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Kalengwa Mine: A jewel eclipsed by legal battles

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KANSANSHI MINING PLC

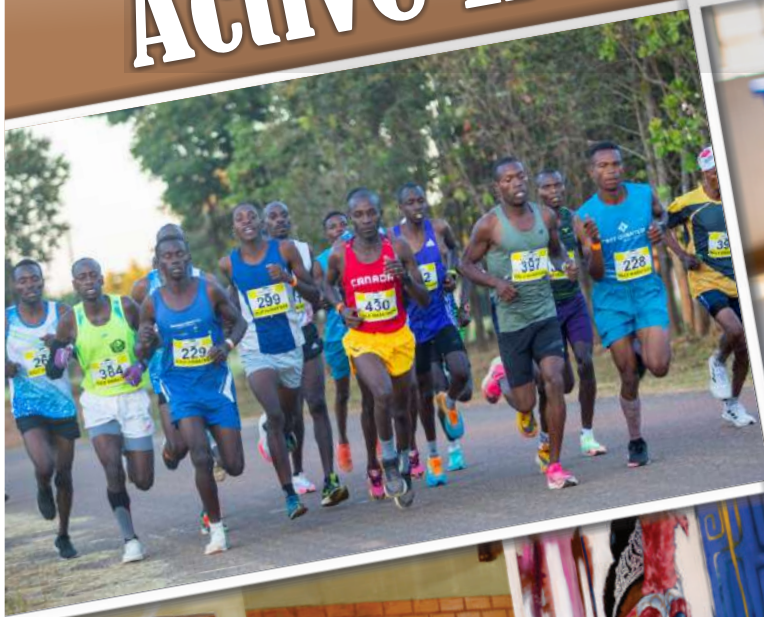
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STANBIC Bank Zambia Limited has emerged among the Africa Top 15 at the 2023 Annual Hackathon in South Africa, with three of its selected teams taking second and seventh positions for outstanding ideas.



PG 11– Zambia reserves drop to \$2.7bn

Zambia's international gross reserves have decreased to US \$2.7 billion by the end of June 2023 from US \$2.9 billion three months prior.



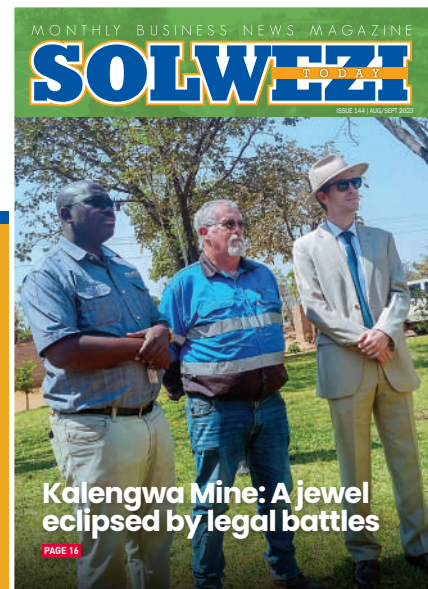
PG 22 – FQM mourns Co-Founder and Chairman Philip Pascall

First Quantum Minerals (FQM) on September 19, 2023, announced the passing of its cofounder Philip Pascall.



PG 41 – Women's cooperative aims for countrywide rice sales

The Musangezhi Cooperative in Kalumbila District has become a major local producer of rice.



Remembering Philip Pascall and his quantum leaps

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A quantum leap is described as an abrupt change or transition, a sudden increase or dramatic advance in an activity or organisation. It is both meaningful and instructive that at the passing of Philip Pascall, co-founder of First Quantum Minerals (FQM), he leaves behind a global entity that has progressed in leaps and bounds.

Families should dream dreams. Pascall was not afraid to dream and envision an operation that eventually unfolded to reach five continents, transform communities and touch countless lives.

The 20,000 employees in the bosom of FQM are running with the torch first lit when Pascall dared to step out in 1996 and express in the industry what he envisioned. This is evidence that some dreams blossom in quantum leaps to birth numerous more visions as young professionals catch the fire and take the first dream further.

Our coverage of the multi-dimensional FQM trajectory has noted the impact the organisation has made not only in the mining industry but on the mind-sets of its internal publics; its staff at all levels who have been continually motivated to imagine, innovate and generate so that the growth process of the whole group has become an adventure most of them will live to remember.

We agree with CEO Tristan Pascall that the organisation need not dwell too long on the passing of what has been described as an extraordinary leader; nonetheless, due recognition of an industry colossus and his quantum leaps is well in order.

The life and work of Philip Pascall have become a legacy from which lessons will be drawn for years to come both within and without the organisation he co-founded.



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Team Money Masters pose for a group photo

Stanbic excels at 2023 annual hackathon

BY STUART LISULO

Stanbic Bank Zambia Limited has emerged among the Africa Top 15 at the 2023 Annual Hackathon in South Africa, with three of its selected teams taking second and seventh positions for outstanding ideas.

The Annual Hackathon is one of the ways that Standard Bank continues to show its commitment to fostering change, innovation and collaboration.

A hackathon, also known as a codefest, is a social coding event that brings computer programmers and other persons together to improve upon or build a new software programme.

This year, 42 teams from Ghana, Malawi, South Africa, and Zambia were shortlisted to participate in the two-day finale held in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Zambia performed strongly with three

teams making it to the Top 15.

According to the Standard Bank Group website, the 2023 Annual Hackathon, a two-day event that took place in September, had a record-breaking 274 ideas submitted from across Africa.

From these, the top 42 teams consisting of 229 hackers were selected to participate in the Hackathon.

Stanbic Bank teams Money Masters, SNAPP, and Agro Innovates turned out second, fourth and seventh, respectively.

The Money Masters team's idea was an application that teaches children and adults money management skills through a gamified learning experience, parental involvement and a digital wallet component that converts virtual currency to real currency.

SNAPP has an Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning-based financial application that provides personalized services, tailored offerings and financial insights to customers.

Agro Innovates, who were seventh in their category, broached the idea of a

subscription-based agriculture platform offering financial services to the entire agriculture ecosystem—suppliers, small-scale and commercial farmers.

Commenting on the outcome of the Hackathon results, Money Masters' team member Kapansa Kasanse, hailed the achievement, saying the performance was better than expected.

"I was part of the Money Masters team, which consisted of the following members: Kapansa; Precious; Steve; George; Lokani and Franklin. I feel incredibly proud of our team's performance at the 2023 Annual Hackathon. We worked tirelessly to innovate and develop our project, and I can confidently say that we performed even better than expected. Our dedication and teamwork truly paid off, and securing second place was a significant accomplishment for us," Kapansa, a banker at Stanbic, said in response to a press query.

"It underscores the Bank's steadfast dedication to nurturing innovation to solve real client challenges, creating solutions that are not only technically brilliant but also socially relevant and impactful", Standard Bank Group Chief Information Officer Jörg Fischer said in a statement.

BY JOHN CHOLA



Revolutionizing Zambia's Business Landscape with the Y'ello Biz App

BY MARTIN MUSUNKA JR



Zambian business people navigating the Yello Biz app

In a strategic move aimed at bolstering small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in Zambia, MTN Zambia proudly introduces the Y'ello Biz App.

This platform is poised to revolutionize business operations in Zambia by granting SMEs access to MTN's rich local content, exclusive discounts, and an extensive business directory. With this innovation, SMEs can make informed decisions, realize substantial cost savings, and foster deeper connectivity within the thriving business ecosystem.

The Y'ello Biz App fosters digital literacy among SMEs, ensuring they are well-equipped to leverage technology for growth.

ECONOMIC LANDSCAPE AND THE ROLE OF SMEs:

SMEs command a significant presence within Zambia's economic landscape, constituting an impressive 97 per cent of all enterprises and contributing to 70 per cent of the nation's opportunities.

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, a remarkable 88 per cent of micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) based in Lusaka reported a significant

surge in their Internet usage, with increases ranging from 25 per cent to 50 per cent. These enterprises play a pivotal role in the country's economic development.

