

POLICE TRAINING OFFICER, ONE CIVILIAN STAFF UNDER INVESTIGATION OVER ALLEGED RECRUITMENT IRREGULARITIES



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By MukanDay Reporter

A Zambia Police Service training officer and one civilian employee are under investigation over alleged irregularities linked to the Police Service's recent internal recruitment exercise, MukanDay has established.

The investigations come amid growing public scrutiny of the internal staffing exercise conducted earlier this year, which attracted criticism from some members of the public who questioned the transparency of the recruitment process.

Information obtained by MukanDay indicates that Pius Chanda, a Training Officer at Liyali Police Training School, and Anna Zimba, a civilian employee, were detained in early July before being released pending further investigations.

According to sources familiar with the investigations, Chanda was detained at Woodlands Police Station while Zimba was held at Kabwata Police Station. Both were released on 2 July 2026 as investigations continued.

Access Your Pension Early—but at What Cost?

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FEATURE | Experts Urge Safety Assessments Before Small-Scale Mining Begins at Chingola's Copper Ore Dumps

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Access Denied? Two Years After Zambia's ATI Law, Citizens Still Struggle for Public Information

Hailed as a landmark victory for transparency, Zambia's Access to Information Act promised citizens a legal right to government records. But MakaanDay's reporting—and the experiences of civil society organisations—suggest many public institutions remain unprepared or unwilling to comply, leaving the right to know largely unrealised.

By Ennety Munshya

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More than two years after Zambia's Access to Information (ATI) Act came into force, citizens seeking information from public institutions continue to encounter confusion, delays and silence, raising questions about whether one of the country's most significant governance reforms is being implemented in practice.

To test the law, MakaanDay submitted formal requests for information to the Ministry of Health. The exercise exposed uncertainty over who should receive ATI requests, additional administrative requirements not provided for in the law and a failure to respond within the statutory deadline.

The experience mirrors concerns raised by civil society organisations, which say many public institutions continue to fall short of the Act's requirements.

Searching for an Information Officer

On 12 May 2026, MakaanDay visited the Ministry of Health headquarters to submit two ATI requests seeking records relating to the 2023 recruitment database used during the April 2026 recruitment of health workers and information on the Ministry's staffing establishment.

The requests were submitted using Form I, the official application form prescribed under the Access to Information (General) Regulations, 2024. What should have been a routine process quickly exposed implementation challenges.

Instead of being directed to a designated Information Officer, MakaanDay was referred from the reception to the Legal Department, then to the Public Relations Unit, and finally to the Permanent Secretary (Technical Services). At no stage could officials identify who the Ministry's designated Information Officer was.

Officials also requested that MakaanDay attach a covering letter before the requests could be accepted, even though the Regulations require requests to be made using Form I and do not expressly require a separate covering letter. The experience raised a simple question: if Ministry officials could not identify the designated Information Officer, how would an ordinary citizen know where to submit an ATI request?

The Access to Information Act requires every public institution to designate an Information Officer responsible for receiving and processing requests.

Silence After Submission

Section 12 of the Act requires an information holder to decide within seven days whether to grant or refuse a request and to notify the applicant in writing.

No response came.

The Ministry neither informed MakaanDay whether the requests had been granted nor refused access within the statutory period. By the time this story was published, no substantive response had been received.

After a long wait, MakaanDay appealed to the Human Rights Commission (HRC), the institution responsible for overseeing implementation of the ATI Act.

In a letter dated 23 June 2026, the Commission advised MakaanDay on the appeals procedure and indicated that it had written to the Ministry directing it to comply with the law. Despite the Commission's intervention, the Ministry had still not responded by the time of publication.

Civil Society Reports Similar Experiences

MakaanDay's experience is not isolated.

The Alliance for Community Action (ACA) said that since February 2026 it has submitted five ATI requests

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According to a source familiar with the investigations, who requested anonymity because they were not authorised to speak publicly, investigators are examining allegations that Chanda received more than K1 million from several individuals after allegedly promising to facilitate their recruitment into the Zambia Police Service.

The source alleged that a number of those individuals are now demanding refunds after the promised recruitment reportedly failed to materialise.

