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ZAMBIA, often celebrated for its abundant mineral wealth and strategic position in southern Africa, is rapidly emerging as a prime destination for foreign investment in the mining sector.

This growing appeal has not gone unnoticed by global technology leaders. Among the most recent to recognise Zambia's potential is Control Systems Technology (CST), an Australian firm renowned for its high-accuracy belt weighing and bulk material measurement systems. The company has identified Zambia not just as a market, but strategic partner in advancing mining technologies and broader industrial investment opportunities across the continent.

Speaking during an investment engagement with the Zambia High Commission to Australia and New Zealand in Canberra, Australia, CST's business development manager for Africa and customer satisfaction officer, Gregory Armstrong, noted the unique opportunities that Zambia offers.

"Zambia is fast emerging as a preferred destination for advanced mining technologies," he stated. "The country presents significant opportunities for deploying world-class solutions capable of enhancing operational efficiency, boosting productivity, and supporting sustainable long-term growth in the mining sector."

For Mr. Armstrong, the attraction of Zambia goes beyond its mineral wealth. The country's skilled workforce, modernising mining infrastructure, and the government's forward-looking policies create an environment where technology can thrive.

"Zambia's strong copper industry and strategic investment climate make it an attractive partner for advanced measurement technologies designed to improve efficiency, accuracy, and transparency across mineral production and logistics," Mr Armstrong noted.

CST has already made known its participation in the forthcoming Zambia International Mining and Energy Conference (ZEMIC) 2026, scheduled to take place in Kitwe from 25 to 26 March. This two-day event will provide a platform for CST to showcase its advanced belt scale technologies systems designed to measure bulk commodities with precision and to pursue strategic partnerships with key stakeholders in Zambia's mining sector.

"ZEMIC 2026 represents an excellent opportunity for CST to align its technologies with Zambia's long-term mining ambitions," Mr. Armstrong said.

The growing interest from CST reflects a broader trend in which Zambia is becoming a magnet for foreign investors.

A critical factor behind this trend is the commitment of President Hakainde Hichilema to make Zambia an appealing and predictable destination for investment. Under his leadership, Zambia has emphasised policy reforms aimed at strengthening investor confidence, improving governance, and enhancing the business environment. These measures have significantly reduced bureaucratic hurdles, created a stable regulatory framework, and provided incentives for both domestic and international investment.

President Hichilema has also leveraged Zambia's strategic land-linked geographical position in southern Africa. The country serves as a corridor connecting inland mining operations to regional markets and ports, including access through the Lobito Corridor to the Atlantic and the TAZARA railway to Tanzania.

For companies like CST, this logistical advantage is vital. The ability to move bulk materials efficiently from mine sites to processing facilities and export terminals is crucial for operational efficiency and profitability, and Zambia's geographic positioning supports

Precision Tech bets big on Zambia's mining future

■ Policy reforms, copper wealth make Zambia irresistible to investors



ZAMBIA'S Charge d' Affaires to Australia and New Zealand, Annah Lupenga (left), receiving Control Systems Technology business development manager for Africa and customer satisfaction officer Gregory Armstrong to the mission during a courtesy call.



ARMSTRONG

exactly that.

From the perspective of a foreign investor, the combination of rich mineral reserves, a talented workforce, improving infrastructure, and government support, creates a convincing case for engagement. The fact that a globally recognised technology leader such as CST has publicly affirmed its interest underscores the seriousness and credibility of Zambia's investment potential.

The Zambia High Commission in Canberra has also played a pivotal role in facilitating such engagements. Zambia's Charge d'Affaires to Australia and New Zealand, Annah Lupenga, highlighted the importance of fostering relationships with international investors.

"We welcome the growing interest from Australian companies," she said. "Engagements and foreign investment partnerships are

essential in supporting Zambia's economic growth and industrial development." Ms. Lupenga is set to lead a delegation of Australian investors to Zambia next week, offering them firsthand exposure to the country's investment opportunities across multiple sectors.

