



**SWITZVIEW**  
WEALTH MANAGEMENT

**MORNING NOTE**

**13 MARCH 2025**

## Local News

### **Cafca sees 29% increase in Q1 revenue, bemoans policy changes (Newday)**

CAFCA Limited recorded a 29% increase in revenue for Q1 FY2025, driven by a 23% rise in overall volumes, with copper-based products growing by 13%. However, exports declined by 39% due to foreign currency shortages, impacting the company's international market reach. CAFCA also faced competition from smuggled imports and power outages, which pressured margins. Additionally, policy changes, including increased export surrender requirements, have strained exporters, limiting their ability to reinvest. Despite these challenges, the company remains focused on optimizing operations and exploring new markets. Management is closely monitoring the economic landscape to navigate uncertainties and sustain growth.

### **Only the interbank market sets the official rate - RBZ (New Zimbabwe)**

The Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe (RBZ) has clarified that the interbank market is the sole determinant of the official exchange rate, dismissing claims of a government-imposed rate. This follows confusion over recent currency fluctuations and allegations of rate manipulation. The RBZ emphasized that the interbank rate reflects market forces of supply and demand, urging businesses and individuals to use this rate for transactions. The central bank also warned against speculative behavior and illegal forex trading, which destabilize the economy.

### **Zimbabwe Market Regulator Orders Firms to Report Earnings in ZiG (Bloomberg)**

Zimbabwe's stock market regulator has ordered companies to report earnings in the local gold-backed currency, with immediate effect. The instruction by the Securities and Exchange Commission upholds a directive by the central bank and is the latest move to encourage acceptance of the ZiG - short for Zimbabwe Gold - which has struggled to establish itself since it was launched in April 2024.

### **Zimbabwe suffers worst outbreak of African armyworm in 20 years (Money web)**

Zimbabwe is grappling with the worst outbreak of African armyworms in two decades, with the pest having already spread across the whole country, the government said. The Ministry of Agriculture has set up 214 surveillance traps, and all districts have chemicals to deal with the infestation, the Information Ministry said in an emailed statement after a cabinet meeting. The outbreak comes as the nation experiences above-normal rains that have ended the worst drought in 40 years.

## Regional News

### **SA Finance Minister Godongwana tables 0.5 percentage point Vat hike (Money web)**

Finance Minister Enoch Godongwana proposed a phased VAT increase of 0.5 percentage points in 2025/26 and another 0.5 points in 2026/27, raising South Africa's VAT rate to 16% by April 2026. This decision, aimed at fiscal consolidation, has sparked opposition from the DA and other parties, setting the stage for a parliamentary showdown. The budget also includes no inflation adjustments for personal income tax brackets, impacting middle-class taxpayers, while introducing VAT zero-rating on essential food items to aid lower-income households. Additional measures include R23.4 billion allocated for public sector wage increases and the extension of the Social Relief of Distress (SRD) grant until March 2026. The budget deficit is projected to narrow from 5% to 3.5% of GDP by 2027/28, with government debt stabilizing at 76.2% of GDP. Social grants will see above-inflation increases, benefiting 19.3 million recipients by 2028, while sin taxes and fuel levies remain unchanged.

### **Cobalt prices edge up after DR Congo pauses exports (africanews)**

Cobalt prices soared on Monday helped in part by panic over the ban on exports of the battery material by the Democratic Republic of Congo. On China's Wuxi Stainless Steel Exchange on Monday, cobalt trading was paused after prices jumped nearly 12%, the highest since October, Reuters reported.

## International News

### **Canadians, stung by Trump's tariffs and rhetoric, balk at US travels (Reuters)**

Canadian travel to the U.S. has dropped by 20% in February, driven by President Trump's hostile rhetoric and increased tariffs on Canadian goods. Many Canadians feel unwelcome due to policies like higher tariffs on steel and aluminium, fingerprinting requirements for extended stays, and broader anti-Canada sentiments. This decline is impacting the U.S. tourism industry, with businesses near the border, airlines, and hotels seeing reduced Canadian visitors. While factors like the exchange rate and weather play a role, the negative political climate is a major deterrent, potentially costing the U.S. billions in lost travel spending.

