

SAIPAR Marks Milestone with Launch of FIAR Training Programme



Director of Public Prosecutions Gilbert Phiri and SAIPAR Executive Director Manenga Ndulo pose for a photo with FIAR course delegates and facilitators.

SAIPAR has marked an important institutional milestone with the launch of the Financial Investigations and Asset Recovery (FIAR) Training Programme, its first training initiative of this nature and depth.

The programme was officially launched at SAIPAR by Director of Public Prosecutions Gilbert Phiri, who called on law enforcement agencies, regulators, prosecutors and investigators to evolve faster than criminals in order to effectively respond to increasingly sophisticated financial crimes.

The FIAR Training Programme brings... **pg 5**

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On March 6, 2026, various health practitioners, lawyers and tech professionals gathered at SAIPAR to discuss a burning topic, "Healthcare, and Data Governance in Zambia".

SAIPAR Head of Legal Division Tinenerji Banda hosted the round-table discussion and it was based on a policy... **pg 10**



Tine Banda

Lameck Goma Lecture resumes

The COVID-19 pandemic interrupted the Lameck Goma Lecture for several years. In 2026, however, the lecture series returned in grand style.

Vice-Chancellor and Principal of the University of Johannesburg George Letlhokwa Mpodi gave a thought-provoking lecture titled "The Role and Place of an African University in the Intelligent Age".

He argued that Africa must not approach the age of artificial intelligence as a continent... **pg 10**



Letlhokwa George Mpodi



EDITOR’S NOTE

Dear Readers,

Welcome to the second edition of the SAIPAR Newsletter.

This issue reflects a period of renewed engagement, learning and public dialogue across SAIPAR’s programmes. From higher education and artificial intelligence to electoral justice, career development and opportunities for young researchers, the stories gathered here demonstrate the value of connecting ideas and evidence to the realities shaping Zambia and the wider region.

A major highlight was the return of the Lameck Goma Annual Lecture following a pause occasioned by the COVID-19 pandemic. Delivered by University of Johannesburg Vice-Chancellor and Principal Letlhokwa Mpedi, the lecture challenged African universities to help shape the intelligent age rather than remain passive consumers of technologies and knowledge developed elsewhere. His reflections on indigenous knowledge, sustainability, Pan-Africanism and the social responsibility of universities offered a fitting continuation of Lameck Goma’s legacy.

Another major highlight was the launch of the Financial Investigations and Asset Recovery (FIAR) Training Programme, SAIPAR’s first specialised training initiative of this nature and scale. The programme brought together senior representatives from key law-enforcement, regulatory and accountability institutions to strengthen expertise, institutional coordination and practical approaches to investigating financial crimes and recovering illicit assets.

This edition also highlights progress under SEDROBZ II as SAIPAR and its partners work to strengthen Electoral Dispute Resolution ahead of Zambia’s elections. Through capacity-building programmes, digital case-management platforms, engagement with the Judiciary, an advisory framework and an AI-supported early warning system, the project continues to promote greater access to electoral justice.

Young people and emerging professionals also feature prominently in this issue because capacity building remains at the heart of what we do.

We hope this edition informs, challenges and inspires you; and that something within these pages remains with you long after you have finished reading.

Thank you for spending your time with us.

With best wishes,
Mukosha Funga
Editor, SAIPAR Newsletter

SEDROBZ II Makes Progress on EDR Activities in Zambia

As Zambia prepares for the 2026 General Elections, SAIPAR is advancing a series of initiatives aimed at strengthening access to electoral justice and promoting peaceful, transparent and credible elections.

Through the Support to the Electoral Dispute Resolution Oversight Capacity Building Project, Zambia (SEDROBZ II), SAIPAR is working with electoral institutions, political parties, civil society organisations, legal practitioners and election observers to improve how electoral complaints and petitions are documented,

managed and resolved.

The project is supported by the Embassy of Ireland and builds on lessons from the 2021 electoral cycle.

Why Electoral Dispute Resolution Matters

Zambia has consistently held elections since independence. However, the growing number of disputed election results has highlighted the need for stronger and more accessible Electoral Dispute Resolution mechanisms.

Election petitions increased from approximately 70 in 2011 to 348 in 2021. Of the 2021

petitions, 77 related to parliamentary elections, while 272 arose from local government elections.

A significant number of these matters were not determined on their merits. Success rates were also low, with only 2 percent of local government petitioners and 14 percent of parliamentary petitioners succeeding in their cases.

These figures point to persistent challenges relating to filing procedures, strict timelines, evidentiary requirements, access to information and the selection of the appropriate forum for

resolving disputes.

SEDROBZ II seeks to address these challenges by strengthening institutional capacity, improving public access to information and equipping electoral stakeholders with practical knowledge and tools.

Digital Platforms for Tracking Electoral Disputes

One of the project’s major achievements so far is the development and deployment of an Electoral Dispute Resolution Tracker and Case Management System.

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The digital platform is designed to improve the documentation, categorisation and accessibility of electoral dispute information. It will support case tracking, management of adjudicator records, advisory services and the development of a central repository of electoral petition information.

The EDR Tracker and Case Management System have been deployed to the live production environment and are undergoing final operational testing and refinement ahead of full rollout. Once fully operational, the platform is expected to promote greater transparency, improve institutional memory and support more consistent approaches to electoral dispute adjudication.

SAIPAR has also engaged the Judiciary and secured agreement on structured access to electronic judgments from Local Government Tribunals. This will help address challenges experienced during the 2021 electoral cycle, when limited access to judgments affected the completeness and timely updating of the EDR Tracker.

Political Parties Equipped to Navigate EDR Mechanisms

SEDROBZ II also conducted a Trainer of Trainers workshop for political parties on May 11, 2026.

The training brought together 30 participants; 18 men and 12 women, from a broad range of political parties. One of the female participants was a person with a disability.

The programme covered Zambia's constitutional and legal framework for elections, administrative dispute-resolution mechanisms, court-based adjudication, evidence management, trial procedures, appeals and political party

preparedness.

Participants also took part in practical simulations involving the handling of complaints, drafting of election petitions and mock petition hearings.

The trained representatives are expected to share the knowledge and materials within their respective political parties, extending the reach of the programme beyond those who attended directly.

Discussions during the workshop highlighted continuing concerns relating to political intolerance, intimidation, destruction of campaign materials, weak internal party democracy and limited enforcement of decisions made by some administrative and mediation bodies.

Participants also identified the absence of a dedicated Political Parties Act as a significant gap in Zambia's governance framework.

Supporting Civil Society and Female Aspiring Candidates

In partnership with the International Foundation for Electoral Systems, SAIPAR

delivered a separate EDR capacity-building programme for civil society organisations and female aspiring candidates.

The training involved 30 participants, comprising 20 women and 10 men.

The programme positioned civil society organisations not merely as election observers, but as frontline actors capable of preventing, documenting, referring and escalating electoral disputes.

Participants were trained on Zambia's EDR architecture, evidence collection, preservation of records, reporting procedures, burden of proof and the role of civil society throughout the electoral cycle.

Female aspiring candidates highlighted barriers including financial exclusion, intimidation, sextortion, cyber abuse, discriminatory attitudes, limited political party support, unsafe reporting mechanisms and low media visibility.

The workshop also revealed

that many organisations lacked practical tools such as incident-reporting templates, evidence registers, referral directories, witness documentation systems and secure information-storage mechanisms.

