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It's fiscal recklessness, Economist describes govt's K26m liability to Maersk

By Jane Chanda

conomist Manase Siwila says the suspension of aid in the by health sector by the United States to Zambia is a wake up call for the country to reduce dependence on foreign entities.

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GOVT SUSPENDS HEAD TEACHER Medical Grade 10 place to a teenage boy who later committed suicide, has been suspended by the Ministry of Education. (To page 4) ... For denying school place to boy, 16, who committed suicide, by the Ministry of Education (To page 4).

No one
has right
to shed
blood
to win
elections
- Batuke

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CCZ general

secretary Fr Emmanuel

Chikoya

Africa united! President Hakainde Hichilema and former Kenyan Prime Minister Raila Odinga share a moment of solidarity as they shake hands on the sidelines of the African Heads of States Energy Summit in Tanzania

Reverse 'red flag' ZR MD hire — Fr Chikoya

By Mubanga Mubanga

ouncil of Churches in Zambia (CCZ) general secretary
Fr Emmanuel Chikoya says the appointment of Cuthbert
Malindi as managing director of Zambia Railways Limited
must be reversed as the appointment raised a red flag, regarding how
someone who was interviewing others ended up getting the same
job.

(To page 2)

GBM has right to seek prostate cancer, heart treatment - Judge

By Agness Changala

onvicted former Defence minister Geoffrey Bwalya Mwamba has told the court that his health is deteriorating rapidly due to the refusal by the Zambia Correctional Service (ZCS) to allow him to seek expert and emergency medical services for prostate cancer and heart ailments in South Africa and India. (To page 2)



FILE PICTURE: Convicted former Defence minister Geoffrey Bwalya Mwamba



GBM has right to seek prostate cancer, heart treatment - Judge

(From front page)

And High Court judge Mathew Zulu has ordered that Mwamba popularly known as GBM, be subjected to a medical assessment from an independent medical board at a government facility to establish if his illnesses requires medical expertise abroad.

Mwamba is serving a five-year sentence at Mwembeshi Prison, following his conviction by the Economic and Financial Crimes Court Division of the Subordinates Court for corruption.

In this matter, Mwamba popularly known as GBM, is seeking redress against the refusal of the ZCS to evacuate him to South Africa and India respectively, for specialised medical treatment for illnesses which Zambian hospitals do not have the capacity to handle, thereby, threatening his right to life.

GBM, who is represented by Messrs. Kang'ombe & Associates has cited the Attorney General as a respondent in the petition.

According to a petition filed on January 13, 2025, the petitioner alleged that the state had curtailed his fundamental rights as enshrined by the constitution, and that the state had abrogated and / or contravened his right to medical treatment and his right to life had been threatened contrary to the constitution.

As a result of the above, he sought a declaration that his imprisonment did not take away his right to any form of medical treatment or services and judge Zulu granted him the said relief.

"On the premise, I hereby grant the petitioner's relief for a declaration that his imprisonment does not take away his to any form of medical treatment or services, and I so declared," Judge Zulu stated.

GBM also sought a declaration that the state's refusal to allow him access to specialised medical treatment in South Africa and India threatened his life and was unconstitutional.

The Judge stated that regarding the above declaration, he was not inclined to grant it since ZCS had, in essence, not refused to allow him his request.

The former Cabinet minister also sought the court's mandatory order compelling the state to immediately evacuate him toj South Africa and India for specialised treatment medical treatment, as well as an order allowing him to travel in the company of a prison officer to travel to South Africa and India for specialised treatment at their own cost.

He has also sought any other relief the court might deem fit, costs of and incidental to the proceedings be borne by the state.

The court however, ordered the parties to bear their own costs.

In a judgment delivered on January 24, 2025, Judge Zulu stated that the



GBM

government facility to undertake the assessment. shall render a report advising him on the outcome of the medical assessment and state whether Mwamba's ailments were beyond the locally available medical expertise within 14 days.

He stated that his final determination of this matter was subject to production of the medical assessment report that he had ordered to be conducted on the petitioner.

"In light of the foregoing, the relief sought in paragraph (i) of the petitioner's claims succeeds, to the effect that his imprisonment does not take away his right to any form of medical treatment or services. The claim itemised

under paragraphs (iii) and (iv) of the reliefs sought, the same shall be pending until my final determination of this matter once my order stated under paragraphs 5.13 above is fulfilled," read the ruling in part.

