ZANACO FOOTBALL CLUB

3RD Quarter NEWSLETTER

"WE ARE ZANACO, WE ARE SENSATIONAL"

2026

VOL 1
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MEET ZANACO FC BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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NAVIGATING OUR TRANSITION

BUILDING RESILIENCE AND PURSUING EXCELLENCE IN THE 2026–2027 SEASON

As we enter a new competitive chapter, this edition of our Club newsletter provides an important opportunity to reflect and look ahead with resolve. Football administration demands both honest evaluation and unwavering ambition.

Although our 2025/26 campaign brought valuable lessons, with the senior men's team finishing seventh and narrowly missing its top four target, while the women's team met expectations with a strong fourth-place finish, it also laid a resilient foundation on which we are building on.

To bridge that final gap and position our teams for sustained success, management has pursued a strategy of purposeful reinforcement during the off-season.



OWEN CHANSA CHIMPINDE
ZANACO FOOTBALL CLUB CEO

CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE AND INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT

During this period, we proudly hosted an awards.

SQUAD REINFORCEMENT AND STRATEGIC RESTRUCTURING

Our commitment to competitiveness on all fronts requires a balanced, high-performing roster. To achieve this:

- **Senior Men's Team:** We welcomed seven strategic signings to strengthen squad depth and tactical versatility, complemented by selected departures and loan arrangements to optimise balance. The technical staff



also integrated five development players into the squad. In addition, the senior men's team held a rigorous pre-season camp in Mongu in preparation for the transitional league.

- **Senior Women's Team:** Three quality additions joined the squad, reinforcing key areas as we target higher honours in the Southern Zone of the Zambia Women's Super League. Zanaco Ladies completed their pre-season camp in Lusaka, ensuring the team is tactically and physically prepared for the campaign.

Pre-Season Preparation

Both squads completed rigorous and productive pre-season programmes. Although preparations were extended by the shift in the football calendar, the additional time helped ensure that our players were physically and tactically ready for the challenges ahead.

Youth Development: The Engine of Our Future

Sustainable success can never be built on short-term fixes alone; it relies heavily on a thriving, uninterrupted talent pipeline. Our youth structures continue to yield exceptional results:

- **Young Zanaco (U21 to U23 Transition**): After an impressive second-place league finish, the squad was refreshed through new recruitment and the management of age-group thresholds to establish our new U-23 tier.

- **U19 to U21 Pathway:** Following a championship-winning campaign and victory in the KK Cup, our U-19 graduates are progressing to the U-21 team as the squad is refreshed for the next stage of development.

- **Expanding Horizons & Developmental Structures:** The Club has established dedicated structures for two new developmental teams: a boys' U17 team and a girls' U19 team. These structures will absorb outstanding players selected through the Zanaco Grassroots U17 initiative and open talent-identification trials, advancing our long-term strategy of building robust youth pathways.

HOLISTIC DEVELOPMENT AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

As the transitional season kicks off this October with our men placed in Stream A and our ladies competing in the Southern Zone, our sights are firmly set on top honours across all fronts. However, excellence off the pitch remains just as vital as performance on it.

We recently hosted a comprehensive Player Orientation and Capacity-Building Workshop at the Olympic Youth Development Centre.

Players and staff engaged with critical personal and professional topics, including mental health, substance-abuse awareness, financial literacy, media engagement and player representation.

We are also thrilled to welcome our newly elected Fans Committee. We trust this executive leadership will build upon the proud foundations of their predecessors to elevate supporter engagement to new heights.

Finally, the Club proudly launched its new kit for the transitional and 2027 seasons, together with official replica jerseys. I encourage all supporters, members and well-wishers to support the Club by purchasing and wearing our official merchandise with pride, a tangible contribution to our operations and collective ambitions.

Together, through strategic realism, disciplined execution, and united support, let us make this season one of historic triumph.



CEO Adressing Zanaco Ladies before their first match of the Transitional Season against Red Arrow Women

EDITORIAL COMMENT

Welcome to the Third Quarter Edition of the Zanaco Football Club Newsletter. The third quarter has been a busy and exciting period for Zanaco Football Club, marked by new beginnings, important milestones and continued efforts to strengthen the Club both on and off the pitch.

In this edition, we take a look at some of the moments that defined the quarter, from changes within our playing squads and the arrival of new talent, to the continued growth of Zanaco Ladies, Young Zanaco and our U19 Academy. One of the key highlights was the Player Orientation and Capacity-Building Workshop, which brought together players and technical teams from across the Club. The programme was a reminder that football development goes beyond what happens on matchday. Our players need to be equipped with the knowledge, discipline and confidence to navigate both their football careers and life beyond the pitch.

As Zanaco, we are proud of the role our football club continues to play in developing talent and creating opportunities for young people. We also recognise the responsibility that comes with the Zanaco badge. Every player, coach and member of staff is an ambassador of the Club and, by extension, the wider Zanaco family.