However, despite these compelling statistics, the availability of accessible ICT solutions has remained persistently low, highlighting the pressing need for interventions to bridge this digital divide and empower SMEs to thrive in an increasingly interconnected world.

In a dedicated effort to empower these critical economic drivers, the Y'ello Biz App offers a comprehensive suite of simple-to-implement ICT solutions focused on enhancing efficiency, productivity, and connectivity.

DEALS AND OFFERS

The app grants access to MTN premium local content, ensuring users have timely and pertinent information to make well-informed decisions. Furthermore, users can benefit from exclusive deals and offers from MTN and its partners, which translate into reduced expenses and enhanced profitability.

The Y'ello Biz App also introduces a comprehensive business directory that streamlines the process of locating enterprises and government services. This seamless connectivity facilitates easier linkages and creates a digital marketplace readily accessible to all.

Minister of SMEs Elias Mubanga has stated, "We recognize that small and medium-sized firms (SMEs) are the backbone of our economy as they contribute significantly to creating jobs and driving economic progress... I'd like to thank MTN Zambia for its collaboration with the government and commitment to encouraging innovation."

TESTAMENT

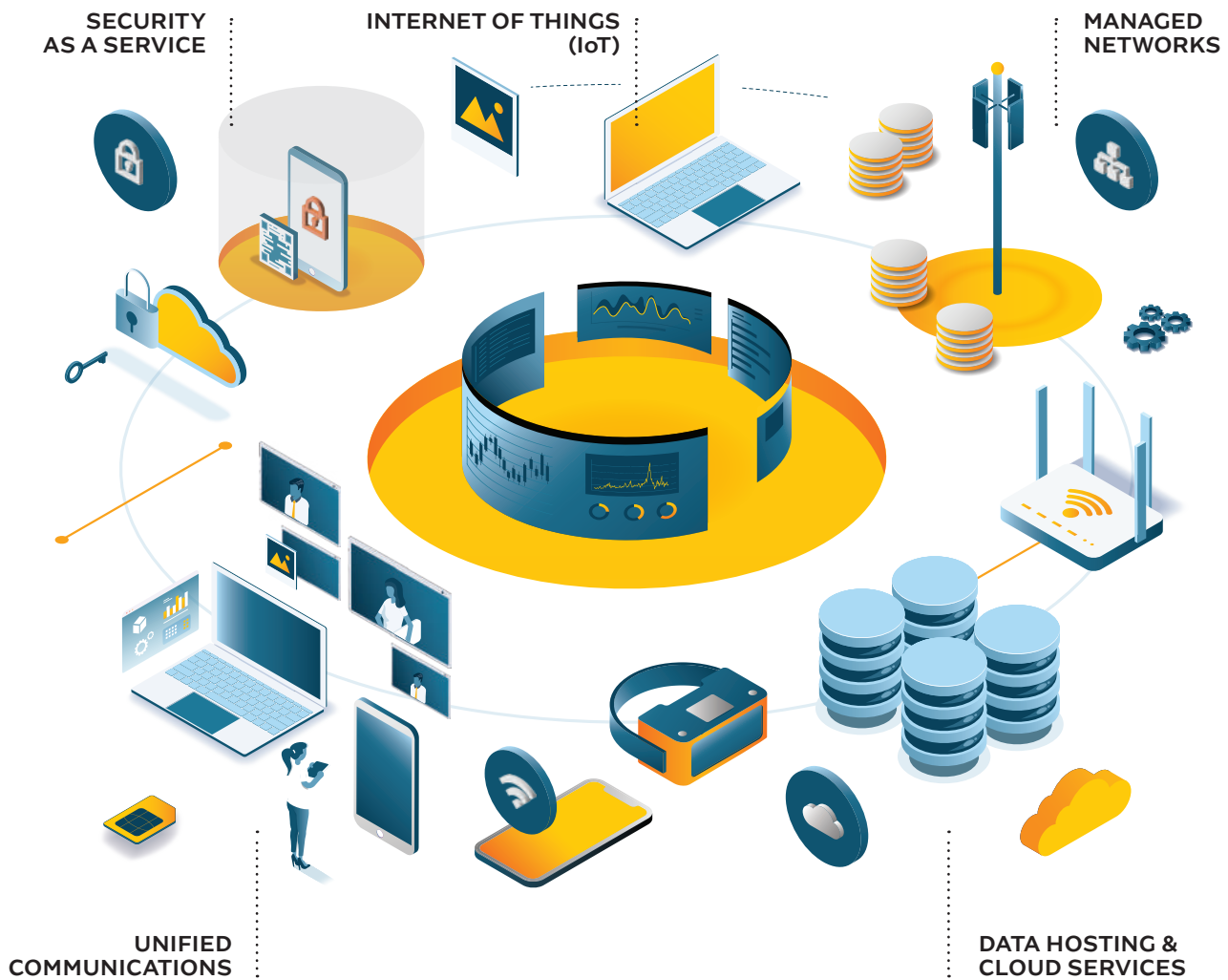
MTN Zambia CEO Abbad Redda has remarked, "We are pleased to introduce the Y'ello Biz app, a testament to MTN Business's unwavering dedication to innovation and progress. This launch marks a significant milestone, reaffirming our dedication to enabling organizations to achieve their full growth potential and do business better. The Y'ello Biz app represents a redefinition of the telecommunications sector's role, as it delivers innovative business solutions that encompass digital tools, communication resources, and data-driven insights."

MTN Zambia, renowned for its quality network and dynamic tariff billing system, is Zambia's fastest-growing and most innovative network.

The company boasts a comprehensive portfolio that includes voice (local and international), data, fixed and wireless Internet, money transfer, and other value-added services, comprising a footprint covered by 5G, 4G, and 3G networks.

The app represents a significant step toward empowering SMEs, bridging the digital divide, and fostering economic growth. It reaffirms MTN Zambia's commitment to innovation and progress, positioning the company as a catalyst for transformation within the business community.

As Zambia's SMEs embrace this groundbreaking platform, they are poised to thrive in an increasingly interconnected world.



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Two brands propel Zambian Breweries revenues to K1.8bn

BY STUART LISULO

Zambian Breweries Plc has posted increased revenues of K1.8 billion in the six-month period ending June 30, 2023, boosted by strong sales of its flagship Flying Fish and Mosi Lite brands, among other factors.

In Zambian Breweries Plc has posted increased revenues of K1.8 billion in the six-month period ending June 30, 2023, boosted by strong sales of its flagship Flying Fish and Mosi Lite brands, among other factors.

In a statement announcing its unaudited interim results of the company for the financial half-year period ended June 30, 2023, Zambian Breweries posted increased revenues of K1.8 billion during the period under review, up from K1.6 billion in the same corresponding period last year.

Revenues were boosted by strong consumer demand for the two popular brands during the period under review. Strong revenue growth also translated into higher profit-after-tax of around K249 million for the six months under review, up from K73 million during the same period last year, representing a 241 per cent increment.

“For the period ended June 2023, we were relatively flat against prior year on volumes with slight growth of 0.3 per cent and the interim period. However, we delivered a solid half-year with net revenue growing 12 per cent against prior year through some tactical timing of price increases as well as mix management,” Zambian Breweries Company Secretary Deborah Bwalya said in a statement.

Overall demand through the second quarter remained buoyant, even for both local and imported packs. “We are seeing healthy growth in our premium portfolio as well as very strong growth in the Flavoured Alcoholic Beverages category, with Flying Fish growing



strongly and Brutal Fruit, which was launched at the end of 2022, continued to be on high demand.

“We launched our innovation product Mosi Light in April this year, a low alco-

“We launched our innovation product Mosi Light in April this year, a low alcohol content, cassava-based beer, which has been well-received by the market and has exceeded our projections. We have since increased our production plan to better meet consumer demand.”

hol content, cassava-based beer, which has been well-received by the market and has exceeded our projections. We have since increased our production plan to better meet consumer demand.”

The brewing giant stated that the Lusaka plant remained on schedule for completion before the end of this year. Zambian Breweries launched its landmark US \$80 million capital expenditure strategy at the beginning of this year to help meet market demand by doubling capacity at its Lusaka plant.