GBM submitted that prior to his incarceration, he was undergoing specialised medical treatment for prostate cancer, rheumatic heart disease, heart rhythm disorders and congenital heart disease in India and South Africa, respectively.

He however, stated that following his conviction, he had not been accorded an opportunity to seek medical treatment for prostate cancer, rheumatic heart disease or any other

ailments mentioned and GBM added that the medical services he required were not available in his health was deteriorating rapidly due to refusal by the ZCS to allow him to seek expert and emergency medical services in South Africa and India.

He added that medical services he was seeking were not available in Zambia, as the Cancer Diseases Hospital had been nonfunctional for two years.

He submitted that despite his lawyers writing letters to ZCS to request to be evacuated to South Africa and India, no response had been received, despite his deteriorating medical condition.

In respone, ZCS senior assistant commissioner Dr. Moola Malimba submitted that GMB had always been permitted to seek medical treatment in Zambian health facilities as mandated.

He contended that the correctional facility had not neglected nor refused to allow him to seek expert medical treatment in India and South Africa as he was in custody.

Dr. Malimba submitted that ZCS had no mandate to operate in foreign jurisdiction, and added that there was currently no memorandum of understanding or status of force agreement in place with South Africa and India to this effect.

He submitted that should GBM be evacuated outside the country, ZCS would need to put in place sufficient

security measures in those foreign countries where the petitioner would be receiving treatment.

After determining the evidence on record, Judge Zulu found that there was uncontested evidence on record to the effect that prior to his incarceration, it was recommended that he should undergo tests (and treatment) at a health facility in South Africa.

He, however, acknowledged that based on the affidavit evidence, at the time of the recommendation that Mwamba undergoes further tests and treatment in South Africa, he suffered from some ailments whose treatment may be beyond the expertise of the medical facilities in Zambia.

Judge Zulu stated that before he could grant the petitioner's prayer to be evacuated to the two named countries, he needed to be satisfied that it was necessary for him to continue receiving medical treatment in the said countries.

"I hereby order that the petitioner be immediately subjected to a medical assessment by an independent medical board at a government health facility. The said medical board shall, within 14 days of the date herein, render a report advising this court on the outcome of the medical assessment and shall state whether the petitioner's ailments are beyond the locally available medical expertise," ruled judge Zulu.

Reverse 'red flag' ZR MD hire – Fr Chikoya



Council of Churches in Zambia (CCZ) general secretary Fr Emmanuel Chikoya

(From front page) Insiders and other

stakeholders have questioned Malindi's appointment as breaching good corporate governance ideals, after ZRL Board chairman Emmanuel Hachipuka indicated that he was going to headhunt for the company MD, after those who were shortlisted failed to make the grade for the position. More questions were raised when a few months later, a board member, Malindi, who was picked to conduct the interviews ended up getting the same job he had interviewed others on.

In an interview

with Daily Revelation, Fr Chikoya said the appointment of Malindi showed a red flag in terms of corporate governance.

"They should be seen to walk the talk. Any Zambian is entitled to apply for any job, but if the person has got interest in a matter, they must declare interest, and must not be involved in scrutinising other contenders and end up getting the job. That is a red flag in terms of corporate governance," Fr Chikoya said. "I think we should not see such things happening. The most honorable thing to do in such matters is to redo it. So we advise those

that have a privilege to be on boards, to be in positions of influence to use (those positions) for the good of this country, not for their own personal goods. So if I am interested in a position, I should not be involved in any way in the selection process, because if I do, and make others fail and then I take that position, that, you smell a rat there."

Fr Chikoya said even if he did not preview the response from the Ministry of Transport and Communication, and Industrial Development Corporation (lDC) over the same matter, he insisted that the right thing should be

He urged the Ministry of Transport and Communication to take responsibility for what happened at Zambia Railways.

However, Fr Chikoya said expecting the decision to headhunt the CEO of Zambia Railways to be revised was asking for too much, because leaders thought of themselves as the "ultimates", yet they were the savants of the people.

"So if they are our servants they will redo this process, and do it properly. If that man is competent he will get the job," said Fr Chikoya.

Economist describes govt's K26m liability to Maersk fiscal recklessness

(From front page)

And Siwila said the government's liability of K26 million to Maersk over mishandled containers of drugs was a glaring example of mismanagement and fiscal recklessness.

In an interview yesterday, the economist said Zambia's current economic situation was alarming, especially with the suspension of aid in the health sector.