Beene M Nkulukusa
Head Marketing & Communications Subsidiaries



Harry Mfula
Author / Photographer
Lay out & Design



Martha Nshimbi
Author / Photographer



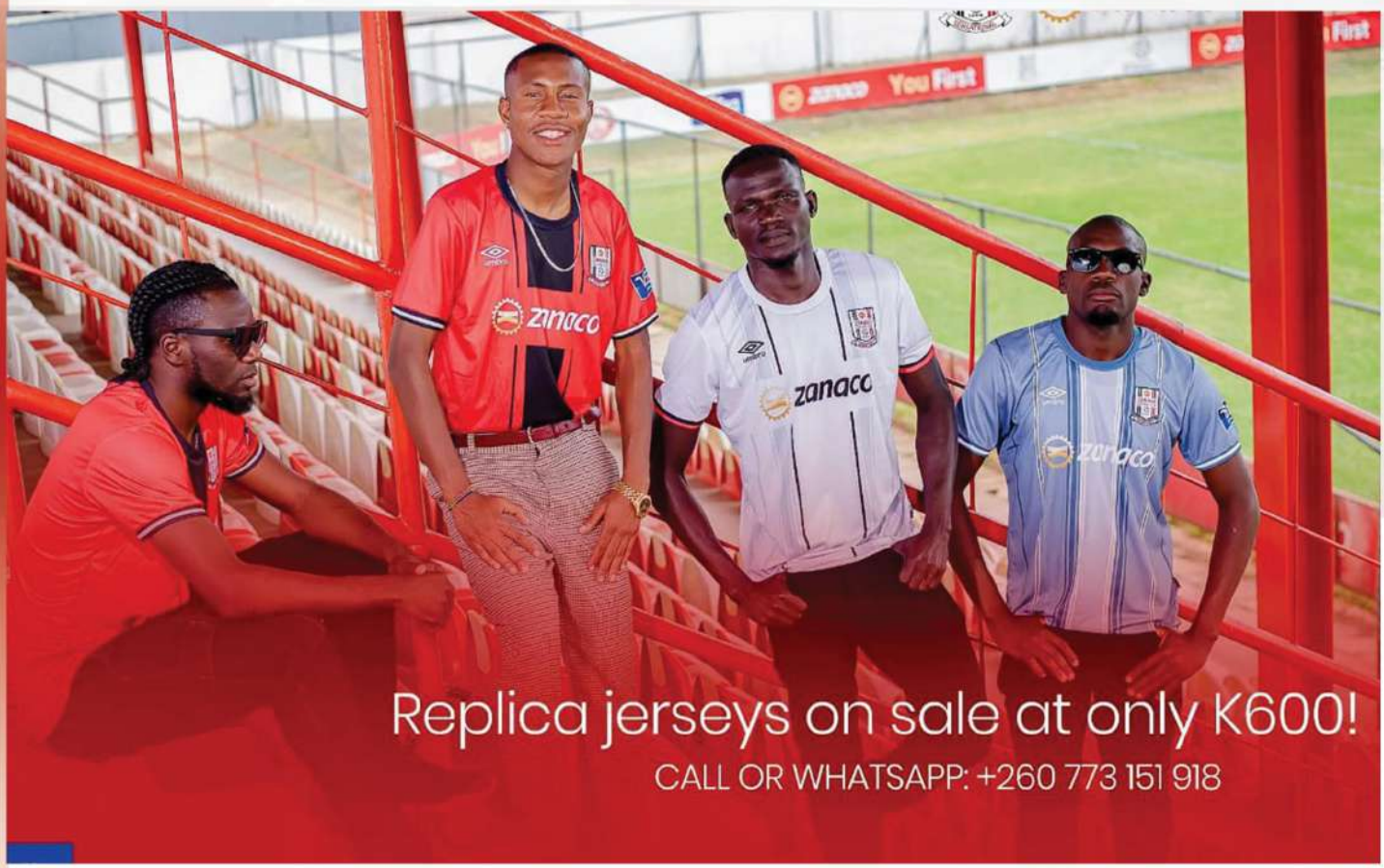
Carol Chinyanta
Author / Photographer

The quarter also saw us welcome new players while bidding farewell to others who have been part of the Bankers' journey. Change is a natural part of football, and every transition presents an opportunity to build, learn and move forward.

None of this would be possible without the commitment of our players, technical teams, staff, sponsors, partners and supporters. Your continued belief in Zanaco FC remains an important part of our journey.

As we look ahead, our focus remains on building stronger teams, developing talent, strengthening our structures and creating a Club that our supporters can continue to identify with and be proud of.

We invite you to journey with us through this edition as we reflect on the people, moments and milestones that shaped the third quarter.
Thank you for being part of the Zanaco Football Club story.





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BEYOND THE PITCH

ZANACO FC EQUIPS ITS PLAYERS FOR THE SEASON AHEAD



As Zanaco Football Club prepares for another season, the Club is looking beyond matchday results and putting equal focus on the people who wear the Zanaco badge.

On 22 September 2026, players, technical benches and staff from all four teams, Zanaco FC, Zanaco Ladies, Young Zanaco and the Zanaco U19 Academy, came together at the Olympic Youth Development Centre (OYDC) in Lusaka for a Player Orientation and Capacity-Building Workshop.

The one-day programme gave players an opportunity to learn, ask questions and have honest conversations about some of the realities that come with being a professional footballer.

Representing Zanaco Bank PLC, the Club's main sponsor, was Bwalya Mundashi, who delivered a message from Zanaco Bank Chief Executive Officer Dr. Mukwandi Chibesakunda.

The players were reminded that putting on the Zanaco jersey means carrying a responsibility that goes beyond football. Every player represents not only Zanaco Football Club, but also Zanaco Bank PLC and the values associated with the institution.

The Bank reaffirmed its commitment to supporting the Club and encouraged the players to work hard, conduct themselves professionally and strive for positive results throughout the season.

The workshop brought together experts from different fields to address issues that are increasingly important in the lives and careers of footballers.

Dr. Naeem Dalal of Chainama Hospital took the players through mental health and emotional control, encouraging them to understand the importance of looking after their mental wellbeing

while dealing with the pressures that come with football.

Anti-doping education was facilitated by Dr. Shula Chanda, Chairperson of the Medical Commission of the Zambia National Olympic Committee, while the Drug Enforcement Commission (DEC) led a session on substance abuse and its effects.

With footballers constantly in the public eye, Christina Zulu, Head of Communications at the Zambia Premier League, took the players through media training, regulations and interview skills. The session highlighted the importance of communication and how players can conduct themselves when engaging with the media.

The players also received guidance on the laws and regulations of the game, with the Football Association of Zambia Referees Association (FAZRA) taking them through refereeing rules and regulations.



(L-R) Zanaco FC Goalkeeper, Lameck Siame, Ladies Midfielder, Esther Musialela, ZPL Head of Comms Christina Zulu.



Bwalya Mundashi - Zanaco Bank PLC Head of Marketing

.

Another important part of the programme was financial literacy and wealth planning, facilitated by Zanaco Bank. The session encouraged players to think beyond their playing careers and develop responsible habits when it comes to managing their finances.

The Footballers and Workers Union of Zambia (FAWUZ) also engaged the players on matters relating to their professional responsibilities, rights and welfare.

For Zanaco FC, the workshop was an opportunity to remind the players that football is only one part of their journey.

Being a professional footballer comes with pressure, responsibility and decisions that can have a lasting impact.

How a player handles criticism, manages their money, interacts with the media, protects their health, understands the rules of the game and conducts themselves away from the pitch can all shape their career.

Bringing the Club's four teams together also created a sense of unity, allowing players from the senior teams, Zanaco Ladies, Young Zanaco and the U19 Academy to share the same experience and develop a common understanding of what it means to be part of the Zanaco family.