These findings reinforced the need to combine legal knowledge with practical tools, mentorship and sustained technical support.

Establishing an EDR Advisory Centre
SAIPAR has also developed the operational framework for an EDR Advisory Centre.

The Centre will provide political parties, candidates and other electoral stakeholders with practical guidance on how to access available dispute-resolution mechanisms.

Although it will not provide legal representation, the Centre will assist users to understand whether a complaint meets the required legal threshold, identify the correct forum, comply with ...continues on p7



SAIPAR Executive Director Manenga Ndulo (left) greets Chief Justice Mumba Malila following a consultative meeting in January, as members of their respective teams interact.

Can Elections Alone Deepen Democracy?

This was the question that SAIPAR Affiliate Divine Ndansi grappled with following Cameroon's 2025 presidential election. In an article published on March 16, 2026 in the Review of African Political Economy (ROAPE), Ndansi, a researcher and human rights specialist, challenges conventional assumptions about the relationship between elections and democratisation in Cameroon. He argues that despite regular elections and formal adherence to constitutional processes, meaningful democratisation remains elusive.

The article examines the aftermath of Cameroon's October 2025 presidential election, which saw President Paul Biya secure another term in office, extending a rule that has lasted more than four decades. While the election complied with existing legal requirements, Ndansi argues that elections alone are

insufficient indicators of democratic progress.

Drawing on the work of African scholars such as Issa Shivji and Archie Mafeje, Ndansi distinguishes between democracy as a formal institutional arrangement and democratisation as a broader process of expanding political equality, popular participation, self-determination, and socio-economic justice. From this perspective, elections represent only one element of a much larger democratic project.

The article identifies three key factors that continue to constrain democratisation in Cameroon. These include entrenched political power asymmetries, persistent socio-economic inequalities, and structural limitations within legal and governance institutions. According to Ndansi, these challenges restrict meaningful political competition, weaken citizen



Divine Ndansi

participation, and limit the transformative potential of electoral processes.

Ultimately, the article argues that advancing democratisation requires more than periodic elections. It calls for reforms aimed at broadening political participation, addressing socio-economic inequalities, strengthening local governance, and building more inclusive political and economic institutions. Such measures, Ndansi suggests, are necessary if democratic processes are to translate into meaningful improvements in citizens' lives.

Ndansi also featured on the SAIPAR Podcast, where he expanded on many of these themes and reflected on lessons that may resonate beyond Cameroon. As Zambia approaches its own electoral season, his insights offer a timely reminder that democracy is measured not only by the conduct of elections, but also by the extent to which citizens are empowered to participate meaningfully in political, economic, and social life. Watch the full podcast episode on the SAIPAR YouTube channel.

Urban Agriculture and the Politics of Waste in Lusaka

Urban agriculture is often viewed primarily as a livelihood strategy for low-income communities. However, a recent publication by SAIPAR Fellow Mutale Mwango encourages a deeper examination of the complex social, environmental, and governance issues that underpin urban farming in Lusaka, particularly the informal use of sewer water for irrigation.

Published in *ASC-TUFS Working Papers*, the article, "Urban Agriculture and the Politics of Waste: A Systematic Review of Sewer Water Use in Lusaka's Farming Systems," explores how wastewater has become both a critical livelihood resource and a symbol of the inequalities that shape access to urban infrastructure and services.

The study demonstrates that many urban farmers rely on wastewater because it provides a readily available source of water and nutrients in contexts where formal irrigation infrastructure and agricultural support systems remain inadequate. While the practice contributes to food production, income generation, and household survival, it also exposes farmers and consumers to significant public health and environmental risks, particularly where wastewater treatment, extension services, and regulatory oversight are limited.

Mwango argues that the use of wastewater in urban agriculture should not be viewed solely as a technical or environmental issue, but as a broader governance challenge.



Mutale Mwango

The practice reflects deeper questions about urban planning, service delivery, infrastructure deficits, and the resilience of communities facing increasing economic and environmental pressures. His work highlights a critical policy dilemma: how can cities safeguard public health while simultaneously recognising and supporting the livelihood needs of urban farmers?

As urbanisation, food insecurity, and climate-related challenges

continue to intensify, this question is becoming increasingly important for Lusaka and other rapidly growing African cities. In response, Mwango advocates for greater investment in wastewater treatment and water management infrastructure to reduce the health risks associated with the practice while preserving the benefits that urban agriculture provides to vulnerable communities.

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REHEATZ showcases innovative wastewater heat recovery technology



On 23 June 2026, the REHEATZ project hosted its final in-person demonstration event at Zambeef Huntley Farm in Chisamba, marking an important milestone as the project approaches its conclusion. REHEATZ, is a collaborative initiative focused on recovering embedded heat in Zambia's food production sector aimed at reducing coal usage. The demonstration brought together partners, government representatives and industry stakeholders to showcase the project's achievements and the successful implementation of its full-scale wastewater heat recovery system.

The event began with a series of presentations highlighting the technical progress of the project and its wider societal impact. Speakers reflected on the valuable experience gained by Build It International (BII) graduate trainees who

participated in the installation of the full-scale technology in May 2025, as well as the benefits realised by Zambeef boiler operators through the introduction of the system. Presentations also provided an overview of the Waste Water Heat Recovery (WWHR) technology and the recently installed heat pump, demonstrating how the system recovers heat from wastewater to improve energy efficiency within food production processes.

The event welcomed a diverse group of guests, including the Ambassador of Ireland and members of his family, representatives from Zambeef Products PLC, the Ministry of Green Economy and Environment, the Southern African Institute for Policy and Research (SAIPAR), Build It International, Coca-Cola, Mount Meru and members of the media. Researchers and project partners from Trinity College



Dublin and SAIPAR, who together form the REHEATZ project team, were also in attendance, reflecting the strong international collaboration that has underpinned the project's success.

Following the presentations, guests toured the wastewater heat recovery installation at Huntley Farm, where they observed the system in

operation and learned how the newly installed heat pump integrates with the existing infrastructure. The site visit offered attendees a practical demonstration of the technology's potential to improve energy efficiency and support more sustainable industrial processes in Zambia's food production sector.

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SEDROBZ II Makes Progress on EDR Activities in Zambia

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filing timelines and prepare the necessary documents.

It will also develop standardised complaint and petition templates, procedural checklists and filing guides.

The initiative responds to lessons from previous elections, where many disputes were dismissed because they were filed outside the prescribed period, presented before the wrong institution or did not comply with procedural requirements.

Preparing Electoral Adjudicators

Engagement with the Judiciary has remained a key part of the project.

SAIPAR held meetings with the Judiciary to discuss training for adjudicators, access to electoral judgments and the development of reference materials for those handling Local Government Tribunal matters.

The Judiciary identified a need for targeted training on electoral law, evidentiary standards, procedural timelines and dispute-resolution mechanisms.

SEDROBZ II agreed to support logistical arrangements for approximately 90 Local Government Tribunal adjudicators expected to participate in a centralised training programme in Lusaka.

Strengthening the preparedness of adjudicators is expected to improve consistency in decision-making and strengthen public confidence in the electoral justice system.

Using AI to Identify Electoral Risks

Another major component of the project is the development of an AI-augmented Early Warning System in partnership with the Christian Churches Monitoring

Group.

