madrid, the way we lose, honestly. I know this country is special [with the FA Cup] but it's for the health of the players."

Guardiola was animated after full-time on Saturday, hugging his players on the pitch and waving his arms in the air towards City's supporters.

**BBC**





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# WE FEAR NOBODY - NKANA COACH

Nkana FCCoach  
Ian Bakala



By Mubukwanu  
Kaingu

**N**kana coach Ian Bakala says Saturdays big derby triumph over arch-foes Power Dynamos is a statement they would respect their last five opponents but not fear them as they make a final push to survive relegation.

The record 13-time  
Zambian champions on

April 20 made significant headway in their relegation fight with a 2-0 away victory over third placed Power at Levy Mwanawasa Stadium in Ndola.

Goals from Austin Banda in the 5th minute and Mossua Lamisa in the 79th minute gave Nkana their first derby win over Power since 2021 when they defeated the latter 2-0 away.

Nkana's big Kitwe

derby also lifted them from 11th and into the MTN/FAZ Super League top nine for the first time this season after spending most of the campaign sitting in the relegation zone from Week One.

"Looking at where we are, we don't fear any team we are here fighting relegation but we just have to finish on a good note," Bakala told SuperSport TV

in a post-match interview. "I have to give credit to the players they have done a wonderful job. Since the break, we have only lost one game."

Nkana's has since the start of 2024 won six, drawn three and lost twice and crowned the good form by ending their four successive derby defeats by beating Power who beat them 2-0 away in first leg.

Next for Nkana are second placed Zesco who will visit Kitwe on May 4. Nkana will also been praying for a reversal of fortunes against Zesco who beat them 3-1 away in Ndola.

After the Zesco game, Nkana face two fellow relegation fighters starting with Green Buffaloes away whom they beat 2-1 and then host Kansanshi

Dynamos against whom they drew 0-0 .

They will then visit Kabwe Warriors on the penultimate day of the season who beat them 1-0 and close the season with a home fixture against Zanaco whom they defeated 1-0 in the first leg.

"So for me, we are still fighting again and see where we will finish," said Bakala.



Barbara Banda

## Barbra Banda reveals NWSL target, Orlando Pride coach expresses delight

**Z**ambian striker Barbra Banda has indicated her intentions to score goals for her new side, Orlando Pride, in the National Women's Soccer League (NWSL).

The Pride acquired the Copper Queens captain last month for a club-record

transfer fee of \$740,000 from Chinese Women's Super League club Shanghai Shengli FC.

Banda arrived in Orlando last weekend and was greeted at the airport by fans and the Zambian community in Orlando.

The skipper helped Zambia secure qualification

for the Paris Olympics by beating Morocco 3-2 on aggregate before heading to America.

Speaking during her introductory press conference, Banda stated that she wants to score goals for her new side.

"I love scoring," she said. "So that's what

matters most. I have to get chances and utilize the chances that I'll have in terms of scoring."

The 24-year-old also expressed her admiration for the NWSL, stating that she is confident of perfectly fitting in.

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