



# My United

Issue # 02 October 2021

# WELCOME BACK



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WE NEED TO BEEF UP OUR STRIKING FORCE:"  
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PRISONS AND FOREST RANGERS

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**Editor in Chief:** Desmond Katongo  
**Photography:** Green Photography  
**Layout and design :** Green Photography

My United

DICKSON CHAPA  
SCORES THE 4th GOAL  
AGAINST KANSANSHI DYNAMOS FC







Welcome to the second edition of the ZESCO United Football Club newsletter for, and from Zambia. This publication brings you news and information on latest developments taking shape at the club as spearheaded by ZESCO United management.

MyUnited is above all a platform for sharing information related to ZESCO United's work in growing the club and contributing to the growth of the Zambian game through the promotion of good governance, transparency, and fair play.

Every month, we will share what we consider some of the best, most important and interesting stories emerging from the club. We will also highlight some of our favorite stories and update our broad network of partners within and outside the country on developments taking place at the club as our team participates in both local and international games.

We will be dipping into our rich trove of initiatives and stories emerging from the ongoing work at ZESCO United and bringing you news of upcoming football events and reports from past ones, as well as providing in-depth feature articles generated by our communications team.

In this edition, we bring you a special up close with ZESCO United attacking midfielder Mukuka Chanda. We further review what has been an exciting start to the 2021/22 season and the return of Zambian soccer fans in stadia.

Lastly, we share with you our upcoming fixtures for the month of November. We welcome your questions, suggestions and ideas that could help us tailor this newsletter to make it even more meaningful to you our audience.

RICHARD KABWE MULENGA  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



# LUCKY CHARM JJW25 SPECIAL BOOTS BEHIND WERE'S CENTURY GOALS

Last season Kenyan International and ZESCO United striker, Jesse Jackson Were hit a century of goals for the 2020/21 Zambian Super League champions.

This memorable achievement summed up what has arguably been a sensational stay for the Kenyan at one of the country's biggest football institutions.

An exciting goal poacher in front of goal, Were's stay in Ndola has also exposed his natural intelligence to try-out things that not many footballers would find enticing.

The Kenyan has invented the Jesse Jackson Were 25(JJW25) special black boots that have been part of his exciting journey of tormenting opposition goalkeepers.

Were said:" This is something from back home. I used to love black boots a lot. As such I decided to put initials on them, personalizing them as my own brand. The JJW25 black boots have been part of my success here.

"It is a tradition for me to wear black boots and most people say I score a lot of goals when I have them on," added the Kenyan.

Were also believes his lucky charm black boots adds an extra sense of motivation whenever he steps on the pitch.

"I know they don't play on their own. I still need to do the playing for me to get the goals. But they add an extra sense of motivation whenever I am on the field. They are special tools for me to use. I wish to also thank the fans for their support because they help me a lot," Were concluded.

**Author: Desmond Katongo**





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## THEY ARE BACK! MULENGA WELCOMES ZESCO UNITED SUPPORTERS

ZESCO United Chief Executive Officer Richard Mulenga has expressed happiness with the Football Association of Zambia's (FAZ) decision allow fans in stadia.

Last season, FAZ barred fans from accessing stadia across the country following the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"It is with great pleasure that we welcome you all to the Levy Mwanawasa stadium following the Football Association of Zambia's (FAZ) announcement to allow fans back in stadia.

"Football is a gregarious sport on and off the pitch. The absence of fans in our stands had not only deprived this football club of the much-needed financial revenue but also took away the chemistry and bond that exists between our players and their supporters.

We strongly believe that our supporters' physical presence during our matches has for some time been the difference between success and failure," Mulenga said.

The ZESCO United CEO added that the club's success on and off the pitch is owed to the unwavering support the team continues to receive from its supporters.

"We are greatly aware that the decision by the authorities to bar fans from attending football matches was purely meant to safeguard the lives of millions of Zambians from the COVID-19 pandemic.

"As such, I wish to take this opportunity to appeal to our supporters across the country to adhere to COVID-19 measures stipulated by the Zambian Government through the Ministry of Health.

**ZESCO United management believes that sport can change and save lives. Therefore, our clarion call to all our fervent supporters' home and abroad, is to be great ambassadors of governments fight against COVID-19 pandemic by adhering to various critical health guidelines."**

Meanwhile ZESCO United fans praised the local football governing body for opening gates to the local football faithfuls in the midst of the pandemic.



Former ZESCO United Supporters Club Chairman, Enerst Phiri said: "Firstly, I wish to thank Government through the Ministry of Health and the FAZ for this wonderful gesture shown to football fans across the country. The return of the 12th man in the stadia will have significant effects on the league. Playing football matches in empty stadia had a huge negative bearing on the success of the teams who could no longer enjoy the home ground advantage."