MakaanDay independently verified the allegations, but there is no indication that Chanda or the other individual under investigation have been formally charged. Efforts to conclude the investigations are continuing, according to the police.

Contacted for comment, Zambia Police Service Public Relations Officer Godfrey Chilabi confirmed that investigations into the officers' professional conduct were underway but declined to discuss the specific allegations.

"An investigation into the officers' professional conduct is currently underway. Once the investigation and all related processes have been concluded, we will provide you with an update and full details of the matter," Chilabi said.

MakaanDay's efforts to obtain comment from Chanda and Zimba were unsuccessful. Sources declined to provide their personal contact details, while Chilabi said it would be inappropriate to disclose their private phone numbers unless they had been officially designated by the Zambia Police Service for media engagement.

The investigations follow public criticism of the Police Service's internal staffing exercise announced in April, after questions were raised over how candidates had been selected.

In a statement issued on 11 April 2026, the Zambia Police Service

said the exercise was undertaken to fill vacancies created by retirements, resignations and other forms of attrition after obtaining the necessary authority from relevant government institutions.

The Service explained that the vacancies were primarily advertised internally to qualified civilian employees to enable them to transition into the regular police establishment. It added that some positions were also offered to candidates who had remained on the waiting list from the 2023 recruitment exercise, as well as applicants possessing specialised technical and trade skills required by the Service.

According to the Police Service, the internal staffing exercise was separate from the regular national recruitment process and was intended to strengthen manpower ahead of forthcoming national assignments.

The police also maintained that internal recruitment and staff placement exercises are standard practice across public institutions and reiterated its commitment to fairness, transparency and integrity in all recruitment processes.

The ongoing investigations are expected to determine whether any officers or employees breached recruitment procedures or engaged in professional misconduct during the staffing exercise. However, it remains unclear whether the outcome of the investigations could affect individuals who were recruited through the process currently under scrutiny.

The case has renewed public attention on recruitment processes within Zambia's security services, where transparency and accountability remain matters of significant public interest. Police say further information will be made available once investigations and any related disciplinary procedures have been concluded.

Access Denied? Two Years After Zambia’s ATI Law, Citizens Still Struggle for Public Information cont...

to the Lusaka City Council, the Electoral Commission of Zambia and the Zambia Police Service seeking information on Constituency Development Fund projects, electoral delimitation reports, asset declarations and law enforcement procedures.

According to ACA, more than 130 days later, none of the institutions had disclosed the requested information despite acknowledging receipt of the requests. Even after resubmitting the applications using the prescribed forms following guidance from the Human Rights Commission, all five remained unresolved.

"Five requests, three institutions, more than 130 days, and two appeals later, we have received procedural engagement but zero substantive disclosures, indicating a significant gap between the Act's provisions and its implementation on the ground," ACA said.

The organisation cited inconsistent guidance from public institutions, failure to follow prescribed procedures and delays beyond the legal timelines.

While describing the ATI Act as a significant legal milestone, ACA said limited institutional capacity, inconsistent application of procedures and a longstanding culture of non-disclosure continue to undermine citizens' right to information.

Need for Greater Awareness

The Jesuit Centre for Theological Reflection (JCTR) believes many of the implementation challenges stem from limited awareness of the law among both citizens and public officials.

Programme Officer Lombe Michael Kasanda said Information Officers and public servants responsible for processing requests require more training if the legislation is to achieve its intended purpose.

"If they don't know, if they're not familiar with how to process them, I think it's a huge hurdle to access information," Kasanda said.

JCTR also called on public institutions to proactively publish information

rather than waiting for formal requests, noting that while the Ministry of Finance regularly discloses information on its website, many institutions have yet to adopt similar practices.

The organisation further urged increased funding for the Human Rights Commission to strengthen training and oversight.

From Landmark Law to Practical Challenge

Zambia's campaign for an Access to Information law stretches back more than three decades. After several unsuccessful attempts under successive governments, Parliament finally passed the Access to Information Bill in December 2023, and President Hakainde Hichilema assented to it later that month.