As the new season gets underway, the Club's ambition is not only to produce results on the pitch, but to develop disciplined, informed, responsible and well-rounded footballers who can represent themselves, Zanaco FC and Zanaco Bank PLC with pride.

At Zanaco FC, the season starts beyond the pitch, with preparation, knowledge and responsibility.



BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE

INSIDE THE PREPARATIONS AND VISION FOR THE TRANSITIONAL SEASON



As the transitional season approaches, preparation remains the foundation of every success. Zanaco Football Club head coach Numba Mumamba has mapped out a thorough strategy to ensure the squad is primed for the upcoming campaign.

Pre-Season and Strategic Growth

Preparations began in Lusaka in June with an intensive three-week training block. The squad then relocated to Mongu for a 10-day camp designed to strengthen cohesion, deepen team bonds and assess the squad's strengths and areas for improvement.

"Preparation is key to success. We carefully planned our pre-season, beginning with a three-week local training camp in Lusaka in June before moving to Mongu for another 10 days," Mumamba said.

To further sharpen match fitness, the Club arranged a series of high-profile friendly matches. Fixtures against top-tier opposition, including AS Simba of Congo DR, and participation in a four-team tournament in Kabwe alongside NAPSA Stars and Prison Leopards provided valuable tests.

"We are ready for this competition. What is important now is to remain focused and continue working hard so that we can achieve our objective for the transitional league," he said.

Squad Integration and Moving Forward

Strengthening squad depth and managing departures were key priorities during the off-season. While some contracts were not renewed, the Club welcomed new talent, blending experienced players with younger prospects to maintain balance.

"The team has faced challenges for some time, which is why we decided to bring in experienced players and blend them with younger talent to achieve the right balance," he said.

With preparations nearing completion and the team meeting its tactical and physical targets, the message to supporters is one of optimism and resilience.

Head Coach Numba Mumamba and the management team remain confident that the hard work invested during the off-season will translate into positive results on the pitch.



Pre-Season training in Mongu last July

ZANACO'S STREAM A FIXTURES
MTN SUPER 2026 TRANSITIONAL SEASON

SAT 3, OCT, 26 — AWAY — NCHANGA R	THUR 15, OCT, 26 — AWAY — MAKENI ALL STARS	SAT 24 OCT, 26 — HOME — KANSANSHI DYNAMOS	WED 4, NOV, 26 — HOME — FC MUZA
SAT 10, OCT, 26 — HOME — KONKOLA B	SAT 17, OCT, 26 — HOME — NAPSA STARS	SAT 31 OCT, 26 — AWAY — TRIDENT FC	WED 18, NOV, 26 — AWAY — POWER DYNAMOS
WED 25, NOV, 26 — HOME — NKANA	SAT 5, DEC, 26 — AWAY — KONKOLA B	SAT 19, DEC, 26 — AWAY — NAPSA STARS	SAT 2, JAN 27 — HOME — TRIDENT FC	SAT 16, JAN 27 — HOME — POWER DYNAMOS
SAT 28, NOV, 26 — HOME — NCHANGA R	WED 9, DEC, 26 — HOME — MAKENI ALL STARS	WED 23, DEC, 26 — AWAY — KANSANSHI DYNAMOS	SAT 9, JAN, 27 — AWAY — FC MUZA	SAT 23, JAN, 27 — AWAY — NKANA

NOTE: THE FIXTURES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

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ZANACO FC HONOURS OUTSTANDING PERFORMERS AT 2025/26 SEASON AWARDS GALA

Zanaco Football Club celebrated the achievements and outstanding performances of its players and technical staff at the Zanaco FC Awards Gala, held on 3 July 2026 to mark the conclusion of the 2025/26 season.

The event was graced by Zanaco Bank PLC Board Chairman Professor Oliver Saasa, alongside Club leaders, players, technical staff, partners and invited guests. The award recepients in respective the respective where as follows;

ZANACO MEN'S SENIOR

In the senior men's team, Dominic Kanda Jr was named Player of the Season, while Lambert Araina received the Fans' Player of the Season award.

Eliya Mandaji claimed the Golden Boot, while Tinklar Sinkala was named Most Consistent Player. Mwenya Mwape received the Most Improved Player award, and Thomas Banda was recognised as the Most Disciplined

ZANACO LADIES

Outstanding performers from Zanaco Ladies were also recognised for their contributions during the season. Constance Kamusu was named Player of the Season, while Regina Chanda claimed the Golden Boot.

Ruth Ngoma was named Most Consistent Player, Esther Musialela received the Most Improved Player award, and Ruth Mukisi was recognised as the Most Disciplined Player.

YOUNG ZANACO U-21

The Club's youth development pathway was also celebrated, with Vincent Kwenda named Young Zanaco U-21 Player of the Season. Gift Kapambwe claimed the Golden Boot, while Saviour Zakeyo was named Most Consistent Player.

ZANACO ACADEMY U-19

At academy level, Gabriel Mutale was named Zanaco Academy U-19 Player of the Season. Henry Banda claimed the Golden Boot, while James Kasanjula was named Most Consistent Player.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARDS

The Club also presented special awards to individuals whose contributions extended beyond performances on the pitch. Sarah Chungu received the Chairman's Award, while Ziyo Tembo was named Coach of the Season.

The awards celebrated the dedication and contributions of players and staff across the Club's four teams, underscoring Zanaco FC's continued commitment to performance, professionalism and talent development throughout its football structure.

As the Club closed the 2025/26 season, the gala provided a fitting occasion to reflect on and celebrate the efforts of those who contributed to Zanaco FC's campaign.

Zanaco Football Club congratulated all award recipients and expressed its sincere appreciation to the Club's sponsors and partners for their continued support throughout the season.



Prof. Oliver Saasa - Zanaco Bank PLC Board Chairman

The Club particularly acknowledges Zanaco Bank PLC, Professional Insurance Corporation Zambia Limited, Prudential Zambia, Carling Black Label Zambia, and Coca-Cola Beverages Zambia for their support towards the Awards Gala and their continued partnership with Zanaco Football Club.



