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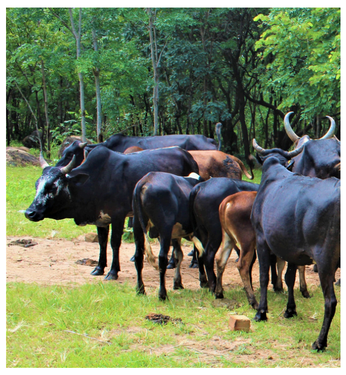
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Supreme Court adjourns Sino Metals toxic spill case amid resettlement concerns

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Attorney General Mr Kabesha (centre) speaks with lawyers outside the Supreme Court following the adjournment of the Sino Metals toxic spill case. In the background are Chinese officials who attended the hearing.

FROM THE ARCHIVE

How football became a leading form of popular black culture & identity



ROFILE

Tom Mtine

FLAIR FOR BUSINESS . . . a tremendous capacity for hard work . . . the ability to get on with . . . these qualities have spelled for Thomas Mandandalulo Dickson the popular mayor of Ndola. v years ago Thomas ("better call me Mtine decided that the time had o launch out into business on his 'I figured I was about ready," he lis judgment was sound. Today he of the most sought after men in the s world of Zambia: chairman or r of eight major commercial under- . His experience and know-how him a valuable member of any y board and bring him an income ces him well to the fore of Zambia's earners.

Mtine, is a stocky, quiet spoken, sense man who weighs up all the carefully before reaching any n; he is blessed with the ability to the unnecessary and penetrate to y heart of a problem.

rushes aside obstacles or trivialities impatient shrug of his shoulders, to him you get the impression does not suffer fools willingly, but ved from ruthlessness by a sense of which enables him to see the usness of a situation.

Discrimination, for instance, is a subject calculated to make most people get hot under the collar. Tom Mtine dismisses it with contempt. "I have run into discrimination," he says. "It does not worry me. When a person is stupid, and people who try and discriminate are stupid, he is stupid irrespective of race."

Tom Mtine was born 38 years ago in Lusaka, one of a family of 10, and the son of a modest, religious man, a carpenter/builder who, fortunately for his children, had decided ideas about the value of education and was determined, although many of his friends thought it a waste, to give them the best possible schooling.

"We were a happy family and, I suppose, comparatively well-to-do by the standards of the time," he says. "My father worked for the Government for 30 years, retiring in 1942. He was, undoubtedly, the biggest influence on my life. His advice was: 'Listen to older people and benefit from their experience.' When I went to Munali School he told me that I should regard the teachers as taking his place and pay them due respect. In fact the staff at Munali helped me a great deal."

Introduction to responsibility

The formative years of Tom Mtine's life were spent at Munali. He started in the primary section in 1936 and left with the Cambridge School Certificate in 1947. He became a house prefect and he was in charge of the school stationery stores — two duties which introduced him to responsibility and had an effect in later life.

It was at Munali too that he made friends with a quiet, music loving, older boy, whom he was to meet again in adult life — Kenneth Kaunda, now president of Zambia.

"Kenneth was very quiet," Tom says. "People who knew him then would not have thought he would become a politician. He was a very good friend; once he became your friend, he was there always."

One more thing Munali did for Tom Mtine; it gave him an abiding love of football. He played at school, helped to form a team in Lusaka when he left, and now, in spite of all his obligations, he willingly finds time to be chairman National Football League of Zambia

There was little at this stage to distin him from many other Munali pupils t essential difference was waiting unlocked.

"After leaving school I had to find he says. "There were very few openir Africans at that time. The Departm Co-operative Societies seemed to only decent ministry and I joined it. allowed Africans to join in the capa inspectors. Mind you, that proved over-rated.

"But I learned book-keeping acquired a general knowledge of merce and industry. I was made r sible for running the Consumers' Co- tive Society. In 1948 I was transfer the Copperbelt to take charge of consu thrift and loans societies."

He shakes his head unbelievingly. pay was shocking. I got £5 10s a and a tickey a night subsistence allo What on earth can you buy for a t You had to travel everywhere by and so I got 10s a month bicycle allo I reckoned I was worth more than a month so the following year, 1949, and joined a commercial firm at twi salary."

Poorly paid though it was, Gover service gave Tom Mtine a foundati which he could build . . . furtherm gave him a spur that carried him alo road to success. "I was bitter and to prove to Government that I was more and could be a success," he ad

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The court ordered their release, but they stayed in custody for 20 more days.

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Supreme Court adjourns Sino Metals toxic spill case amid resettlement concerns

From page 1

For an elderly woman whose farmland was affected by the February 18, 2025 toxic spill linked to Sino Metals Leach Zambia Limited, the Supreme Court battle is about more than legal arguments.

Her immediate concern is how she will feed her family.

For years, she relied on farming to put food on the table. But since the spill, she says she has been prevented from cultivating her land.

Now, as another farming season begins, she wants to know whether she can return to her fields.

“Last year, they stopped us from farming. Are they going to allow us this year, since they say they have cleaned the area?” she asked a lawyer briefing about 20 affected residents after the latest court adjournment.

The Supreme Court has adjourned, for the fourth time, an appeal by Sino Metals against a High Court decision allowing a constitutional petition by 177 residents affected by the spill to proceed.

The latest adjournment, granted on November 18, 2026, gives the parties more time to explore a possible settlement.

A three-member panel comprising Justices Nigel Mutuna, Fulgency Mwenya Chisanga and Abha Nayar Patel granted the application by Attorney General Mulilo Kabesha.

Justice Mutuna, however, warned that the court would not entertain further adjournments, stressing the need to conclude the matter without further delay.

Lawyers for the petitioners and Sino Metals did not oppose the application.

The petitioners are represented by Malambo and Company Advocates and Lusitu Chambers, while Sino Metals is represented by Chibesakunda & Company.

The government, which is convening settlement discussions, says it wants the negotiations to address the concerns of everyone affected by the spill, including those who are not parties to the case.

In an affidavit supporting the adjournment application seen by MakanDay, Mr Kabesha argued that the dispute extended beyond the interests of the litigants to other members of the public affected by the spill.

He said the government had consulted the parties and other stakeholders and that officials had visited Mutenda, a proposed relocation site for affected residents.

Mr Kabesha said substantial progress had been made towards resolving the dispute, but more time was needed to complete consultations and verify the circumstances of affected residents.

He argued that the adjournment would allow the government to present a comprehensive settlement framework to the Supreme Court.

The affidavit, however, gives no timetable for completing the verification exercise, finalising compensation arrangements or relocating affected households.

Resettlement raises fresh concerns

Questions remain about how Sino Metals and the government are handling resettlement and restoring livelihoods following the toxic spill.

On November 18, the same day the Supreme Court heard the appeal in Lusaka, Sino Metals and government officials met affected residents in Kalusale, one of the areas affected by the spill, to discuss resettlement.

Kalusale branch chairman Chibwe Kabunda confirmed to MakanDay that the meeting was attended by Permanent Secretary in the Office of the Vice-President Mavis Nkomesha and Kalulushi District Commissioner Mubita Ikashakala.

Sino Metals reportedly told residents it had built 60 houses for resettlement.

Mr Kabunda said some residents received housing offer letters that day, while others were taken to view the houses and given keys on November 19.

MakanDay has obtained a copy of an official letter issued by the Office of the Vice-President's Resettlement Division, confirming the allocation of a plot of land at a government resettlement scheme in Copperbelt Province.

The letter identifies the recipient as a Project Affected Person (PAP) under the Kalusale Resettlement Action Plan (RAP).