The Act came into force on 25 June 2024 and was widely welcomed by journalists, civil society organisations and governance advocates as a major step towards greater transparency and accountability.



Yet the experiences documented by MakaanDay and civil society organisations suggest that the law's greatest challenge now lies not in its existence but in its implementation.

Confusion over designated Information Officers, additional administrative hurdles, missed statutory deadlines and prolonged silence from public institutions indicate that many government bodies have yet to adapt their practices to the requirements of the law.

FEATURE | Experts Urge Safety Assessments Before Small-Scale Mining Begins at Chingola’s Copper Ore Dumps

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By Clara Chisenga

Mining safety experts and small-scale miners have welcomed the Government's decision to allocate Chingola's Ore Body (OB) 19 and 22 mine dumps to youth mining cooperatives but caution that operations should not begin until comprehensive geotechnical and occupational safety assessments have been completed.

The calls follow President Hakainde Hichilema's announcement during a campaign rally in Chingola on July 9, 2026, that the two copper-bearing dumps would be handed over to small-scale miners, commonly known as Jerabos. The President also said Government would provide mining equipment and facilitate access to markets for minerals recovered from the dumps.

The announcement has been welcomed as a step towards increasing Zambian participation in the mining sector. However, experts warn that unless the dumps are first assessed by qualified engineers and supported by robust safety measures, the initiative could expose miners to serious risks, including landslides and rockfalls.

Copper owe dumps have long attracted illegal mining activities. In December 2023, the nearby Sensele dump was the site of a fatal mudslide that claimed 30 lives, highlighting the dangers associated with uncontrolled excavation and unsafe mining practices.

Questions have also emerged over ownership and access to the sites. OB19 and OB22 are located within the Konkola Copper Mines (KCM) mining area. Although KCM—80% owned by Vedanta Resources and 20% by ZCCM Investments Holdings—previously operated in the area, it no longer holds the surface rights to the two dumps.

Some of the dumps are understood to be under private ownership. It remains unclear how the Government intends to facilitate access for the planned mining cooperatives and what arrangements have been made with the current owners.

Geotechnical concerns

Dr Daniel Mabeti, a Tanzania-based Geotechnical and Rock Mechanics Specialist, said the stability of the two dumps should be assessed before any excavation begins.

According to Dr Mabeti, waste dumps are engineered structures whose stability can deteriorate over time depending on their composition, age and previous mining activities. Excavation without proper planning, he warned, could trigger rockfalls, slope failures and landslides.

"From a geotechnical perspective, rockfalls and landslides are possible during mining operations. There is a need to engage qualified and competent engineers to ensure slope stability while maintaining safe mining operations, particularly as these sites transition to small-scale mining cooperatives," Dr Mabeti said.

He said Government should commission detailed geotechnical investigations to determine the safest methods of extracting the remaining minerals and identify areas that may require reinforcement or restricted access.

Dr Mabeti also advised against manual mining methods at the dumps. Instead, he recommended the controlled use of mechanised equipment such as excavators and dump trucks operated under professional supervision.

"I would recommend the use of excavators and dump trucks rather than relying on shovels and picks, particularly if the operations will involve small-scale miners," he said.

Small-scale miners welcome the initiative—but urge caution

The Small-Scale Miners Association of Zambia has also welcomed the Government's decision while stressing that safety training should precede mining activities.

Association National Chairperson Kelvin Tembo said the allocation of the dumps presents an important economic opportunity for youth cooperatives

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but warned that the project should not repeat mistakes that have contributed to fatal mining accidents elsewhere.

"Once safety measures are in place, we can be confident that the operation will succeed. But if adequate safety systems are not enforced, we risk another mining tragedy. That is something none of us wants," Tembo said.

He said the planned provision of mining equipment would only improve safety if operators received proper training.

"I hope those who will be operating the machinery are adequately trained. Government should also ensure that small-scale miners receive practical instruction on working safely around heavy equipment and within active mining environments," he said.

Why the dumps require special attention

Tembo said OB19 and OB22 present different operational challenges from many other mine dumps previously accessed by small-scale miners.