The company is a subsidiary of AB InBev, the Belgium-based brewer, which took over ownership of SABMiller in a US \$100 million deal in 2016 and assumed new ownership of Zambian and National Breweries Plc.

Ab InBev also manufactures the global brands Stella Artois and Budweiser among others.

Zambia reserves drop to \$2.7bn



BY STUART LISULO

Zambia's international gross reserves have decreased to US \$2.7 billion by the end of June 2023 from US \$2.9 billion three months prior.

According to Bank of Zambia (BoZ) data availed in August, the country's reserves steadily declined by more than US \$200 million, resulting largely from the central bank's support of the local currency and the state's use of foreign exchange.

“While the kwacha appreciated by 4.8 per cent against the US dollar in the second quarter, it depreciated by 11 per cent to K19.48 per dollar between the end of June and August 22, 2023. Since then, the local unit has continued depreciating to K21 per dollar by September.”

Zambia's reserves had previously benefited from the increased International Monetary Fund (IMF) Special Drawing Rights (SDR) allocation in August 2021, with the country's reserves totalling US \$2.9 billion that same month, representing around 5.4 months of import cover.

“To moderate exchange rate volatility and support critical imports, the Bank continued to provide liquidity to the market. In the second quarter, US \$300 million was provided to the market, largely from mining sector tax receipts – US \$242 million...Bank of Zambia support to the market, coupled with Government uses of foreign exchange and external debt servicing, led to the decline in gross international reserves to US \$2.7 billion (equivalent to 2.9 months of import cover) at end June 2023 from US \$2.9 billion (equivalent to 3.3 months of import cover) at end-March 2023,” BoZ stated.

While the kwacha appreciated by 4.8 per cent against the US dollar in the second quarter, it depreciated by 11 per cent to K19.48 per dollar between the

end of June and August 22, 2023. Since then, the local unit has continued depreciating to K21 per dollar by September.

According to BoZ data, Zambia's reserves dropped to US \$1.2 billion by the end of 2020, the lowest ever on record.

The country's reserves drastically dwindled since 2016, precisely in tandem with Zambia's escalating external debt stock and correspondingly high debt servicing, which put tremendous pressure on the reserves.

The last time the country's international gross reserves dropped to below US \$2 billion was in 2009 when reserves amounted to US \$1.9 billion in December of that year. The reserves, however, peaked at more than US \$3.9 billion in July 2015.

International reserves are any kind of reserve funds which central banks can pass among themselves internationally, and they remain an acceptable form of payment among such institutions.

Patrice Motsepe, Africa's first black billionaire, sees \$900 million loss in 2023

By ADEKUNLE AGBETILOVE



Patrice Motsepe

Patrice Motsepe, Africa's foremost Black billionaire and the richest Black figure in Southern Africa, has experienced a significant \$ 900 million reduction in his wealth since the start of 2023.

The decline is attributed to the prolonged decline in the market value of his equity investments.

Patrice Motsepe, who achieved the distinction of becoming Africa's first Black billionaire in 2008 due to his substantial wealth amassed in the mining sector, has witnessed a significant reduction in his net worth.

As of the time of this report, his net worth stands at \$2.3 billion, down from the \$3.2 billion recorded at the beginning of the year.

The near \$1-billion decrease in Motsepe's wealth can be directly linked to the decline in the market value of his substantial 40.37-percent stake in African Rainbow Minerals (ARM).

ARM, a prominent South African mining conglomerate with strategic investments spanning mining ventures, including iron, coal, copper, gold, platinum, and other precious metals, has faced huge challenges, leading to poor financial performance.

The share price of ARM on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange has declined from R288 (\$15.22) on Jan. 1 to R170.1 (\$8.99) at the time of drafting this report, thus causing a significant slump in the market value of Motsepe's stake in the min-

ing conglomerate, which constitutes a significant portion of his wealth, BillionairesAfrica reported.

Motsepe, despite a recent dip in his net worth, still holds the title of the wealthiest Black individual in Southern Africa and maintains his position as one of the wealthiest people on the African continent. He also stands prominently among the world's Black billionaires.

The foremost billionaire in South Africa is poised to collect a final dividend of R1.088 billion (\$56.5 million) from his 40.37 per cent ownership in ARM.

This dividend is scheduled to be distributed on October 9, 2023. However, it represents a significant decrease compared to the R1.78 billion (\$103 million) in dividends he received the previous year, a decline attributed to ARM's reported seven per cent decline in profits.



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CEC, KCM resolve electricity payment

By STUART LISULO

The dispute between Copperbelt Energy Corporation Plc (CEC) and Konkola Copper Mines (KCM) Plc now stands settled after the mining company paid its outstanding electricity bill.



Announcing CEC's financial results for the half-year period ending June 30, 2023, Chief Executive Officer Owen Silavwe said that the mining company had cleared payments for electricity as owed to CEC.

Since CEC's Power Supply Agreement (PSA) with the mine expired in May 2020, KCM, which was previously in provisional liquidation, has insisted on direct electricity supply from Zesco Limited under a separate Agreement, but at a lower tariff.

This resulted in a significant build-up of unpaid invoices amounting to over US \$155 million by the third quarter of 2021.

While CEC eventually settled a bitter commercial dispute with Zesco Limited over the lapsed Bulk Supply Agreement (BSA), following the resolution of protracted court cases, CEC's relationship with KCM remained sour into the New Dawn era, as the latter still had unpaid invoices going into 2022.

"As we progress on our growth agenda, we are also focused on ensuring that we close off all historic issues. In this regard, I am thrilled to report that CEC and Konkola Copper Mines (KCM) agreed on a solution to address the long outstanding KCM payment default. Therefore, a part reversal of the previously impaired amount of US \$171.6 million was made to the books of accounts," said Silavwe in a statement.

Additionally, an impairment of US \$35.4 million was taken on the investment in the Kabompo Hydropower Project.

"Furthermore, and most importantly, a one-off payment was made as part of the settlement relating to the two-year period in which CEC and ZESCO operated without an agreement. This exceptional (one-off) payment resulted in a drop in cash generation from operations, which, when adjusted for, was comparable to the prior year. These solutions significantly de-risk the business and restore its balance sheet."

The Kitwe-based power utility's profit

after tax jumped to nearly US \$113 million in the six-month period ending June 30, 2023, up from US \$29.9 million in the corresponding period in 2022, representing a 277 percent increment.

Total energy demand across CEC customer categories was 3,140 GWh, covering all business segments including mine supply, domestic and international wheeling, transmission use of systems, and power trading.

"The Kitwe-based power utility's profit after tax jumped to nearly US \$113 million in the six-month period ending June 30, 2023, up from US \$29.9 million in the corresponding period in 2022, representing a 277 percent increment."



Bo'Jangles:

Food Destination Par Excellence

By SOW COMMUNICATIONS

Where food imitates art — Bo'Jangles Restaurant in Lusaka is finally here to tantalize and tickle our taste buds. Set the scene and Taste the Jazz! It's time to think of food as a destination!

The seating arrangements and décor feature high-quality materials and artful presentation. Beautiful objects, which have been carefully selected and procured from around the world, set the scene for an upscaled experience and ambience for all guests.

SAVOIR-FAIRE

The Bo'Jangles team encompasses truly remarkable professionals, their culinary craftsmanship, talent, passion, art, style, and creative flair can all be experienced with ease at this remarkable jazz-themed restaurant. Renowned and acclaimed chefs, sommeliers, and outstanding front-of-house directors from different parts of the world represent the diversity and rich culture of service that all form part of the DNA of Bo'Jangles Lusaka. The result is astoundingly fusional — Zambian-sourced and locally grown foods with world-class flair.

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cially packaged for the privacy-minded guest. Whether you want to impress your new client or host a team-building event for your employees, corporate dining makes the perfect meeting place where impeccable and flavourful dining pairs well with corporate conversation.