AWARD RECEPIENTS



Zanaco Player of the Season



Zanaco Fan's Player of the Season



Zanaco Golden Boot



Zanaco Most Consitent Player



Zanaco Most Improved Player



Zanaco Ladies Player of the Season



Zanaco Ladies Golden Boot



Zanaco Ladies Most Consitent Player



Zanaco Ladies Most Improved Player



Zanaco Ladies Most Disciplined Player



Young Zanaco Player of the Season



Young Zanaco Golden Boot



Young Zanaco Most Consitent Player



U- 19 Golden Boot



U-19 Zanaco Golden Boot



U-19 Most Consistent Player



Zanaco Most Disciplined Player



CEO'S Coach of the Season

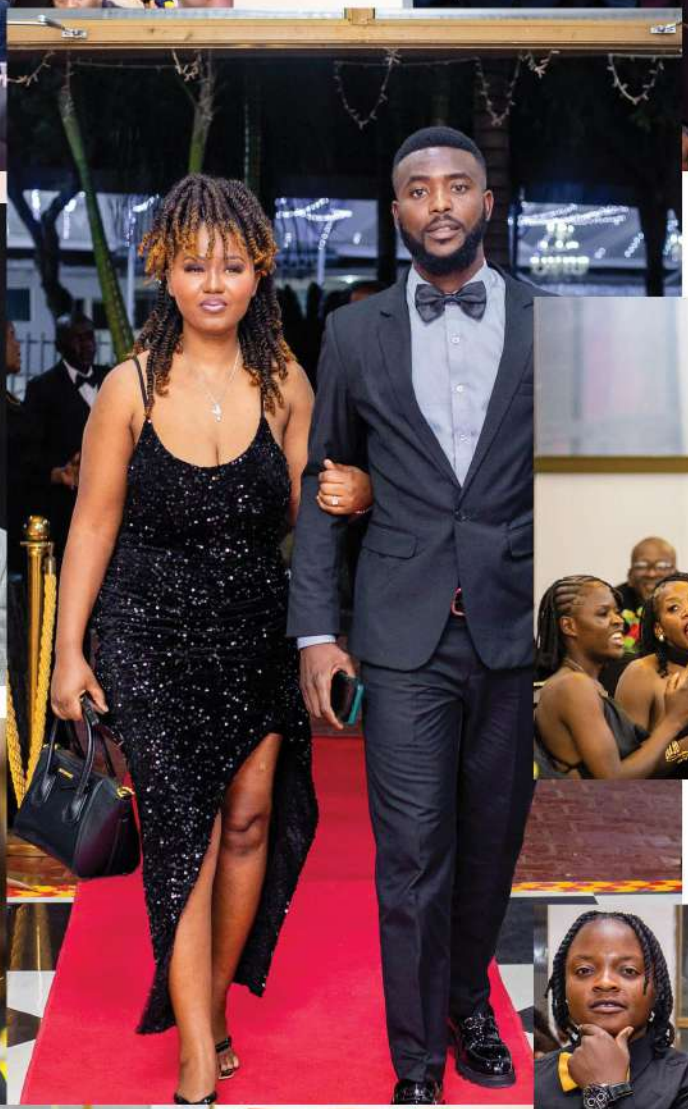


Chairman;s Award

AWARDS DINNER GALA HIGHLIGHTS

















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ZANACO FC UNVEILS 2026/27 KIT AND SIGNS THREE-YEAR HYDRATION PARTNERSHIP WITH BIG TREE BEVERAGES



(L-R) ZPL CEO, Joseph Chimpampwe, Trade Kings Head of Public Relations and Corporate Affairs, Bridget Kambobe, Bigtree Head of Marketing, Sachin Narag, Zanaco Bank PLC, Acting CEO Mr. Kalengo Simukoko, Zanaco FC CEO, Owen Chimpinde, FAZ Deputy GS, Iva Lengwe

Zanaco Football Club ushered in the 2026/27 season with the unveiling of its new kit and the announcement of a three-year hydration partnership with Big Tree Beverages, marking a significant milestone in the Club's preparations for the new campaign.

The double milestone was commemorated at a colourful ceremony held at Sunset Stadium on 23 September 2026. The event was graced by the Guest of Honour and Acting Chief Executive Officer of Zanaco Bank Plc, Mr. Kalengo Simukoko, alongside Zanaco FC Board members, Club Chief Executive Officer Mr. Owen Chimpinde, Football Association of Zambia Deputy General Secretary Mr. Iva Lengwe, Zambian Premier League Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Joseph Chimpampwe, representatives of Big Tree Beverages, players, members of the media and supporters.

Speaking on the partnership, Zanaco FC Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Owen Chimpinde said the three-year agreement goes beyond a conventional commercial partnership, highlighting the importance of proper hydration to player performance and wellbeing.

."Today, we ink a three-year partnership that designates Big Tree Beverages as our Official Hydration Partner. This alliance transcends a standard commercial agreement. It addresses a

*a fundamental pillar of athletic performance and elite wellbeing: proper hydration," he said.*e architects *of our Club," he said.*

Mr. Chimpinde noted that the partnership will support players across all levels of the Club, from the senior men's and women's teams to its youth and grassroots structures.long-term sustainability.

"This is more than an investment in today's competitors; it is a direct investment in the future architects of our Club," he said.

He further outlined the Club's six strategic objectives for the season, which focus on competitiveness, holistic development, youth pathways, professionalism, stakeholder synergy and long-term sustainability. Representing Big Tree Beverages, Head of Marketing Mr. Sachin Narang said the partnership reflects the shared values and vision of the two institutions.



Sachin Narang - Big Tree Head of Marketing



Owen Chansa Chimpinde - Zanaco FC CEO

"We are happy to partner with Zanaco on a three-year hydration sponsorship package. We believe the two institutions share a common vision. Just as Zanaco's mission is strong and reliable, we are Zambia's titans in what we do," he said.

Mr. Narang described the partnership as another important milestone for Big Tree Beverages and expressed confidence in the value it would bring to Zanaco FC players.

"This is yet another milestone for us as we partner with the Club. The agreement will not only support players as they express themselves on the field, but will also ensure they have access to premium hydration throughout their journey," he said.

Officially unveiling the 2026/27 kit, Guest of Honour Mr. Kalengo Simukoko said the new jersey represents more than the Club's

colours, carrying with it the identity, confidence and collective pride of Zanaco Football Club.

"Today marks an important occasion, not only for the presentation of a new football kit, but also for what this moment represents. We are not gathered merely to unveil a jersey; we are here to give visible expression to the identity, confidence and collective pride of Zanaco Football Club," he said.

He added that the kit represents the strong connection between the Club, its supporters and the communities it serves.