He explained that years of excavation and the manner in which material has accumulated over time may have created unstable sections requiring careful engineering assessment before mining resumes.

"The terrain is different from many other dump sites. Because of the way material has been deposited and disturbed over the years, miners will need to exercise extra caution. Safety must come first," he said.

Civil society calls for structured training

Development Education Community Project Executive Director Charles Mulila said the initiative could provide meaningful economic opportunities provided it is implemented transparenensively and within the framework of the law.

Mulila noted that Zambia's Minerals Regulation Commission Act, 2025, provides the legal framework for regulating mining activities and emphasised that all operations

should comply with occupational health, environmental and mining safety standards.

He said Government should ensure that all participating cooperatives undergo mandatory training before work begins.

"It is Government's responsibility to ensure that miners understand occupational health and safety requirements as well as environmental and social obligations. Proper training should be completed before any extraction begins so that we avoid unnecessary accidents and loss of life," Mulila said.

Safety before production

Mining waste dumps often contain valuable residual minerals left behind during earlier processing, making them attractive targets for small-scale mining. However, geotechnical specialists note that the structures can become unstable if excavated without proper engineering controls, increasing the risk of slope failures and rockfalls.

While the Government's decision is expected to create employment and broaden Zambian participation in the mining sector, stakeholders say the success of the initiative will depend not only on access to equipment and markets but also on rigorous safety planning, technical supervision and adherence to mining regulations.

Several stakeholders interviewed for this story agreed that if proper geotechnical assessments, safety training and operational controls are implemented before mining begins, the initiative could become a model for safer and more sustainable small-scale mining. Without those safeguards, however, they warn that the programme risks exposing miners to preventable accidents.

Clara Chisenga is a journalist from Radio Icengelo in Kitwe. She is currently undertaking a three-month internship at MakaanDay after earning third place in the 2025 MakaanDay Awards for Investigative Journalism.

Down Memory Lane with Moses Walubita

Kid Miller: Zambia's First Boxing Export

By Moses Walubita | LUSAKA

Long before Zambian boxing produced household names such as Lottie Mwale and John Sichula, one boxer blazed the trail onto the international stage.

Leonard Masaiti, better known by his ring name Kid Miller, became Zambia's first professional boxer to export his talent overseas when he travelled to Italy in pursuit of his dream of becoming world flyweight champion.

A March 27, 1994 edition of the Sunday Mail revisited the remarkable journey of the pioneering boxer, whose career helped open doors for future generations of Zambian fighters.

Born in 1941 at Mbwili Village in Fort Rosebery, now Mansa district in Luapula Province, Kid Miller was the first of four children. His father, Linius Mponda Masaiti, was a school teacher at Mwanambale Local Education Authority (LEA) School.

Kid Miller made his professional debut on September 1, 1962, defeating Onias Lupondo on points in Kitwe.

His boxing career gathered momentum rapidly. Over the course of 18 professional fights, he suffered only four defeats—three against bantamweight rival Patrick Mambwe and one against Dixie Taxi.

In June 1964, Kid Miller captured the Zambian flyweight championship after defeating Doba Doba over 12 rounds. He remained unbeaten in the flyweight division and successfully established himself as one of Zambia's finest boxers of the era.

Although better known for his speed, courage, balance and technical ability than his punching power, Kid Miller recorded memorable stoppage victories, knocking out Nyaka Nyaka in the sixth round in September 1964 before stopping Johnny Fire in just two rounds in June 1966.

His greatest ambition was to become the first Zambian to win the world flyweight title.

That ambition took him to Italy, making him Zambia's first professional boxing export.

However, his overseas career proved challenging.

Before leaving for Rome, his manager, Doug Miller, had agreed with an Italian promoter that the Zambian boxer would gradually build his career by facing lower-ranked opponents before challenging Europe's elite.

Instead, Kid Miller was matched almost immediately against some of the continent's strongest fighters.

Among them was European flyweight champion Franco Atzori, who was widely regarded as one of the world's leading boxers in the division. Although Kid Miller lost a closely contested 10-round decision, his performance demonstrated that a Zambian boxer could compete at international level.

