



My United

Issue # 04 March 2022

KALENGO

retires

**ZESCO UNITED IN BUS
BONANZA AS
GOVERNMENT
EXTOLS ZESCO LIMITED**



**CHING'ANDU
STEALS THE SHOW AS ZESCO
UNITED HOLDS
PLAYER AWARDS**



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My **United**

ZEGA PASSION

A WORD FROM ZESCO UNITED FC

CHAIRMAN

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you all to our fourth edition of the ZESCO United Football Club newsletter, MyUnited.

First and foremost, may I take this opportunity to welcome our new club Chief Executive Officer, Charles Kalala and Treasurer, Moses Chilambe. We are confident enough that you will both add great value to the operations of the club by promoting efficiency and effectiveness.

The 2021/2022 football season has ended with ZESCO United finishing second (2) and securing CAF football next season.

This outcome is a reminder to us of the work that needs to be done ahead of what is expected to be a competitive season.

We have already charted our agenda for next season which includes a return to the summit of the Zambian game by winning the league and an improved performance in the CAF competitions.

To realize this, our focus will be on strengthening our squad in key strategic areas that will be identified by the technical bench.

We shall also continue to invest in our youth structures as they form the bedrock of the future star players of our beautiful game.

In conclusion, may I take this opportunity to congratulate Winston Kalengo for being an exceptional professional and a great ambassador of the club. Your retirement from the game marks the end of a great career which should be celebrated by everyone.



ZUFC Chairman
Maxwell Saya

“ A big thank you to all ZESCO United fans for their unwavering support during the past season. We will bounce back, bigger and better.”



WELCOME

BY ZUFC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
CHARLES KALALA

Welcome to the fourth 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 on-going 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 latest edition, John Ching'andu bags Players' Player of the Year and club top scorer awards as ZESCO United holds annual awards.

We further bring you a special review of the just ended 2021/2022 MTN Super League season. MyUnited can't close its space without sharing with you, ZESCO Limited's grand donation to the club involving a 65-seater Irizar Bus.

Lastly, we bring you a special up close with veteran striker Winston Kalengo following is retirement from the game. We welcome your questions, suggestions and ideas that could help us tailor this newsletter to make it even more meaningful to you our audience.



**CHING'ANDU
STEALS THE SHOW AS ZESCO
UNITED HOLDS
PLAYER AWARDS**



ZESCO United attacking midfielder and team captain, John Ching'andu bagged the Player's Player of the Year for ZESCO United.

The midfield genius further won the club's Top Scorer award following his 9-goal tally accumulated in the 2021/22 league season.

Ching'andu bagged the two awards at the ZESCO United Players' Awards ceremony which took place at Ndola's Protea Hotel this month.

And club defender John Chishimba was

voted the clubs Young Player of the Year while Zimbabwean international midfielder Thabani Kamusoko yet again bagged the Most Disciplined Player Award.

Club shot stopper, Ian Otieno cantered away with the Most Consistent Player award while the player of the Year award went to veteran striker Winstone Kalengo.

The ZESCO United Players' Awards are an annual event held to mark the end of the league season.

ZESCO UNITED IN BUS BONANZA AS GOVERNMENT EXTOLS ZESCO LIMITED



The 2020/21 football season may not have delivered enough joy on the pitch for ZESCO United fans and their sponsors. However, this inadequacy didn't hinder the club's sole sponsor, ZESCO Limited from stretching a helping hand towards the team.

Last month, ZESCO Limited officially handed over a 65-seater Irizar bus to ZESCO United Football club at a ceremony held at the Levy Mwanawasa stadium, Ndola.

The event which was graced by the Copperbelt Provincial Minister Hon. Elisha Matambo, was attended by the ZESCO Limited Board Chairman, Vickson Nc'ube, ZESCO Limited Managing Director Victor Mapani, Club Chairman Maxwell Saya, FAZ Vice President, Justin Mumba, Ndola City Mayor, His Worship Jones Kalyati and Ndola District Commissioner, Joseph Phiri.

Speaking at the official handover ceremony, ZESCO Limited Managing Director and Club Board Chairman, Victor Mapani, said the company was committed to supporting the team.

"The presentation of the 65-seater bus to ZESCO United football club for us is a momentous time in the lifespan of this club. The sponsorship by ZESCO Limited which powers the nation with electricity and energy, we believe will fire up the football club as they power football fields with soccer.

"We believe that this sponsorship doesn't end here. ZESCO Limited Management is committed to ensure that this football club proceeds ahead.

"To us, ZESCO United Football Club is not just a football club. It is a brand which interfaces with our people who are our customers and who utilize electricity. For us this is a brand whose success means a lot more to us than just winning a game or two," Mapani said.