"This letter authorises you to take occupation of the plot," it states.

The recipient is required to observe the plot's surveyed boundaries and formally accept the offer by signing and returning a copy of the letter to the Scheme Manager's office.

However, the letter does not establish whether the recipient accepted the offer or took possession of the land.

Although the letter refers to the Kalusale Resettlement Action Plan, affected residents and their lawyers say they have not been given access to the document, raising questions about whether those being relocated have been adequately informed of the resettlement arrangements.

A source who attended the court hearing in Lusaka said some residents were contacted afterwards and asked where they had left their national registration cards (NRCs).

Others received calls from their children saying officials wanted to deliver housing offer letters.

The source alleged that residents who refused the offers were warned not to return to the area and told their houses would be demolished if they did. MakanDay has not established who issued the alleged warnings.

Another source said the reported threats had frightened some residents, who had called to express their concerns.

The source added that some residents had travelled to Lusaka for the court hearing, and had only learnt about the resettlement meeting on November 17.

The accounts raise questions about whether residents were adequately consulted and given enough information to make informed decisions about relocation.

The government's December 2025 resettlement action plan (RAP) approval checklist sets out requirements covering consultation, compensation, basic services and livelihood restoration, rather than housing alone.

It remains unclear whether Sino Metals has submitted an RAP, obtained government approval or included the reported 60 houses in an approved resettlement programme.

For affected residents, including the elderly woman who lost access to her farmland, the concern is not only where they will live, but how they will rebuild their livelihoods.

She remains worried about the condition of the land despite reported efforts to clean up the affected area.

“They say they added lime to address the problem,” she said. “But when it rains and water collects, I still see white foam forming.”

Legal dispute continues

The appeal arises from a High Court decision allowing a constitutional petition filed by 177 residents affected by the February 2025 spill to proceed.

The residents are seeking to hold Sino Metals accountable for the alleged environmental, economic and social harm caused by the disaster. They say the spill damaged crops, contaminated water sources and disrupted livelihoods.

Non-Ferrous China Africa (NFCA) Mining Plc, within whose mining area the tailings dams were located, is also named in the proceedings.

- **Supreme Court adjourns Sino Metals toxic spill case amid resettlement concerns cont...**

Sino Metals, a subsidiary of the Chinese state-owned China Nonferrous Metal Mining Group, operates in Chambishi in Kalulushi District on the Copperbelt.

The dispute follows the collapse of mining waste containment facilities in February 2025, which released acidic and toxic waste into nearby waterways, including the Chambishi Stream, Mwambashi River and the wider Kafue River system.

The Supreme Court previously allowed the Attorney General to join the proceedings, recognising the government's interest in the matter.
The appeal remains unresolved as efforts to negotiate a settlement outside court continue.

Expansion plans raise further environmental questions

Sino Metals is also seeking approval to expand another tailings storage facility at its Chambishi operations.

As MakanDay previously reported, the company wants to increase the capacity of its TD15G facility from approximately 1.84 million cubic metres to 5.48 million cubic metres, almost three times its current capacity.

The expansion would increase the facility's footprint from about 13 hectares to 47 hectares.

TD15G is separate from TD15F, the facility identified by the government as having failed during the 2025 spill.

The Zambia Environmental Management Agency has been reviewing an environmental and social impact assessment submitted for the proposed expansion.

The Zambia Environmental Justice Coalition has raised concerns, calling for critical safety and environmental information to be made public and independently scrutinised before approval is granted.

Company response

MakanDay contacted Permanent Secretary in the Office of the Vice-President Ms Nkomesha for comment on the resettlement arrangements. She advised MakanDay to visit her office on Friday, November 20.

MakanDay also sought comment from Sino Metals on the reported construction of 60 houses, its resettlement plans and measures to restore affected livelihoods. The company had not responded by the time this report was prepared.





The Stolen Cattle Trail: From Farms to Unknown Destinations

By Kebby Sianjame | Voice of Kalomo Community Radio

Cattle stolen in Kalomo district have turned up in neighbouring Choma. Eleven more have reportedly disappeared from another farm, along with a worker suspected by their owner of involvement in the theft.

But where do stolen cattle end up? Are they being moved across district boundaries, sold to unsuspecting buyers or secretly slaughtered, with their meat finding its way onto the market?

In search of answers, Voice of Kalomo Community Radio approached the police. But instead of receiving clear responses, the reporting team says it was repeatedly referred from one office to another, leaving critical questions about the thefts and police investigations unanswered.

For farmers in Kalomo, these are more than questions about missing livestock. Cattle represent years of investment, a source of income and, for many families, the means to pay school fees and meet other essential needs.
Now, accounts from affected farmers are raising concerns about the effectiveness of police investigations, the monitoring of livestock movements and the safeguards intended to prevent stolen animals from entering the meat market.
One farmer alleges that some stolen cattle are slaughtered in remote locations, with their hides concealed to make identification difficult. The allegations remain unverified, but they raise questions about whether existing controls can reliably establish the origins of cattle and meat being traded.

Stolen in Kalomo, recovered in Choma



When Pedicle Simatendele's cattle disappeared from Kalomo, the search for his animals eventually led to neighbouring Choma district.

Mr Simatendele describes a frustrating experience with police officers in Kalomo, whose response he believes was inadequate.

His experience with officers in Choma, however, was different. He says they were more helpful in efforts to recover his livestock.

The contrasting experiences have left him questioning how effectively police officers in neighbouring districts coordinate investigations into stock theft.

The Stolen Cattle Trail: From Farms to Unknown Destinations cont...

How were his cattle transported from Kalomo to Choma? Were any livestock movement documents presented? And what role did police cooperation play in their recovery?

Mr Simatendele believes the problem extends beyond animals being transported from one district to another. He alleges that some stolen cattle are taken to isolated locations and slaughtered before their meat is transported for sale.

According to Mr Simatendele, those responsible may conceal or bury the animals' hides, making it more difficult to identify the cattle or trace their owners.

Voice of Kalomo has not independently verified these allegations or established that stolen cattle is slaughtered or handled in this way.

Nevertheless, his claims point to a potentially significant challenge for law enforcement: once a stolen animal has been slaughtered, how can authorities establish where the meat came from?

Simatendele believes more police patrols in areas suspected of being used to move stolen livestock could help deter thieves and improve the chances of recovering missing animals.

Eleven cattle vanish from another farm

About 15 kilometres west of Kalomo town, in an area locally known as RR, another farmer is searching for answers.

Oscar Dambe says 11 of his cattle disappeared from his farm.

He suspects a farm worker who, according to his account, went missing around the same time as the animals.

Mr Dambe believes the worker may have been involved in the disappearance, although he has not provided independently verified evidence establishing the worker's responsibility.

Voice of Kalomo is withholding the worker's identity as the allegation has not been independently substantiated, and the investigation has not established whether the individual has been charged with any offence.

For Mr Dambe, the disappearance of 11 cattle represents a potentially devastating financial loss.

But his frustration is not limited to the missing animals.

He says he reported the matter to police but was dissatisfied with what he describes as a slow response.

A delayed search could give thieves more time to move animals away from their original location, potentially across district boundaries or into livestock markets.

Tough laws, but are cattle thieves being caught?

Zambia has strengthened its laws against stock theft, imposing severe prison sentences on convicted offenders.

Under the Penal Code (Amendment) Act No. 75 of 2026, a person convicted of stealing cattle faces a minimum of seven years in prison for a first offence and at least ten years for a subsequent offence.

The law also criminalises involvement in organising livestock theft and the possession of stolen cattle or their produce under specified circumstances.