Siwila emphasised that Zambia needed to domesticate its economic and social policies to remain independent, noting that the country's financial systems must be welldefined to avoid illegalities and misapplications.

He noted that the country was now in limbo, having already passed the 2025 National Budget, which required reexamining everything, and expressed concern that the suspension of aid would adversely affect people, especially those on HIV and other scheduled drugs.

"The K26 million payment should be delayed to allocate resources to address the health sector's challenges," Siwila said.

He also expressed concern about corruption in the health sector.

Siwila also talked about the importance of public management of financial resources and the need for other financial institutions to prevent leakages, noting that the Auditor General's report continued to show malpractices in government institutions.

"We need to get to the bottom of the corruption in the health sector and ensure that those responsible are held accountable," Siwila said.

Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) president Kasonde Mwenda also commented on the issue, saying the government's liability of K26million to Maersk was a glaring example of mismanagement and fiscal recklessness.

Mwenda said the incident exposed

inefficiencies in the government's handling of public resources and raised concerns about the priorities of those in power.

He noted that allocating K26 million to settle the dispute meant sacrificing investments in critical sectors.

The opposition leader said the funds could have improved healthcare delivery or upgraded road infrastructure.

Mwenda called for reforms, including strengthening public

financial management systems, building capacity among public officials, and ensuring public engagement and transparency.

The EFF president said his party stood with the Zambian people in demanding accountability and called upon the government to publish a detailed report on the situation and implement reforms to prevent similar incidencies.

Police warn new police recruits with criminal records



Police spokesperson Rae Hamoonga

By Esther Chisola olice spokesperson Rae Hamoonga has warned that newly recruited health workers with criminal records will face immediate disqualification from their positions.

In a statement, Hamoonga urged all newly employed health workers to submit their fingerprint forms at their respective provincial health headquarters after receiving their appointment

He stated that the forms would be sent to Police Headquarters for criminal record checks as part of the recruitment process.

"The procession fee is K200.00 (Two Hundred Kwacha only) and there is no express procession fee for this process. The fee shall be paid by depositing in the respective banks as guided by respective police stations where the fingerprints will be lifted from," he stated.

Hamoonga further urged the public to use the online portal when making payments.

"We would like to emphasise that individual submissions of fingerprint forms at Police Headquarters will not be entertained. Designated officers at Police Headquarters will be solely focused on processing the fingerprint forms submitted through Provincial Health Headquarters," he stated.

He assured the workers that fingerprint processing would not disrupt their reporting for duty or the commencement of work.

"The Zambia Police Service assures all newly recruited health workers that the processing of fingerprints will not, in any way, hinder their ability to report for duty or commence work. However, it must be noted that those with criminal records who knowingly proceed to report for duty will face automatic revocation of their appointments once identified," stated Hamoonga.

Hamoonga stated that the measure was in accordance with the conditions of employment and aimed to uphold the integrity of the recruitment process.

He called upon all affected individuals to adhere strictly to the directive to ensure a smooth and efficient

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Opinion

<u>Lessons from USA aid freeze: A beggar has no honour</u>

By Daily Revelation **Editor**

ewly sworn-in United States of America (USA) President Donald Trump has announced a flurry of executive orders that will have an impact on the global population, including Zambia.

Among the most critical executive orders Trump has issued includes a 90-day freeze on all foreign aid spending, until a review is conducted to line up with US interests.

Zambian too has been affected in this regard, including question marks on the Lobito Corridor that was prioritised by the former administration of Joe Biden for future transportation of essential minerals, such as cobalt and copper, to aid the navigation towards electric vehicles. However, the new administration has done away with the electric vehicle mandate, saying people must drive what they want.

Coming back to the 90-day freeze on aid, **USA Secretary of State** Marco Rubio issued a

memo clarifying that the freeze includes current assistance programmes, including the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), and USAID, which is feared will hamper global efforts to fight tuberculosis (T.B).

Each year, the United States contributes US\$6.5 billion to fight HIV in 50 countries around the world, something that has been credited with saving 26 million lives since its launch by then president George Bush, with a total of \$100 billion having been spent.

The CIDRAP states that PEPFAR pays for antiretroviral treatments for 222,000 people, and the tests of more than 224,000 people annually, including funding more than 7,000 cervical cancer screening each year, and providing care for more than 3,500 women each year experiencing genderbased violence.