The system is intended to support the identification and assessment of electoral risks, including misinformation, intimidation, political tension and disputes arising from contested results.

Information will be gathered from election observers, hotlines, social media, local media and community reports.

AI-supported tools will assist with data analysis, multilingual natural-language processing, rumour detection and risk scoring. However, incidents will still be reviewed and verified by human analysts before alerts are escalated.

Verified information and mitigation guidance will be shared with relevant electoral and security stakeholders to support timely responses and reduce the risk of violence.

The system's cloud-based architecture, analytical tools, verification workflows and privacy safeguards were completed during the reporting period.

SEDROBZ II is currently running a special series on the SAIPAR Podcast focusing on Electoral Dispute Resolution mechanisms. New episodes are released weekly and will continue through to the 13 August elections.

On the rest of the page are some photos from various SEDROBZ II engagements where we collaborated with several partners like ZCID and IFES, among others.



SAIPAR has marked an important institutional milestone with the launch of the Financial Investigations and Asset Recovery (FIAR) Training Programme, its first training initiative of this nature and depth.

The programme was officially launched at SAIPAR by Director of Public Prosecutions Gilbert Phiri, who called on law enforcement agencies, regulators, prosecutors and investigators to evolve faster than criminals in order to effectively respond to increasingly sophisticated financial crimes.

The FIAR Training Programme brings together 25 participants from key law enforcement, justice, regulatory and oversight institutions. It is designed to strengthen Zambia's capacity to investigate, prosecute and recover proceeds of crime, while improving inter-agency coordination in the fight against corruption, fraud, money laundering, illicit financial flows, cyber-enabled crime, wildlife crime and other serious economic offences.

Speaking during the launch, Phiri said the programme represents more than the commencement of a training course. He described it as another significant step in Zambia's collective effort to strengthen the investigation, prosecution and recovery of proceeds of crime.

He noted that financial crime has evolved considerably over the years, with criminal enterprises increasingly becoming technologically enabled, sophisticated and transnational in nature. He observed that proceeds of crime are often concealed through complex networks of bank accounts, shell companies, nominee arrangements, digital platforms and cross-border transactions.

"As law enforcement agencies, regulators, prosecutors, and investigators, we must evolve at the same pace, if not faster. We must continuously strengthen our skills, deepen our knowledge, and improve our



Gilbert Phiri

ability to follow the stolen money wherever it leads," Phiri said.

He emphasised that financial investigation is no longer optional, but indispensable. According to Phiri, every serious criminal investigation must not only ask who committed the offence, but must also establish who benefited, where the proceeds went, who assisted in concealing them, and how those assets can be recovered for the benefit of society.

Phiri further noted that countries that have made corruption and financial crime costly for offenders did not do so by accident. Citing Singapore and Rwanda, he said there is a strong relationship between effective crime-fighting and economic development.

The FIAR Training Programme will provide practical training in financial investigation techniques, legal frameworks, money laundering and predicate offences, sources of financial information, evidential issues, international cooperation and asset recovery.

The launch marks an important milestone for SAIPAR, as the Institute expands its contribution beyond research and policy engagement into specialised training on financial investigations and asset recovery.

SAIPAR Marks Milestone with Launch of FIAR Training Programme

Meanwhile, SAIPAR Executive Director Manenga Ndulo said the FIAR Training Programme will be delivered by experienced local trainers from the National Prosecution Authority, working alongside international experts, in order to provide both a localised and international perspective. The training will emphasise Zambian legal and institutional realities, while also exposing participants to international trends, best practices and cross-border issues, including digital assets.



Manenga Ndulo

"We hope that the 25 learners embarking on this course today will finish the course feeling confident to use contemporary investigative techniques and handle sophisticated financial crime matters in today's complex world," Ndulo said.

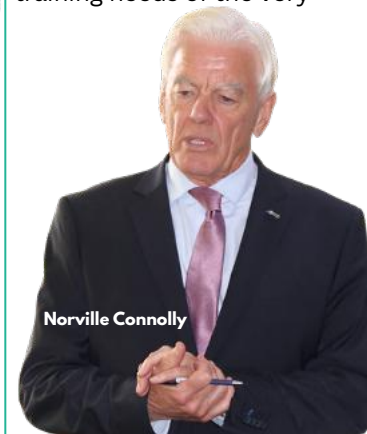
He expressed gratitude to the Irish Embassy for providing the grant that made the pilot course possible. He also thanked the National Prosecution Authority, Irish Rule of Law International, the International Senior Lawyers Project, and volunteer lawyers who contributed technical, strategic and curriculum support to the programme.

Ndulo further acknowledged the leadership of the Director of Public Prosecutions in developing the course content and assuming the Secretariat role throughout the process. He also recognised NPA officials

Gracilia Mulenga, Deputy Chief State Advocate, and Mukuma Chipawa, Assistant Director and Principal State Advocate, for their dedication in driving the programme forward.

Also speaking during the launch, Irish Rule of Law International Country Director, Norville Connolly, said the pilot course could pave the way for SAIPAR to offer further specialised training programmes in future, including certified courses, diplomas and even undergraduate and graduate-level programmes in this field.

"I hope that this course will lead to further courses, leaving SAIPAR to achieve certification with the higher education authority which will allow them to award certificates, diplomas and even undergraduate and graduate courses so that the training needs of the very



Norville Connolly

many, hundreds of staff in these institutions can be met on an ongoing basis," Connolly said.

He explained that the idea for the programme emerged from engagements with Zambian institutions after IRLI came to Zambia in 2022 at the invitation of the Irish Embassy. During consultations with institutions such as the National Prosecution

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Photo Captions

1. Elena Moustaka of IRLI and Manenga Ndulo of SAIPAR signing an MoU
2. I-r Manenga Ndulo of SAIPAR, Gilbert Phiri of NPA and Sean McHale of IRLI sign an MoU
3. SAIPAR Law Division Head Tinenenji Banda moderates FIAR opening ceremony
4. Some FIAR training programme participants

SAIPAR Marks Milestone with Launch of FIAR Training Programme

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Authority, Anti-Corruption Commission and Drug Enforcement Commission, the need for specialised training in financial crimes was repeatedly identified as a priority.

"In our meetings, particularly with the NPA, ACC and DEC, we were repeatedly asked if we could help with a training which is specific to financial crimes. It was clear that the training needs were great. We came up with an idea, why not try to institutionalise training courses so that they are designed to meet individual training needs. The idea was that a local university would be able to provide training on the local law and context and the international

best practice part would be provided by Irish and other international experts. The Irish embassy was enthusiastic with the project. The DPP introduced me to the University of Zambia and Mrs Margaret Chitundu, Deputy Chief State Advocate of the NPA spent the next year and half trying to persuade UNZA to take on the idea but we were not successful. We then had conversations with Marja and Tine of SAIPAR and in a lightbulb moment, we wondered if they could do it. They enthusiastically supported the idea; they were excited and we were too. We

asked the DPP to visit which he kindly did. He was impressed with SAIPAR, MoUs were signed and a course was proposed. The assessment would be rigorous, and this is appropriate as the work is so important," said Connolly.

Connolly said the aim was to institutionalise specialised training that responds to local needs while drawing on international best practice.