And receiving the bus on behalf of the club, ZESCO United Chairman Maxwell Saya saluted ZESCO Limited for providing both financial and technical support to the club.

“ZESCO Limited has for the longest time in the club's existence been, the sole sponsor and therefore, an all-weather strategic partner to ZESCO United.

The company consistently provides considerable technical and material support to the club and by extension, contributes immensely to the growth of the Zambian game. The donation of this bus is a great incentive and a morale booster to the entire ZESCO United family.”

Meanwhile Copperbelt Provincial Minister and event guest of honour, Elisha Matambo commended ZESCO Limited Management for supplementing Governments efforts towards the growth of Zambian football.

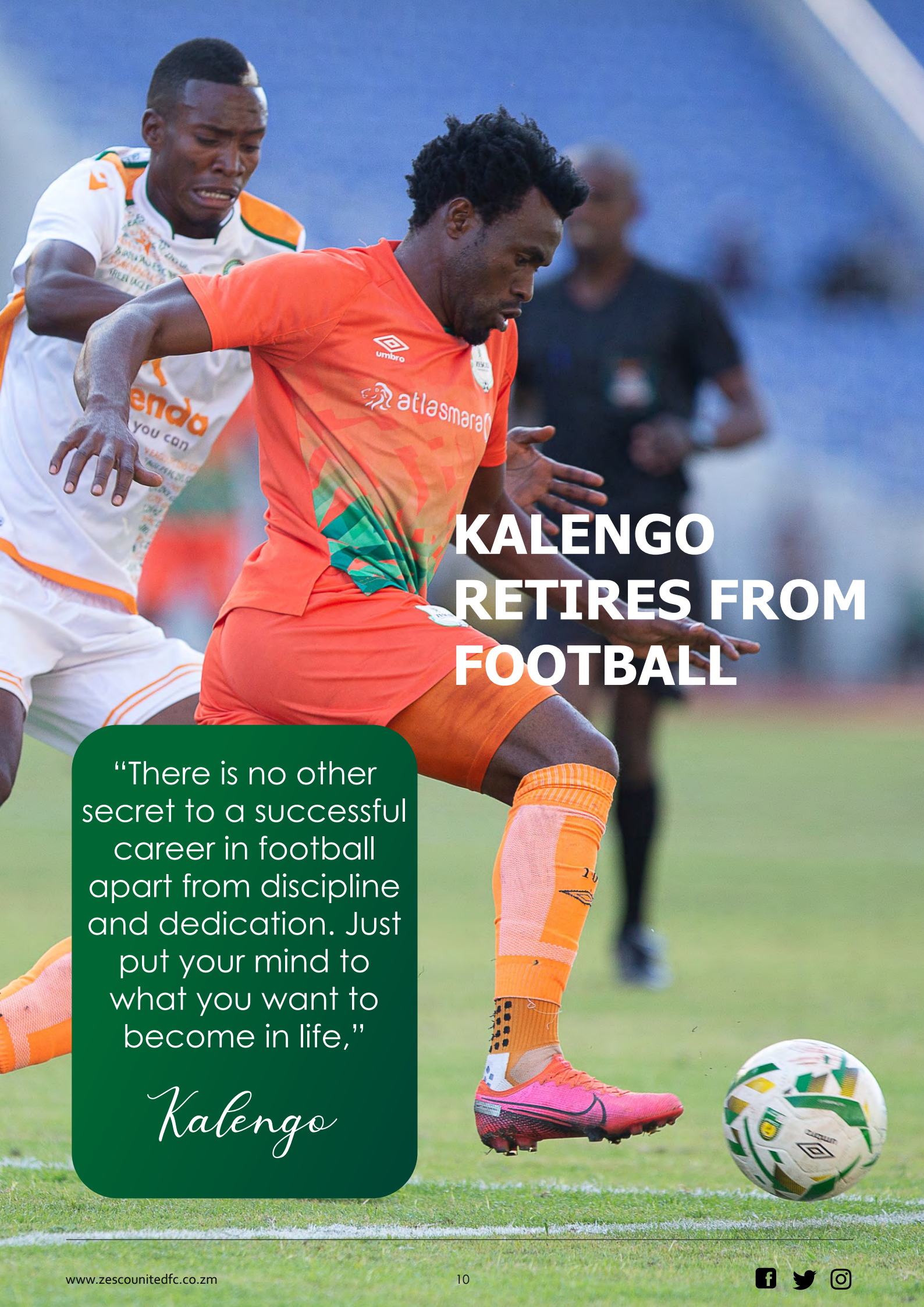
“It is worth mentioning that the Government through the Republican President, Mr Hakainde Hichilema, who is also the Patron of the Football Association of Zambia, has keen interest in the growth of the Zambian game.