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Please note that the Lounge is available to customers on a pre-order basis and requires a minimum spend upfront. The minimum spend is redeemable but not refundable. Be sure to reserve with our marketing department for seamless, easy booking and coordination.

Kalengwa Mine: A jewel eclipsed by legal battles

BY JOHN MUHANGA AND CALEB LIKOMENO

In the heart of Mufumbwe District of North-Western Province is the Kalengwa Mine which stands as a symbol of both hope and controversy. For decades this mine was a beacon of hope providing livelihood to the people of Mufumbwe.



The British High Commissioner to Zambia Nicholas Woolley (R) flanked by Moxico Resources Country Director Davis Mwanamoya pays a courtesy call to Chief Chizela of the Kaonde people of Mufumbwe district.

Kalengwa Mine boasts a storied past, dating to the 1960s when copper extraction brought prosperity to the region as it not only contributed significantly to the nation's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) but also provided numerous employment opportunities for thousands of Zambians.

However, as the years rolled on, operations ground to a halt as the Zambia Consolidated Copper Mine (ZCCM) closed the mine after it got flooded in 1978. The once-thriving mine operation

fell into disuse and disrepair, casting a shadow over the local community. As the mine fell silent, it left dreams buried in its depths with unemployment soaring while businesses that relied on the mine's workforce suffered shutdowns leading to a decline in living standards due to increased poverty.

EAGER TO CHANGE

This is a narrative Moxico Resources Zambia operating, under the license of Euro-Africa Mineral Resources, is eager to change. The UK-based mining firm

has expressed its eagerness to invest in the mine and restore it to its former glory. This is seemingly far from plain sailing as the mine is buried under the weight of prolonged legal disputes over ownership that have dragged on for more than ten years.

The protracted disputes and subsequent legal battles have not only stifled the mining potential but also to a larger extent hindered economic progress in Mufumbwe as a whole.

There have been three Supreme Court



Sandwiched from L to R; Moxico Resources Country Director Davis Mwanamoya, Kalengwa Mine Project Manager Jeremiah Daniel Enslin and British High Commissioner to Zambia Nicholas Woolley pose for a photo with Kalengwa women group that are being trained and recently were awarded with a grant

rulings in favour of Euro Africa that settled ownership of Kalengwa Mine once and for all, yet the case is still dragging on in court when there should be a route for any form of court action.

SPECIAL VISIT

On August 31, 2023, British High Commissioner to Zambia, Nicholas Wolley, embarked on a special visit to Mufumbwe solely to appreciate the invaluable contributions of Moxico Resources Zambia to the local community.

The visit saw the British High Commissioner engage the Mufumbwe District Commissioner (DC) Elijah Munyompe and Chief Chizela of the Kaonde people.

The discussions centred on fostering inclusive growth and ensuring that the benefits of the mine's revival reach every corner of the district. Mufumbwe DC Elijah Munyompe stated that the legal battles were hindering the development of the mining sector in the district. Munyompe said the government needed to intervene in the quickest possible time if the said development was to happen in the district.

Chief Chizela stressed the need for the government to end the court litigations around the ownership of the mine so that the promising investor breathes new life into the vital asset and contributes to the overall development of his Chiefdom. He also spoke on the rampant unemployment among the youth in the chiefdom, "...many of our youths

in the chiefdom don't have jobs and this is because Kalengwa Mine has not been opened to offer them employment." According to the 2021 Labour Force Survey (LFS) report, in 2021, a youth population of 352,874 out of the total 450,790 were unemployed.

"The reopening of Kalengwa Mine offers numerous benefits for Zambia as it will provide a much-needed source of youth employment and boost the demand for services in the surrounding communities, from housing to food and transportation."

The British High Commissioner toured the just-rehabilitated Mufumbwe Police Station which was gutted in 2017 by some unruly members of the community. The rehabilitation works were financially supported by Moxico Resources at the cost of about K259,000.

Moxico Resources Country Director Davis Mwanamoya disclosed that the mining firm had been empowering women with small business grants. Mwanamoya added that Moxico resources had thus

far offered more than 300 jobs to the locals, a number likely to increase once the mine is fully operational.

The reopening of Kalengwa Mine offers numerous benefits for Zambia as it will provide a much-needed source of youth employment and boost the demand for services in the surrounding communities, from housing to food and transportation.

PROMISE

Amidst the legal quagmire, the story of Kalengwa is one of promise and predicament. It is a story that serves as a reminder of the challenges and complexities that often accompany the exploitation of valuable natural resources in the country.

Moxico Resources' eagerness to breathe new life into this once-thriving resource is commendable, but the tangled web of litigation surrounding its ownership casts a shadow of uncertainty.

The outcome of these legal proceedings will not only determine the future of the mine but also have far-reaching implications for Zambia's mining industry and the broader global market for copper and cobalt.

The people of Mufumbwe District and the broader Zambian community watch with bated breath, hoping for a resolution that will pave the way for a brighter future for Kalengwa Mine and its neighbourhood.

Concession agreement flags off North-West cross-border road

BY JOHN MUBAMBE



Sandstone Consortium Director Marcus Ascott and Director and CEO for Road Development Agency Grace Mutembo signing the concession agreement during the concession signing ceremony at Kansanshi Hotel in Solwezi.

The Mwinilung'a populace will witness the construction of the Lumwana-Kambimba Road and Border Post through a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Project which will enable cross-border transport from Congo DR through Zambia to Namibia and South Africa.

The road will also enable access to Lualaba Province through Kolwezi in the Congo DR, amplifying the Lobito Corridor which is designed to enhance linkages with Angola.

The scope of the works for the Greenfield project includes the upgrading of 85 kilometres to bituminous standard at a total cost of \$58 million, the new border post at \$ 2.5 million, and a modern

weighbridge and equipment at \$3.5 million.

Signatories the Road Development Agency (RDA) and the Concessionaire representative signed the Concession Agreement between the government and Sandstone Consortium Limited at Kansanshi Hotel in Solwezi on September 26. Present to sign the agreement were Road Development Agency Director and Chief Executive Officer Grace Mutembo, who represented the government, and Marcus Ascott who signed on behalf of Sandstone Consortium Limited.

Also present was Minister of Infrastructure, Housing and Urban Development Charles Milupi. "This linkage will spread

"The road will also enable access to Lualaba Province through Kolwezi in the Congo DR, amplifying the Lobito Corridor which is designed to enhance linkages with Angola."

economic development between the two countries and offer an alternative route for the import and export of goods, the route will also encourage the development of the Lobito Corridor connecting



Some of the traditional leaders who attended the signing ceremony of the concession agreement.

mineral-rich provinces in Zambia and DRC,” Milupi said.

Milupi noted that the road, once completed, would enable the mines in Kolwezi (DRC) to transport their copper and other minerals through Zambia and onward to the ports in South Africa and Namibia.

The anticipated increase in traffic volume on the road under construction would enable Zambian citizens living in the vicinity of the route to trade their goods and services with travellers.

Milupi added that a 33 KV transmission line would be constructed, covering 85 km at the cost of \$8.6m followed by the construction of 36 housing units, a health post and a school, and a toll plaza costing \$7.055 million. he ministers anticipated significant job creation for the people in the project area during the phases of construction, operation and maintenance. “The project has a concession period of 25 years out of which two years is for construction and the

remaining 23 years for operation and maintenance by Sandstone Consortium Limited, the concessionaire,” he disclosed.

Milupi said the government was determined to open up North-Western Province and link it to the port of Lobito for the accelerated development of the country.

Director of Sandstone Consortium Marcus Ascott saluted the Zambian government and all stakeholders for the opportunity to undertake the project. “We pledge to construct a durable highway and an ultra-modern efficient border crossing to create jobs and transfer skills to local people as well as social economic empowerment in the areas led by local and traditional institutions for the future of Zambia and Congo,” Ascott said.

Mwinilunga MP Newton Samakayi and Solwezi West Member of Parliament Nicholas Mukumbi expressed happiness that the road would usher development and raise the quality life in their constit-

uencies.