With over \$4.7 billion since 2000 on fighting T.B, USAID is also under freeze.

Besides that, Trump has also announced

the US's withdrawal from the World Health Organisation (WHO), which will further complicate matters.

With a lot of Zambians

on Antiretroviral viral treatment already, and many others benefiting from the services of other interventions mentioned, there is a health risk, unless emergency measures are employed by the government to cover that three months' gap. In fact, the priority should not just be about covering the three months' gap because it's possible that this aid will never be restored again, particularly given the America First agenda of the Trump administration. The policy may actually outlive Trump, especially if he is succeeded by someone from the same MAGA movement he espouses.

government should immediately come up with a plan of action on how they will circumvent the absence of this donor aid. Rather than anxiously waiting for the Americans to review the freeze, the government should tell Zambians

The Zambian

what initiatives they will come up with to ensure sustainable and seamless delivery of services to the anxious millions in the country, now and for the future.

Economist Manase Siwila says the country is now in limbo, having already passed the 2025 national budget, which he said required examining everything given the challenges brought about by Trump's executive order.

The actions taken by Trump should teach our leaders important lessons about reducing dependence on foreign entities. This country is richly endowed, to the extent that if well managed, there would be no room for us to require donor funding in order to survive. What the country needs is a patriotic leadership that prioritises the wellbeing of the Zambian people, by utilising their resources endowment to their benefit. We can't continue living in the same business-as-usual style when the world around us is changing. There is no dignity in begging.

No one has right to shed blood By Esther Chisola UppnD secretary general Batuke Imenda says no ne has the right to shed To win elections — Batuke Penderal Batuke Interpretation of the blood blood To win elections — Batuke To win election of the blood To win election of th

PND secretary general Batuke Imenda says no one has the right to shed blood in the name of winning an election. In a recent interview with *Daily Revelation*, Imenda accused the PF of resorting to violence during by elections, something he said they knew best.

"We are calling upon the police to institute law and order. The lives of the Zambian people must be protected. We are saying the lives of the people of Petauke must be saved by the police. We are saying no one has the right to shed blood in the name of wanting to win an election," he said. "The Zambian people must be free to make the choice of whoever they want to vote for, not through the barrel of the gun, ot through a panga, not through exchange of blows. That we are not going to accept."

Imenda said the phrase by President Hakainde Hichilema that those who indulge in violence were on their own was not only meant for the UPND but everyone else.

"We are in power and the President is always categorical and says if you are violent, you are on your own. When he says you are on your own; he is not talking about Tonse, he is talking about everyone including UPND itself," he said.

He accused the PF under the Tonse alliance of resorting to violence in order to disrupt elections.

"If the PF/Tonse are way-way behind, so what are they doing? As an option to disrupt an election so that an election does not take place, they turn to violence," he added. "They turn to violence which they know better. They failed to run the country through violence.

They were controlling everything, including the police, including the army."

Imenda said the PF failed to run the country in a civilised manner.

"But the Zambia people said no, we want peace," said Imdenda. "We want to maintain the culture of peace. We want for the world to start admiring us as a country which has respect for God. That why we call ourselves a Christian Nation."



Court sentences former head teacher to 3-years By Chinoyi Chipulu The Economic and Financial Crimes to comply with procurement guidelines relating to the authorisation of payments imprisonment for corruption

The Economic and Financial Crimes Court in Luanshya, has convicted a former Masaiti Boarding Secondary School head teacher to three years' imprisonment for corrupt practices involving over K1.7

In 2024, Azan Mungala 53, was arrested by the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) and charged with willful failure to comply with applicable guidelines.

Million.

In a statement,
ACC head-corporate
communications Timothy
Moono stated that Mungala,
on unknown dates, but
between January 1st 2013 and
December 31, 2016, being a
public officer, willfully failed

to comply with procurement guidelines relating to the authorisation of payments totaling K1,787,273.00, a matter involving the Ministry of Education.

Moono stated that the offence was contrary to Section 34(2)(b) of the Anti-Corruption Act No. 3 of 2012.

"In delivering judgment, the Court sentenced Mungala to three years' imprisonment, with two years as a suspended sentence and one year to be served as a custodial sentence with hard labour," he stated.

Meanwhile, the Solwezi Subordinate Court has convicted a former Zambia State Insurance Corporation (ZSIC) Life Company production manager to 24 months imprisonment for corruption.