But for farmers in Kalomo, the question is whether these laws are translating into effective investigations, arrests and prosecutions.

The trail across district boundaries

Livestock movement is subject to veterinary controls, including permits intended to regulate the transportation of animals and help manage animal-health risks.

But a movement permit is not necessarily proof that the person transporting an animal is its rightful owner. That distinction is central to the concerns raised by the farmers.

Effective livestock tracking requires more than simply issuing movement permits. It also depends on verifying ownership, identifying animals and ensuring that proper checks are carried out during transportation.

Voice of Kalomo Community Radio's investigation raises important questions for veterinary authorities: How is ownership verified

before movement permits are issued? Do officials check cattle identification marks against ownership records? And what measures are in place to detect stolen livestock being transported from one district to another?

Are police doing enough to stop stock theft?

For cattle owners, reporting a theft to police is often the first step towards recovering their animals.

But the experiences described by Mr Simatendele and Mr Dambe have raised concerns about how quickly reported cases are investigated and how effectively officers coordinate across districts.

Voice of Kalomo sought information from the Zambia Police Service on the number of reported stock theft cases, the number of animals recovered, arrests made and cases resulting in prosecution. Such figures would help establish the scale of reported livestock theft and provide a clearer picture of the police response.

But statistics alone would not tell the full story. The circumstances of individual investigations, including when cases were reported, how quickly officers responded and whether information was shared across districts, are also important.

The farmers' complaints have not, on their own, established police negligence or misconduct. A fair assessment requires the police account of both cases, supported by relevant records.

From stolen cattle to meat on the market?

One of the most serious allegations emerging from the farmers' accounts concerns what may happen to cattle that are not recovered alive. Mr Simatendele alleges that some stolen animals are slaughtered in remote locations, away from places where their ownership might be questioned.

He claims the hides may then be concealed or buried to make identification more difficult.

If such practices occur, they could create an additional obstacle for investigators trying to trace stolen livestock. But they also raise a wider public-interest question. Could meat from stolen cattle find its way into butcheries and other commercial outlets without its origins being detected?

The investigation has not established that this is happening in Kalomo.

No specific butchery, trader or slaughter facility has been independently linked to the alleged sale of meat from stolen cattle.

Nevertheless, the allegation highlights the importance of understanding how meat is inspected and how its origins are documented before it reaches consumers.

Can butcheries trace where their meat comes from?

To establish whether stolen cattle could enter the meat market, Voice of Kalomo Community Radio interviewed a Kalomo butchery operator who requested anonymity.

He said farmers selling cattle must obtain a letter from their village headman identifying the owner and describing the animal, including its brand mark and colour. They must also provide veterinary movement documents and copies of their own and the headman's national registration cards.

At the abattoir, he said, police check the animals and issue clearance before veterinary officers inspect them for slaughter. The meat is inspected again before being released for sale.

The businessman said cattle must be slaughtered at designated facilities, not in homes, butcheries or isolated locations.

Asked about allegations that stolen cattle are slaughtered in the bush and their meat supplied to butcheries at night, he denied that this had happened at his business.

“No, that has never happened at our butchery,” he said. “And we have no record of any stolen animal at our butchery.”

He believes the checks involving village headmen, police and veterinary officers provide adequate safeguards against stock theft.

“For me, I think the procedure is okay, and it probably covers almost all the critical areas that need to be looked at,” he said.

However, Voice of Kalomo has not independently verified whether these procedures are consistently followed or whether they can reliably prevent meat from stolen cattle entering the market. The investigation has found no evidence linking any specific Kalomo butchery to stolen livestock.

The court ordered their release, but they stayed in custody for 20 more days.

By Gibson Zulu

The Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP), Gilbert Phiri, has referred questions about the continued detention of two Lusaka men for 20 days after the High Court ordered their release to the Zambia Police Service and other law enforcement agencies.

In a written response to MakanDay dated 13 November 2026, Mr Phiri acknowledged the court's order releasing Solomon Mbewe, 26, and Felix Chipili, 22, but said the National Prosecution Authority (NPA) had no operational mandate over the management of people in custody.

The response follows a request for comment sent by MakanDay on 4 November, when the two men were still in detention despite the DPP having discontinued aggravated robbery proceedings against them and the Lusaka High Court ordering their release on 23 October. Mbewe and Chipili were eventually released on 12 November, 20 days after the court order.

The men had already spent more than nine months in detention after their arrest on 3 February 2026.

In his response, Mr Phiri said the responsibility for enforcing the law, including arrests and the management of people in custody, rested with the police and other relevant law enforcement agencies.

"The National Prosecution Authority does not have the operational mandate to manage detention facilities or determine the circumstances surrounding the continued physical custody of individuals," he wrote.

He added that concerns about the continued detention of the two men, including its legal basis, should be directed to the relevant law enforcement agencies.

MakanDay also sought clarification from the Zambia Police Service on why the two men remained in custody despite the High Court's release order. However, the police did not respond to the query.

However, the DPP's response did not explain why the two men remained in custody after the High Court ordered their release on 23 October. It also did not directly confirm or deny an allegation that his office had instructed that the two men be re-arrested.

As previously reported by MakanDay, a family member said a senior state advocate had informed the family that he had received instructions from the DPP to have Mbewe and Chipili re-arrested.

Asked to clarify whether such instructions had been issued, Phiri referred MakanDay to law enforcement agencies.

"With regard to the allegation that this Office instructed that the two individuals be re-arrested, you are advised to seek clarification from the relevant law enforcement agencies regarding the circumstances surrounding any subsequent arrest and the legal basis thereof," he said.

DPP defends decision to discontinue prosecution
In the same response, Mr Phiri defended his office's decision to discontinue the aggravated robbery proceedings against the two men, citing his constitutional authority to terminate criminal prosecutions.

He referred to Article 180(3) of the Constitution, which establishes the DPP as the government's chief prosecutor and head of the NPA, and Article 180(4)(c), which empowers the DPP to discontinue criminal proceedings before judgment.

He also cited Section 81 of the Criminal Procedure Code, which provides for the entry of a nolle prosequi, a formal decision to discontinue criminal proceedings.

"The entry of a nolle prosequi in the matter on 23rd October, 2026, was therefore an exercise of the constitutional and statutory prosecutorial authority vested in the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions," he stated.

Mr Phiri also acknowledged the subsequent court order for the release of the accused persons.

The two men had pleaded not guilty to aggravated robbery when their trial began before Lusaka High Court Judge Mutinta Kaumbi Ndulo-Mundia on 5 October 2026.

After several adjournments, the DPP entered a nolle prosequi on 23 October, bringing the proceedings to an end.

Following the discontinuance, Justice Ndulo-Mundia ordered the two men discharged from custody.

Under Section 81(1) of the Criminal Procedure Code, the entry of a nolle prosequi requires an accused person to be discharged from custody in relation to the discontinued proceedings, although the State may subsequently institute fresh proceedings on the same facts.

Despite the order, Mbewe and Chipili remained in custody until 12 November.

Families referred to law enforcement agencies

In his response, Mr Phiri also advised the families of the two men to seek clarification from law enforcement agencies about the circumstances of their detention.

"The families of the affected individuals may wish to follow up with the relevant law enforcement agencies to establish the circumstances surrounding the continued detention of the two individuals and obtain guidance on the appropriate next steps," he wrote.

The DPP's response came after MakanDay sent a follow-up query on 4 November, seeking an explanation for the continued detention and clarification of the alleged re-arrest instruction.

MakanDay had also raised the matter in an earlier correspondence dated 25 September 2026.
Mr Phiri said the issues raised in the subsequent correspondence had been addressed in his response.