Beyond mining, Zambia's broader economic vision is evident in its push for industrial diversification, sustainable energy solutions, and regional trade partnerships. This environment allows investors not only to deploy advanced technologies but also to engage in long-term value creation. For a company like CST, which focuses on high-accuracy measurement systems, the potential for collaboration in Zambia's mining sector is immense, but there are also opportunities to support supply chain optimisation, logistics management, and industrial

efficiency in adjacent sectors.

One of the most compelling aspects of Zambia's investment narrative is its alignment of government priorities with investor interests. While mineral wealth has traditionally driven the economy, the New Dawn administration has placed equal emphasis on creating a predictable and transparent business environment. This balance between resource potential and governance reforms is rare in many emerging markets and positions Zambia as a standout destination in the region.

In addition, Zambia's commitment to human capital development ensures that foreign investors find a skilled and adaptable workforce ready to work with advanced technologies. This, coupled with the country's natural resource base and logistical advantages, creates a synergy that is difficult



HICHILEMA



CONTROL Systems Technology, an Australian firm, is renowned for its high-accuracy belt weighing and bulk material measurement systems.

for companies to ignore. CST's focus on introducing precision measurement technologies is a perfect example of how investors can bring value while simultaneously benefiting from Zambia's growth trajectory.

As the country prepares for ZEMIC 2026, the eyes of the international mining community are increasingly on Zambia. The conference is expected to serve as a hub for dialogue, collaboration, and demonstration of innovative solutions that can redefine mining efficiency and sustainability in the region. For CST, participation in this forum is not merely a business opportunity, it is a signal that Zambia's investment environment is mature enough to attract and integrate world-class technology providers.

From a broader perspective, Zambia's rising appeal highlights a critical lesson for investors that the combination of government

commitment, strategic geography, skilled human capital, and sector-specific opportunities create fertile ground for investment. As more companies like CST engage with Zambia, the potential for transformative partnerships and long-term value creation continues to expand, enhancing both national development and investor returns.

Overall, Zambia's evolution into a preferred destination for mining technology investment is no accident. It is the result of deliberate policy decisions, strategic geographic positioning, and a clear commitment to fostering a business-friendly environment.

For international investors, the country offers not just access to rich resources but a platform for sustainable and impactful engagement.

As CST prepares to showcase its precision technologies at

ZEMIC 2026, it is evident that Zambia is not only ready for foreign investment but is actively shaping itself as a hub for technological innovation and mining excellence in Africa.

It is this combination of opportunity, foresight, and partnership potential that makes Zambia attractive.

For companies looking to invest in advanced mining solutions, the message is clear. Zambia is open, prepared, and strategically positioned for growth. And as more investors like CST recognise this potential, Zambia's reputation as a centre of mining innovation and economic opportunity is set to strengthen further.

The author first secretary press and public relations at the Zambia High Commission to Australia and New Zealand.

How USA managed 1970s fuel crisis: Lessons for Zambia

ON APRIL 17, 1977, then President of the United States of America (USA) Jimmy Carter addressed the nation from the Oval Office, Washington D.C. warning that the USA faced a possible "national catastrophe" unless it responded with the "moral equivalent of war" to dwindling energy supplies by accepting a programme based on stringent conservation of fuels, higher energy prices and penalties for waste.

According to an article published by the New York Times dated April 18, 1977 titled, "CARTER ASKS STRICT FUEL SAVING; URGES 'MORAL EQUIVALENT OF WAR' TO BAR A 'NATIONAL CATASTROPHE'", Mr. Carter delivered what he described as "an unpleasant talk" in which he said the nation would begin to run short of energy supplies in the 1980's unless it changed its "wasteful" use of fuels.

The speech was deliberately sombre to prepare public opinion for a major energy programme that the President was going to

present to Congress in few days time. The programme called for higher prices, higher taxes, and an end to unlimited increases in energy consumption.