Concerned that his fighter had been rushed into difficult contests, Doug Miller wrote to the Italian manager urging him either to return Kid Miller to Zambia or arrange fights for him in Britain, where he believed his career could be developed more carefully.

During his stay in Italy, Kid Miller fathered two children with an Italian woman before eventually returning home to Zambia.

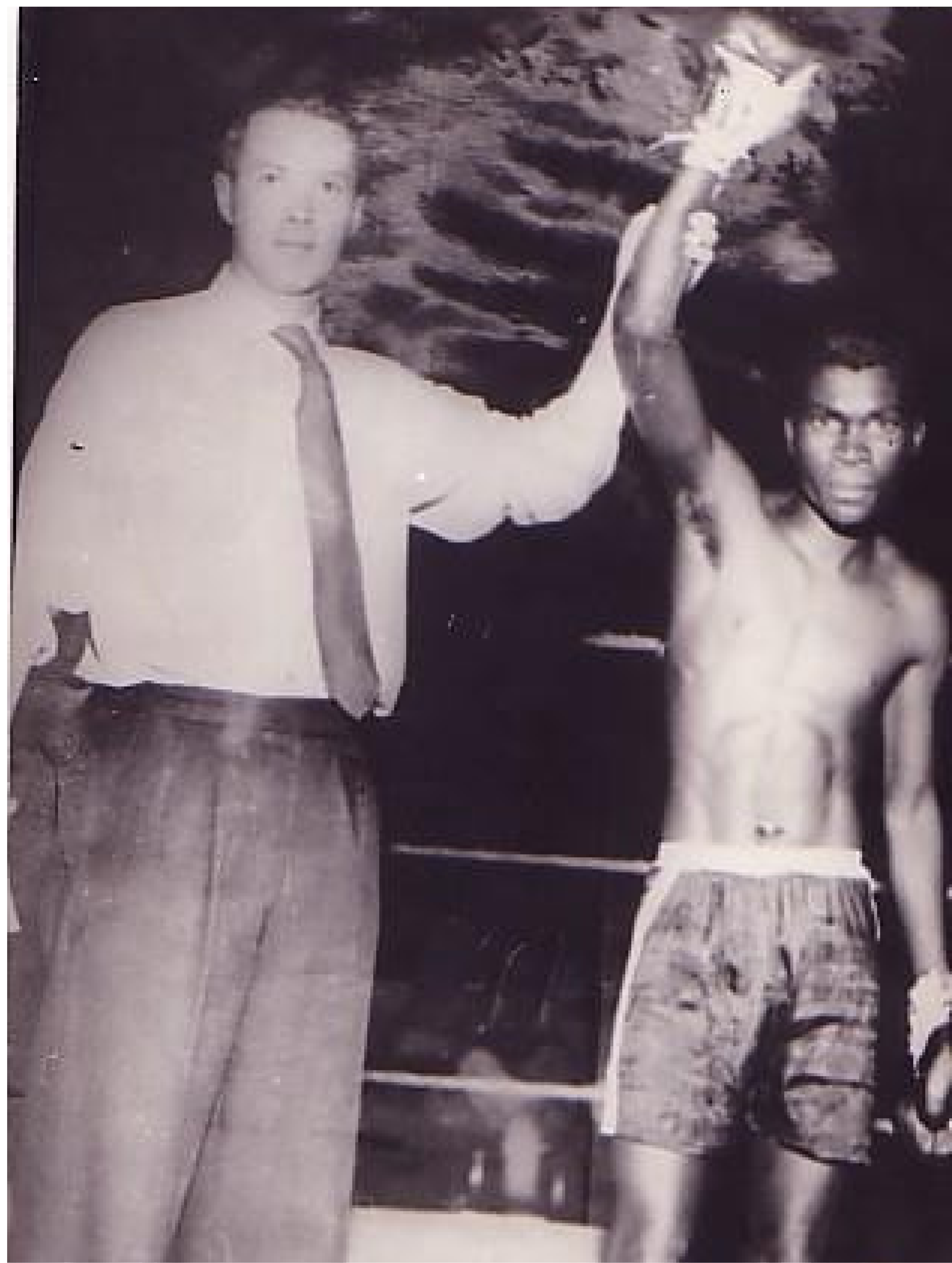
Back in Lusaka, he remained involved in sport, serving as a sports assistant at Kabwata Sports Club, where he continued contributing to the development of young athletes.

