



POWER DIGEST

A CURATION OF TOP ENERGY SECTOR STORIES

MIDDLEMEN OR LIFELINES



In Zambia, the moment someone mentions “independent power traders,” many people react the same way they do when a stranger at Intercity says, “Boss, I can help you with a quick deal.” Suspicion comes naturally. Names like Africa GreenCo, Kanona, and Petrodex are often thrown into the same basket labelled “middlemen making life expensive.” But that perception is not only myopic but flawed and sensational at best. Independent power traders are not random intermediaries. They are structured, regulated entities whose job is to buy electricity from producers and resell it to customers. Their role is to source power and move it to where it is needed efficiently in moments when there’s a deficit, the system is strained, demand is fluctuating, or new investment is needed. And here’s the part many people overlook: utilities with weak financial books like ZESCO stand to gain the most. How?

1. Traders help attract private investment ZESCO can’t afford.

Developers are more willing to build new solar, hydro, and wind projects when they know traders like GreenCo can guarantee payment. It’s like having a reliable best man at a wedding. Everyone feels safer signing the documents.

2. They reduce financial pressure.

ZESCO doesn’t have to buy all Zambia needs alone, much less now when its books have got red written all over them! Traders take on the risk, negotiate prices, and secure supply for their customers directly. This helps the utility avoid big debts. A bit like having someone else buy the monthly groceries while you stabilize your budget.

3. They prevent expensive emergency imports.

Instead of ZESCO panicking during shortages and buying last-minute power at “Dubai special” prices, traders can plan ahead, sourcing cheaper energy from multiple producers.

4. They make the whole system more flexible.

Think of them as the traffic marshals at Munyaule Market coordinating movement so the entire system doesn’t jam. So when you hear Africa GreenCo, Kanona Power, or Petrodex, don’t picture sneaky middlemen. Picture specialised coordinators helping ensure Zambia doesn’t slip back into another era of Load Shedding Pro Max.

At the end of the day, traders don’t exist to complicate things. They exist to make sure the lights stay on even when the books don’t.



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POWER TO THE PEOPLE



Zambia has released K2.3 billion (about US\$100 million) to launch a nationwide solar programme that will see a power plant built in each of the country's 156 constituencies, as President Hakainde Hichilema moves to strengthen energy security and expand access to clean power.

Nicholas Phiri, Permanent Secretary for Technical Services, called the move one of the most significant reallocations of CDF resources since the fund's creation, describing it as "a strategic investment that positions Local Authorities as future energy producers and revenue earners."

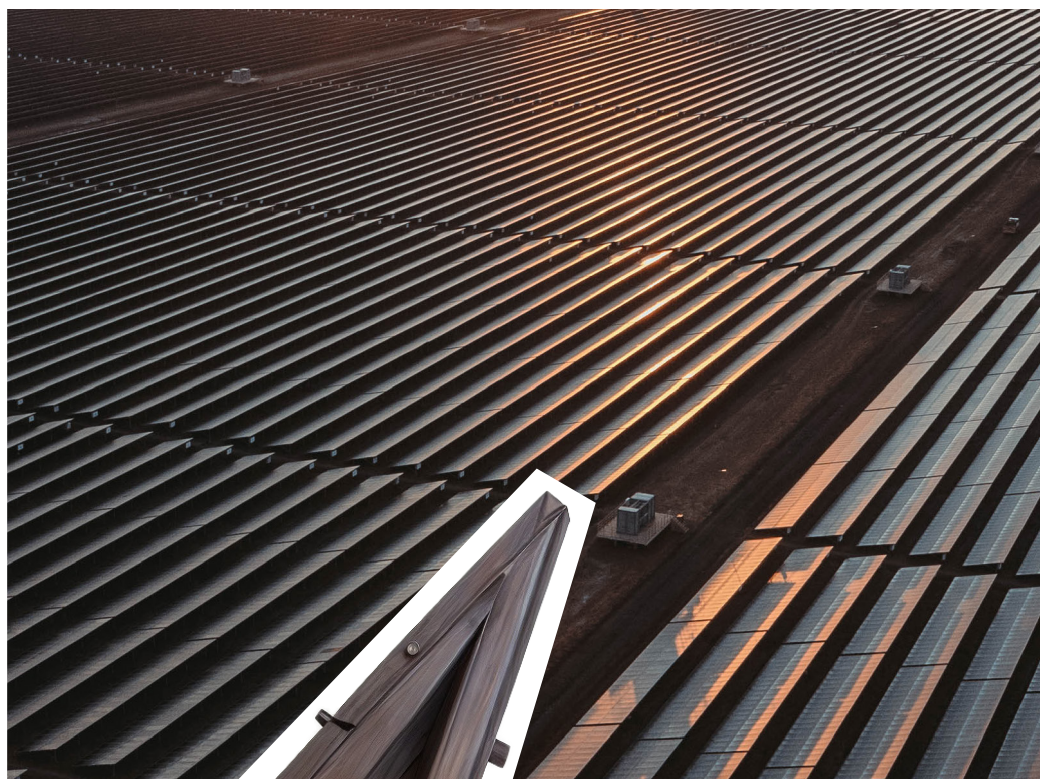
The initial US\$100 million equity injection combines US\$40 million from the CDF loan component and US\$60 million in dividends from ZCCM-IH, forming the first tranche of a planned US\$200 million (K4.6 billion) solar rollout. Mr. Phiri said the restructuring of the 2026 CDF framework has been concluded and funds will be made available immediately to commence works.