After taking some days at Camp David to reflect, President Carter delivered another Speech on July 15, 1979, titled "Crisis of Confidence" speech; popularly known as the "malaise speech" which addressed a deep moral and spiritual crisis in America, stemming from an energy crisis, high inflation, and lack of national purpose. While Carter never used the word "malaise," he urged Americans to overcome a profound "crisis of confidence."

Background
The speech was part of a series of efforts to address the 1970s energy crisis, attempting to turn, as he stated, a "potential national catastrophe" into a uniting national effort. The primary aim was to stop the growth in foreign oil dependence and, by the 1980s, reduce imports, promote coal use, and develop solar energy. In other words President Carter sought to rally national support to invest the crisis well to avoid a repeat

of what the Country was going through. The US faced severe natural gas shortage. He visited factories and homes.

According to Wikipedia and other publicly available sources, the 1970s gas crises in the USA were primarily caused by geopolitical conflicts leading to oil embargoes and production cuts by Middle Eastern oil-producing nations. The 1973 OPEC embargo, triggered by U.S. support for Israel, caused oil prices to quadruple, while the 1979 Iranian Revolution sparked a second shortage.

Key Causes and Factors:
1) **Arab Oil Embargo (1973-1974):** In response to U.S. support of Israel during the Yom Kippur War, Arab oil-producing nations cut production and banned oil exports to the U.S., causing massive supply shortages.
2) **Iranian Revolution (1979):** Widespread unrest in Iran resulted in a significant drop in oil production, leading to a second severe shortage and soaring prices.

3) **Growing Foreign Dependence:** By the 1970s, the

U.S. was highly dependent on foreign oil imports, and domestic production had begun to decline.

4) **Government Policy:** Government price controls and rationing programs created market inefficiencies, creating



longer lines at the pump than the oil shortage alone would have caused.

Interventions
The crises prompted energy conservation measures, such as a national 55 mph speed limit, and triggered significant economic

challenges including high inflation and, in 1973, quadrupled prices.

1) **Capping maximum speed on national roads:** The national speed limit in the United States was capped at 55 mph (89

km/h) on all four-lane divided highways and other roads in 1974, a measure instituted by the federal government in response to the 1973 oil embargo. Signed into law by President Richard Nixon on January 2, 1974, as part of the Emergency Highway

Energy Conservation Act, this "double nickel" speed limit was primarily intended to reduce fuel consumption during severe gasoline shortages.

2) **The odd-even rationing plan:** This plan forced drivers with license plates ending in an odd number to buy gasoline on odd-numbered calendar days, and even numbers on even days, to reduce mile-long station lines. This strategy was implemented in several states, including New York and New Jersey, to manage panic buying and shortages during the 1973-1974 and 1979 oil crises.

3) **Notice of availability:** Many filling stations used a flag system to communicate fuel availability: Green (gas available), Yellow (rationing in effect), Red (sold out). This was aimed at managing customer expectation.

4) **Restrictions:** To curb hoarding, some stations banned purchases if the car's tank was already at least half full. This is according to reports from the National Museum of American History.

5) **The USA established the Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR) in 1975** to mitigate future supply disruptions following the 1973-1974 Arab oil embargo, which quadrupled oil prices and exposed a heavy dependency on foreign oil. Authorized by President Gerald Ford through the Energy Policy and Conservation Act, it created a secure, emergency stockpile in Gulf Coast salt caverns.

There are many lessons to learn from how the USA managed and invested the energy crisis of the 1970s across three different administrations namely, Richard Nixon (1969-1974), Gerald Ford (1974-1977), and Jimmy Carter (1977-1981). These lessons can be adopted in view of the current middle east crisis who has triggered gas and fuel prices to sky-rocket in more than 85 countries so far.

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New chapter for legislators

...As Institute of Parliamentary Studies and Training takes root

By JESSICA MWANSA

IN the evolving landscape of democratic governance, the strength of a nation’s Parliament often determines the quality of its accountability, representation and policy direction.