"It communicates belonging, reflects loyalty and represents the bond between a club and its supporters, between an institution and the communities it serves, and between a brand and the values it upholds, a brand committed to putting YOU FIRST," he said.

Mr. Simukoko urged the players to wear the Club badge with pride and to uphold the values associated with Zanaco FC wherever they represent the Club.

"As you wear this kit, remember that it will be seen in many places: on the pitch, in homes and communities, on screens and in the hearts of supporters who follow this Club



Kalenga Simukoko - Zanaco Bank PLC Acting CEO and Guest of Honor,

with great passion. May it remind you that every match is an opportunity to represent excellence, discipline and respect," he said.

Mr. Simukoko then officially launched the 2026/27 Zanaco FC kit, ushering the Club into the new season.

The kit launch was followed by a seasonal press conference and a pre-season friendly match against Green Buffaloes, with Zanaco FC securing a convincing 5–2 victory.



ZANACO FC DONATES FOOTBALLS TO MULAMBWA SCHOOLS IN MONGU

Centre, Zanaco FC Team Manager, Bestone Chambeshi with Mulambwa Primay and Secondary School Teachers

Zanaco Football Club reaffirmed its commitment to local communities and grassroots football development by donating footballs to Mulambwa Primary and Secondary School during the Club's pre-season camp in Mongu.

The donation was made during a courtesy visit to the two schools, which hosted Zanaco FC's pre-season training sessions as the team prepared for the new campaign.

Team Manager Mr. Bestone Chambeshi Jr. presented four footballs on behalf of the Club during the visit.

Receiving the donation, Mulambwa Secondary School Head Teacher Mr. Inambao Mututa thanked the Club for the gesture and its contribution to football development.

"We appreciate this gesture and hope Zanaco Football Club will continue with such initiatives. This support is important to the development of football in communities across the country," he said.

Mulambwa Primary School Head Teacher Ms. Febby Mukoka also thanked the Club, noting that the prolonged shortage of footballs had brought the school's football activities to a standstill.

"This donation will help revive football at our school. We are truly grateful to Zanaco Football Club for remembering us and supporting our learners," she said.

Speaking on behalf of Zanaco FC, Mr. Chambeshi reaffirmed the Club's commitment to grassroots



Mulambwa Secondary School receives Footballs

football and to giving back to the communities that support and host the team.

He highlighted the impact of investing in local talent, citing Brian Kabika, who was identified during Zanaco FC's pre-season tournament in Mongu the previous year and has since become a regular member of the first team.

"We will continue giving back to the communities that support us through initiatives such as this. Our pre-season tournament in Mongu produced Brian Kabika, who has since become a regular first-team player. This demonstrates the talent that exists here, and we will continue creating opportunities for more young players to be discovered," Mr. Chambeshi said.

The school's sports teachers welcomed the donation and encouraged the Club to consider extending its support to include additional training equipment, such as cones and bibs, to further enhance football development among learners.

The donation complemented Zanaco FC's broader commitment to grassroots football development. Several pupils from the schools recently participated in the Zanaco Grassroots Soccer Tournament in Lusaka, highlighting the emerging talent among young players in the area.

Through initiatives such as this , Zanaco Football Club continues to strengthen its relationships with local communities, create opportunities for young people and contribute to the growth of football across Zambia.



Mulambwa Primary School receives Footballs



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BUILDING ZANACO FC BEYOND THE PITCH

LINOS CHALWE

Football has been part of Linos Chalwe's life for as long as he can remember. His connection to the game began with his father, a serviceman and footballer who played for Green Buffaloes, Lusaka Tigers and Zamcoal, where he also served as a player-coach, and represented the Zambia National Team.

Chalwe followed in his father's footsteps, building his own career as a footballer and playing under different coaches and philosophies.

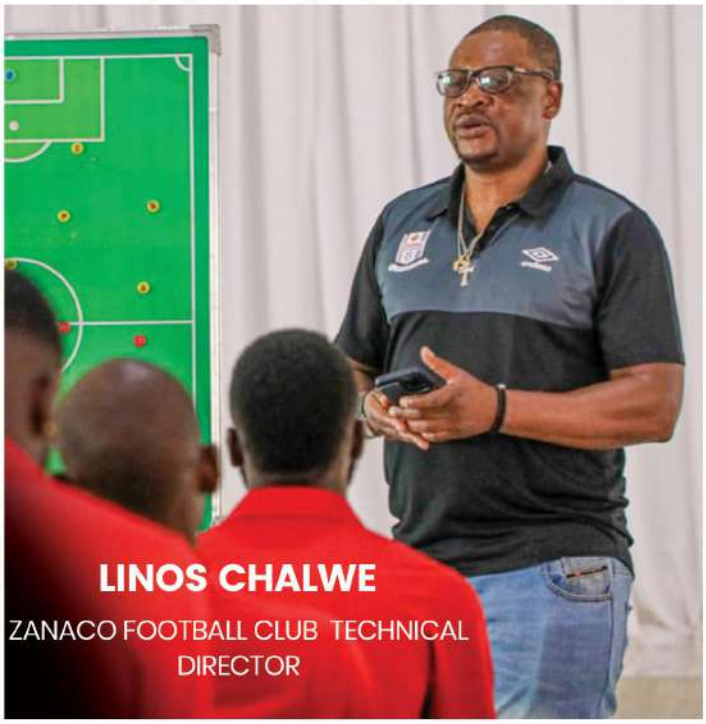
One of the most significant experiences of his playing career came when he was not selected for the National team despite scoring a lot of goals a season.

The experience taught him valuable lessons about humility, perseverance and patience.

"It taught me not only to work hard, but also humility and perseverance. In football, players get egos from being stars." He said.

For Chalwe, it remains a lesson for young players that success does not always come when expected.

"Sometimes success can be delayed." He added.



Playing under different coaches also taught him to adapt and learn from different football philosophies.

"I had to be a sponge," he said.

While still playing, Chalwe studied for a Diploma in Sports Management, which broadened his understanding of football beyond the pitch and sparked his interest in administration and management.

"I was first a football administrator before I became a coach," Chalwe said.

His move into administration was also motivated by a desire to address the challenges faced by footballers and improve their representation. His experience as a player continues to shape how he works with players today.

"I was a player, so I understand where they are coming from." he noted.

At Zanaco FC, Chalwe initially served as Technical Expert on the Board before stepping down and pursuing the Technical Director role. He says he went through a formal interview process and was selected after competing against some of the country's top football minds.