Kid Miller's pioneering journey paved the way for future Zambian boxers to compete abroad.

Patrick Mambwe became Zambia's second boxing export, followed by David Natta and Yotham Kunda. In later years, boxing legends such as Lottie Mwale, Chisanda Mutti, Charm "Shuffle" Chiteule and "Big Joe" John Sichula would further enhance Zambia's reputation in international boxing.

Down Memory Lane with Moses Walubita Cont...

Although his name is sometimes overshadowed by those who followed, Leonard "Kid Miller" Masaiti occupies a unique place in Zambia's sporting history. As the country's first professional boxer to take his talent overseas, he helped lay the foundation for generations of Zambian fighters who dared to dream beyond the nation's borders.



OPININION | Marshall Remembers KK

Some conversations stay with you long after they end.

At the 2026 BBC Correspondents' Dinner in London, I found myself seated next to Julian Marshall, the former BBC World Service presenter best known for Newshour. It was one of those unexpected moments that remind you why journalism is such a privilege.

Marshall spent decades covering some of the defining events of the late 20th and early 21st centuries, interviewing world leaders and reporting history as it unfolded. Listening to his stories felt like opening a living archive.

Our conversation became even more fascinating when I learnt that he had spent part of his early life in Zimbabwe, where he also attended university. We spoke about Africa, journalism, history and Zambia's founding President, Dr Kenneth Kaunda.

I asked Marshall if he would share one personal memory of KK. What he sent me was more than a recollection; it was a quiet reminder that the true measure of a leader is often found not in the office they held, but in the character they carried after they left it. Too often, we only fully appreciate the people who shaped our history when they are no longer with us.

This is what he wrote.

It must have been the winter of 1991/2 that I was made aware that President Kaunda was on a visit to London. I managed to track him down to the London Metropole Hotel, then owned by Tiny Rowland's Lonrho conglomerate.

I phoned him in his room and because perhaps my name was familiar to him from his years of listening to the BBC he accepted my invitation to dinner at our family home in Acton, west London.

I knew he was a vegetarian but not that he liked his food cold so I came up with the compromise of a vegetarian lasagne which I cooked the day before and put in the fridge.

It was clear that KK didn't have the means to travel from his hotel to our house - no chauffeur driven car, no taxi - so I went to pick him up.

It was an intimate occasion - just my wife and I - and he had the good grace not to comment on our kitchen ceiling which had collapsed the week before!

Conversation over dinner touched on his own political career but I found most interesting his observations about the former Soviet leaders with whom he had dealings, among them East Germany's Eric Honecker who had once kept him waiting for hours for a meeting.

When the time came to leave I again volunteered to drive KK back to his hotel where he cut a lonely figure making his way back to the hotel entrance.

I was struck throughout the evening by his humility - but clearly an ex-President with many memories but little means, someone who had not accumulated wealth during his long years in power.



This week in the Bulletin & Record Archives

Has football lost it soul?

Or is it now merely another version of “the opiate of the people”?

There was a time when football stood for all that was right in life. It told the story of the working class boy made good. It stood for an era of innocence and good manners.

As a young boy I was enchanted by stories of yesteryear, about how England football legend Stanley Matthews, in the year of the coronation of Queen Elizabeth, 1953, brought Blackpool back from the dead in the 1953 FA Cup final against Bolton to win 4-3.

I recall the record my dad brought back in the mid-seventies of the commentary of the 1971 FA Cup final between Liverpool and Arsenal, and to this day still remember the words of the commentator Kenneth Wolstenhome as Charlie George worked his magic to give Arsenal the winning goal in a famous 2-1 win.

I will never forget the first time I was allowed to stay up into the night as a nine year old kid to watch on television the World Cup qualifying match between England and Italy, when two of my heroes -- Kevin Keegan and Trevor Brooking -- scored to give England a 2-0 win over Italy at Wembley that, ultimately, wasn't enough to take them through to the 178 World Cup in Argentina.

