

SENANGA REAPS FIRST HARVEST THROUGH CEEC INVESTMENT IN AQUACULTURE EXPANSION PROJECT



Figure 1 Fish harvest during the first harvest ceremony of the K10.8 million Senanga Aquaculture Expansion Project in Senanga District.

On Thursday 23 July 2026, fish farming cooperatives on the banks of the Zambezi River celebrated their first commercial harvest as the Senanga Aquaculture Expansion Project marked the transition from a bold pilot to a fully operational rural industry.

The ceremony, presided over by the Acting Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Small and Medium Enterprise Development (MSMED), Mr. Lemmy Kafwamfwa, drew traditional leaders from the Barotse Royal Establishment, provincial and district officials, and members of the four beneficiary cooperatives who have driven the project since its cages were commissioned less than a year ago.

Implemented by the Citizens Economic Empowerment Commission (CEEC) in partnership with the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock, the project now comprises 39 floating fish cages on the Zambezi, a cold chain system built around a 10-ton cold room and a 5-ton refrigerated truck.

Government's total investment stands at K10.8 million, roughly \$401,932.

Mr. Kafwamfwa said the harvest, projected to yield over 300 metric tons of fish per production cycle, was concrete proof that CEEC's empowerment model works. "This harvest is proof of concept. It is income in the pockets of Senanga's families. It is protein on Zambia's tables. And it is a signal to every other district watching that this model works," he said, adding that all four cooperatives had received cages, training and business handholding support, and had successfully raised their first stock to maturity.

He urged cooperatives to honour their loan obligations under CEEC's "receive, repay, revolve" financing philosophy, describing every kwacha repaid as capital that would empower another Zambian enterprise.

In a speech read on his behalf by CEEC Director of Finance, Ms. Ophelia Nyambe, CEEC Director General Dr. Muwe Mungule said the harvest was tangible evidence of what community and government partnership can achieve. "Today, those hopes have taken the shape of fish in our cages, income in the pockets of our cooperatives, and proof that when government and community work together, transformation follows," Dr. Mungule said.

Value addition by salting the harvested fish is one way that the cooperatives expect to increase income from their undertaking.



Dr. Mungule traced the project's roots to engagements with His Majesty the Litunga in December 2023 and the Indunas, led by the Ngambela, in June 2024, which identified aquaculture as the sector with the greatest potential to transform Senanga's economy. He noted that the newly incorporated smoking and salting units would extend shelf life and open regional and urban markets to the cooperatives.

Dr. Mungule confirmed the Senanga project is one of five district-specific value chain investments CEEC has earmarked across Western Province, alongside maize milling in Sioma, a beef abattoir spanning Shangombo, Mongu and Limulunga, and a rice processing plant in Sikongo. He also announced plans for an aqua-tourism facility at the site, with a call for applications to be issued soon under the Citizens Economic Empowerment Fund.



Figure 2 CEEC Senanga Aquaculture Expansion Project is already aiding over 400 members across four local cooperatives in Senanga

Both leaders described the project, aligned with the Eighth National Development Plan's goals of food security, job creation and rural industrialisation, as a pilot CEEC intends to replicate in other districts once its long-term sustainability is fully proven.

BRIDGING MARKETS, BUILDING THE FUTURE: CEEC PROMOTES ENTERPRISE GROWTH AT THE 2026 ZAMBIA INTERNATIONAL TRADE FAIR



Figure 3 Team CEEC was geared for service provision to showgoers at the Trade Fair.

The Citizens Economic Empowerment Commission (CEEC) used the 2026 Zambia International Trade Fair as a platform for engagement and collaboration to reinforce its role in helping entrepreneurs access not only finance, but also the markets and networks needed for sustainable growth.

For CEEC, the Trade Fair provided an ideal opportunity to demonstrate how targeted citizen economic empowerment extends beyond funding to create meaningful connections that enable businesses to grow and thrive.

Going by the theme “Bridging Markets, Building the Future,” CEEC used the Trade Fair to showcase its role as a facilitator of sustainable enterprise development by helping entrepreneurs move from business ideas to commercially viable enterprises. The Commission’s interpretation of the theme highlighted CEEC as the bridge that connects citizens with the opportunities, partnerships and support systems needed to build successful businesses.

Throughout the week-long Fair, the Commission engaged with entrepreneurs, aspiring business owners, investors and members of the public, creating awareness about its empowerment programmes while demonstrating how enterprise development extends beyond financing. Visitors to the CEEC stand were encouraged to explore opportunities for collaboration, market linkages, and business growth while learning more about the Commission’s various empowerment initiatives.

The Trade Fair also served as a platform for thought leadership.

CEEC Director General, Dr. Charles Muwe Mungule, participated in the 2026 Trade Fair Business Seminar – SME, Entrepreneurship and Youth Empowerment Forum, where he joined industry leaders and development stakeholders in discussions on strengthening Zambia's SME sector and creating a more enabling environment for entrepreneurship.



Figure 4 CEEC DG, Dr. Muwe Mungule (with mic in hand), speaking on a panel discussion at the Zambia International Trade Fair.