Moono stated that the commission in 2022 arrested Noah Kalukango, 37 of Pamodzi, Ndola and charged him with corrupt practices by a public officer.

"This is contrary to Section 19(1) of the Anti-Corruption Act No. 3 of 2012," he stated.

Moono stated that Kalukango, on dates unknown but between February 1st and 28, 2022, being a public officer, received K3,000.00 cash gratification as a reward for facilitating the processing of a matured classic investment policy.

"The court sentenced Kalukango to 24 months' imprisonment, with 15 months as a suspended sentence and eight months to be served as a custodial sentence with hard labour."

he stated.

Moono stated that the commission remained committed to fighting corruption and ensuring public officers were held accountable for their actions in order to uphold integrity in public service.

Govt suspends head teacher

(From front page)

Godfrey Tembo, 16, committed suicide after the head teacher Kahanji, allegedly denied him the opportunity to continue with his Grade 10 at the school because he was a problematic child in Grade Nine.

According to Copperbelt Province police commanding officer Peacewell Mweemba, the boy died after consuming a poisonous substance last Monday.

Mweemba said the deceased had been accepted into grade 10 at Masaiti Boarding School, but was turned down by the head teacher due to his behavioral records while he was in grade 9 at the same school.

After the incident, the Lamba-Lima Swaka Association of Zambia president Jimmy Musuka demanded for the immediate removal of Kahanji, saying his actions were cruel and unjustifiable as they left the boy and the mother traumatised.

Musuka said the head teacher had continuously shown disrespect towards the locals who offered land for the construction of the school, in a bid to provide education opportunities to learners in the community.

Masaiti District Commissioner Ennie Matutu confirmed to Daily Revelation in an interview yesterday that Kahanji had been suspended for 21 days.

"Yes, the incident happened and there were concerns from the community. And the District Education Board Secretary (DEBS) through the standards officer took their journey through the case, and as at now the head teacher is on suspension pending other investigations," she said.

And Masaiti DEBS Kelly Kapanga said investigations would be conducted and a report would be submitted.

"You know when there is death, there are lots of things which come up. The community did not rise, but they were just expressing themselves. And the way we work, We will ensure that investigations are done and a report is submitted. But all is calm," said Kapanga.

UNHCR launches solarisation project to benefit 50,000 refugees in Zambia

By Jane Chanda
Inited Nations High
Commissioner
for Refugees
(UNHCR) Representative
Preeta Law announced
the launch of a K3.5
million Solar Photovoltaic
Systems project to provide
reliable power to three
refugee settlements and the
Commissioner for Refugees
offices in Lusaka, benefiting
over 50,000 refugees and
host community members.

In a statement to *Daily Revelation* yesterday,
Law announced that the
Solarisation Project,
launched at the Makeni
Refugee Transit Centre
in Lusaka, marked a
significant milestone
in enhancing the lives
of refugees and host
communities in Zambia.

She stated that the project aimed to enhance refugee protection by improving access to energy in the Mantapala settlement in Luapula Province, the Meheba settlement in Western Province, and the Nchelenge settlement in Nchelenge town.

"As Zambia continues to face challenges with load shedding, UNHCR's aim is to provide reliable and renewable energy through this initiative, which will benefit not only asylumseekers and refugees but also local Zambian communities," Law stated.

She also stated that the project would significantly improve access to critical services such as healthcare, protection, and registration by ensuring uninterrupted

power supply to vital facilities like health posts and administrative offices.

The representative added that the project would also have a lasting impact on the lives of refugees and host communities, and that UNHCR was committed to continuing its support to ensuring the successful implementation of the initiative.

Ministry of home affairs and Internal security permanent secretary, Dickson Matembo, expressed gratitude to UNHCR for its continued support, noting that the initiative aligned with Zambia's commitments under the Global Compact on Refugees.

Matembo stated that this vital endeavour supported

the government's mission to empower refugees and host communities in Lusaka and surrounding settlements.

He reiterated that the project was a crucial step towards achieving the government's goal of empowering refugees and host communities, and UNHCR's continued support is invaluable in this endeayour.

The PS also noted that the project would support the government's mission to provide reliable and sustainable energy to refugee settlements and host communities.

"The project is also expected to create jobs and stimulate economic growth in the surrounding areas," stated Matembo.