Today, his focus is on building a strong technical structure for the Club, particularly a clear pathway from the U-17, U-19 and U-21 teams to the senior men's and women's teams.

"My focus is on developing talent for our senior teams and creating a strong pool of players within our development structures," he said.

His long-term vision is to develop home-grown talent for Zanaco and create opportunities for players in both local and international markets, while reducing dependence on foreign players and generating revenue through player transfers.

"My department has short, medium and long-term plans which align with the Club strategy to be the best Club in Zambia and to compete at international levels." He added,
While his long-term plans focus on building the club's future, Chalwe has a clear immediate target.

"This season, it's winning the league for our senior team." He said.

He also wants the club to return to the top level of African club football, compete in the CAF Champions League and reach a CAF final within the next two to three seasons.

His ultimate goal is to help Zanaco FC become one of the giants of Zambian football and a serious force on the continental stage.



Linos Chalwe (Centre) poses for picture at the Zanaco FC Secretariate after signing congolese duo, Rebecca Kianga and Brigitte Zulaka

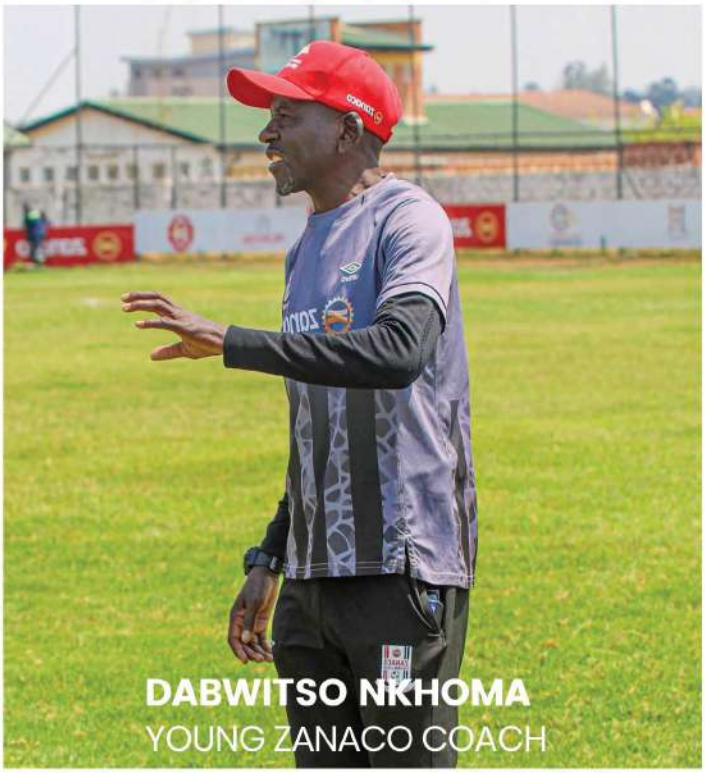
YOUNG ZANACO EYE LEAGUE TITLE AND ABSA CUP SPOT

Young Zanaco Head Coach Dabwitso Nkhoma says the team is targeting the Lusaka Province Division One Transitional League Stream A title and qualification for the ABSA Cup.
The Young Bankers have made a mixed but encouraging start to the campaign, collecting five points from their opening four matches.

They began with a 2–1 victory over ZAMMSA and followed it with a 1–1 draw against Lusaka Tigers. A narrow 1–0 defeat to Chainda Bombers followed, before the team responded emphatically with a 4–1 win over Welcome FC. Nkhoma believes the positive start has strengthened the players' confidence, but he remains mindful that the greater challenge lies ahead.

"It is always good to start the season positively. The players have shown a good attitude, and the results give us confidence moving forward. However, this is only the beginning. We still have many matches to play, so we must remain focused and continue working hard," Nkhoma said.

The Young Zanaco coach believes the team has the quality to challenge for honours, with the league title firmly at the top of its agenda.



"Our target is to win the league. That is what we are working towards. We want to compete, remain consistent and, at the end of the season, be the team celebrating the title," he said.

Nkhoma has also identified ABSA Cup qualification as another major target for the Young Bankers. He believes competing in the national tournament would give the players valuable exposure and an opportunity to test themselves against teams from different levels of Zambian football.

"We also want to compete in the ABSA Cup. It would be a valuable experience for these young players. They need to face different teams

and experience that level of pressure because it will help them grow and prepare for the next stage of their careers," he said.

While results remain important, Nkhoma says player development is central to Young Zanaco's mission. The team continues to provide a pathway for promising players seeking to progress to the senior team.