**Phiri has also appealed to fans across the country to follow COVID-19 preventive measures during all the games.**

**"This gesture shown to us doesn't mean COVID-19 has ended. Therefore, it very crucial that we continue to follow health protocols every time we are going to watch the games. It is also crucial for us to be at our best behavior and avoid vices that can be detrimental to our lives such as hooliganism during games.**





## 'I AM TALLER THAN YOU! S. SUDANESE CAPTAIN SECURES WORK PERMIT

**P**eter Maker Manyang is yet to kick a ball in ZESCO United colours. However, the South Sudanese defender has already set new records for himself.

The lanky 27-year-old defender is the first South Sudanese player to grace the ZESCO Super League since the little dinky country become an independent nation.

Standing at 1.98 meters, Manyang is not only the tallest player to have played for ZESCO United but he is arguably going to be the tallest professional footballer to feature in the Zambian league thus far.

Having secured a 2-year move to ZESCO United, the defender has grappled for game time owing to challenges in securing a work permit.

Last month, Manyang's dream of playing for ZESCO United came to reality when the Zambian Immigration granted the ZESCO United defender a work permit.

"I am super excited with this news because I can't wait to play for ZESCO United. I said this when I first arrived in Zambia that my ambition is to help the team succeed. My progress had been frustrated because of work permit issues. I am happy this issue has finally been settled," he said.

Manyang recently led South Sudan in two international friendlies which saw the former draw 1-1 against Sierra Leone before losing 2-0 at the hands of Morocco.

Author: Desmond Katongo



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The start of the 2021/22 MTN Zambian Super League season gave way to a host of new signings for the league defending champions, ZESCO United.

Dickson Chapa penned a 1-year loan move from Napsa Stars while Edward Lungu ditched Kitwe United for a lucrative 2-year move to the Ndola based league giants.

South Sudanese defender Peter Maker Manyang joined ZESCO United while Spencer Sautu and Gregory Sanjase switched loyalties from Green Eagles and Young Green Eagles respectively.

The newcomers have not taken long to settle at their new home with Dickson Chapa and Edward Lungu scoring their debut goals.

Chapa was on the scoresheet when ZESCO United humiliated Kansanshi Dynamos 4-0 in a rescheduled fixture played at the Levy Mwanawasa stadium.

The 24-year-old enterprising defensive midfielder dream is to win his first league title with ZESCO United seem to be on course.

"I was very excited when I heard that ZESCO United were interested in signing me. I was very happy because it shows that my efforts in

the game are being appreciated especially when a team like ZESCO United come calling.

This is a very organized club with a rich history. I feel that they have seen something in me which they want to use to add value to the team. I also want to ensure that I contribute to the club's growth by winning titles," Chapa said after securing a 1-year loan move.

Former Kitwe United exciting winger Edward Lungu is another gem that ZESCO United could not ignore in the transfer market.

The 21-year-old winger has been outstanding for the champions scoring in his debut goal during the 2021 Charity Shield final that saw ZESCO United demolition Lusaka Dynamos 4-0.

Lungu said:" This goal takes away a lot of pressure especially that people are expecting a lot from me. ZESCO United is a big club as such it is important for me to start the new season on a high.

"I am grateful to the entire team for the support. There is a lot of pressure here to deliver. Everyone is working hard to be in the team."

Lungu went on to open his league account in ZESCO United's 2-0 victory against Chambeshi Football Club.

**ZESCO United's race to retain the league title keeps getting exciting with the defending champions occupying third position on the league table with 14 points having played nine games while Nkwazi and Green Buffaloes occupy second and first position with 18 and 21 points respectively having played a game better than the champions.**

Author: Desmond Katongo



## MUMAMBA PLOTS AHEAD OF BUSY NOVEMBER

ZESCO United's quest to defend the 2021/22 MTN Zambian Super League title has slowly started to take shape.

Following their disappointing elimination from the coveted CAF Champions League in the first phase of the qualifying series, the Zambian league champions have channeled all their energies towards keeping the coveted title in Ndola for the tenth time.

The month of September started on a high for the champions, with ZESCO United beating Chambeshi 2-0 in their opening league fixture.

Victory against Chambeshi was followed by another convincing 2-0 win against Indeni in the famous Ndola derby.

The champions, however could not make it three consecutive victories when they faced MTN Super League promoted side Kafue Celtics.

ZESCO United went down 2-0 ending the month of September on a very disappointing note.

The league champions returned to action after the FIFA international break with a mouthwatering fixture to Kabwe Warriors.

Goals from Solomon Sakala and Jesse Were were enough for the champions to open the month of October on a high.

However, the month of October would become slightly bumpy for the champions losing 1-0 to Nkana before trouncing Kansanshi Dynamos 4-0.

Victory against Kansanshi Dynamos was followed by a 1-all draw against league leaders Green Buffaloes and MTN promoted side Konkola Blades.

October curtains were finally drawn to a close with ZESCO United occupying the third



position on the league table with 14 points while Nkwazi and Green Buffaloes cemented the second and first position with 18 and 21 points respectively having played a game better than the champions.

ZESCO United Head Coach Numba Mumamba is already working tirelessly to resuscitate the fortunes of the reigning league champions ahead of what promises to be an explosive November.