“We are appreciative of the critical role institutions like ZESCO Limited and Atlasmarca play to sustain football through consistent sponsorship. To reciprocate this valuable gesture, we are working hard to accelerate economic recovery so that the business sector can equally grow and thrive to remain supportive of football and other social investments complimenting governments efforts to improve the lives of the citizenry.”

“We believe that this sponsorship doesn't end here. ZESCO Limited Management is committed to ensure that this football club proceeds ahead.







KALENGO RETIRES FROM FOOTBALL

“There is no other secret to a successful career in football apart from discipline and dedication. Just put your mind to what you want to become in life,”

Kalengo



“I believe whatever goes up must come down. I felt it in me that it was high time I left the stage for young players to carry on from where I have left things. I believe I have left a good crop of young players at this club,” Kalengo said after the announcement of his retirement.

“It wasn't difficult to manage Kalengo despite us sharing the same pitch at some point at Zanaco. He is a young person have seen grow from his time at Young Zanaco until his elevation into the main team.

“I think he came to the senior team in 2005 and he was the top scorer with 26 goals, and I scored 21. From there he has never looked back. He is someone young players need to learn from,” ZESCO United Head coach Numba Mumamba reacting to Kalengo's retirement.

ZESCO United Chief Executive Officer, Charles Kalala described Kalengo as a great ambassador for both club and country.

Last Sunday, ZESCO United veteran striker, Winston Kalengo announced his retirement from the game after an illustrious career spanning for almost four decades.

This announcement coincided with the news of the veteran striker being voted ZESCO United's Player of the Year following the end of the 2021/22 league season.

Kalengo's departure from the game arguably marks the end of an era of a handful of Zambian old knights who have kept the sanctity of the local game with their lives.

Kalengo, like ZESCO United retired legendary goalkeeper Jacob Banda, leaves the game with great joy having contributed immensely to the growth of the club.

“Have had a great career at both ZESCO United and Zanaco. This was a career of smiles and sorrows but that's the nature of football. I have been successful at both clubs because I won titles.

But how did Kalengo stay this long in the game?

The question above is what one arguably expects to be on the minds of Enoch Sakala junior, Luwawa Kasoma, Edward Lungu, Mukuka Chanda, and John Chishimba.

If Danny Welbeck was lucky to have shared the same dressing room with Ryan Giggs, the four ZESCO United young guns are extremely fortunate to have shared the same pitch, table and dressing room with Kalengo.

"I often reminded the young Sakala that he has what takes to take over from me. He has the ability and I believe he will be able to match what I have done."

Old is 'GOLD' is a very familiar proverb often used to place a great deal of emphasis on the value of old things.

In football, there is a great temptation to align a player's performance on the pitch with age. Performance and age seem to move in tandem.

The older one gets the better they become at dictating the art of the game and adapting to the demands of the sport. This is evident

when one takes a close look at some of the finest players to have graced the game.

44-year old Italian and Parma Calcio goalkeeper, Gianluigi Buffon is regarded as one of the greatest goalkeepers in the World.

The Italian shot stopper is a FIFA World Cup winner and has 9 Serie A league titles to his name. Not perturbed by age, Buffon has gone on to play for some of the finest football clubs in the world.

At a time when most of his peers had opted to depart from the game, 36-year-old Kalengo was not fazed by age or the demands of the modern game. He answered every call for the team whenever he was needed.

The former Zambia National Team striker is a typical reminder to all football players, young and old that age doesn't count so long you take good care of yourself. His longevity in the game is something many football players only dream of.

The Livingstone-born striker retires from the game following successful career spells at Zanaco FC, AC Leopards of Congo and now at ZESCO United.





“My journey in the game began in 2003 and even then, I didn't know things would come to an end like this. I also didn't think I would last this long in the game. However, everything has been easy due to the grace of God.

In 2014, the striker signed for ZESCO United where he won back to back league titles before making a move to Congolese side AC Leopards.

In 2017, Kalengo returned to ZESCO United and added three more league titles to his trophy cabinet. His goal scoring prowess for both club and country made him one of the deadliest strikers to have emerged from the Zambian game in recent years.

With age knocking on his door steps, the veteran striker proved essential to ZESCO United's recent success, scoring crucial goals when it mattered the most. His loyalty to the club was unquestionable.