Although the two men are now free, the DPP's response leaves several questions unanswered: what legal authority was used to keep them in custody after the High Court ordered their release, whether they were formally re-arrested, and who authorised their continued detention.



Malawi's arms trafficking case: The weapons order and the aircraft.

Malawi Defence Force's former commander, General Paul Valentino Phiri, was arrested in October on charges of trafficking weapons via Malawi to Sudan. Two new sets of records—a military certificate and flight data—now offer the clearest insight yet into how this suspected international arms-trafficking network operated.

BY JACK MCBRAMS, GREGORY GONDWE AND GOLDEN MATONGA.

On paper, the scale of the weapons order is staggering. An official Malawi Defence Force (MDF) end-user certificate lists 60,000 AK rifles, 15,000 machine guns, artillery, missiles and 90 million rounds of ammunition, all listed as being for Malawi's Ministry of Defence.

The aircraft movements tell another part of the story. Data analysed by the Platform for Investigative Journalism (PIJ) shows that the SU-SKG, the cargo plane at the centre of the criminal case against retired General Paul Valentino Phiri, made repeated flights between Mombasa and Lilongwe in July 2025, followed by 11 flights between Lilongwe and N'Djamena in Chad.

Phiri led the MDF until October 2025. Prosecutors allege that he facilitated the movement of the weapons from Kenya, through Malawi and on to Chad.

The certificate and the flights made by SU-SKG are consistent with the Anti-Corruption Bureau's five-count case against Phiri. Prosecutors allege that he helped arrange an end-user certificate, which is supposed to be a guarantee that the weapons are for the MDF, when they were actually meant for rebels in Sudan. Weapons arrived in Kenya aboard SU-SKG and were received at the Malawi Air Cargo warehouse at Kamuzu International Airport in Lilongwe before being sent on to Chad.

The scanned end-user certificate in PIJ's possession is dated 18 June 2025, the same day as the certificate cited in the prosecution's case against Phiri. The certificate states that the equipment is intended for MDF use and must not be transferred or re-exported without written permission from Malawi's state export control service. This matters to the case against Phiri, especially if investigations can show that the goods were received by the MDF, whether the certificate was genuine, and whether the later transfer was authorised.

Outstanding questions

The certificate in PIJ's possession identifies the exporter as Jabari Industries Limited, with an address at PO Box 100798, Jamia, Nairobi, Kenya.

The certificate is also signed by Brigadier General L.E. Mwase, with the designation "For Commander", rather than Phiri's name. This does not prove that Mwase knew of or was involved in any alleged arms diversion. It also does not show whether the document was formally approved through Malawi's export-control procedures.

Naming Jabari Industries as the exporter also does not prove that the company manufactured, supplied, or shipped the listed equipment, knew of any proposed diversion, or engaged in wrongdoing. Questions remain about the company's actual role, the document's provenance, and any associated supply and shipment records. In its investigations, the PIJ has not established that the scanned inventory certificate in its possession is the exact instrument referred to in the charges or that the quantities listed were ever supplied, imported, or transported aboard SU-SKG.

The document is not a cargo manifest or proof of delivery. It does not identify an aircraft, shipment dates, or consignment numbers, nor does it establish that any of the listed equipment reached Malawi, Chad, or Sudan. Its authenticity, provenance, and relationship to the alleged shipments remain subject to further verification.

The vast weapon inventory recorded in the scanned certificate does not prove that the weapons were indeed imported into Malawi or sent to another recipient, and the document comes with no shipment records, delivery receipts, or other evidence that the items were supplied.

MALAWI DEFENCE FORCE
MANIFEST OF WEAPONS AND AMMUNITION

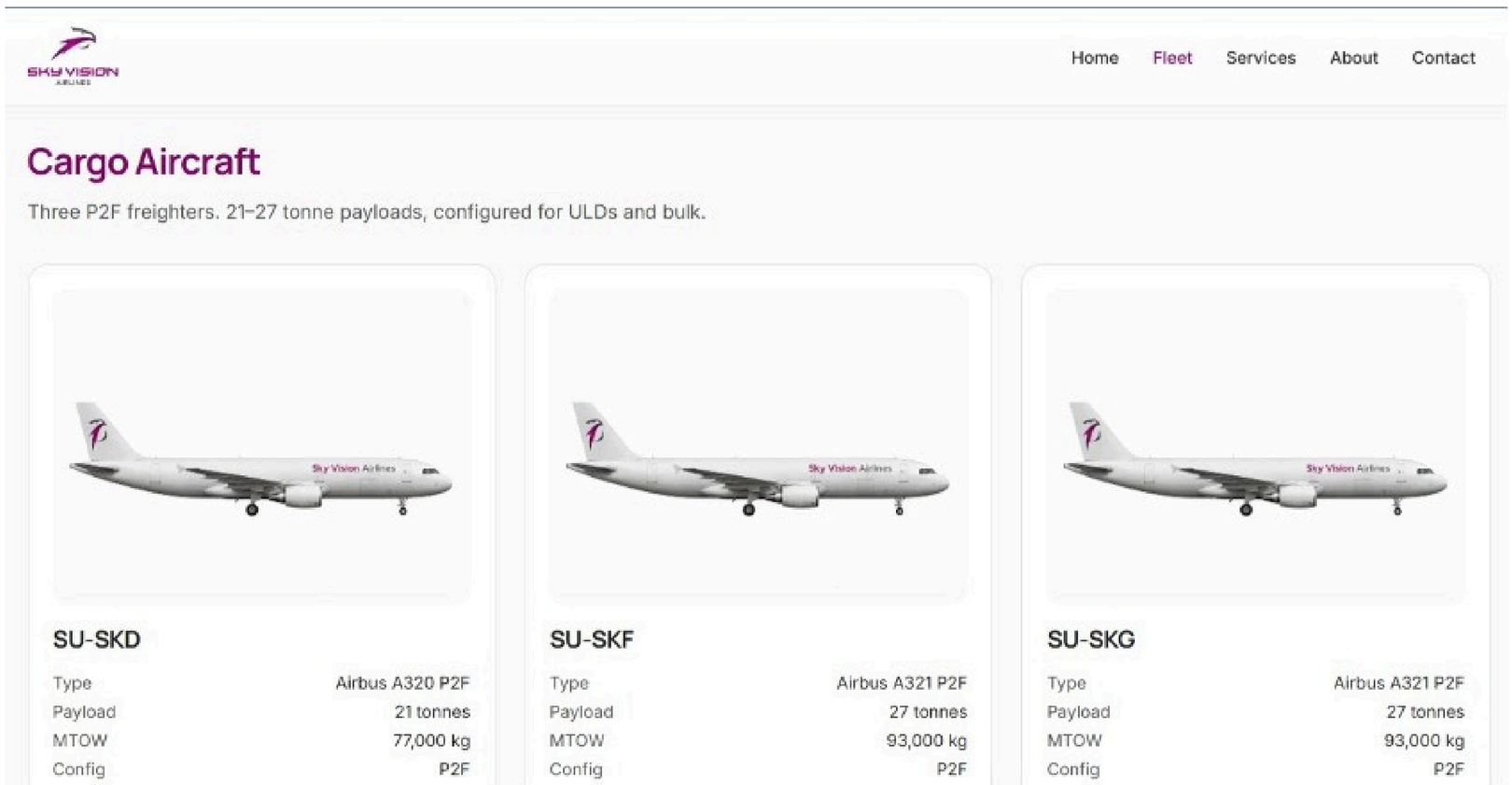
SN	Description	Quantity	SN	Description	Quantity
1.	7.62X39mm AK Rifle	60,000	19.	Strela-2 MANPADs Air defence launching unit-	300
2.	7.62X39mm Ball Cartridge	50,000,000	20.	Strela-2 MANPADS Air defence missile	600
3.	7.62X54mm PKM Machine Gun	10,000	21.	Kornet Launcher	200
4.	7.62X54mm Ball Cartridge	30,000,000	22.	Kornet Missile	2,000
5.	12.7mm Dshka Machine Gun	5,000	23.	SPG-9 (B10)	100
6.	12.7x108mm API Ammunition	5,000,000	23.	SPG-9 (B10)	1,000
7.	40 mm Rocket Launcher RPG-7	1,000	24.	SPG-9 Ammunition	1,000
8.	40 mm HEAT Rocket for RPG-7	10,000	25.	82mm Mortar Bomb	50,000
9.	23mm Gun Cannon(ZU)	150	26.	60mm Mortar Bomb	80,000
10.	23mm API-T Cartridge	5,000,000	27.	82mm Mortar Launcher	1,500
11.	120 mm Mortar Launcher	1,000	28.	60mm Mortar Launcher	1,500
12.	120 mm HE Mortar Bomb	50,000	29.	60mm Mortar Launcher	1,500
13.	107 mm Multi Rocket Launcher	100	29.	14.5 Sniper Rifle	500
14.	107 mm HE Rocket	50,000	30.	12.7 Sniper Rifle	500
15.	122mm Multiple Rocket Launcher System (MRLS)	50	31.	30mm Auto Grenade Launcher	100
16.	122mm 20Km High Explosive Rocket	10,000	32.	RPG-26	5,000
17.	130mm Towed Field Gun	50			
18.	130mm Projectile HE full charge	10,000			