Participants in the FIAR Training Programme are drawn from a wide range of institutions, including the National Prosecution

Authority, Anti-Corruption Commission, Drug Enforcement Commission, Zambia Police Service, Financial Intelligence Centre, Zambia Revenue Authority, Cyber Security Agency, Immigration Department, Bank of Zambia, Securities and Exchange Commission, Pensions and Insurance Authority, Department of National Parks and Wildlife, Forestry Department, and the National Anti-Terrorism Centre.

This milestone reflects SAIPAR's growing role in supporting justice-sector capacity building, promoting evidence-based learning, and contributing to Zambia's institutional response to complex financial crime.

Through this programme, SAIPAR and its partners are helping equip key institutions with the skills needed to trace illicit wealth, preserve evidence, recover assets and ensure that crime does not pay.

African Universities Must Help Shape the Age of AI, says Mpedi at 2026 Lameck Goma Lecture

The COVID-19 pandemic interrupted the Lameck Goma Lecture for several years. In 2026, however, the lecture series returned in grand style.

Vice-Chancellor and Principal of the University of Johannesburg Letlhokwa George Mpedi gave a thought-provoking lecture titled “The Role and Place of an African University in the Intelligent Age”.

He argued that Africa must not approach the age of artificial intelligence as a continent struggling to catch up with ideas and technologies defined elsewhere, challenging African universities to recognise the continent’s knowledge systems, social realities and intellectual traditions as essential to shaping the future.

Opening with the African proverb that when an elder dies, a library burns to the ground, Mpedi reminded the audience that intelligence did not begin with algorithms, neural networks or large language models.

For generations, African farmers have interpreted changes in weather through the behaviour of animals and the environment. Traditional healers understood the medicinal properties of plants long before modern



Letlhokwa George Mpedi

scientific classifications existed, while elders preserved community histories, genealogies, laws and cultural values through memory and oral tradition.

These indigenous knowledge systems, he argued, are among humanity’s oldest and most enduring forms of intelligence.

Africa must not simply “catch up”

Mpedi rejected the assumption that Africa’s responsibility is merely to adopt technologies and systems developed

elsewhere.

Instead, African universities must actively contribute to defining the intelligent age by ensuring that indigenous knowledge, African languages, philosophies and lived experiences are represented in the technologies being developed.

As artificial intelligence increasingly influences how knowledge is produced, validated and applied, universities must ask difficult questions such as whose

language is included in the training data? Whose history and worldview are represented? Whose data is collected, who benefits from it, and whose information is protected?

These, he said, are not only technological questions. They are questions of power, justice, ethics and inclusion.

Mpedi emphasised that technology may appear neutral in its design, but it is rarely neutral in its consequences. Universities must therefore help ensure...

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REHEATZ showcases innovative wastewater heat recovery technology

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The event concluded with a networking lunch, where discussions continued around the technology, opportunities for future application and the importance of innovation in supporting Zambia’s transition to more sustainable and resource-efficient industries.

As the REHEATZ project draws to a close, the demonstration

event served not only as a showcase of technical achievement but also as a celebration of the partnerships that made the project possible. The collaboration between SAIPAR, Trinity College Dublin, Zambeef Products PLC and BII has demonstrated the value of bringing together research, industry and skills development to deliver practical solutions to real-world challenges.

Urban Agriculture and the Politics of Waste in Lusaka

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Mwango recently joined the **SAIPAR Podcast** to discuss the findings of his research and their implications for urban policy and sustainable development. He also presented preliminary findings from his ongoing research, “Negotiating Water Resilience in a Growing African City: Insights from Lusaka,” at the Assuring Resilient Urban Water Supplies: Learning from Cities in Sub-Saharan Africa Research Symposium held in Cape Town in April. His continued work contributes to growing conversations on urban resilience, environmental governance, and sustainable water management in African cities.

SAIPAR Hosts Arbitration Masterclass

SAIPAR, in partnership with ECB Legal Practitioners, hosted a Masterclass on Domestic, International Commercial and Investment Treaty Arbitration in Lusaka and Kitwe on July 13 and 15, respectively.

The Masterclass was designed to strengthen practical and professional capacity in arbitration, which has become an increasingly important mechanism for resolving commercial, investment and cross-border disputes outside traditional litigation.

The training brought together participants for an intensive learning programme covering the legal principles, procedures and practical skills required in arbitration. It focused on domestic, international commercial and investment treaty arbitration, while also addressing related forms of out-of-court dispute resolution, including negotiation, conciliation, mediation and adjudication.

In his opening remarks, Anti-Corruption Commission Vice-Chairperson Kaumbu Mwendela observed that the nature of dispute resolution was changing significantly. He noted that major projects across different sectors were no longer structured with litigation as the default means of resolving disputes. Instead, many commercial and investment arrangements now anticipate arbitration as the preferred dispute-resolution mechanism. Mwendela urged participants to ensure that their professional skills evolve alongside these emerging trends. He emphasised the importance of continuous learning, particularly at a time when Africa is witnessing the emergence and strengthening of respected arbitral institutions.

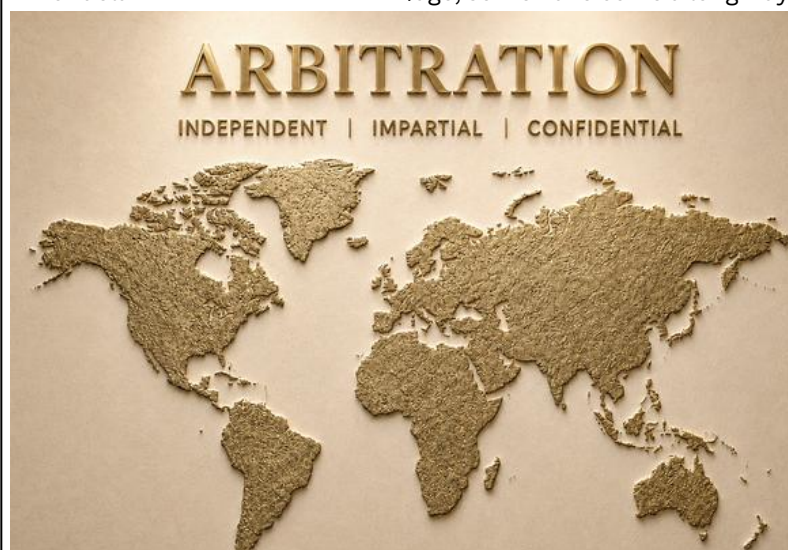
"The competition before us is no longer local. The advocate in Lusaka competes with counsel

in London. The arbitrator in Ndola competes with the arbitrator in Singapore. The tribunal secretary in Kitwe competes with professionals in Paris. This reality should not discourage us; rather, it should inspire us. Continuous learning is therefore no longer an option; it is a professional obligation," said Mwendela.

mainstream method of resolving disputes.

He observed that Zambia had also made significant progress in embracing and developing arbitration.

"I was in Prof. Muna Ndulo's Evidence class about 46 years ago, so we have come a long way



"Over two years ago, the Lusaka International Arbitration Centre was established, expressing confidence that Zambia possesses the legal maturity to administer disputes of international significance. The Attorney General has also made a policy pronouncement regarding state contracts: that LIAC arbitration is the preferred mechanism for state commercial contracts. This is an economic statement that tells investors, 'We believe in our institutions.'"