Zambia's economic success can't be measured solely by increased copper production - Dr Musantu



Economist Dr. John Musantu

By Jane Chanda
Conomist Dr. John
Musantu says
Zambia's economic
success cannot be solely
measured by increased

copper production, but rather by how the proceeds are utilised to develop other sectors and industrialise the economy.

Last week, Mines

Minister Paul Kabuswe announced that Zambia's copper production surged 12% in 2024, reaching 820,676.34 metric tonnes, up from 732,583.45 tonnes in 2023, driven by improved performance and exceptional output at Lumwana Mine.

Reacting to this development, Dr. Musantu told *Daily Revelation* in an interview that, despite the country's history of high copper output volumes, it had not yielded substantial economic benefits.

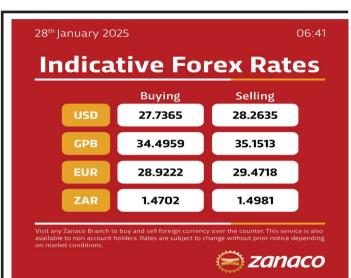
He noted that despite lucrative copper prices, Zambia has not achieved sustained success in other sectors.

"We've had instances where copper production was high, accompanied by lucrative copper prices, but unfortunately, we don't have any sustained significant success to show for it," said Dr. Musantu.

Asked if increasing copper production to 3 million metric tons, as targeted by the government, would be enough to guarantee economic success, the economist said, "Ramping up copper production should be a means to the goal and not the destination. We should not lose sight of the ultimate goal, which is to grow other sectors and industrialise the economy. That's success!"

Dr. Musantu also said that increasing mining output should serve as a catalyst for broader economic growth, rather than being the ultimate objective, and that the country's focus should be on leveraging this growth to develop other sectors and industrialise the economy for sustainable development.

On the need for diversification, he noted that Zambia's economy remained



vulnerable to fluctuations in global copper prices, highlighting the importance of developing other sectors to reduce this vulnerability.

According to minister Kabuswe, the recommencement of copper production at Konkola Copper Mines (KCM) and Mopani Copper Mines, coupled with the operationalization of Mimbula Mine, were key factors that collectively contributed to the significant boost in Zambia's copper output.

He said the growth in copper production is also part of Zambia's broader efforts to increase its annual copper output to 3 million tonnes within the next decade.

Pass on declining international oil prices to consumers,

By Jane Chanda il Marketing Companies Association (OMCAZ) president Dr Kafula Mubanga says Zambia's oil market will benefit from declining global oil prices, driven by President Trump's negotiations with the organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), with oil prices expected to decrease further this month, potentially leading to a reduction in local fuel prices.

US President Donald Trump urged Saudi Arabia and other OPEC nations to reduce oil prices, citing the Russia-Ukraine conflict, in a speech at the World Economic Forum in Davos, sparking a one percent fall in crude oil prices.

In an interview with *Daily Revelation* yesterday, Dr. Mubanga expressed optimism that the government would pass on the benefits to the local market, potentially leading to a reduction in oil prices this month.

He noted that the decline in international oil prices was

OMCAZ urges govt

a welcome development for petroleum import-dependent countries like Zambia.

Dr Mubanga said the development was expected to have a ripple effect on the global oil market, ultimately benefiting Zambia with lower oil prices, which in turn would have a positive impact on the country's economy, particularly for industries heavily reliant on petroleum products.

"We expect the government to take advantage of the declining oil prices and pass on the benefits to the local market," Dr. Mubanga said. "This will have a positive impact on the economy and help reduce the cost of living for Zambians."

He also said the development came at a time when Zambia was seeking to reduce its fuel prices, which had been a subject of debate in recent months, and that the government may be poised to take advantage of the declining oil prices to reduce fuel prices locally.

Dr Mubanga further

urged the government to prioritise transparency and fairness in its fuel pricing mechanism, noting that the association was committed to working with the government to ensure that the benefits of lower oil prices are shared equitably among all stakeholders.

He emphasised the importance of maintaining a stable fuel pricing mechanism, which would help to boost investor confidence and stimulate economic growth.

"The government should take this opportunity to review its fuel pricing mechanism and ensure that it is transparent, fair, and responsive to changes in the global oil market," he said.

According to the US President's speech, his remarks followed a conversation with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, who pledged to invest up to \$600 billion in the US over the next four years, more than tripling the initial plan of \$200 billion.



DRC tells UN the Rwanda-backed rebel The Democratic Republic of Congo's advance is 'a declaration of war's Sunday warned that an

Sunday warned that an "attack of unprecedented intensity is taking place in plain sight of the world".