L.E. MWASE, psc
Brigadier General
For Commander
MALAWI DEFENCE FORCE

Date: 18-06-25

Page 1 of 1

Excerpt from the end user certificate, showing the weapons inventory and a signature attributed to Brigadier General L.E. Mwase, "For Commander", dated June 18, 2025



The SU-SKG is listed as one of three cargo airplanes on Sky Vision Airlines' inventory

Malawi's arms trafficking case: The weapons order and the aircraft. cont...

The aircraft at the centre of the case

Flight tracking data places the aircraft named in the criminal case on the same routes that the ACB and prosecutors say were used to bring weapons from Kenya into Malawi.

The ACB charge sheet names the plane as an Airbus A321-200, SU-SKG. Aviation records give its serial number as 1707 and its ICAO transponder code as 010277. It was converted from passenger to cargo configuration in March 2024 and entered service the following year.

A PIJ analysis of the aircraft model used and the weaponry load suggests that the 60 000 AK47s would weigh an estimated 243 tonnes, and with the plane's capacity restricted to 28 tonnes, it would take nearly all the trips recorded on the tracker to complete the delivery of all military hardware listed on the end-user certificate.

The PIJ tracked this aircraft's flights using FlightRadar24 to reconstruct its movements over the six weeks between 4 July and 14 August 2025.

The records reveal 33 flights that fall into four main stages: Cairo to Mombasa, repeated flights between Mombasa and Lilongwe, a concentrated series of flights between Lilongwe and N'Djamena, and a departure from Malawi to Egypt.

FlightRadar24 identifies Sky Vision Airlines as the aircraft's operator. However, its publicly available aircraft profile does not establish who chartered SU-SKG for the July 2025 flights, who arranged the cargo-handling operations, or who owned or leased the aircraft during the period.

The warehouse named in the charge sheet is one focus for further investigation. Ground-handling records and cargo documentation would be needed to establish whether equipment was transferred there.

Malawi Air Cargo chief executive Eunice Napolo told PIJ that the company could not comment because the matter was before the courts.

PIJ sent detailed questionnaires to Phiri, Airport Developments Limited (ADL), the Malawi Revenue Authority (MRA) and the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA). None of them had responded by the time of publication.

Shuttling between Mombasa and Lilongwe

Flight tracker data place SU-SKG in Cairo, Egypt, on 4 July 2025. After an earlier flight, it returned to Cairo and then departed in the evening heading south towards East Africa. One of the flight records lists Sharm el-Sheikh as its destination, and the position trail suggests it continued towards Mombasa. PIJ could not establish a confirmed landing at Sharm el-Sheikh from the available records.

On 5 July, the aircraft appears at Moi International Airport, where it stayed for 105 hours, more than four days.

On 9 July, the aircraft leaves Mombasa for Kamuzu International Airport in Lilongwe, arriving at about 3.44pm UTC. It leaves Malawi about three hours later and returns to Kenya.

A recurring shuttle between the two cities begins. FlightRada24 records show at least five fully identifiable legs between July 9 and 13 alongside incomplete entries. Each trip takes about one hour and 50 minutes.

General Phiri greets a sympathiser during his last court appearance in Lilongwe



Malawi's arms trafficking case: The weapons order and the aircraft. cont....

The dataset also records an unusual movement on 12 July. The aircraft departed Mombasa and returned to the same airport after approximately six hours, covering about 2 577 kilometres. The available tracking records do not establish the purpose of that flight or whether it involved an intermediate stop.

The aircraft left Mombasa again on 13 July.

The flights to Chad
From 17 July, the aircraft's recorded movements shifted towards a recurring route between Lilongwe and N'Djamena.

PIJ's analysis identifies approximately 11 flights between the two airports between 17 and 16 July. Each journey covered roughly 3 500 to 3 600 kilometres and generally took between four and a half and five hours.

The records show flights alternating between Lilongwe and N'Djamena, with the aircraft repeatedly returning to Malawi before departing again for Chad.

On 22 July, for example, SU-SKG departs Lilongwe shortly before 9.30am UTC and arrives in N'Djamena at 2pm. It leaves Chad later that afternoon, at about 4.47pm, and returns to Lilongwe at 9.17pm.

A similar round trip took place on 24 July. The aircraft departed Lilongwe shortly before 6.45am UTC, arriving in N'Djamena at 11.36am. It departed Chad at about 4.18pm and landed back in Malawi at approximately 8.57pm.

Other records capture movements in both directions on 18, 19, 20 and 21 July, as well as further journeys on 26 July. Some of these flight records have incomplete take-off or landing information, making it impossible to reconstruct every leg with the same degree of certainty.

The repeated Lilongwe–N'Djamena movements are, however, clearly visible in the available position data.

On 30 July, the aircraft departs Lilongwe for Cairo on a flight lasting approximately seven hours, covering about 5 600 kilometres.

The sequence is striking. After spending several days operating between Mombasa and Lilongwe, the aircraft undertook an intensive series of flights connecting Malawi and Chad before departing for Egypt.

SU-SKG at the heart of another investigation

In a separate investigation, the European Institute for Peace and Governance (EIPG) names the SU-SKG among aircraft that flew from Cairo to Port Sudan in June 2026, along with another Sky Vision freighter, SU-SKF.

The report examines Egypt's alleged military and logistical support for the Sudanese Armed Forces. It says that flight tracking shows a recurring cargo route but does not establish what the aircraft carried. The PIJ has asked Sky Vision Airlines to explain the aircraft's movements during this period.



Flight data showing the airplane's movement at N'djamena Airport in Chad



Aviation expert Sean Mendis

Aviation expert Sean Mendis said the pattern of flights between Kenya and Malawi deserved scrutiny, particularly given the limited regular air links between Malawi and Chad.