With ZESCO United hosting Nkana in the 2020/21 league campaign, Kalengo dispatched a beauty of a goal which was testament of his ability to smell the goalmouth and to clinically dispatch goals with ease.

A sober, devoted husband and Christian, Kalengo's presence in the ZESCO United dressing room was crucial for the current crop of young players who are slowly finding their feet at the club.

His work ethic and his off-the-field lifestyle kept him in the same lane with some of the leagues finest young strikers.

The veteran goal poacher may not be a Gianluigi Buffon. However, discipline, dedication and focus remained at the heart of his longevity in the sport.

“There is no other secret to a successful career in football apart from discipline and dedication. Just put your mind to what you want to become in life,” he said.

Kalengo's departure has left a void that needs filling up especially by Zambian homegrown players.

“It is our hope that young players at this club could learn from what Winston has done and achieved. They shared the dressing room with him, am sure there is something they have learnt. I am delighted that he will soon be taking up badges because he is an important asset to this club,” Mumamba said.

His work ethic and his off-the-field lifestyle kept him in the same lane with some of the leagues finest young strikers.



KALALA IS NEW ZESCO UNITED CEO



Last month, ZESCO United management made a unanimous decision to appoint, Charles Kalala as new club Chief Executive Officer.

Kalala takes over from Richard Kabwe Mulenga who left the position in February having served at the helm of the club for four (4) years.

The club further appointed Moses Chilambe as new Treasurer replacing Milupi Libi.

Announcing the appointments, ZESCO United Football Club Chairman, Maxwell Saya said:

"It is with great pleasure that I announce the appointment of Charles Kalala as new Club CEO and Moses Chilambe as Treasurer General for the next three (3) years. ZESCO is confident that both Kalala and Chilambe will add value to operations of the club by promoting efficiency and effectiveness."

And Saya has thanked outgoing club Treasurer General, Milupi Libi for his contribution to the growth of the club.

"May I take this opportunity to thank Libi for serving the club diligently when he acted as CEO while the club was looking for a substantive candidate for the position."



2021/2022 ZESCO UNITED FC SEASON REVIEW

The 2021/22 Zambian Super League came to an end on Sunday, 8 May 2022 with the Zambia Airforce sponsored Red Arrows crowned champions.

Red Arrows cantered away with the league title having accumulated 70 points with second (2) placed ZESCO United managing to amass 63 points.

ZESCO United started the past season on a high, winning the seasonal opener, Charity Shield following a 4-0 demolition of Lusaka Dynamos.

The feel-good factor would continue into week one (1) of the new football season which saw the defending champions ransack Chambeshi 2-0, before trouncing Indeni with the same margin.

ZESCO United's winning run would surprisingly hit a snag following a 2-0 loss to the then

newly promoted Kafue Celtic side.

Unfazed by this defeat, the Ndola based league giants would respond in style by beating Kabwe Warriors 0-2 at the Godfrey Ucar Chitalu stadium, in Kabwe.

ZESCO United's fortunes in the season would later take a downward spiral, recording a 1-all draw against Green Buffaloes, Konkola Blades before losing 0-2 at home to Green Eagles.

A clash between ZESCO United and Forest Rangers would end in a 1-all stalemate before narrowly beating Buildcon 3-2.

ZESCO United labored through December, with current league champions Red Arrows pocketing a crucial 3 points at the Levy Mwanawasa stadium before doing a double on the 2020/21 league champions in January this year.



With chances of winning a tenth (10) league title slowly ebbing into the hands of Red Arrows, ZESCO United's momentum would later pickup at the last hour.

A 1-0 win against fiercest rivals, Forest Rangers followed by a 2-1 win over Buildcon saw the gap between Red Arrows and ZESCO United reduce from seven (7) to five (5).

It was nail biting stuff for ZESCO United followers who were eagerly waiting to bag and celebrate a tenth (10) league title triumph.

With Arrows held to a draw against Kabwe Warriors, ZESCO United failed to take the initiative as Power Dynamos held firmly to a barren draw at the Arthur Davies stadium.

ZESCO United's hopes of returning the title would be completely dashed after recording another barren draw against Nkwazi a result that confirmed Red Arrows as Champions elect.

It was a rollercoaster season for Numba Mumamba and his side which was

completely lost on fine margins. Ultimately the two home and away losses to Red Arrows has almost made up for the formers seven (7) point difference with ZESCO United.

Mumamba is however optimistic that the 2022/23 football season would be different with ZESCO United participating in the CAF competitions.

"We are extremely disappointed that we have lost the title. There are a lot of lessons that we have learnt from this seasons campaign. The transfer window will open another door for us to bring in players who can help us do better next season especially in CAF," he said.



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