“
Continuous learning is no longer an option; it is a professional obligation”

Speaking during the Kitwe session, ECB Legal Practitioners Managing Partner Elijah Chomba Banda said the world was rapidly embracing arbitration as a

with Prof, and it is always a privilege to interact with him. When SAIPAR requested us to partner on this event, we did not hesitate, as a firm, to become the core sponsors of this Masterclass. We are truly grateful to have been considered as partners in this initiative," Banda said.

"We also welcome the opportunity to work with ENS, a highly reputable firm in South Africa and across the continent. ECB is honoured to partner with SAIPAR in facilitating this Masterclass on domestic, international commercial and investment treaty arbitration. As a firm, we recognise that the world, especially the commercial world, is moving rapidly towards arbitration as a mainstream method of resolving disputes. Zambia is no exception. I was telling Siobhan earlier that it is remarkable what has happened over the past two decades, and particularly in the last decade, regarding the evolution of arbitration in Zambia."

Banda noted that Zambia's

original Arbitration Act, Chapter 40, was a brief and basic piece of legislation at a time when arbitration was neither widely known nor commonly practised.

"Today, however, Zambia has modern legal instruments, including an Arbitration Act that has domesticated the UNCITRAL Model Law and the New York Convention. We are in what may be described as the golden age of arbitration. The establishment of the Lusaka International Arbitration Centre has also placed a spotlight on Zambia as an arbitration-friendly and welcoming destination. This makes this event all the more important. We are therefore grateful that Prof. Ndulo and his team found it appropriate to enhance our competencies through these insightful presentations and interactions."

The Masterclass covered a broad range of topics, including arbitration agreements, the choice of arbitration rules and administering institutions, the selection of arbitrators, arbitral procedure, the exchange of pleadings, hearings, evidence, arbitral awards and the recognition and enforcement of awards.

Participants were also introduced to substantive legal issues such as choice of law, arbitrability and challenges to arbitrators on grounds of partiality.

A significant component of the programme focused on the United Nations Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards, commonly known as the New York Convention. Discussions covered the scope of the Convention, the public-policy exception, judicial review of arbitral awards, defences to recognition and

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SAIPAR Hosts Arbitration Masterclass



ECB Legal Practitioners Managing Partner Elijah Chomba Banda speaks in Kitwe



ACC Vice Chairperson Kaumbu Mwendela speaks in Lusaka



Lusaka



Kitwe



Muna Ndulo



Siobhan Zeiler

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enforcement, and considerations relating to international public policy.

The Masterclass also addressed investor-state dispute settlement, including the role of the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes. Topics included ICSID jurisdiction, twofold consent, foreign control at the time of consent, the investment requirement, applicable law under ICSID, arbitration rules, enforcement mechanisms for ICSID awards, and annulment procedures under the ICSID Convention.

The programme was facilitated by Professor Muna Ndulo and Siobhan Zeiler.

Ndulo is the William Nelson Cromwell Professor of International and Comparative Law and Director of the Berger International Legal Studies Program at Cornell Law School. He has served as an arbitrator in ICSID, ICC and UNCITRAL ad hoc arbitrations and has extensive experience in international law, constitutional processes, development

institutions and dispute resolution.

Zeiler is a litigation attorney at ENS in Cape Town, South Africa. She specialises in commercial litigation and arbitration, with a particular focus on general commercial and construction disputes. Her experience includes advising on contentious and non-contentious matters involving contractual disputes, procurement issues and commercial litigation. She also serves as a representative of the ICC Young Arbitration and ADR Forum for the Africa Chapter.

Through the Masterclass, SAIPAR continues to advance its role as an independent research and educational institution committed to evidence-based policy dialogue, legal scholarship and professional development in Zambia and the wider region.

The programme reflects SAIPAR's broader commitment to providing platforms for research, training and engagement on issues relating to law, governance and economic development, while strengthening professional capacity and informed policy discourse.



AI in Healthcare Takes Centre Stage at SAIPAR Round Table



Roundtable discussion participants pose for a photo

On March 6, 2026, various health practitioners, legal practitioners and people in tech gathered at SAIPAR to discuss a burning topic, “AI Healthcare, and Data Governance in Zambia”.

The roundtable discussion was hosted by SAIPAR Head of Legal Division Tinenenji Banda, and it was based on a policy brief which she authored which examines how AI-assisted TB diagnostic tools could improve healthcare delivery while raising important questions around patient privacy, data protection, digital inclusion and the responsible use of emerging technologies.

Tuberculosis remains one of Zambia’s most persistent public health challenges, particularly in communities where access to radiologists, laboratories and specialised diagnostic services is limited.

AI-powered tools that analyse chest X-rays could help address this gap by screening images, identifying patterns associated with TB and flagging possible cases for further medical review. In areas with few medical specialists, such systems could support earlier diagnosis, reduce delays and extend access to healthcare services.

During the roundtable, participants considered evidence from pilot initiatives showing the potential of AI-supported TB detection. Studies conducted in Lusaka have indicated that some AI systems can perform comparably to trained radiologists in identifying signs of tuberculosis from chest X-rays.

Tools such as the qXR diagnostic system use machine-learning algorithms to analyse lung images and identify patterns linked to TB. These technologies are not intended to replace doctors. Instead, they support clinical decision-making by helping healthcare professionals identify

suspicious cases and prioritise patients who require further examination.

The discussion also highlighted the wider importance of AI-assisted healthcare for digital inclusion. By enabling faster and more accurate screening in remote and underserved areas, the technology could help expand access to quality diagnostic services and support

Zambia’s broader goal of using digital innovation to improve public-service delivery.

However, participants also examined the legal and policy challenges associated with the use of AI in healthcare.

Zambia’s Data Protection Act of 2021 provides safeguards



relating to consent, purpose limitation, the processing of personal information and cross-border data transfers. However, it was not specifically developed to address AI-enabled healthcare systems.

This may create uncertainty for hospitals and healthcare institutions over how patient data should be collected, processed, stored and shared, particularly where AI platforms



depend on cloud-based systems or international service providers.

The policy brief argues that Zambia must strike a careful balance between promoting innovation and protecting patients. Rules that are too rigid may slow the adoption of potentially

...Continues on pg 13



African Universities Must Help Shape the Age of AI, says Mpedi at 2026 Lameck Goma Lecture

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that innovation remains ethical, inclusive and human-centred.

The global centre of gravity is shifting
Africa's growing population, youthful demographic, mineral wealth, renewable-energy potential and expanding data ecosystems mean that the continent will increasingly influence the direction of the global economy.

Mpedi warned that universities which fail to prepare for the Africa that is emerging risk becoming institutionally outdated.

Innovation is no longer confined to Silicon Valley, Shenzhen or established universities in the Global North. It is also happening in Johannesburg, Lagos, Nairobi, Kigali, Accra and Lusaka.

African universities must therefore build the intellectual infrastructure necessary for the continent to participate meaningfully in global conversations about technology, data, sustainability and development.

Rethinking how university excellence is measured
Mpedi also questioned traditional global university rankings, which often measure excellence through citation counts, journal publications and institutional wealth. Such measurements frequently favour English-language publications and research ecosystems located in the Global North.

While African universities are increasingly performing well within these rankings, he argued that universities must also ask whether these are the correct measurements of excellence. A university's success should also be evaluated by its contribution to society: its impact on poverty, public health, inequality, climate change, education and

sustainable development.
Mpedi shared examples of how the University of Johannesburg has worked with communities to provide clean water, solar power, internet connectivity, skills training and bicycles for school children.