It is against this backdrop that Zambia has taken a bold and forward-looking step with the launch of the Institute of Parliamentary Studies and Training (IPST), a milestone expected to redefine how legislators and parliamentary staff are prepared for their roles.

Speaker of the National Assembly Nelly Mutti, described the moment as defining in the institutional life of Parliament.

Her remarks captured both the urgency and the ambition behind the initiative, an institution designed not merely to train but to transform.

Parliament, by its very nature, carries immense responsibility. It is the arena where the voices of citizens are represented, laws are shaped, and the executive is held to account.

Yet, as Ms Mutti pointed out, Members of Parliament (MPs) often face a steep learning curve immediately after elections.

“Transitioning from local political actors into effective national legislators requires not only passion, but also technical knowledge, analytical skills and a deep understanding of parliamentary procedures. This is where the IPST comes in,” she said.

The Institute has been conceived as a permanent pillar within the National Assembly of Zambia, aimed at providing structured, continuous and professional development.

It is expected to offer both formal and informal learning opportunities, ranging from induction programmes for new MPs to advanced research and policy analysis training.

In essence, the IPST responds to a long-standing gap. While Zambia’s democracy has matured over the years, the mechanisms for systematically equipping lawmakers and parliamentary staff have remained limited.

The new institute seeks to bridge that gap by institutionalising knowledge-sharing and capacity building.

Ms Mutti highlighted that today’s Parliament operates in an increasingly complex environment.

Rapid technological advancements, heightened public expectations, economic pressures and the growing impact of climate change have all combined to place new demands on legislators.

“These challenges require not only political will, but also specialised knowledge and adaptability,” she said.

The significance of the initiative was echoed by former Speaker of the National Assembly, Dr Patrick Matibini, who commended the establishment of the Institute as a timely intervention.

He noted that strengthening parliamentary capacity is essential for sustaining democratic gains, adding that institutionalised training would help lawmakers better interpret legislation and effectively execute their oversight role.

Academic voices have also welcomed the move. University of Zambia Vice Chancellor professor Mundia Muya described the IPST as a progressive bridge between academia and governance, stating that the Institute would promote research-driven decision-making within Parliament.

He observed that collaboration between universities and legislative bodies could enhance evidence-based policymaking, which is critical in addressing complex national challenges.

Similarly, Education minister Douglas Syakalima praised the initiative, emphasising the importance of continuous learning in leadership.

He said the Institute aligns with the broader national agenda of promoting skills development and professional



•SPEAKER of the National Assembly Nelly Mutti cutting off the ribbon to officially open the Institute for Parliamentary Studies and Training along Thabo Mbeki road. Picture by LEVY MWALE/ZANIS

excellence across public institutions.

According to him, investing in knowledge is key to building resilient systems of governance.

Even among aspiring leaders, the launch of the IPST has generated optimism.

Some of the aspiring Members of Parliament interviewed at the event described the Institute as a “game-changer,” noting that it would better prepare future legislators for the realities of parliamentary work.

Kanyama aspiring Member of Parliament Mwaka Nyirenda said such a platform

would instill confidence and competence among young leaders seeking public office.

“By investing in continuous learning, the IPST is expected to strengthen parliamentary committees which are key engines of oversight while also enhancing the professionalism of staff who support legislative work behind the scenes,” she said.

In doing so, the Institute reinforces the idea that a strong Parliament is not accidental, but the result of deliberate effort, systems and leadership.

Beyond national borders, the launch also signals Zambia’s intention to position

itself as a regional leader in parliamentary development.

With representatives from parliaments in Ghana, Malawi and Tanzania, as well as regional and international bodies such as the Southern African Development Community Parliamentary Forum, the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and the Inter-Parliamentary Union in attendance, the event underscored a spirit of cooperation and shared learning.

Ms Mutti expressed confidence that the Institute would evolve into a centre of excellence, not just for

Zambia, but for the wider region.