"I am absolutely not surprised. Malawi has been used as a transshipment cover for a long time," Mendis said. "Jurisdictions like Malawi with poor regulatory oversight are ripe to be exploited for illicit cargo trans-shipments like arms trading."

He said operators involved in illicit arms trading often shifted their activities between jurisdictions to exploit weaknesses in oversight, rather than relying on a single country.

Mendis also said Malawi's role appeared to be expanding both as a potential transshipment point and as a registry of convenience for aircraft used in such operations.

"Any route that doesn't have consistently operated flights is irregular by definition, so it invites additional scrutiny notwithstanding any potential involvement with illicit activity," he said.

Mendis said he was unaware of documented significant trade links between Malawi and Chad, adding that a large volume of cargo flights between the two countries was therefore irregular.

Malawi's arms trafficking case: The weapons order and the aircraft. cont...

His assessment raises questions about the commercial rationale for the aircraft's repeated journeys between Lilongwe and N'Djamena. It does not, however, establish that SU-SKG was carrying illicit cargo. The flight records document the movements, not the commercial arrangements or the contents of the aircraft.



President Lazarus Chakwera pins rank insignia on General Paul Valentino Phiri during his investiture as Malawi Defence Force Commander at State House



The court ordered their release, but they stayed in custody for 20 more days.

EDITORIAL

Good leaders come and go, strong institutions must remain

It is not every day that we must complain about what is wrong with our country. When government does something right, it deserves recognition. In recent weeks, we have seen several initiatives worthy of commendation.

From the digitisation of passport applications and the demolition of illegal structures built on public structures to efforts to restore cleanliness and order in Lusaka, these initiatives are encouraging signs of public officers taking their responsibilities seriously.

We also acknowledge efforts by Labour Minister Misheck Nyambose to bring order to the labour sector, as well as initiatives by local authorities to improve sanitation and enforce existing regulations.

This is precisely what public service should be about. Those entrusted with public office must serve the people, enforce the law and protect public resources.

However, while these efforts deserve praise, we must ask a tough question: How did we allow our institutions and public spaces to deteriorate to this extent in the first place?

How were structures allowed to be built on road reserves, sewer lines and other protected areas? Where were the authorities mandated to enforce planning regulations? Why should restoring cleanliness to our cities depend on the enthusiasm of a newly appointed leader? These are questions that cannot be ignored.

Our concern is that without addressing the underlying causes, the current initiatives risk becoming another wave of excitement associated with new appointments, only to fade when the enthusiasm wears off.

Zambia does not lack laws or institutions. What has often been missing is consistent enforcement, institutional independence and the political will to hold offenders accountable, regardless of their connections.

It is therefore important that government goes beyond demolitions, clean-up campaigns and administrative reforms.

Public institutions must be empowered to discharge their responsibilities without political interference. Officers tasked with enforcing regulations should not have to seek political permission to do their jobs.

Equally, those who abuse public office, illegally allocate land or interfere with enforcement must face consequences, regardless of their political affiliation or status.

The digitisation of passport services is welcome, but it must also ensure that citizens without reliable internet access are not excluded.

Ultimately, good governance should not depend on the personality or energy of an individual minister, mayor or permanent secretary.

Strong institutions, not strong personalities, are what guarantee lasting progress.

It is against this background that we strongly disagree with those calling for the removal of presidential term limits. Such proposals risk promoting the dangerous notion that Zambia's progress depends on keeping particular individuals in power rather than building institutions capable of serving the country beyond any presidency.

No leader, however effective or popular, is indispensable. Presidential term limits are an important democratic safeguard against the excessive concentration of power and help ensure regular leadership renewal.

Instead of advocating for the removal of presidential term limits, we should be demanding stronger, independent and accountable institutions that uphold the rule of law, enforce regulations without fear or favour, and serve the interests of Zambians regardless of who occupies State House. Our democracy must be built to outlast individuals, not redesigned to accommodate them.

We commend the efforts being made. But the real achievement will come when these initiatives become routine institutional responsibilities rather than extraordinary acts celebrated whenever a new leader assumes office.

That is the Zambia we should be building.



MakanDay

INVESTIGATE.
EXPLAIN.
INSPIRE CHANGE.

HOUSE BUSINESS



MakanDay's weekly look inside Zambia's National Assembly — what MPs said, what they did, how they voted and why it matters to you.

Your MP can question a minister. But will the answer solve your problem?

By MakanDay Editor

Imagine living in a community where the nearest health centre has no medicines, the road becomes impassable during the rainy season, or elderly people entitled to social assistance have not received their payments.

You have complained to government, but nothing has changed.

The national assembly is another avenue for your MP to seek answers.

One of parliament's most important responsibilities is to hold the government accountable. MPs can question ministers about problems affecting their constituencies and demand explanations about government decisions.

But how does this work, and what happens after a minister answers?

Under the National Assembly's Standing Orders, MPs can submit questions requiring oral or written answers. They can ask about government policies, expenditure, public services and projects.

For example, an MP whose constituency has a stalled road project can ask the responsible minister when construction will resume, how much money has been allocated and what has caused the delay.

A minister's response becomes part of the parliamentary record, allowing the public to examine the government's explanation.

Importantly, MPs may also ask supplementary questions.

These follow-up questions provide an opportunity to challenge incomplete answers or seek further clarification.

This is where parliamentary scrutiny becomes particularly important.

A minister might announce that the government intends to construct a hospital, recruit teachers or improve water supply. But an announcement alone does not tell residents when they will benefit.

An effective MP should seek specific answers: When will the project begin? How much will it cost? Where will the money come from? Who will be responsible for implementation?

From questions to accountability

The Order Paper for Thursday, November 12, illustrates another way ministers are required to explain government activities.

It scheduled two ministerial statements: one from the Minister of Labour and Social Security on labour inspections and compliance with labour laws, and another from the Minister of Community Development and Social Services on the implementation of social protection programmes.

These are matters with direct consequences for ordinary Zambians.

For workers, effective labour inspections can mean the difference between having workplace protections enforced and being exposed to unsafe conditions or unfair treatment.

For vulnerable households, social protection programmes can determine whether families have enough money to meet basic needs.

But the real test is not simply whether ministers deliver statements. It is whether MPs examine the information presented, identify weaknesses and demand corrective action.

A statement about social protection, for example, should prompt questions about how many eligible households remain excluded, whether payments are made on time and what happens when beneficiaries are wrongly removed.

Similarly, when government promises to strengthen labour inspections, MPs should establish whether inspectors have the resources and transport necessary to visit workplaces.

Why it matters

Parliamentary questions cannot, by themselves, repair a road, supply medicines or guarantee social assistance.

They can, however, expose government failures, establish who is responsible and put commitments on the public record.
That record matters because promises can be revisited.

For citizens, the measure of an effective MP should therefore go beyond how frequently they speak in Parliament.

What matters is whether they raise genuine constituency concerns, obtain meaningful answers and follow up when government promises remain unfulfilled.

After all, a question asked in Parliament should not be the end of the matter. It should be the beginning of accountability.



From the Bulletin & Record Archives

Long before Zambia gained independence in 1964, football was already doing more than entertaining crowds on the Copperbelt. It was bringing African mineworkers together, breaking ethnic barriers, challenging colonial divisions and helping shape a new sense of identity and belonging.

What began as a game introduced by European settlers became a powerful expression of African culture, solidarity and, eventually, political consciousness. From the mining compounds of Luanshya and Mufulira to packed football grounds in Kitwe, African players and administrators transformed football into a platform for community organisation and leadership.

But how did a colonial pastime become an important part of Zambia's struggle for identity and self-determination?