In some communities, these interventions contributed to a dramatic improvement in school examination results and a reduction in malaria cases.

These examples illustrated his broader message that universities should not become Eiffel Towers that celebrate their status while remaining disconnected from the poverty, inequality and social challenges surrounding them.

As he put it, the objective should not merely be to become the best university in the world, but the best university for the world.

"A university's success should also be evaluated by its contribution to society: its impact on poverty, public health, inequality, climate change, education and sustainable development"

Access and excellence can coexist
Mpedi further challenged the perception that expanding access to university education necessarily compromises academic quality.

Many talented students come from disadvantaged communities. Their lack of financial resources should not prevent them from accessing opportunities to develop their abilities. Universities should create spaces where the children of executives can study alongside the children of farmers, villagers and low-income families.

Such environments allow students to understand both

privilege and poverty and prepare graduates to confront inequality rather than remain disconnected from it.

Access and excellence, he stressed, are not mutually exclusive.

Pan-Africanism is also a sustainability project. Reflecting on the ideas of Kwame Nkrumah, Julius Nyerere and the African Union's Agenda 2063, Mpedi argued that Pan-Africanism must be understood as more than a political philosophy but also as an intellectual, economic and ecological project.

Africa cannot achieve meaningful sustainability without greater control over its land, water, minerals, knowledge and other resources.

Political self-determination must therefore be accompanied by the ability to determine how the continent's resources are governed, extracted and used.

African universities have an important role in developing the ideas, technologies and policies required to build a continent that is self-determined, adequately resourced and prepared for the future.

Continuing Lameck Goma's legacy

Mpedi situated his address within Lameck Goma's ideologies. Lameck Goma believed that an African university could not simply function as an African branch of a European institutional model; it had to understand itself in relation to Africa's own realities, responsibilities and possibilities.

Goma also recognised the importance of disciplines sometimes dismissed as "useless", including the humanities, philosophy, languages and cultural studies.

In an increasingly technical age, Mpedi argued, these disciplines are precisely what help society

examine the moral, cultural and human consequences of technological development.

"They help keep the intelligent age honest," he said.

The responsibility of the African university

Mpedi outlined four major responsibilities for African universities in the intelligent age:

i. They must treat indigenous and place-based knowledge systems as legitimate intellectual counterparts to computational intelligence.

ii. They must train graduates and researchers to regard ethics, inclusion and human-centredness as essential conditions for innovation.

iii. African universities must claim their place in the emerging global order by contributing to, and where necessary, challenging the frameworks governing data, intelligence and economic value.

iv. They must unite Pan-Africanism and sustainability in pursuing an Africa that is self-determined, properly resourced and able to face the future on its own terms.

Mpedi concluded his address by returning to the image of the elder whose death represents the burning of a library.

"When an elder dies, a library burns to the ground"

An African university worthy of the intelligent age, he said, is one that refuses to allow that library to burn.

A Scholar, Teacher and Trailblazing Academic

Introducing Mpedi, Muna Ndulo described him as a distinguished scholar whose career has been marked by intellectual...
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African Universities Must Help Shape the Age of AI, says Mpedi at 2026 Lameck Goma Lecture

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curiosity, dedication and public service.

“What strikes me most about Professor Mpedi’s career is that, at every stage, he has remained a teacher and researcher at heart; someone drawn to the classroom, to scholarship and to the difficult questions of law that shape the lives of ordinary working people,” Ndulo said.

He also highlighted Mpedi’s appointment as the first Black Dean of Law at the University of Johannesburg, describing it as a landmark achievement that opened doors for others and demonstrated to young Black South African lawyers that leadership in legal academia was theirs to claim.

Ndulo further praised Mpedi’s willingness to continue learning while leading others. Although his academic career was built primarily in labour and social security law, Mpedi has more recently expanded his scholarship to include artificial intelligence and its implications for law, governance and higher education.

“That intellectual curiosity is precisely the quality one hopes to find in someone entrusted with leading a university into an uncertain future,” said Ndulo, before formally welcoming Mpedi to deliver the 2026 Lameck Goma Lecture.

Copperbelt University’s Response to the Intelligent Age

In his closing remarks, Copperbelt University Vice-Chancellor Imasiku Nyambe, who chaired the lecture, reflected on the university’s efforts to modernise its infrastructure and create more opportunities for innovation and entrepreneurship.

Nyambe explained that when he joined Copperbelt University in 2024, he recognised the need to upgrade infrastructure that largely reflected the institution’s origins as the Zambia Institute of Technology.

This led to the establishment of the CBU Challenge, an initiative seeking to raise K420 million to improve the university’s teaching and learning facilities.

Through the initiative, the university is constructing a 1,000-seat lecture hall, with plans to develop a further 500-seat lecture theatre and other university-level infrastructure.

Nyambe said the fundraising initiative was intended to mobilise support from individuals, alumni, students and the corporate sector. He noted that he had personally contributed K50,000 towards the programme.

The CBU Challenge, he said, had also inspired students to take ownership of the university’s



Muna Ndulo

development. Some students contesting Copperbelt University Students’ Union leadership positions had contributed bricks towards the construction of the new lecture hall, demonstrating their support for the initiative.

Nyambe also highlighted the university’s Innovation Pod, or UniPod, which provides students with access to equipment and a space in which they can experiment with ideas, develop products and explore entrepreneurship.

He encouraged students from all disciplines to use the facility to test their ideas and establish enterprises capable of creating employment for others.

According to Nyambe, the university also hosts exhibitions at which students and young innovators can showcase their work to members of the public, including schoolchildren.

His remarks reinforced one of the lecture’s central messages: that African universities must respond to the intelligent age not only through scholarship, but also by investing in modern infrastructure, supporting innovation and enabling students to develop practical solutions to society’s challenges.

Remembering Lameck Goma Through Art

The lecture also featured an exhibition of a portrait of Lameck Goma, presented by

Lusaka Contemporary Art Centre Curatorial Assistant Brian Milambo.

Milambo explained that the idea for the artwork was proposed by SAIPAR Research Assistant Ndanji Simwanza, who wanted Goma to be portrayed in a way that would help audiences appreciate both his historical importance and the continuing relevance of his legacy.

Goma was not only the first indigenous Zambian Vice-Chancellor of the University of Zambia, but also an academic who contributed to the development of the country’s education system during the formative years following independence.

“The idea was to tell his story and present a narrative of who he was as a person, while also showing the immense value he added to our education system,” Milambo said.

The mixed-media portrait was created by collaging newspaper articles, photographs and stories about Goma onto the canvas before painting his likeness over them. Milambo said the portrait was intended to capture Goma’s spirit and essence, while the materials beneath it documented his life and contributions.