CEEC's participation reinforced the Commission's commitment to sustainable economic empowerment by promoting an approach that gives entrepreneurs access not only to capital, but also to knowledge, networks and markets. By bringing together businesses, institutions, and development partners, the Zambia International Trade Fair continues to provide an important platform for collaboration, innovation, and inclusive economic growth.

CEEC STRENGTHENS SUPPORT FOR ZAMBIA'S COSMETOLOGY SECTOR

With K230,000 disbursed in loans to entrepreneurs operating in the cosmetology sector under the Media and Creative Arts Loan Product, the Citizens Economic Empowerment Commission (CEEC) continues to support the growth of citizen-owned businesses in Zambia's beauty and cosmetology industry.



Figure 5 Organised by the Ministry of Small & Medium Enterprise Development, the first-ever Cosmetology and Financing Fair for MSMEs attracted over 60 beauty and cosmetics businesses

The Commission's participation in the first-ever Cosmetology EXPO and Finance Fair for MSMEs organised by the Ministry of Small and Medium Enterprise Development (MSMED), held from 15–16 July 2026, further demonstrated this commitment by providing an opportunity to engage directly with entrepreneurs, industry players and other stakeholders in a sector with significant potential for entrepreneurship, employment and income generation.

The EXPO brought together players across the cosmetology and beauty industry, providing a platform to showcase products and services, share knowledge and explore opportunities for business growth. For CEEC, the event also provided an avenue to raise awareness of available empowerment opportunities and engage entrepreneurs on how they can access support to establish and expand their businesses.



Figure 6 CEEC staff, Malala Machenje (r) with Eunike Phiri (l) of Bloom Massage and Beauty at the Cosmetology EXPO and Finance Fair for MSMEs.

Supporting the cosmetology sector aligns with CEEC's mandate to promote broad-based economic empowerment by facilitating citizens' access to productive resources and opportunities. The sector is largely driven by small and growing citizen-owned enterprises, making it an important avenue for entrepreneurs to create livelihoods, generate employment and contribute to economic activity.

CEEC's participation in the inaugural Cosmetology EXPO, therefore, complemented its financial support to the sector, reinforcing the Commission's commitment to ensuring that economic empowerment reaches diverse areas of enterprise and enables more Zambians to participate meaningfully in the economy.

CONVENIENT CEEC LOAN REPAYMENTS WITH AIRTEL MONEY

Did you know that CEEC beneficiaries can repay their loans using Airtel Money?

The mobile payment facility continues to provide a simple, secure, and convenient way for beneficiaries to meet their repayment obligations directly from their mobile phones.

With Airtel Money, beneficiaries can make repayments from wherever they are, eliminating the need to travel to a CEEC office or other payment point. This not only saves time but can also help reduce transport costs associated with making repayments.

The service also makes it easier for beneficiaries to stay on top of their repayment schedules. Once a payment is completed, an SMS confirmation is sent, assuring that the transaction has been successfully processed.

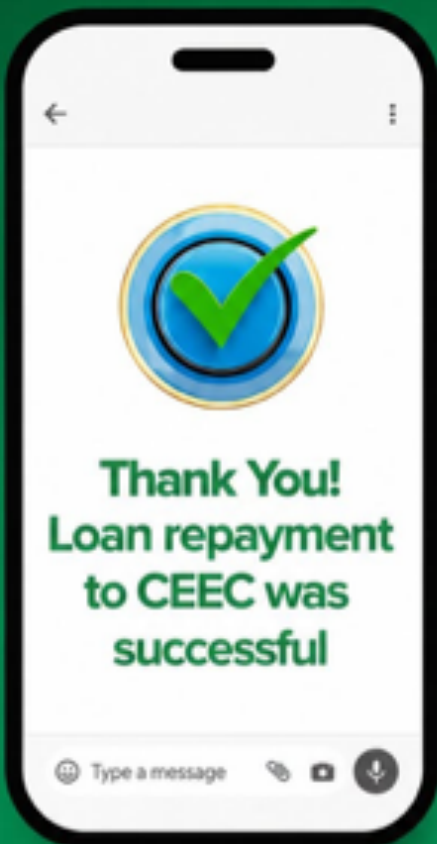
CEEC encourages beneficiaries who have not yet taken advantage of this repayment option to do so and to continue making timely and consistent loan repayments. Regular repayments are essential in sustaining the Commission's revolving fund, enabling CEEC to extend financing opportunities to more Zambian citizens. For a step-by-step guide on how to repay your CEEC loan using Airtel Money, see the information below.

Receive. Repay. Revolve.



CEEC Citizens Economic Empowerment Commission

CEEC Loan repayments made easy on **AIRTEL**



Repay your CEEC loan to create a sustainable revolving fund

- 1 Dial *115#.
- 2 Select **Option 4** – Make Payments.
- 3 Select **Option 6** – Goods and Services.
- 4 Select **Option 1** – Enter Merchant ID.
- 5 Enter the business name "**CEEC**".
- 6 Enter the repayment amount.
- 7 When prompted to confirm the recipient, verify that the payment is being sent to **CITIZENS ECONOMIC EMP**, then select option **1 "Yes"**.
- 8 Enter your **Airtel Money PIN** to authorize the transaction.
- 9 You will receive an SMS confirmation indicating that your repayment has been successfully processed.



**Citizens Economic Empowerment
Commission**

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