Green Eagles, Prison Leopards, Forest Rangers and Buildcon are some of the mouthwatering fixtures that await the Ndola based league giants.

“Our team has struggled a bit since we resumed the league. What we have seen so far is exactly what we saw last season. We were slow starters because most of our senior players are slow to hit their peak. They have slightly struggled.

“We have been talking to everyone about the urgent need to start grinding out results especially that we are almost getting to the half mark of the league. So far, we are seeing some light at the end of the tunnel looking at the way the team is now playing,” Mumamba said.

Mumamba bemoaned the lack of consistency from his side:” We are emphasizing on consistency which is crucial to us. Our focus has been in areas where we are not doing well especially the striking force. The team is creating chances but failing to score. This was the story against Buffaloes.

“I was impressed that we created fewer scoring chances against Kansanshi Dynamos but ended up scoring all the few opportunities we had on target. Our conversion rate needs to improve a lot.”

Mumamba's biggest agony has been the number of injuries that plagued his side last month.

“Injuries have been our biggest challenge. We are hoping Kalengo is back quickly in the team. Adrian started training this week, but he is still feeling a bit of pain in his leg while Ian Otieno had a full week of training last week. We expect him to make the cut this coming Saturday,” he concluded.

Author: Desmond Katongo





# MUKUKA CHANDA

EYES EUROPE:  
MWEPU, DAKA AND  
FASHION HAVE OPENED  
DOORS FOR US

Like many young footballers with humble beginnings, Mukuka's sharp rise in the game has not only been exacerbated by his desire to one-day become a star player for Zambia but also due to his yearning to one day become his family's breadwinner.

Like the late Argentine legendary striker, Diego Armando Maradona and PSG's Lionel Messi whose relentless pursuit for success on the field was partly catapulted by a great desire to lift their families out of abject poverty, Chanda has already assumed the role of provider with great Oomph.

At 20, Chanda knows that he may just be that window of hope for his family beyond the scars of poverty.

"I have been raised by a single parent. My mother is ever encouraging me to work hard because she believes that through football, I can start providing for the family.

She is always encouraging me to push harder and focus on the game."

Early this year, Chanda made a surprise move from Ndola's Lower Division side, Gomes to Zambian Super League giants ZESCO United on a 2-year loan move.

It didn't take long for the young attacking midfielder to show why Numba Mumamba made him one of his first signings when he joined the Zambian league champions as Head coach.





"I couldn't believe it when I was first told that ZESCO United wanted to sign me because this is a big club with a lot of star players. It was only when my manager called me that I took the story seriously, recalls Chanda.

"It didn't take too long for me to settle because the senior players here have been very helpful especially Kelvin Kampamba. He encouraged me a lot not to be scared and to work hard. I always wanted to play for ZESCO United because it is a big club in Zambia."

Since signing for the league champions, Chanda has flourished in the middle of the park owing to the support he continues to receive from ZESCO United's senior players.

"It has been surprisingly easy for me to settle here. I was initially scared because there are a lot of big talented players here and am a small boy. There is Donashano, Kamusoko, Rusike and Ching'andu.

"I was scared that I was not going to get enough game time. However, it has been easy to play because of the support I got from all the senior players. I am particularly excited to play alongside Kamusoko, Rusike or John because they don't shout at me when I make mistakes."

With a handful of Zambian players taking some of the finest European leagues by storm, Chanda is optimistic he will one day make his dream move to Europe.

"It is amazing to watch Enock Mwepu, Fashion Sakala and Patson Daka playing in Europe. Their breakthrough is motivating to every young player to work extra hard. I know I am still developing but I have hope that in 2-3 seasons, I can also see myself playing in Europe."

An ardent follower of Zambian International Midfield maestro, Clatous Chota Chama, Chanda is working hard to perfect his art.

"I like Clatous because he can create opportunities and score. It is something that I want to see develop in my style of play. I can

“It is amazing and motivating to see Mwepu, Daka and Fashion making an impact in Europe. Their progress in Europe shows that any Zambian player can be successful provided they remain disciplined and focused,” says ZESCO United attacking midfielder, “



pass, dribble but I am not scoring goals which is something crucial for a player like me. I am working hard to achieve this target."

Chanda's short stay at ZESCO United has already seen the young midfielder bag his first league title with the Ndola based league giants.

"It is a great achievement to win the league with ZESCO United. Everyone wants to win the league as such am very proud that I was able to do that in my first season with the club. I am working hard to ensure that we continue on the same path even this season."

Author: Desmond Katongo



### RESULTS: LAST THREE GAMES

ZUFC **4** KASANSHI DYNAMOS **0**

KONKOLA BLADES **1** ZUFC **1**

ZUFC **0** GREEN EAGLES **2**

### NEXT THREE FIXTURES

PRISON LEOPARDS VS ZUFC

ZUFC VS FOREST RANGERS FC

BUILDCON FC VS ZUFC





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