In this historical account, Hikabwa D. Chipande traces the rise of football on the Copperbelt and explores how African mineworkers made the game their own, long before independence.

First published in 2014 by The Bulletin & Record magazine, the article is republished today by MakanDay Weekly, offering readers an opportunity to revisit an important chapter in Zambia's sporting and social history.

How football became a leading form of popular black culture & identity

By Hikabwa D. Chipande

It is 20 minutes before fulltime in a 1962 semi-final Castle Cup match between Roan United and Nchanga Sports at Scrivener Stadium in Kitwe. Supporters of both teams are starting to lose patience. Roan United supporters console themselves by chanting "Roni iwine chungulu" (Roan wins in the evening, meaning the dying minutes of a match).

As the clock winds down, John Mulenga, popularly known as "Ginger Pensulo" after Ginger Stevenson, a European of Nchanga Sports Football Club, collects a loose pass from the midfield. He dribbles past three defenders and fires a sizzling shot that the Nchanga Sports goalkeeper cannot stop.Roan United supporters celebrate the game-winning goal by chanting: "Ginger Pensulo, Ginger Pensulo, Ginger Pensulo." Roan United had made it to the prestigious Castle Cup final.

Pensulo spent his entire adult life working at Luanshya's Roan Antelope Mine. He worked as welfare assistant in the African Welfare Department, captained Roan United from 1965 to 1967, and later coached the club. He still lives in Luanshya and remains one of the most celebrated football stars locally and across Zambia.

Pensulo's success was built on the rich football culture that developed on the Copperbelt beginning in the early 1920s. Social historian Peter Alegi points out that when Europeans introduced football in Africa in the second half of the 19th century, Africans were not passive victims on whom football was imposed; rather, local men (and perhaps some women) enthusiastically took to the game because "it was fun inexpensive, and relatively easy to play."

Drawing on archival documents, press articles, and oral sources, this article explores the emergence of football on the Copperbelt. Specifically, it explores how newly urbanised African miners appropriated the game from European colonisers and transformed it into a leading form of black popular culture. It argues that when the colonial state and mining authorities introduced football on the Copperbelt through post-war welfare schemes in order to "detribalize" urban Africans and control them, Africans had already appropriated the game and made it their own.

Urbanised Africans on the Copperbelt, in other words, took advantage of the welfare system to develop and enjoy football in mining communities and to challenge colonial authorities to deliver quality social services to the people. I argue further that football gave Africans an opportunity to create new urban networks, build new community identities and meaning to their social lives.They also used the game to build camaraderie and social exchanges with fellow colonised Africans in neighboring states through football tours. Eventually, football also enabled some men to gain leadership experience that would be crucial to the broader Zambian struggle for political independence.

The magnetism of football in welfare centres led to the emergence of several competing local football clubs formed by miners and their dependents. The football clubs both symbolised and embodied the start of a new life for urbanised, wage-earning Africans.

As in the mines of South Africa, workers in colonial Zambia "adopted British soccer to cope with the dislocations of urbanisation and build vital alternative networks" in urban, industrial settings. This social and economic change from rural to urban also required men to re-create their identities and communities, which most did by relying on their ethnic and cultural links. For those who were miners, it meant that they had to juggle their mining jobs and football.

Dickson Makwaza, the longest-serving Zambian national football team captain (1967-1975), told me how in the early 1960s as a young miner he shuffled from the mineshaft at Mufulira Copper Mines to Mufulira Mine Football Club grounds. Around this time, mining companies provided their football-playing employees with transport to and from the mines to the sports fields, but little else.

African clubs were self-supporting. They raised funds through membership fees, gate takings, and selling refreshments at big games. Sometimes a club chairman would use his money to purchase jerseys and other equipment from a local shop. On other occasions, chairmen made loans to the club to be repaid later out of money won in competitions, fundraising, gate takings, and even selling alcohol and foodstuffs during matches.

Football players usually bought their own second-hand boots from Europeans until the mid-1960s after independence when Copperbelt welfare programmes started supporting athletes with sports equipment such as boots and jerseys.

As competitive football began to thrive in African communities on the Copperbelt, the Governor of Northern Rhodesia decided to start sponsoring the Governor's Cup. In the past, the Governor had always attended the Cup final with an entourage of colonial administrators and mining company officials. Qualification matches for the Governor's Cup were played in each mining town (district), and then the winners played inter-district to decide the semifinalists and finalists.

Other important cup competitions at the time included the Colony Cup, Spearpoint Cup, and the Waddington Cup, which was named after Sir John Waddington, Governor of Northern Rhodesia from 1941 to 1947.

The growing passion for the game among Africans and colonial investment through the Beer Hall Amenities Fund led to the opening in 1948 of the Copperbelt African football league, with clubs from Ndola, Kitwe, Luanshya, Mufulira and Chingola.

The newly formed league required each district to have two clubs. At Roan Antelope, the best players were selected to form one big club called Roan African Football Club (Ginger Pensulo's team discussed earlier).Clubs in Luanshya's government locations formed Luanshya Buffaloes. The First Division Copperbelt Football clubs featured Mufulira Tigers, Mufulira Styles, Chingola Dynamos, Chingola Orients, Kitwe Lions, Kitwe Tigers, Ndola Home Defenders and Ndola Black Follies. The Copperbelt African Football league increased competition and the demand for talented football players regardless of their ethnic affiliation leading to the ending of ethnic football in Copperbelt African mining townships.

From the Bulletin & Record Archives

How football became a leading form of popular black culture & identity cont...

Talented football players were highly sought by each club to strengthen and dominate the district and the province. The new clubs represented mining companies, mining compounds, government locations, councils, towns and districts.

Players in these new clubs were predominantly talented low-and middle-income miners, clerks, council workers and teachers who resided in either mining townships or government locations. By the end of 1958, the league had expanded and the Copperbelt was divided into two regions with 12 clubs competing in each region. The first league was made up of clubs such as Mufulira Mine, Luanshya All Blacks, Nchanga Mine, Kitwe Lions, and Ndola Black Follies and the second league was made up Rhokana United, Roan Mine, Mufulira Black Pool, Bancroft Mine, Chingola Orphans, and Ndola.

One of the very first international matches among Africans in Northern Rhodesia took place in connection with the first known "unofficial sub-Saharan soccer championship" in 1950 in Elisabethville (Lubumbashi). To help defray travel costs for the Johannesburg Bantu Football Association (JBFA) team's trip to the Belgian Congo, South Africa's white authorities scheduled matches on the Copperbelt and in Bulawayo, Southern Rhodesia. After the tournament in Elisabethville in July 1950, the South Africans travelled by rail to the Copperbelt. There, the JBFA team beat a Chingola select side, and then played a Copperbelt select side at Scrivener Stadium in Kitwe, as well as other matches in Mufulira, Ndola, Luanshya, and in Lusaka on July 30, 1950 before making their way to Bulawayo.

Despite losing most of the matches against the visiting South Africans, the Copperbelt teams enjoyed the experience so much that the CAFA invited the JBFA back. The South Africans returned in January 1959 and contested several matches in Copperbelt towns and Lusaka, winning most of them.

The South Africans returned the favor and invited the Copperbelt select team to visit Transvaal towards the end of 1959. The CAFA made their first tour of Transvaal in 1959, where Ginger Pensulo emerged top scorer of the tour.

In 1960, the association eventually split into two separate soccer and athletics bodies -- the Copperbelt African FA (CAFA) and the Copperbelt African Athletics Association. CAFA became affiliated to the Northern Rhodesia African Football Association and became the ruling body of the local game from Kapiri Mposhi to the border with Katanga. Around the same time, CAFA conducted elections and elected R. Howie as president, Jimmy Fleming as chairman, Ben Evans as vice-president, and Tom Mtine—the only African—as secretary.