He added that the work demonstrated how... to page 13



Imasiku Nyambe

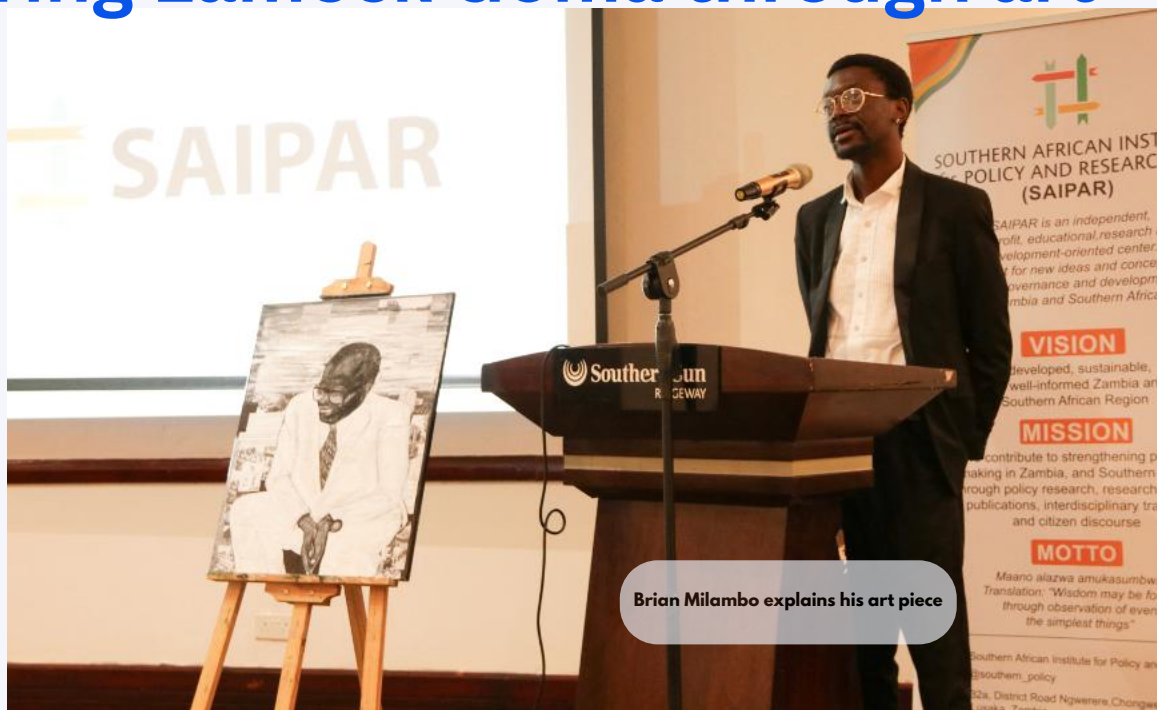
Remembering Lameck Goma through art

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He added that the work demonstrated how history could be preserved and communicated through more than written records, museums and archaeology.

"History should not exist only in writing. Through visual art, we can also translate important messages and celebrate people who contributed significantly to where we are today," said Milambo.

The artwork offered a visual complement to the lecture, transforming Goma's legacy from a historical account into a living image through which new generations could engage with his life, scholarship and contribution to Zambia.



Brian Milambo explains his art piece

Previous Lameck Goma Lecture Keynote Speakers

Over the years, the Lameck Goma Lecture has featured distinguished African scholars, judges and public intellectuals, including:

- 2014 - Albie Sachs**, retired Judge of the Constitutional Court of South Africa
"With Oliver Tambo in Lusaka: The Making of the South African Constitution"
- 2015 - Thandika Mkandawire**, Professor of Economics at the London School of Economics
"Born with a Copper Spoon in the Mouth: Reflections on Zambia and the 'Resource Curse'"
- 2017 - Brian Raftopoulos**, University of the Western Cape
"The Changing Politics of the Labour Movement in Post-Colonial Zimbabwe"
- 2018 - Willy Mutunga**, former Chief Justice of Kenya
"Developing Progressive African Jurisprudence: Reflections from Kenya's 2010 Transformative Constitution"
- 2019 - Ernest Aryeetey**, former Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ghana
"Making African Higher Education Responsive"
- 2019 - Sanji Mmasenono Monageng**, former Judge of the International Criminal Court
"Reflections on International Crimes and Accountability"

AI in Healthcare Takes Centre Stage at SAIPAR Round Table

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while weak safeguards could expose patients to privacy risks and undermine confidence in digital health systems.

Among the reforms discussed were stronger protections for health data, clearer rules on the use of anonymised medical information for training AI systems, and requirements to ensure that patients are informed when AI tools are involved in medical decision-making.

The brief also recommends reviewing cross-border data-transfer rules to reflect the global nature of modern AI platforms while maintaining strong safeguards for patient privacy and data security. One of the most interesting contributions came from Zambia National Public Health Institute (ZNPHI)'s Peter Funsani, who explained how new technologies are being used to support healthcare professionals beyond TB detection.

An exciting project is already underway at the University Teaching Hospital in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU).

The project uses AI-powered robotic cameras to monitor newborn babies. These cameras observe important indicators such as: skin discoloration, infant movement and temperature changes.

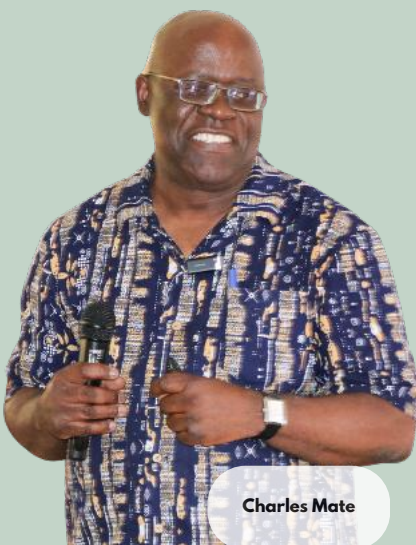
The AI system then analyses these signals to help doctors detect early warning signs of complications in vulnerable new-borns.

"This technology learns from clinical practice over time," Peter explained. "It helps support medical teams by identifying patterns that may indicate potential health risks."

Beyond hospitals, Peter said AI is also being used to predict disease outbreaks. By combining environmental data like rainfall and temperature with patient and laboratory records, researchers can build models capable of forecasting diseases such as cholera.

Importantly, the data used in these systems is anonymised and de-identified, ensuring patient privacy while allowing health experts to improve public health planning.

The Long Road to the C-Suite: Charles Mate's Lessons for Young Professionals



Charles Mate



Dale Mudenda

SAIPAR recently hosted members of the University of Zambia Business and Economics Association (UNZABECA) for a career talk with seasoned capital-markets professional Charles Mate.

The session gave students an opportunity to hear practical lessons on career development, professional growth and navigating the realities of today's corporate world. It was moderated by SAIPAR Head of Economics, Dale Mudenda.

Mate is an Executive at Stockbrokers Zambia and previously served as the firm's Managing Director. He also played an important role in the establishment of the Lusaka Securities Exchange, initially serving as Project Manager and later becoming its first General Manager. He continues to contribute to the institution as a Non-Executive Director on the LuSE Board.

Drawing on his career across the private and public sectors, Mate challenged the assumption that professional success follows a straight and predictable path. He explained that career growth is rarely immediate and is often shaped by discipline, consistency, adaptability and a willingness to continue learning.

One of Mate's key messages was the importance of setting ambitious professional goals.

Students were encouraged to think beyond securing their first job and to develop a longer-term vision for the kind of professionals and leaders they hope to become.

He observed that reaching senior leadership positions requires patience and sustained effort. Progress may take years and often involves taking on unfamiliar responsibilities, learning from setbacks and steadily building one's credibility.

Rather than becoming discouraged when advancement is slower than expected, young professionals should focus on developing competence, delivering consistently and positioning themselves for future opportunities.

Mate also emphasised the importance of being prepared to change direction when circumstances demand it.