All 156 councils will hold equity in their respective solar plants and earn dividends, creating new, sustainable revenue streams for Local Authorities. The initiative will be implemented by the Ministry of Energy, with support from the Ministry of Finance and ZCCM-IH, and is being framed as a core plank of Mr. Hichilema's push for a more secure, diversified and sustainable energy mix for Zambia.

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MORE SOLAR AND COAL PLANTS



Kanona Power Company Limited is moving to establish two major power projects in Mukuni Chiefdom: a 300-megawatt coal-fired plant and a 150-megawatt solar farm, signaling a new wave of investment in the area.

The coal plant would span more than 200 hectares behind the Mukuni Substation, while the solar project would take up 67 hectares across the road. At a public consultation held at the Simukale Royal Shrine, Kazungula Town Council officials expressed full support for the developments.

Project consultant Maxwell Chibanga said the plans include a 5.5-kilometre railway line for transporting coal from Zimbabwe and a 9.5-kilometre pipeline to draw water from the Zambezi River. He added that the project is expected to generate jobs across skill levels, with attention to gender inclusion.

Chiefdom Prime Minister Patrick Malake urged the company to remain transparent and pressed local leaders not to prioritize personal interests over community needs. A ward official, McMillan Mukwamandi, also raised concerns about livestock grazing areas and water access, urging the developers to secure alternatives.



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REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA
MINISTRY OF ENERGY

PROJECTS UNDER CONSTRUCTION

AS AT 28 NOVEMBER 2025

NAME OF PROJECT	LOCATION	DEVELOPER	SIZE (MW)	PROJECT TYPE	EST COMPLETION
Chisamba II Solar PV Plant	Chisamba	ZESCO	100	Grid-scale Solar Plant	July 2026
Mailo II Solar PV Plant	Serenje	Solar century Africa and IDC	34.5	Grid-scale Solar Plant	April 2026
Mansa	Mansa	ZESCO	50	Grid-scale Solar Plant	14MW December 2025 36MW March 2026
Sunshare	Nambala/Mumbwa	Sunshare	100	Grid-scale Solar Plant	December 2026
SWARNA Solar	Serenje	SWARNA	100	Grid-scale Solar Plant	115 MW July 2026 100 MW December 2026
CEC - Renewables Itimpi II	Copperbelt	CEC	136	Grid-scale Solar Plant	February 2026
CEC - Renewables Fitula	Copperbelt	CEC	12	Grid-scale Solar Plant	March 2026
Kasupe I & II	Lusaka	ZESCO	136	Grid-scale Solar Plant	7.5MW January 2026 7.5MW March 2026
Maamba	Maamba	MCL	100	Grid-scale Solar Plant	June 2026
Cooma	Choma	GE	50	Grid-scale Solar Plant	June 2026



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A C U R A T I O N O F T O P E N E R G Y S E C T O R S T O R I E S

NAME OF PROJECT	LOCATION	DEVELOPER	SIZE (MW)	PROJECT TYPE	EST COMPLETION
Runsangu	Monze	ZESCO	2.6	Grid-scale Solar Plant	January 2026
Monze Archdiocese	Monze	ZESCO	34.5	Grid-scale Solar Plant	January 2026
Chipata West	Chipata	ZESCO	100	Grid-scale Solar Plant	July 2026
Northrise	Northrise -Ndola	Lifesong	15	Grid-scale Solar Plant	March 2026
Shang'ombo	Shang'ombo	Kiyona	2	Off-Grid	February 2026
Njolwe	Leopards Hill	Solufy	12	Grid-scale Solar Plant	March 2026
NRDC	NRDC	Taihao	22	Grid-scale Solar Plant	March 2026
L85	Lusaka West	Taihao	30	Grid-scale Solar Plant	April 2026
Silverest Rooftops	Silverest Lusaka	Kiyona	2.5	Rooftop solar	December 2025
ZAF Twinpalm Rooftops	ZAF Twinpalm	Kiyona	6.5	Rooftop solar	January 2026
Kitumba Mine	Mumbwa	Kitumba	30	Off Grid	June 2026
Rural Electrification Projects (REA)	VARIOUS	REA	0.32	Off Grid	December 2025
Zahu	Mumbwa	Zahu	200	Grid-scale Solar Plant	December 2026
Siavonga	Siavonga	Jigsco	100	Grid-scale Solar Plant	December 2026
Kafue Gorge Lower	Namalundu	Jigsco	100	Grid-scale Solar Plant	December 2026
Maamba II Thermal	Sinazongwe	MEL	300	Thermal	150MW June 2026 150MW December 2026



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NAME OF PROJECT	LOCATION	DEVELOPER	SIZE (MW)	PROJECT TYPE	EST COMPLETION
Guoli	Livingstone	Guoli	135	Thermal	December 2026
Evergreen	Sinazongwe	Evergreen	600	Thermal	150MW June 2026
National Assembly	Lusaka	Kiyona	0.8	Solar Rooftop	December 2025