Milupi was accompanied by Technology and Science Minister Felix Mutati, Transport and Logistics Minister Frank Tayali and Commerce, Trade and Industry Minister Chipoka Mulenga, Mwinilunga MP Newton Samakai, Solwezi Central MP and Government Chief Whip Stafford Mulusa and PPP Council members.

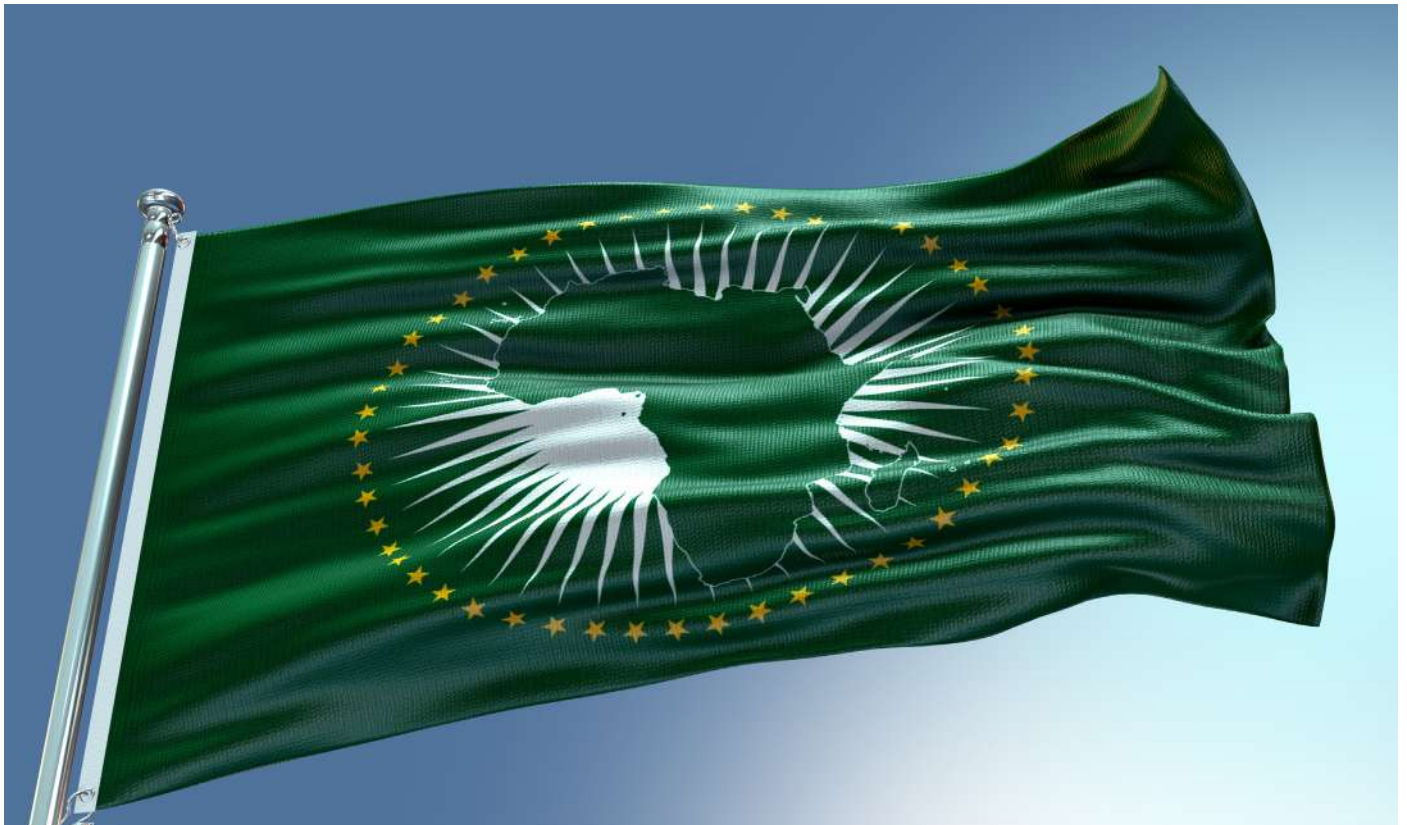
The Concession Ceremony was witnessed by traditional rulers who included chiefs Chibwika, Ntambu, Sailung’a, Kakoma, and Kanyama of Mwinilunga, Chieftainess Chikola of Mushindamo and a representative of Chief Chinyama Litapi of Zambezi District.

Also present were provincial Permanent Secretary Grandson Katambi, Solwezi Municipal Council Town Clerk Stanley Mbewe, Kalumbila Town Secretary Wamunyima Mumbali, UPND leadership, senior Government officials and heads of various organizations in Solwezi.

AU becomes permanent member of G20

BY SOLWEZI TODAY REPORTER

After seven years of campaigning, the African Union has been granted permanent membership to G20, the premier inter-governmental organisation championing economic cooperation globally.



This historic development was announced at the recently held G20 summit in New Delhi by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his opening speech on Saturday, September 9, 2023.

The previous week, at the Business 20 Summit also held in New Delhi, Modi, who has emerged as a champion of the so-called Global South, stated, “We have a vision of inclusiveness, and with that vision, we have invited the African Union to become permanent members of the G20.”

The pronouncement passed with three knocks of the gavel and an emotional embrace between Prime Minister Modi and the President of the Comoros and current AU Chairperson, Azali Assoumani.

Taking to the social media platform

X (formerly Twitter) to celebrate, the Chairperson of the AU Commission, Moussa Faki Mahamat, wrote, “This membership, for which we have long been advocating, will provide a propitious framework for amplifying advocacy in favor of the continent and its effective contribution to meeting global challenges.”

Africa’s admission to the G20 is seen as a big win for the continent, as before the AU’s admission, of the 19 member states and the European Union, South Africa had been the only African presence in the bloc.

This move has been praised by leaders across Africa as it represents a great opportunity for the continent to have an audible voice in global matters, including the advancement of Africa’s interests and the addressing of important issues like climate change.

“African countries must now leverage this position to accelerate the development of their economies and their young populations,” commented Zambian President Hakainde Hichilema.

Despite this monumental decision, the excitement is not universal. Some critics see it as a token gesture that will not bring about meaningful change, while others are convinced that it is yet another attempt to counter the growing influence of China in Africa.

The current permanent members of the G20 are Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the United States, the European Union, and the African Union.

80 female contractors graduate

BY JOHN MUBAMBE

Eighty women have graduated as certified contractors in North-Western Province.

The one-month Lobito Training program started in August and ended with a momentous graduation ceremony held on September 15, 2023, at Solwezi Trades Training Institute.

The National Council for Construction (NCC) and Solwezi Trades Training Institute (SOTTI) were appointed to undertake consultancy services by the African Development Bank (AfDB) through the Ministry of Commerce, Trade, and Industry.

Provincial Permanent Secretary Grandson Katambi disclosed at the graduation ceremony that the training was conducted in line with the Lobito Corridor project component relating to capacity-building for trade facilitation and corridor coordination. Katambi said the objective of the training was to build capacity in women contractors within the province to support infrastructure development for this project. He congratulated all the graduates for the hard work and determination that had brought them to the end of the training and urged them to showcase the skills that they had acquired in the field.

The National Council for Construction Acting Executive Director, Kabondo Muntanga, described the graduation of the skills training and construction management graduates as a significant milestone. Muntanga shared that the graduates were trained so they might exploit the opportunities that would come with the opening of the Lobito Corridor Project involving Angola, Congo DR, and Zambia, and that the principal aim of the project was to improve international trade among the three neighboring corridor states by building the capacities of corridor institutions, small and medium enterprises, and through the provision



Graduating women contractors proudly wave their certificates to showcase their achievements.

of trade facilitation instruments. Speaking further, Muntanga said the graduates had learned the technical aspects of construction, the art of management, and skills acquisition in planning, execution and overseeing projects to ensure they are completed on time, within budget, and to the highest standards of quality and safety. "We have learned the importance of teamwork, effective communication, and leadership in the construction process. Let us ensure we execute works well so that we deliver value for money and we build our nation together."

