

ICT Association of Zambia- 16th AGM, 2025.

Interprating the Theme:

"From Copper to Code: *Leveraging Artificial Intelligence to Accelerate Digital Transformation in Zambia for Economic Growth*"

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Introduction

Today, we unpack the powerful theme of this year's AGM: **"From Copper to Code: Leveraging Artificial Intelligence to Accelerate Digital Transformation in Zambia for Economic Growth."**

This theme is a bold call to action, urging us to transition from Zambia's historic dependence on copper to a future driven by code, AI, and digital innovation.

Let's explore what this means for our nation!

Copper – Zambia's Historic Backbone

Copper has long been the heartbeat of Zambia's economy. Since the **1920s**, it fueled investment, created jobs, and shaped communities. In 1969, production peaked at **769,000 tonnes**, employing over **62,000 people**

It taught us resilience and the value of resources. But as the world turns digital, we ask: can code become our new copper?

Code – The New Copper

Just as copper once connected Zambia to global markets, code and AI can connect us to the digital future. Coding is our modern resource. It is scalable, accessible, and transformative.

AI has the power to revolutionize **agriculture**, **healthcare**, and **education**. With a large number of young, tech-savvy citizens, Zambia is ready to lead.

But like copper, this potential needs investment. We must build **digital infrastructure**, **develop skills**, and **support innovation** to fully unlock this new resource.

Leveraging AI for Economic Growth

AI is the catalyst for Zambia's digital transformation. It can optimize industries, reduce inefficiencies, and create new economic opportunities.

For example:

Agriculture: AI can predict weather patterns, boosting crop yields for smallholder farmers.

Healthcare: AI-powered tools can improve access to diagnostics in health facilities.

Entrepreneurship: AI-driven platforms can help Zambian businesses scale globally.

Even in copper mining, AI is already at work. It is used to predict equipment failures, optimize operations, improve safety, and analyze geological data. This shows that AI is not just for tech companies. It is a tool for every sector.

Call to Action & Closing

Copper built Zambia's past, but code will shape its future.

To us the youths: this is your moment! Learn to code, embrace AI, and build solutions that transform our nation.

To policymakers and industry leaders: invest in our digital ecosystem as boldly as we once invested in copper.

Let's code a new legacy one where Zambia isn't just a mining giant but a global tech powerhouse. Together, we can make "From Copper to Code" more than a theme—it can be our reality.

Thank you!