“Such a vision aligns with broader efforts across Africa to strengthen democratic institutions through collaboration and the exchange of best practices,” she said.

However, the success of the IPST will depend on more than infrastructure and programmes.

It will require commitment from those it is designed to serve.

The Speaker urged MPs, staff and stakeholders to actively engage with the Institute’s offerings to

sharpen their skills, deepen their understanding and ultimately improve service delivery to citizens.

Equally important is the expectation that the Institute will remain dynamic and forward-looking.

Ms Mutti challenged those tasked with running the IPST to ensure it does not become a mere formality, but rather a hub of innovation and rigorous research, one that stays ahead of emerging trends in governance and parliamentary practice.

At its core, the launch of the Institute reflects a deeper recognition: that democracy

is strengthened when its institutions are continuously nurtured.

By investing in knowledge, skills and systems, Zambia is reinforcing the foundation upon which effective governance rests.

As the ceremony concluded with the formal declaration of the Institute’s launch, there was a clear sense that this was more than just another institutional addition.

It was a statement of intent, a commitment to excellence, accountability and the long-term strengthening of Parliament.

Aussie mining tech firm eyes Zambia for investment

By CHARLES MUCHOLO

ZAMBIA, often celebrated for its abundant mineral wealth and strategic position in southern Africa, is rapidly emerging as a prime destination for foreign investment in the mining sector, among others.

This growing appeal has not gone unnoticed by global technology leaders. Among the most recent to recognise Zambia’s potential is Control Systems Technology (CST), an Australian firm renowned for its high-accuracy belt weighing and bulk material measurement systems. The company has identified Zambia not just as a market, but as a strategic partner in advancing mining technologies and broader industrial investment opportunities across the continent.

Speaking during an investment engagement with the Zambia High Commission to Australia and New Zealand in Canberra, Australia, CST’s Business Development Manager for Africa and Customer Satisfaction Officer, Mr. Gregory Armstrong, emphasized the unique opportunities Zambia offers. “Zambia is fast emerging as a preferred destination for advanced mining technologies,” he stated. “The country presents significant opportunities for deploying world-class solutions capable of enhancing operational efficiency, boosting productivity, and supporting sustainable long-term growth in the mining sector.”

For Mr. Armstrong, the attraction of Zambia goes beyond its mineral wealth. The country’s skilled workforce, modernizing mining infrastructure, and the government’s forward-looking policies create an environment where technology can thrive. “Zambia’s strong copper industry and strategic investment climate make it an attractive partner for advanced measurement technologies designed to improve efficiency, accuracy, and transparency across mineral production and logistics,” he noted.

CST has already make known its participation in the



•GREGORY Armstrong, who leads CST Africa’s Vision in Action Business Development and Customer Satisfaction thrust



•PRESIDENT Hakainde Hichilema is championing investment in Zambia

forthcoming Zambia International Mining and Energy Conference (ZIMEC) 2026, scheduled to take place in Kitwe from 25 to 26 March. This two-day event will provide a platform for CST to showcase its advanced belt scale technologies systems designed to measure bulk commodities with precision and to pursue strategic partnerships with key stakeholders in Zambia’s mining sector.

“ZIMEC 2026 represents an excellent opportunity for CST to align its technologies with Zambia’s long-term mining ambitions,” Mr. Armstrong explained.

The growing interest from CST reflects a broader trend in which Zambia is becoming a magnet for foreign investors. A critical factor behind this trend is the commitment of President Hakainde Hichilema to make Zambia an appealing and predictable destination for investment. Under his leadership, Zambia has emphasized policy reforms aimed at strengthening investor confidence, improving governance, and enhancing the business environment. These measures have significantly reduced bureaucratic hurdles, created a stable regulatory framework, and provided incentives for both domestic and international investment.