The institutional reorganisation of Copperbelt African Football brought a lot of positive changes. The association now required one European and one African to represent each of the six districts. This change opened doors for Africans like Tom Mtine, a renowned Ndola based businessman, to be elected to the post of secretary of the association. It also allowed other African football administrators like Musa Kasonka, a former goalkeeper for Nchanga Eleven Wise Men, to be elected as vice-chairman of the association. Kasonka was also team manager for the CAFA select team that toured Johannesburg in 1959.

It was not common around this time for an African to acquire a leadership position in an organisation with Europeans. In fact, CAFA was one of the first institutions in colonial Northern Rhodesia to open leadership positions to both Africans and Europeans. This transformation gave Africans a taste of equality and strengthened self-confidence for asserting political independence.

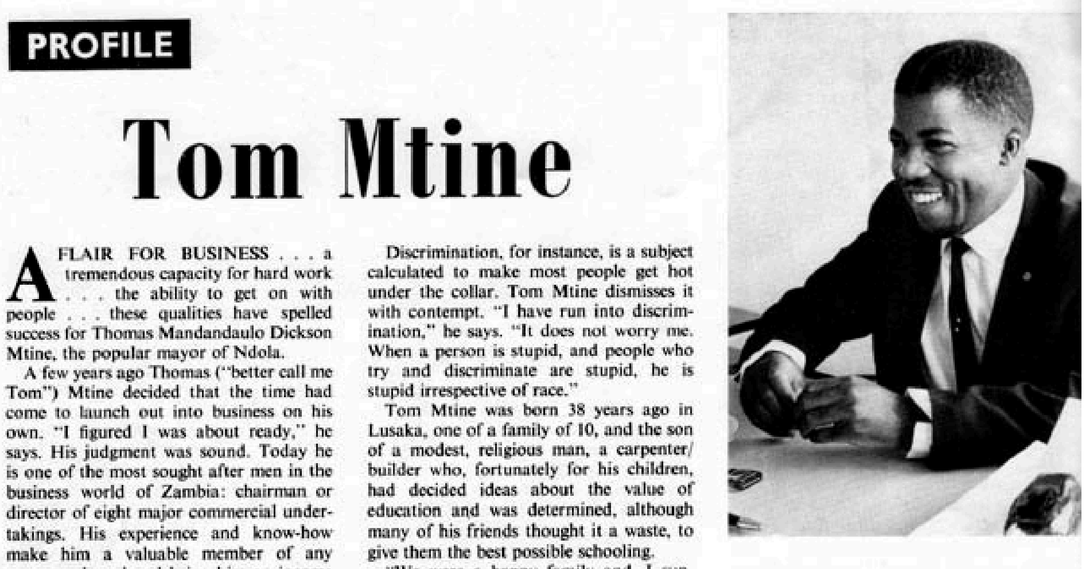
In the immediate post-war period, what historians often call the "Second Colonial Occupation," African football on the Copperbelt overshadowed the game in the rest of Northern Rhodesia. Copperbelt teams travelled widely to compete in international matches that, among other things, built camaraderie and solidarity with fellow colonised Africans in neighboring countries. As the launch in 1962 of a non-racial semi-professional National Football League would illustrate, the Copperbelt would continue to dominate Northern Rhodesian/Zambian football for decades to come.

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Caption: Bisa No. 2 football team of Luanshya. Source: Mutende, October 1937, p. 16.



Bisa No. 2.—Lukonde (*Capt.*) ; Mukosho ; Taulo ; Nailwell ; Peter ; Hezekiah ; White ; Chipulange ; Kalunga ; Chifofoma ; Chikwanda.



PROFILE

Tom Mtine

A FLAIR FOR BUSINESS . . . a tremendous capacity for hard work . . . the ability to get on with people . . . these qualities have spelled success for Thomas Mandandaulo Dickson Mtine, the popular mayor of Ndola.

A few years ago Thomas ("better call me Tom") Mtine decided that the time had come to launch out into business on his own. "I figured I was about ready," he says. His judgment was sound. Today he is one of the most sought after men in the business world of Zambia: chairman or director of eight major commercial undertakings. His experience and know-how make him a valuable member of any company board and bring him an income that places him well to the fore of Zambia's highest earners.

Tom Mtine, is a stocky, quiet spoken, no-nonsense man who weighs up all the factors carefully before reaching any decision; he is blessed with the ability to discard the unnecessary and penetrate to the very heart of a problem.

He brushes aside obstacles or trivialities with an impatient shrug of his shoulders. Talking to him you get the impression that he does not suffer fools willingly, but he is saved from ruthlessness by a sense of humour which enables him to see the ridiculousness of a situation.



Discrimination, for instance, is a subject calculated to make most people get hot under the collar. Tom Mtine dismisses it with contempt. "I have run into discrimination," he says. "It does not worry me. When a person is stupid, and people who try and discriminate are stupid, he is stupid irrespective of race."

Tom Mtine was born 38 years ago in Lusaka, one of a family of 10, and the son of a modest, religious man, a carpenter/builder who, fortunately for his children, had decided ideas about the value of education and was determined, although many of his friends thought it a waste, to give them the best possible schooling.

"We were a happy family and, I suppose, comparatively well-to-do by the standards of the time," he says. "My father worked for the Government for 30 years, retiring in 1942. He was, undoubtedly, the biggest influence on my life. His advice was: 'Listen to older people and benefit from their experience.' When I went to Munali School he told me that I should regard the teachers as taking his place and pay them due respect. In fact the staff at Munali helped me a great deal."

Introduction to responsibility

The formative years of Tom Mtine's life were spent at Munali. He started in the primary section in 1936 and left with the Cambridge School Certificate in 1947. He became a house prefect and he was in charge of the school stationery stores — two duties which introduced him to responsibility and had an effect in later life.

It was at Munali too that he made friends with a quiet, music loving, older boy, whom he was to meet again in adult life — Kenneth Kaunda, now president of Zambia.

"Kenneth was very quiet," Tom says. "People who knew him then would not have thought he would become a politician. He was a very good friend; once he became your friend, he was there always."

One more thing Munali did for Tom Mtine; it gave him an abiding love of football. He played at school, helped to form a team in Lusaka when he left, and now, in spite of all his obligations, he willingly finds time to be chairman of the National Football League of Zambia.

There was little at this stage to distinguish him from many other Munali pupils but the essential difference was waiting to be unlocked.

"After leaving school I had to find a job," he says. "There were very few openings for Africans at that time. The Department of Co-operative Societies seemed to be the only decent ministry and I joined it. They allowed Africans to join in the capacity of inspectors. Mind you, that proved rather over-rated.

"But I learned book-keeping and acquired a general knowledge of commerce and industry. I was made responsible for running the Consumers' Co-operative Society. In 1948 I was transferred to the Copperbelt to take charge of consumers, thrift and loans societies."

He shakes his head unbelievingly. "The pay was shocking. I got £5 10*s* a month and a tickey a night subsistence allowance. What on earth can you buy for a tickey? You had to travel everywhere by bicycle and so I got 10*s* a month bicycle allowance. I reckoned I was worth more than £5 10*s* a month so the following year, 1949, I quit and joined a commercial firm at twice the salary."

Poorly paid though it was, Government service gave Tom Mtine a foundation on which he could build . . . furthermore it gave him a spur that carried him along the road to success. "I was bitter and wanted to prove to Government that I was worth more and could be a success," he admits.

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