Thérèse Kayikwamba Wagner was speaking at an emergency session of the United Nations Security

"Additional Rwandan troops have crossed the boundary markers 12 and 13 of the crossing between Goma and Gisenyi, penetrating into our land in broad daylight, in open and deliberate violation of our national sovereignty.

She described the move as "a frontal aggression, a declaration of war, which no longer hides itself behind diplomatic manoeuvres".

Her comments came as M23 rebels, who have vowed to defence Tutsi interests, and allied

The Icon for the smartphone

apps DeepSeek is seen on a

smartphone screen.



Rwandan forces entered the outskirts of Goma in the eastern DRC.

The Rwandan-backed rebel group has made significant territorial gains in the region in recent weeks. Goma, the provincial

capital, is home to around two million people and a regional hub for security and humanitarian efforts.

Rwanda which denies backing the rebels, for its part blamed the fighting on the DRC's support for the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda

What is DeepSeek, the Chinese Al company upending the stock market?

frenzy over an artificial intelligence chatbot made by Chinese tech startup DeepSeek was upending

stock markets Monday and fueling debates over the economic and geopolitical competition between the U.S. and China in developing AI

technology. DeepSeek's AI assistant became the No.

AFRICANEWS

The group was founded by Hutus who fled Rwanda after taking part in the 1994 genocide of Tutsis and moderate Hutus.

"For the last three decades, instability, attacks, infiltration, shelling and loss of life due to armed groups activities on Rwandan territory have come singularly from across the border, from DRC," said Ernest Rwamucyo, Rwanda's ambassador to the

"Why is DRC preserving the FDLR, making it a strategic ally? DRC must disengage, neutralize and completely expel FDLR from its territory so that we can have peace," he said. **AFRICANEWS**

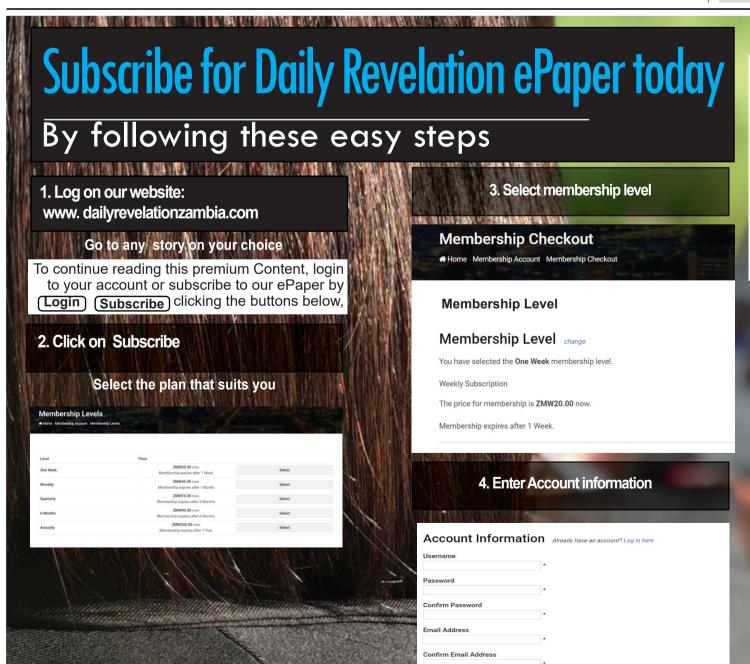
A shocking Chinese AI advancement called DeepSeek is sending US stocks plunging

S stocks dropped sharply Monday — and chipmaker Nvidia lost nearly \$600 billion in market value after a surprise advancement from a Chinese artificial intelligence company, DeepSeek, threatened the aura of invincibility surrounding America's technology industry.

DeepSeek, a oneyear-old startup, revealed a stunning capability last week: It presented a ChatGPT-like AI model

called R1, which has all the familiar abilities, operating at a fraction of the cost of OpenAI's, Google's or Meta's popular AI models. The company said it had spent just \$5.6 million on computing power for its base model, compared with the hundreds of millions or billions of dollars US companies spend on their AI technologies.

That sent shockwaves through markets, in particular the tech sector, on Monday.



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rding to ESPN Bras man is set to sign a contra



indefinitely by the Miami Heat after a continued pattern of disregard of team

The six-time NBA All-Star, 35, had already been suspended twice by his team this month for disciplinary issues, ruling him out of nine matches.