Career paths do not always unfold as originally planned. Changes in the economy, organisations and individual interests may require professionals to reconsider

their plans, acquire new skills or move into entirely different roles.

He encouraged students to view such transitions not necessarily as failures, but as opportunities to reposition themselves and pursue new avenues for growth. The ability to pivot, he noted, can play a decisive role in long-term professional success.

The interactive session allowed participants to engage Mate on the practical challenges professionals encounter as they move through different stages of their careers.

His reflections highlighted the value of discipline, continuous learning and remaining open to opportunities that may not form part of one's original plan.

For students preparing to enter the workplace, the discussion offered a realistic picture of career progression: one built not only on qualifications, but also on persistence, sound judgement, adaptability and a willingness to learn from experience.

The full career talk, "**Getting to the C-Suite: Career Lessons Every Graduate Needs to Hear,**" is available on the SAIPAR YouTube channel.

Cornell University Students Reflect on Their SAIPAR Internship Experience

For Cornell University students Aima Raza and Michaela Vigneau, a six-week internship at SAIPAR provided an opportunity to deepen their interests in international labour, governance and legal research while experiencing Zambia first-hand.

Both final-year students arrived with strong academic backgrounds in international labour relations and a desire to understand how legal and political institutions operate in different contexts.

Aima's interest in Zambia grew from previous international experiences. She had worked with indigenous communities in Ecuador, studying labour relations and agricultural commodity markets, before undertaking further studies in European industrial relations in Dublin.

Her exposure to global labour supply chains and the green transition led her to examine Africa's role in global commodity markets, particularly Zambia's copper sector.

"What drew me to Zambia, and Africa more broadly, was the opportunity to understand another part of the global supply chain," she said.

Aima first heard about the internship through Cornell and was encouraged by a former participant who spoke positively about his experience at SAIPAR.

At SAIPAR, she particularly enjoyed the investigative nature of their research project examining what judges do outside the courtroom and how those activities may shape their understanding of the judicial role and democratic values.

"It is directly related to what I would like to do as a career," she said.

Michaela's academic interests have similarly centred on



international labour policy. Her earlier research examined labour markets in Colombia and how guerrilla movements, paramilitary activity and government actions affected trade union organisation.

She later worked with the labour relations team at Disney Experiences, where she observed a collaborative relationship between management and organised labour.

"It was encouraging to see what a collaborative worker-company environment could look like," she said, adding that the experience strengthened her interest in collective bargaining, mediation and arbitration.

Michaela is currently researching the International Labour Organisation and how states respond to criticism based on domestic politics, geopolitical tensions and their relationships with trade unions. Her interest in Zambia was also shaped by the country's dual legal system, which incorporates customary and statutory law.

"I found it fascinating that there is an effort to preserve tradition and culture while also protecting international human rights," she said.

At SAIPAR, the students explored how judges' public activities, identities and

institutional relationships may influence their understanding of the judiciary.

Michaela noted that judges occupy a unique position because they derive legitimacy from the public while often remaining removed from public scrutiny.

"It has been interesting to examine how judges present themselves publicly and how that may reflect their understanding of the judiciary and its relationship with other branches of government," she said.

At the time of the interview, the students were also preparing to contribute to a child justice project being undertaken in collaboration with UP Zambia.

Michaela said she was particularly interested in seeing how a

research institution and a civil society organisation could combine their expertise to address practical legal and social challenges.

Before travelling to Zambia, she had read SAIPAR publications and listened to the SAIPAR Podcast.

"It was exciting to arrive and see where that work is actually filmed," she said.

Aima also praised SAIPAR's welcoming and community-oriented work environment, which she contrasted with the more fast-paced and deadline-driven culture she had experienced in the United States.

"I just admire this place because it's almost like a little community," said Aima.

Outside the office, both students enjoyed learning about Zambian culture and cuisine. They spoke warmly about their host mother, with whom they cooked and shared meals, and hoped to visit Livingstone and Victoria Falls before completing their stay.

They also featured on the SAIPAR Podcast, look out for this episode soon!

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UNZA Graduates Begin Internship Journey at SAIPAR



Barbara Chiumia

particularly rooted in human rights and constitutional law.

She believes these fields, which are sometimes overlooked by students, offer meaningful opportunities to advocate for vulnerable groups and influence society positively.

“What excites me most about law is the opportunity to make an impact, particularly through human rights and constitutional law,” she said.

“These are areas where you can become a voice for vulnerable groups, including women and children.”

Likando first encountered SAIPAR through one of its case reviews. She later learned more about the organisation through her lecturer and research supervisor, Pamela Sambo, who also gave her an opportunity to contribute to research being undertaken for SAIPAR.

When the Muna Ndulo Internship was advertised on SAIPAR’s Facebook page, Likando immediately recognised it as an opportunity she wanted to pursue.

Although she was nervous because of how strongly she wanted the position, she described the application process as clear, accessible and professionally managed.

“The information was clear, and the interview environment was friendly, which helped calm my nerves,” she said.

During the internship, Likando hopes to strengthen her research skills and gain a deeper understanding of policy-oriented legal work.

She noted that while law students receive training in legal writing and analysis,

opportunities to undertake extensive research are often limited until the later stages of their degree programmes.

“I am looking forward to learning how to become a better researcher,” she said. “SAIPAR’s focus on research and policy is one of the things that attracted me to the internship.”

Barbara similarly views law as a profession capable of producing tangible change.

“I am a lawyer with a passion for using the law as a tool to create meaningful change,” she said. “What excites me most is its ability to shape society and advocate for fairness.”

Barbara first learned about SAIPAR through social media while searching for opportunities aligned with her interests in law, research and public policy.

She described the application process as engaging and reflective, noting that each stage allowed her to consider how her experience and interests aligned with SAIPAR’s work.

During her internship, Barbara hopes to deepen her understanding of the relationship between law, research and public policy. She also wants to strengthen her analytical and research skills, contribute meaningfully to ongoing projects and gain practical insights that will

support her development as a legal professional.

Her placement will expose her to work connected to a project implemented in collaboration with Irish Rule of Law International, providing an opportunity to observe how research institutions and international partners contribute to strengthening justice and the rule of law.

Both interns encouraged young people to remain open to opportunities and avoid disqualifying themselves before applying.

“Do not hold back from applying because you think you may not be selected,” Likando said. “You will never know until you try.”

Barbara similarly encouraged young graduates to remain curious and willing to explore opportunities outside their immediate comfort zones.

“Growth comes from experiences that challenge us,” she said.

“It is important to remain open, keep learning and take advantage of opportunities that can shape your career.”



Likando Faith Aongola

Recent University of Zambia graduates Likando Faith Aongola and Barbara Chiumia have joined SAIPAR through internship opportunities designed to strengthen young professionals’ skills in law, research and public policy.

Likando was selected as the 2026 Muna Ndulo Intern following a rigorous application and interview process, while Barbara was selected for an internship placement attached to a project that works closely with Irish Rule of Law International.

For both graduates, the internships provide an opportunity to move beyond academic legal training and gain practical experience in research, policy development

and the use of law to address social challenges.

Likando’s interest in law is

Through their placements, both interns will gain hands-on exposure to SAIPAR’s research and policy work while bringing fresh perspectives and growing expertise to the organisation’s programmes.



Look out for our next edition in January...