President Hichilema has also leveraged Zambia’s strategic land-linked geographical position in southern Africa. The country serves as a corridor connecting inland mining operations to regional markets and ports, including access through the Lobito Corridor to the Atlantic and the TAZARA railway to Tanzania. For companies like CST, this logistical advantage is vital. The ability to move bulk materials efficiently from mine sites to processing facilities

and export terminals is crucial for operational efficiency and profitability, and Zambia’s geographic positioning supports exactly that.

Speaking from a personal perspective, it is difficult not to be impressed by Zambia’s emerging investment landscape. From the perspective of a foreign investor, the combination of rich mineral reserves, a talented workforce, improving infrastructure, and government support creates a convincing case for engagement. The fact that a globally recognized technology leader such as CST has publicly affirmed its interest underscores the seriousness and credibility of Zambia’s investment potential.

The Zambia High Commission in Canberra has also played a pivotal role in facilitating such engagements. Zambia’s Charge d’Affaires to Australia and New Zealand, Ms. Annah Lupenga, highlighted the importance of fostering relationships with international investors.

“We welcome the growing interest from Australian companies,” she said. “Engagements and foreign investment partnerships are essential in supporting Zambia’s economic growth and industrial development.” Ms. Lupenga is set to lead a delegation of Australian investors to Zambia next week, offering them firsthand exposure to the country’s investment opportunities across multiple sectors.

Beyond mining, Zambia’s broader economic vision is evident in its push for industrial diversification, sustainable energy solutions, and regional trade partnerships. This environment allows investors not only to deploy advanced technologies but also to engage in long-term value creation. For a company like CST, which focuses on high-accuracy

measurement systems, the potential for collaboration in Zambia’s mining sector is immense, but there are also opportunities to support supply chain optimization, logistics management, and industrial efficiency in adjacent sectors.

One of the most compelling aspects of Zambia’s investment narrative is its alignment of government priorities with investor interests. While mineral wealth has traditionally driven the economy, the New Dawn Administration has placed equal emphasis on creating a predictable and transparent business environment. This balance between resource potential and governance reforms is rare in many emerging markets and positions Zambia as a standout destination in the region.

In addition, Zambia’s commitment to human capital development ensures that foreign investors find a skilled and adaptable workforce ready to work with advanced technologies. This, coupled with the country’s natural resource base and logistical advantages, creates a synergy that is difficult for companies to ignore. CST’s focus on introducing precision measurement technologies is a perfect example of how investors can bring value while simultaneously benefiting from Zambia’s growth trajectory.

As the country prepares for ZIMEC 2026, the eyes of the international mining community are increasingly on Zambia. The conference is expected to serve as a hub for dialogue, collaboration, and demonstration of innovative solutions that can redefine mining efficiency and sustainability in the region. For CST, participation in this forum is not merely a business opportunity, it is a signal that Zambia’s investment environment is mature enough to attract and integrate world-class technology providers.

From a broader perspective, Zambia’s rising appeal highlights a critical lesson for investors: that the combination of government commitment, strategic geography, skilled human capital, and sector-specific opportunities creates fertile ground for investment. As more companies like CST engage with Zambia, the potential for transformative partnerships and long-term value creation continues to expand, enhancing both national development and investor returns.

Overall, Zambia’s evolution into a preferred destination for mining technology investment is no accident. It is the result of deliberate policy decisions, strategic geographic positioning, and a clear commitment to fostering a business-friendly environment.

For international investors, the country offers not just access to rich resources but a platform for sustainable and impactful engagement.

As CST prepares to showcase its precision technologies at ZIMEC 2026, it is evident that Zambia is not only ready for foreign investment but is actively shaping itself as a hub for technological innovation and mining excellence in Africa.

It is this combination of opportunity, foresight, and partnership potential that makes Zambia exceptionally attractive.

For companies looking to invest in advanced mining solutions, the message is clear. Zambia is open, prepared, and strategically positioned for growth. And as more investors like CST recognize this potential, Zambia’s reputation as a centre of mining innovation and economic opportunity is set to strengthen further.

The Author is the First Secretary Press and Public Relations at the Zambia High Commission to Australia and New Zealand.