The Heat said walked out of a

been suspended again without pay.

They said the suspension is "indefinite" but will "last no fewer than five games".

"The suspension is due to a continued pattern of disregard of team rules, engaging in conduct detrimental to the team and intentionally withholding services," a statement said.

Soon after the news emerged, Butler posted on Instagram with a clip from American TV show Martin, where the

Butler was first suspended at the start of January for what the Heat described as "multiple instances of conduct detrimental to the team over the course of the season".

Afterwards they said they would listen to trade offers for the forward.

He returned on 17 January and featured in matches on 18 and 19 January, only to miss a team flight the following week and be banned again for two matches. -BBC





EX-CHIPOLOPOLO COACHES EXPLAIN GROUP

By Kalumiana Kalumiana **▼** X-Chipolopolo coaches Patrick Phiri ✓ and Wedson Nyirenda say the 2025 AFCON Group A draw may look like the group of death but every team qualified for the tournament on merit.

Chipolopolo are in Group A where they will face Comoros, 2024 quarterfinalists Mali and 2025 AFCON hosts Morocco.

It will be the second consecutive time that Chipolopolo and the Atlas Lions will clash at AFCON after Morocco beat Zambia 1-0 in their final Group F tie to see the latter make a group stage exit and the former bow out in the last 16.

But before the 2025 AFCON, Zambia and Morocco are scheduled to meet twice.

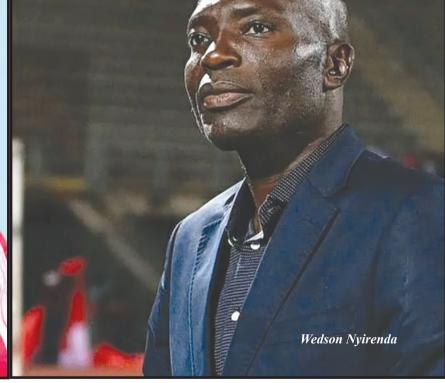
The first meeting will be this August in Kenya in Group A of the 2025 CHAN tournament.

Chipolopolo will the following month in September host Morocco in the final leg of their 2026 FIFA World Cup Group E qualifiers.

Zambia's other Group A opponents are Comoros and 2024 AFCON quarter finalists, Mali.

In an interview, Phiri said no team including Chipolopolo would be going to the AFCON without a solid plan, especially after Zambia's recent experiences against Morocco at 2024





AFCON and in the 2026 FIFA World Cup qualifiers.

"Group of death, without doubt. But we knew even before the draws that it was going to be tough going forward. All the teams remaining are strong. The weak ones have fallen off. Each team at this stage is capable of winning the Cup," Phiri said. "The difference lies in the mentality, the experience, the preparations and resolve. The teams that have won the cup before have a slight advantage in that they know exactly how to circumvent to excel.

"This is our strength at this stage. Given this background, you could say

the fight in this group will be amongst Morocco, Mali and us. Comoros will be the spoiler. Comoros is at this moment poised only to dent images of the giants in the group. We cannot afford to write off Comoros at all costs. We can write them off at our own peril. Morocco and Mali, the gauntlet is

done."

Nyirenda said Zambia and Morocco are now Siamese twins at the rate they are playing each other in just a space of 24 months.

"I always say every draw is a good draw. We have a well-accomplished Morocco in our group. It is a team that is well organised tactically.

AFCON 2025 FINAL DRAW

But when we scout them well it is also easy to know what they are doing. And it only remains to be seen how our players respond to the plan given to them by the coach," Nyirenda said. "Mali is riding on the good foundation left by Eric Chelle who has since been employed by Nigeria due to his great works with Mali in the last edition of AFCON. It is either the new coach consolidates on what he has found or start making his own things which can make or break the team. "

Zambia and Mali will meet at the AFCON for the first time since the 1994 semifinals that Chipolopolo won 4-0.

"As for Comoros, I refuse to call them underdogs. I have seen a very rapid development of football in Comoros. It will be the biggest mistake to look down on them," Nyirenda said. "On our part I think we just need to plan well, program well and prepare well. Then progress will follow. And it is like Morocco and Zambia are now Siamese twins now."

Chipolopolo are heading for their 20th AFCON where they have a record as 2012 winners, runners up in 1994 and 1974 plus bronze medalists in 1982,1990 and 1996.