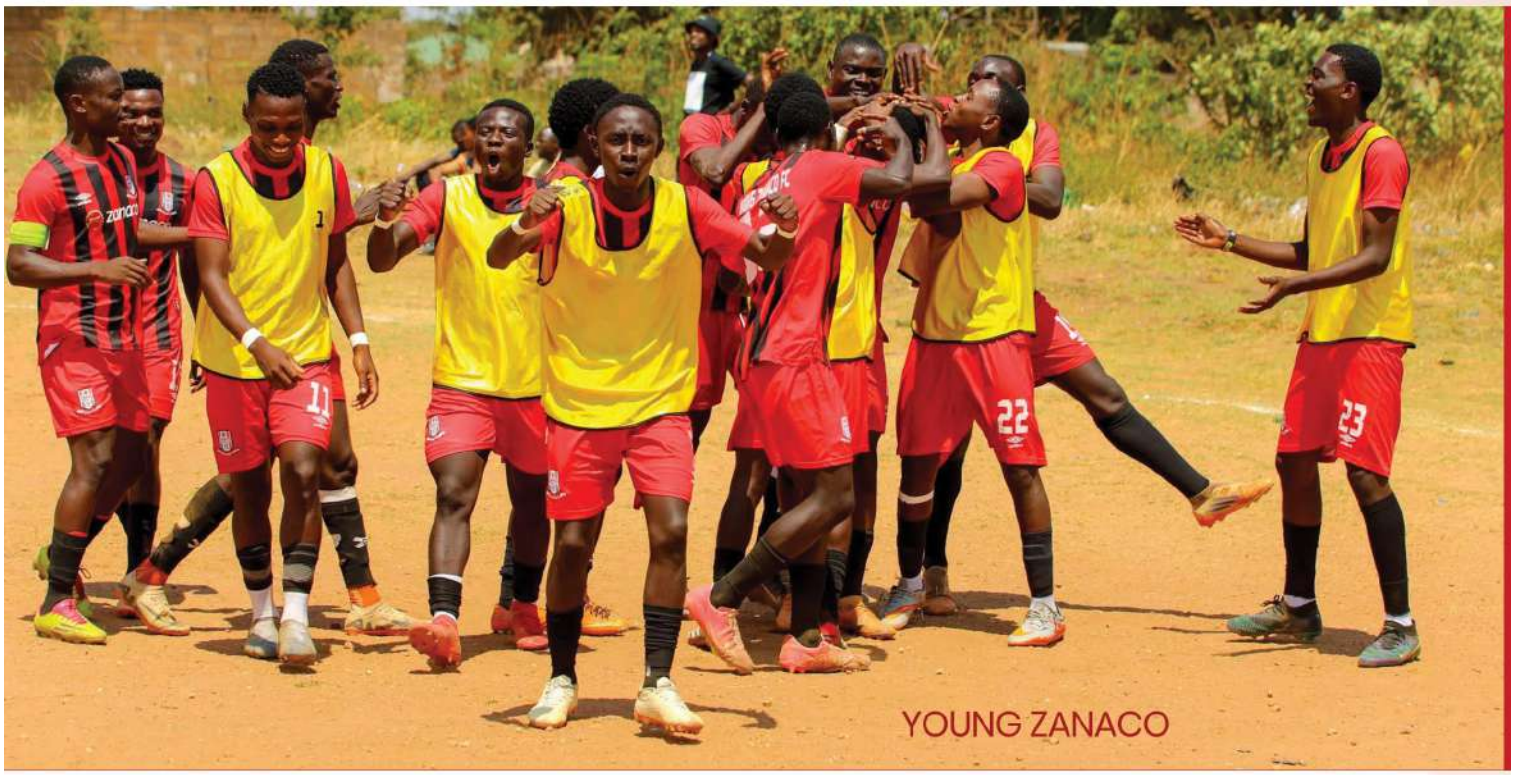
"At Young Zanaco, we are not only focused on winning matches; we are also developing players for the future. We want these young men to understand what it means to wear the Zanaco jersey: to be disciplined, work hard and compete. If we can develop players and achieve results at the same time, that will be positive for the Club," he said.

With the league still in its early stages, Nkhoma has urged his players to remain grounded and approach the season one match at a time.

"We have started well, but we cannot become complacent. In football, every match presents a different challenge. We must take each game as it comes, compete for the points and ensure that we continue improving," he said.

With the league title and ABSA Cup qualification firmly in sight, Young Zanaco will aim to build on itsits encouraging start and sustain its momentum throughout the Transitional League campaign.

For the Young Bankers, the message from the technical bench is clear: work hard, remainremain focused and continue believing.



YOUNG ZANACO



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LUSAKA CROWNED CHAMPIONS AS ZANACO GRASSROOTS TOURNAMENT RETURNS FOR THE SECOND EDITION



Lusaka Province Boys

Lusaka Province won the boys' title at the 2026 Zanaco Grassroots U-17 National Football Tournament, which brought together 40 teams and 400 young footballers from Zambia's 10 provinces and 85 districts for four days of competition.

The tournament ran from 3 to 6 July 2026, following a football clinic on 2 July, and provided a national platform for young players to compete, showcase their abilities and gain exposure in a structured environment. A total of 32 matches were played across Sunset Stadium, NASDEC Stadium, Bank of Zambia Stadium and the Showgrounds.

Southern Province won the girls' competition, with Lusaka Province finishing runners-up and Northern Province placed third. The champions received K100,000, with the runners-up and third-placed teams awarded K75,000 and K50,000, respectively.

Beyond the competition, the tournament provided an important platform for talent identification. The Football Association of Zambia scouted 40 players, 20 boys and 20 girls while Zanaco FC selected five promising players selected -for further development at Zanaco FC.

This created a direct link between grassroots participation and structured football development, opening opportunities for talented young players beyond the tournament.

Outstanding individual performances were also recognised. Maxen Msimuko of Lusaka finished as the boys' top scorer with four goals, while Elizabeth Simoonga of Southern Province led the girls' scoring charts with five.

Promise Sakala and Blessing Moonga were named Players of the Tournament in the boys' and girls' categories, respectively, while Andrew Nyirenda and Milimo Morient received the Best Goalkeeper awards.

For Zanaco FC, the tournament is an important extension of its youth development pathway. Through its Academy and Young Zanaco structures, the Club continues to nurture young footballers, while initiatives such as the Grassroots Tournament help identify promising talent from communities and districts beyond traditional football development channels.

The successful return of the Zanaco Grassroots Tournament for its second edition underscored its growing value as a national platform for young footballers to compete, gain exposure and take their first steps towards structured development.



Southern Province Girls

ZANACO FC LAUNCHES LEGENDS TOURNAMENT AND UNVEILS REPLICA JERSEY



Zanaco Football Club officially launched the Zanaco Legends Tournament and unveiled its official replica jersey in July, marking an important milestone in the Club's efforts to honour players who have shaped its history and contributed to the development of Zambian football.

The inaugural tournament will bring together four of Zambia's iconic football clubs, Zanaco FC, Kabwe Warriors, Mufulira Wanderers and Nkana FC, in a celebration of the country's rich football heritage.

Speaking during the official launch, Zanaco FC Chief Executive Officer Mr. Owen Chimpinde said the tournament reflects the Club's commitment to recognising the pioneers of the game and preserving their legacy for future generations.g their legacy for future generations.

"At Zanaco Football Club, we believe that our legends are the foundation upon which the future of our game is built. Through this tournament, we seek to honour their contribution while preserving the rich heritage of our sport," Mr. Chimpinde said.

The Club also unveiled the official Zanaco FC replica jersey, which will retail for K650, giving supporters an opportunity to own a piece of the Club's history while contributing to the Legends Tournament initiative.

Gracing the launch, Ministry of Youth, Sport and Arts Permanent Secretary Mr. Kangwa Chileshe described the initiative as an important platform for celebrating football legends, promoting the welfare of former players and supporting the continued development of the sport.

"The Zanaco Legends Tournament is more than a series of football matches. It is a platform through which we can celebrate the men who contributed to the development of the game and inspired generations of supporters across the country," Mr. Chileshe said.