Ministry of Commerce, Trade, and Industry representative Michael Nsunka disclosed that the Lobito Corridor Trade Facilitation Project (LCTFP) procured training equipment for SOTTI in 2021, costing US\$ 155,000, to enhance the capacity of the SOTTI to deliver training of high standard to entrepreneurs in the Lobito Corridor. He added that the Lobito Corridor Trade Facilitation Project (LCTFP) had procured and established a computer laboratory to be used for training SMEs in information and communication technology (ICT), and facilitated the training of 120 construction sector SMEs in 2021 at SOTTI. "The LCTFP facilitated the training of 80 female-owned SMEs in line with one of the key project objectives of mainstreaming gender and increasing the participation of women in economic activities, and today marks yet another milestone with the graduation of 80 female-owned construction

sector SMEs," Nsunka said.

Nsunka, who is the project manager for the Lobito Corridor Project, said the project had three components; namely capacity-building for trade facilitation and corridor development; capacity-building for technical assistance for value chains and economic cluster development; and project management.

Adding to the discourse, Solwezi Trades Principal Ethel Mbewe said the training of contractors was meant to build capacity in women contractors within North-Western Province to ensure their ability to perform and produce desired results to support infrastructure development. Mbewe was happy that the training of 80 construction women SMEs in civil, mechanical, and electrical fields came to fruition to enhance the capacity for contractors to participate in the value chains in the corridor, including the mines. She said the Ministry of Commerce commissioned the Lobito Corridor Trade Facilitation Project (LCTFP) to map out a strategy for its development through an initial grant from the African Development Bank (ADB). "The Ministry has applied part of the funds towards the purchase of equipment, training aids, consultancy, and capacity building for SMEs in civil, electrical, and mechanical engineering under a tailor-made training course based on the gaps identified through a training needs analysis conducted in North-Western Province."

FQM mourns Co-Founder a



First Quantum Minerals (FQM) on September 19, 2023, announced the passing of its co-founder Philip Pascall.

Pascall passed away peacefully at home in Perth, Western Australia, having served as Chairman since the organisation's inception in 1996, and Chief Executive Officer until 2022.

FQM said, "Under his leadership, Philip

instilled an entrepreneurial and bold culture that saw the Company grow from a 10,000 tonnes tailings re-processor with the Bwana Mkubwa project in Zambia to one of the world's largest copper producers with operations spanning five continents and employing more than 20,000 people globally. Amongst the many legacies he leaves behind, the greatest source of Philip's pride were the many programmes for the local communities in which First Quantum Minerals operates, bringing improved standards of health and education in often remote places."

FQM further announced that "the Board of Directors have voted to elect Robert Harding, Lead Independent Director, as

the Company's Interim Chairman." Harding has been a Director of the Company since 2013 and has a full understanding of the Company's operations and unique culture.

In his role as Chair of the Nominating and Governance Committee, Harding oversaw the Company's succession planning process that led to the appointment of Tristan Pascall to the role of Chief Executive Officer in May 2022.

"On behalf of the Board of Directors, we extend our sincerest condolences to the Pascall family and friends," said the Interim Chairman.

"We are all indebted to Phillip for his

nd Chairman Philip Pascall



extraordinary leadership at First Quantum, setting us firmly on the path to the modern, multi-national mining company that we are today. Philip was a friend and mentor and his passing will be profoundly felt across the Company and the many people and lives he impacted as a result of his vision.”

Tristan Pascall, Chief Executive Officer of First Quantum said, “Whilst this is an enormous loss for all of us at First Quantum, Philip would not want us to dwell too long on his passing. He was always looking forward and was excited by the trajectory of the Company. Philip drove First Quantum’s focus on project execution, operational excellence and social responsibility and we intend to continue

to build on his substantial legacy.”

Pascall was born in Southern Rhodesia. He graduated from the University of Sussex in England with an honours degree in Control Engineering and later completed an MBA at the University of Cape Town. He worked in general management positions in South Africa from 1973 and in the mining industry in that country from 1977 with RTZ and El Bateman, and from 1981 in Australia. Pascall was a project manager at the Argyle Diamond Project and executive chair and part-owner of Nedpac Engineering between 1982 and 1990. In that period, Pascall was involved in mineral projects in Australia, New Zealand, South-East Asia, Chile, USA and Zimba-

bwe.

After selling his share of Nedpac in 1990, Pascall was a consultant in the mining industry, serving with Rio Tinto’s Hammersley Iron, and various projects in Zimbabwe and Zambia.

First Quantum was founded in 1983 as Xenium Resources; renamed Zeal Capital in 1989, First Quantum Ventures in 1993, and First Quantum Minerals in 1996. Its first major operation was Bwana Mkubwa Mine in Zambia which it acquired in 1996.

Globe Newswire/businessnews.com.au/Solwezi Today

Masomo Education Foundation issues 10 scholarships

BY DERRICK SILIMINA

The Masomo Education Foundation has this year offered ten scholarships to university students.

Announcing the 2023 Scholarships awarded to the ten university students, chairperson of this year's independent Canadian selection committee Steve Orsini expressed gratitude to the Masomo Education Foundation for the scholarships that would improve the lives of many in Zambia.

"It was a true honour and privilege to participate on the Masomo Education Foundation Selection Committee to



NIZA SIMWINGA, 22

recommend scholarships to aspiring, talented and incredibly resilient univer-

sity students in Zambia. Their heartfelt passion, unwavering commitment, and unrelenting desire to overcome incredibly difficult and challenging conditions to pursue their higher education is an inspiration to us all," Orsini said.

Given the overwhelming number of highly qualified candidates, Orsini who is also the President and CEO of the Council of Ontario Universities (COU) hinted that it was a challenge to select a few from an incredible roster of worthy applicants.

The first scholarship was awarded to 22-year-old Niza Simwinda who pledged to use the grant to complete his undergraduate medical degree at Mulungushi University. Niza said he is passionate about becoming an ear, nose and throat specialist (otolaryngologist) to help to reduce hearing loss in Zambia.

The second scholarship went to 24-year-old Precious Katai, a third year student of medicine and surgery at the University of Zambia. Her ambition is to one day work at the Centre of Infectious Disease Research in Zambia.



PRECIOUS KATAI, 24



ZELO BWALYA, 17

Sarah Mung'andu, 20, received the third scholarship following her excellent A-Level results. Sarah is passionate about the rights of women and vulnerable populations and is going to the University of Lusaka for her law studies.

The fourth scholarship went to Sitali Muwapela, 21, who already completed her first year of Actuarial Science at the University of Lusaka.

The fifth scholar was Prince Mujuta, 22, who had completed four years of medical school at Mulungushi University, became the fifth scholar following his strong leadership skills and an excellent academic record. The scholarship would enable him to complete the remaining years of his studies.

Elvis Nyoni, 23, the sixth scholar, had cleared the first year of studies in medicine and surgery at the University of Zambia. Elvis won the first prize in a competition at university and helped tutor fellow students.

The seventh recipient was 21-year-old Mutinta Munsanje, a third-year medical student in obstetrics and gynaecology, women's health, at Levy Mwanawasa Medical University. The committee was impressed with her good cover letter and strong references.

Roxanne Kalolo at 18 was the eighth awardee. Roxanne said she will use her scholarship to study Law at the University of Zambia. Despite her dire financial circumstances, Roxanne obtained excellent A-Level grades.

At 17, Zelo Bwalya was the youngest awardee this year. He is enrolled in the pre-medicine programme at Mulungushi University. Zelo's secondary education was sponsored by his church after he obtained perfect grades in all his subjects. Zelo has a huge Interest in mental health and intends one day to build a mental health facility.