### **Taiwan Warns of Currency Risks From Stock Outflows, Trump Policy (Bloomberg)**

Taiwan's central bank warns of currency risks as foreign investors withdraw amid trade tensions and Trump's policies. In 2024, it spent a record \$16.4 billion defending the Taiwan dollar, which fell over 6%, extending a three-year decline. TSMC's stock drop has fuelled \$11.9 billion in foreign outflows, but the bank downplays its U.S. expansion's impact. Foreign holdings of Taiwanese stocks have grown significantly, making the market more vulnerable. Meanwhile, inflation is expected around 2%, though rising electricity and transport costs could push it higher.

### Zimbabwe Stock Market Update

The ZSE ended today's trading session on a strong note, with the All-Share Index advancing 1.74% to close at 210.25 points. Gains were led by select blue-chip and mid-cap stocks, reflecting renewed investor confidence in the market. Retail giant OK Zim topped the gainers, surging 14.71% , buoyed by strong investor interest. First Mutual Life (FML) followed closely, rising 11.03% to 4.00 ZiG, while Turnall Holdings gained 7.27% to 0.05 ZiG, extending its recent upward momentum. Econet Wireless also posted solid gains, climbing 5.76% to 4.00 ZiG, while Nampak Zim recorded a modest increase of 1.62% to 0.66 ZiG. On the flip side, ZB was the day's worst performer, shedding 12.37% to 3.51 ZiG, followed by StarAfrica Corporation, which declined 4.78% to 0.04 ZiG. Dairibord Zim also saw a minor retreat, easing 0.24% to 1.47 ZiG. ETF activity remained subdued, with no trades recorded except for DMCS, which saw a turnover of 4,520 units. Meanwhile, Tigere surged 14.55% to ZWG130.00c, continuing its strong performance, while the Revitus REIT remained unchanged.

The VFEX recorded marginal gains, with select stocks posting moderate advances. Seedco led the risers, ticking up 0.44% to \$0.21, while Simbisa gained 0.34% to \$0.33. Innscor edged up 0.15% to \$0.46, extending its steady upward trajectory. However, the session was not without notable declines. Zimplow suffered the steepest drop, plunging 19.44% to \$0.01, making it the day's worst performer. African Sun also saw significant selling pressure, tumbling 15.95% to \$0.04, while First Capital Bank Limited slipped 0.20% to \$0.05.

### Other Stock Markets

Index	Current Price	% Change	YTD
S&P 500	5 599,30	0,49%	-4,80%
Dow Jones	41 350,93	-0,20%	-2,80%
Nasdaq	17 648,45	1,22%	-8,61%
FTSE All Share	8 540,97	0,53%	4,27%
SSE Composite	3 345,33	0,79%	-0,19%
JSE All Share	86 853,81	-0,27%	3,28%
NSE All Share	131,56	-0,46%	6,54%
EGX 30	31 049,03	0,37%	4,40%
NGX All Share	106 090,38	-0,07%	3,07%
ZSE All Share	210,25	1,74%	-3,37%

### Exchange Rates

Exchange Rates	Yesterday	Today	Change (%)	YTD (%)
USD/ZiG	26,6704	26,6634	0,03%	3,24%
ZiG/ZAR	0,6856	0,689	-0,49%	-5,53%
USD/ZAR	18,3101	18,3866	-0,42%	-1,10%
EUR/USD	1,09022	1,08731	0,27%	3,78%
GBP/USD	1,2926	1,2951	-0,19%	3,49%
AUD/USD	0,62872	0,62967	-0,15%	1,81%

### Commodity Price Movement Update

Commodity	Closing Price	Change (%)	YTD (%)
Gold	2 938,30	0,02%	9,01%
Silver	33,0530	-0,67%	11,90%
Copper	4,8053	-0,33%	9,48%
Platinum	983,80	-0,85%	11,88%
Brent Oil	70,82	-0,59%	1,86%

### Daily Power Generation Statistics updated 11 March 2025

Power Generation Statistics	
Kariba	485 MW
Hwange	658MW
IPPs	75MW
<b>Total</b>	<b>1218 MW</b>

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