Representing one of the participating clubs, Mufulira Wanderers General Secretary Mr. Mwila Mumba said the tournament would not only celebrate former players but also strengthen relationships among some of Zambia's most historic football institutions.

"It is a fitting tribute to the men and women whose passion, dedication and talent laid the foundation for the growth of Zambian football. Beyond celebrating our legends, this tournament will strengthen the bonds between our football clubs," Mr. Mumba said.





Guest of Honor,, Ministry of Youth, Sport and Arts Permanent Secretary, Kangwa Chileshe

Meanwhile,2012 Africa Cup of Nations winner and Kabwe Warriors legend Chintu Kampamba, who delivered remarks on behalf of Club Chief Executive Officer Mr. Chilombo Chabwe, said the competition would give younger generations an opportunity to connect with the country's football heritage.

"This tournament gives us an opportunity to celebrate that history. We also hope that the tournament will inspire young players to appreciate the history of the game and learn from those who came before them," Mr. Kampamba said.

The Football Association of Zambia (FAZ) also pledged technical support for the tournament, describing the initiative as an important step towards preserving the country's football heritage and promoting unity within the game.

Speaking on behalf of FAZ, Deputy General Secretary Mr. Iva Lengwe said the tournament would serve as a fitting tribute to Zambia's football icons while encouraging collaboration among clubs and other stakeholders.

"FAZ welcomes initiatives that bring football institutions together, promote sportsmanship and strengthen relationships among clubs and other stakeholders," Mr. Lengwe said.

The competition is set to begin with the semi-finals on 31 October at Levy Mwanawasa Stadium and conclude with the final on 21 November at Heroes Stadium.



ZANACO FC WELCOMES NEW FACES AHEAD OF THE NEW SEASON

The third quarter of 2026 was a period of change for Zanaco Football Club, with the Club making several adjustments to both the men's senior team and Zanaco Ladies as preparations for the new football season took shape.

During the quarter, the Bankers said goodbye to several players who had been part of the Club's journey, while also welcoming new faces who have since joined the Zanaco family.

For the men's senior team, the Club announced the departure of Isaac Shamujompa, Samuel Sikaonga, Alon Okechi, John Chishimba, Christopher

ZANACO FC NEW SIGNINGS



Muhango, Chaniza Zulu, Eliya Mandanji, Chipo Manda, George Ngoma, Wilson Chisala, Isaiah Kazembe and Prosper Chiluya.

The departures came through a combination of expired contracts, mutual separations, the end of loan spells and a permanent transfer. While saying goodbye is never easy, the Club acknowledged the contribution of the players and thanked them for the commitment and professionalism they showed during their time with the Bankers.

The quarter also saw the beginning of a new chapter, with Zanaco strengthening the squad with a number of new signings.

Francis Banda joined from Kabwe Warriors, while Simon Tonga arrived from Makeni All Stars after spending the previous season on loan at Kabwe Warriors. Both players signed two-year contracts.

There was also a familiar face returning to the Bankers in Clement Mundia. The player came back to Zanaco as a free agent following the expiry of his contract with Kabwe Warriors. Mundia previously featured for Young Zanaco during the 2013/14 season, making his return a meaningful one as he reunited with the Club where his football journey had previously taken shape.

The midfield was strengthened by Chanda Mukuka, who joined as a free agent from ZESCO United on a two-and-a-half-year contract. Goalkeeper Jeban Tembo arrived on a two-season loan from Red Arrows, having previously featured for FC MUZA and Kafue Celtic.

Zanaco also signed Joseph Kiala Wa Kiala from Mutondo Stars, Barton Chambeshi from Mufulira Wanderers and free agent David Bulaya, formerly of NAPSA Stars. All three signed two-and-a-half-year contracts.

ZANACO LADIES

In the women's team, Deborah Kaimbo Esther, Simupamba and Racheal Lungu have been loaned to National Assembly Ladies. The Lady Bankers welcomed striker Maylan Mulenga on a season-long deal, while Precious Phiri and Mwape strengthened the midfield and defence, respectively, on two-year contracts.

The Club also recruited from the Democratic Republic of Congo, signing Brigitte Ngamita Zita from Ituri FC on a two-year loan and striker Rebecca Kianga Mulanga from Les Aigles du Congo on a two-year permanent deal.

The quarter's changes reflected the natural rhythm of football, with new arrivals and departures shaping both squads. As recruitment gave way to preparation, the focus shifted to building team cohesion and readying the Bankers for the challenges ahead, marking the beginning of another chapter in Zanaco Football Club's story.



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FLORENCE MWILA BIDS FAREWELL TO ZANACO LADIES AFTER FIVE YEARS OF SERVICE

Zanaco Football Club has bid farewell to Florence Mwila, who stepped down as Head Coach of Zanaco Ladies after more than five years of dedicated service to the Club.

Coach Mwila was at the heart of the Zanaco Ladies journey from the beginning, having taken charge when the women's team was formed on 9 April 2021. Her tenure played an important role in establishing and growing the Club's women's football programme.

From the early stages of building the team, Mwila helped lay a strong foundation for Zanaco Ladies. She guided the team through the FAZ Women's Super League Lusaka Province and secured promotion to the FAZ Women's Super League.

Her contribution, however, extended beyond results on the pitch. She played an important role in nurturing young talent, instilling discipline and creating an environment in which players could develop both as footballers and as individuals.

Mwila also brought valuable experience from her time with the Zambia Women's National Team, the Copper Queens, where she served as Assistant Coach under the late Coach Bruce Mwape.



She was part of the technical team that guided Zambia to a historic bronze medal at the 2022 Women's Africa Cup of Nations in Morocco, securing the Copper Queens' first-ever FIFA Women's World Cup qualification in 2023. She also contributed to the team's qualification for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games, marking their second consecutive Olympic appearance.

At Zanaco, Coach Florence Mwila played an integral role in the growth of Zanaco Ladies, helping establish a team that remains an important part of the Club's football structure. As she takes the next step in her coaching career, Zanaco Football Club extends its sincere appreciation for her dedication, professionalism and service. Her contribution to the formation and growth of Zanaco Ladies will remain part of the Club's history.

The Club wishes Coach Florence every success in the next chapter of her coaching journey.

WHO WE ARE

01



MISSION

To create a sustainable, professional and socially responsible footballing organisation in Africa.

02



VISION

To be a professional and leading football club in Africa.

03



CORE VALUES

Discipline
Passion
Integrity
Accountability
Fair Play

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