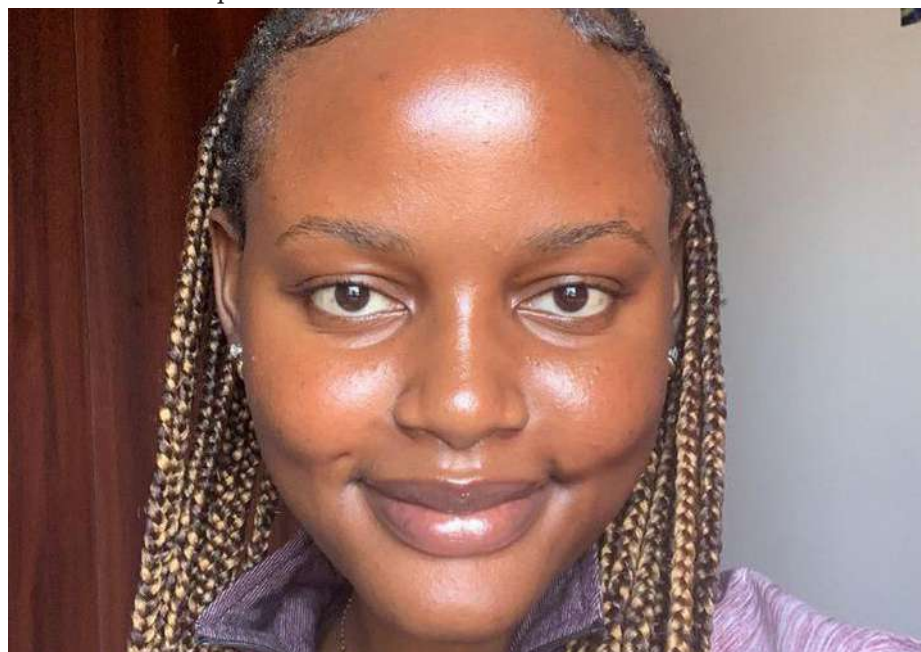
The tenth scholarship went to Chikumbi Mwafi, 21, a third year medical student at Copperbelt University. Despite living in poverty, Chikumbi was raised by a single mother but he obtained very high marks in high school and the first year of medical school.

The Foundation is run entirely by volunteers, resulting in overhead expenditure of less than three per cent of revenue.



CHIKUMBI MWAFI, 21

It has a Canadian Board of Directors, which aims to finance the education of talented young women and men in Zambia.



SITALI MUWAPELA, 21

AVIC drills young African engineers

BY DERRICK SILIMINA

AVIC International has accorded engineering scholarships to seven students.

Launched in June 2014, as a Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) youth empowerment project by the AVIC International, the Africa Technology Challenge (ATC) identifies skills in youths through training and competitions focused on Computer Aided Design (CAD) which involves reading and designing architectural drawings.

Zambia's Northern Technical College (NORTEC) scooped second position during the seventh edition of the 2022 ATC with Mechanical Engineering student Sean Brown awarded a scholarship to study architectural design in China. The event was co-organized by AVIC and the Kenya Ministry of Education.

Brown emerged among three outstanding participants in sessions of intense training and competition.

NORTEC Acting Principal Martin Kasonso said the win was a plus for the institution as it would help position the college as a centre for national competitions, enabling it to meet the international standards.

"Such competitions would help NORTEC in arranging with other engineering institutions to allow students to demonstrate their skills in different ways."

Ministry of Technology and Science Director for Vocational Education and Training (DVET) Alex Simumba said the competition was a great platform for Zambian students as the country was able to participate in such high-level competitions.

At the Africa Technology Challenge (ATC) held in Kenya under the theme Limitless Innovation, which emphasizes on Harnessing Technology to Push the



Sean Brown (L) poses for a picture with his fellow participants and NORTEC senior management

Boundaries of Creativity, NORTEC Mechanical Department Head of Section Mark Mutimushi scooped the Outstanding Team Leader Award while Innocent Mwitwa turned out sixth in the individual awards category.

Diana Busingye of Uganda bagged first position in the individual category.

The tech contest held through the AVIC Online Learning Platform attracted more than 230 students from Kenya, Uganda, Ghana, Egypt, Zambia and Zimbabwe who were trained and certified in the reading and drafting of construction drawings.

AVIC International Project Engineering Company Vice-President Xu Fei disclosed that the Chinese firm had so far trained 960 students, and as a result, nine institutions had been awarded production orders amounting to \$500,000.

Xu described the initiative as a great opportunity for businesses, manufacturers, and the private sector to create significant solutions for enterprises in a highly competitive business environment.

Xu emphasized that AVIC was in a unique position to collaborate with African governments to build technical, vocational education and training (TVET) capacity by constructing or upgrading the colleges alongside capacity-building of the staff.

Cabinet Secretary in the Ministry of Education Ezekiel Machogu said Kenya supported the ATC because it was a vehicle for raising awareness and enlightening students about the multiplicity of opportunities that may arise from skills development.

"The ATC affirms Kenya's belief that instilling technological skills in our youth is the key to spurring our country to progress and prosperity," Machogu said in Nairobi.

Zhou Meifen, Cultural Counsellor at the Chinese Embassy in Kenya, said the ATC involved skills training and practical knowledge transfer, and aimed to improve the youth's technical skills through training and competition as a way of reducing unemployment in Kenya and the rest of Africa.

The latest CSR report released by AVIC International shows how the organization has made a positive impression in any of the areas where it runs a project, Zambia included.

Chinese companies emulating AVIC International CSR projects in Africa include China Resources (Holdings) followed by China Samsung, China Huadian Corporation, Hyundai Motor Group (China) and Sinopec Group, according to a recent report recently released by the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS).



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Thomas Lungu: Growing FQM's nickel project

BY DERRICK SILIMINA

Thomas Lungu, 34, is one of the youthful operations specialists helping grow the newly-commissioned First Quantum Minerals (FQM) Enterprise Nickel Mine in Kalumbila District of North-Western Province. "It's been an absolute eye-opener for me to see a project like the Enterprise nickel mine developing from a Greenfield into a new mine and that is a lifetime opportunity," Lungu says.

The government recently commissioned the Enterprise Nickel Mine concentrator in Kalumbila to process four million tonnes of ore and produce around 32,000 tonnes of nickel per year.

The Enterprise project is earmarked to provide an estimated 700 permanent jobs and diversify the nation's minerals and metals output, making Zambia the largest nickel producer on the continent and the 10th largest producer in the world of the highly sought-after mineral.

As a young specialist in the Operations Readiness and Optimisation Department at the Enterprise Nickel mine under the FQM Trident, Lungu is one in a group of three experts transitioning the mining project from the project phase to a commercial declaration phase.

Lungu is upbeat about his expertise and discloses that being a local person



Thomas Lungu

and one of the first to be employed by the mine is exciting. "I look after setting up the long haulage which is the movement of material from the open pit to the process plant. I also look after all the commercial aspects of the nickel mine which means all the services and fixed plant purchases as well as the finance of the department and training," he states.

As a support service for the mining project, Lungu's role is to support the project manager and the department in achieving commercial declaration from the commercial phase, and thereafter optimizing the existing processes. "We expect to ramp up nickel production going into 2024 as the pit widens and deepens. So far so good as we are testing different processes as it takes quite some time."

Lungu stressed that with over 70 per cent of Zambia's GDP derived from the mining industry which is a dominant economic sector, young people ought to seize opportunities, "Being one of the young people in the industry and having this opportunity and being able to give back to the company and country at large is an honour. There is a space for young people to bring what they know to mining which is changing technologically and the focus in academia right now is data heavy, especially on big data

which is being taught a lot in the younger generation who are able to pick up from the seniors in the industry," he emphasizes.

Armed with a Bachelor's Degree in Business, Mathematical Statistics and Economics from Rhodes University in South Africa, Lungu has previously worked as an auditor in the energy sector. He also holds a postgraduate Diploma from the Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply.

Deriving his confidence from his father who once worked for one of the mining firms in the Copperbelt Province, and as a former semi-professional athlete, Lungu picked up some valuable skills from his dad and the sport.

Having been raised by his parents in a mining town, working at Enterprise is not something strange though he never imagined he would work for a mine. "Since my father worked in the mines and my mother in government as a school teacher, I have been able to see the balance between the two. I started on the business side and later into the technical side of mining. I am able to use that confidence and I have got that self-belief that I have what it takes to go out there and be able to achieve something."