Not be outdone, the local game was equally enchanting in my eyes. Dick Chama's outstanding performance in the 1975 Shell and BP Cup final for Green Buffaloes against Mufulira Wanderers is still as fresh as it was then.

The pain of seeing Blackwell Chalwe inadvertently diverting the ball into his own net in the 1982 African Cup Winners final between Power Dynamos and Arab Contractors still hurts when it comes to mind 32 years later.

In the time that has passed since that golden age, I have been eyewitness to the transformation of football from the people's game – or, as was once referred to, the opiate of the people (which was Karl Marx's often misquoted assessment of the effect of religion on people) –

into a crass commercial industry, no different from the selling of any product made to turn a profit for the manufacturer.

Today's headlines are made for all the wrong reasons. In recent weeks FIFA's dirty laundry has been laid out for all to see as the shameful exposure of the corruption around the bidding for the World Cup in Qatar now becomes apparent.

Once again, African football has been exposed for the ease with which its leaders are susceptible to enticement by hard cash, or the finer things in life, to make decisions that are not necessarily for the good of the game.

The recent allegations from the respected English newspaper, the Sunday Times, that bribes were handed out to at least 30 African football leaders to ensure that the World Cup went to Qatar has once again painted a dark picture over Africa's football leadership.

This follows the suspensions of three of several African football leaders after a sting operation resulted in them being exposed as willing to take money in exchange for influencing world cup votes. Nigeria's Amos Adamu. Mali's Amadou Diakite, and Tunisia's Slim Aloulou were among the African football heavyweights served suspensions for their poor judgement.

International football has clearly lost some of its lustre. Who would have thought that Brazil, that bastion of the worlds' most popular game, would be racked by protest over the cost of hosting football's premier event, the FIFA World Cup?

The public has voiced its discontent with the way public money was spent on luxury at the expense of providing a better life for the Brazilian people. Instead of hospitals, school, clean water and other essential services, they have been burdened with stadiums in the middle of nowhere that will hardly ever be used after the World Cup. In some cases corruption and fraud has tripled the cost of building these.

Has football lost it soul? Cont..

The final bill for the tournament hosted four years ago in South Africa has been tabulated at US\$ 3 billion. The revenues from the tournament that accrued to South Africa amounted to roughly US\$ 300 million, generating a return of 10% on investment.

The CEO of the 2010 World Cup, South Africa’s Danny Jordaan, however, has other views, however. He believes that the spin-off benefits such as improved infrastructure and services and greater awareness about South Africa as a tourist destination are among the benefits that cannot be easily quantified, but should be considered.

South Africa too is lumbered with football facilities that are hardly used and more than one property expert has suggested that tearing them down would be a more cost effective option than maintaining them for years to come without hope of any return.

With Zambia bidding to host the 2019 Africa Cup of Nations there is need to exercise caution in working out whether it will be a worthwhile venture in light of recent developments regarding the commercial model of football. While it has been an excellent achievement to have two new football facilities in the Levy Mwanawasa Stadium and the recently opened National Heroes Stadium in Lusaka, it appears that not much thought has been given in the running of the facilities to ensure that they are able to be self-sustaining and a commercial success in the long run.

The biggest loss to the country would be to have facilities that are left to run into disrepair after the country has invested heavily to build them in the first place.

The price of making sacrifices in other critical areas such as education and health should not be too heavy to bear for projects that do not make a contribution in other areas of the economy.

Football needs to show a face that is transparent, accountable and willing to adapt to change. The backlash against the game in Brazil is an indication that even the most ardent of supporters of football can run out of patience when they have had enough.

The history of sport has shown that when the followers of the game are taken for granted, they vote with their feet. Wrestling in the UK, so popular in the seventies died after making fatal mistakes. Boxing is on the slide in the USA.

Once the slide begins it is often and tragically irreversible.
This story was first published in the July 2014 edition of the Bulletin & Record Magazine.



Kevin Keegan



Trevor brooking