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Lumwana copper to flow into the 2060s

By **STUART LISULO**

BARRICK Gold Corporation says extension works at Lumwana Copper Mine are underway to develop the undertaking into a Tier-One Copper Asset with an active mining life stretching into the 2060s.



Sebastiaan Bock, COO - Barrick Africa and Middle East Region

And Barrick Gold has announced an almost US \$2 billion in an expansion project designed to increase Lumwana's annual production to an estimated 240,000 tonnes of copper from a 50 million tonne per annum process plant.

Sebastiaan Bock as Chief Operating Officer of Barrick Africa and Middle East Region, said that extension works at Lumwana's various sites had commenced, with positive results showing potential for further growth.

"Resource conversion of the Chimiwungo Super Pit extension has started and the results to-date have confirmed the deposit's potential to provide the foundation for the Lumwana Expansion pro-

ject.

"Meanwhile, resource definition drilling at the near-surface, low-strip Kamisen-go deposit has shown that it can support the process plant feed during the stripping phase of the super pit," Bock said.

Barrick stated that the transformation of Lumwana into a potential Tier-One operation with a significant free cash flow and a life expectancy into the 2060s was under way. The accelerated pre-feasibility study was scheduled for completion towards the end of next year.

Pre-construction was expected to start in 2025, with 2028 targeted for first production. Concurrent with the expansion, the existing process plant will be

upgraded to support the new mine life.

Earlier this year, Barrick Gold Corporation projected its total copper production across all three of its mining assets to remain on track and produce a maximum of around 213,000 tonnes for 2023.

A Tier-One Copper Asset is an asset with a reserve potential of greater than five million tonnes of contained copper and C1 cash costs per pound, representing lower costs in the industry.

A stronger second half-year (H2 2023) copper production performance is anticipated following the commissioning of equipment at Lumwana to improve mining productivity and throughput.



Barrick's overall 2022 copper output increased to 199,580 metric tonnes from 188,240 tonnes recorded in 2021, boosted mainly by Lumwana's strong growth throughout the year.

Lumwana Copper Mine produced 121,109 tonnes last year, up from 109,769 tonnes in 2021, maintaining its lead among all three of Barrick's copper-producing assets, globally – Zaldívar and Jabal Sayid.

Lumwana has continued with its relatively higher copper output, with the latest production being 30,390 metric tonnes in the second quarter ending June 30, 2023, compared to around 21,772 tonnes in the first quarter of this year.

Company data also shows that the Lumwana copper mineral resource base grew by 89 per cent, net of depletion, relative to 2021.

This follows the completion of the preliminary economic assessment on the Super Pit expansion that demonstrates strong potential for a Tier-One Copper Asset.

And Barrick announced an estimated US \$2 billion in an expansion project designed to increase Lumwana's annual production to an estimated 240,000

tonnes of copper from a 50 million tonne per annum process plant over a 36-year life of mine.

The project's accelerated work programme is targeting completion of the full feasibility study by the end of 2024, bringing expected expanded process plant production forward to 2028, according to company data.

“Barrick Gold has announced an almost US \$2 billion expansion project designed to increase Lumwana's annual production to an estimated 240,000 tonnes of copper from a 50 million tonne per annum process plant.”

Following a meeting with President Hakainde Hichilema recently, Barrick Gold Corporation Chief Executive and President Mark Bristow, said that the Canadian miner sought to share its economic benefits with the host community.

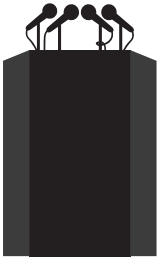
“Barrick believes that its host countries are its key stakeholders and that partnering with them creates sustainable value for both of us. In Zambia, as elsewhere in our global network, we seek to share the economic benefits generated by our mines with the countries' governments and people, notably our neighbouring communities,” Bristow said in a statement.

He added that Barrick was ramping up owner mining with both the re-opening of the Malundwe pit, as well as delivery of the new owner mining pre-stripping fleet.

President Hichilema was elated by the news of the planned expansion.

“This is a show of confidence in our New Dawn Government by one of the world's leading mining companies. Our laser focus is on establishing Zambia as a global mining destination. We have also set ourselves the target of producing three million tonnes of copper by 2030. Barrick is a key strategic partner on this journey,” said the Head of State.

Since Barrick took over operations at Lumwana in 2019, the mine has contributed almost US \$3 billion to the Zambian economy in the form of taxes, royalties, salaries and the procurement of goods and services



HICKS SIKAZWE ON THE PLATFORM



Support BRICS without delay!

By January 2024, two more African countries, Ethiopia and Egypt, will join an economic bloc called BRICS—a motley of states currently comprising, Brazil, India, Russia, China and South Africa. Outside Africa, other nations that were announced as invited at an August gathering in South Africa were Argentina, Saudi Arabia, Iran and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

When BRICS was formed in 2009, South Africa was the first member country from the continent. Thus the expansion to three member states from Africa has not only been welcomed by many economic commentators but is a very significant move for a region long marginalized while seeking rapid economic development.

The six invitees will formally be admitted next January to the expanding economic block during a summit to be held in the Russian town of Kazan, as the conference will be chaired by Russian strongman Vladimir Putin, who could not attend the South Africa meeting.

because of an arrest order by the International Court of Justice (ICJ). Putin addressed the gathering virtually.

The leaders who met in Sandton, South Africa reaffirmed that the decision to invite more countries to join the development bloc was to strengthen cooper-

ation, promote peace, and a foster more representative economic order. The group further aspired for a reinvigorated and reformed multilateral system, sustainable development and inclusive growth.

Under the theme BRICS and Africa

That arrangement has ultimately stagnated development or driven the poor countries into even deeper quagmires. That is why at the South African summit in August, leaders did not only recognize the need to foster development in an environment of peace but noted:



BRICS was formally created to counter what has been perceived as a Western-driven development mode where most developing countries were either marginalized or tied to unending aid by multilateral countries and institutions.

Partnership for Mutually Accelerated Growth, Sustainable Development and Inclusive Multilateralism, the countries called for greater representation of emerging markets and developing countries in international organisations, according to a news site SDG Knowledge HUB.

COUNTER

BRICS was formally created to counter what has been perceived as a Western-driven development mode where most developing countries were either marginalized or tied to unending aid by multilateral countries and institutions.



International tourists flocking to Zambia in greater numbers...

BY DERRICK SILIMINA

International tourist arrivals in Zambia increased to 605,650 in the first half of the year, compared to 496,456 in the corresponding period of 2022. Also on the up were domestic visits to tourism sites which increased to 301,758 in 2022 from 235,392 in 2021, according to the Ministry of Tourism.



Victoria Falls

Some Some tour operators say this is due to a Government waiver of visa requirements for visitors, coupled with robust marketing of the country and other measures after the COVID-19 pandemic.

This development has inspired hoteliers and lodge owners who are taking advantage of the growing momentum in their quest to boost their business.

“Business is now booming in terms of

room occupancy as compared to the time COVID-19 was in full swing. For instance, all rooms here get fully booked by mid-day, a situation that was almost impossible for the lodge during the pandemic,” said Grace Tembo, a Manager at Chinamanongo Lodge, situated near the Inter-city Bus Terminus in Lusaka.

Traders are also cashing in from the rebounding of the sector.

“I anticipate more sales of my artworks

following the increase in international tourists at the cultural village. This place has always remained a pillar of our industry considering that most of our buyers are tourists who come to sample our curios,” said Victor Kakoma, a sculptor based at Kabwata Cultural Village in Lusaka.

AIRLINES

Recently, Zambia has witnessed the introduction of Lam-Mozambican Airlines

into Lusaka as well as the re-introduction of Turkish Airlines. Similarly, Zambia's local airline operators have now extended their flights into the region, making the country more connected.

Air passenger traffic has gained momentum and is expected to recover to pre-COVID-19 levels by mid-2024 as the tourism sector was one of the worst hit by the effects of the pandemic, recording its worst performance in 20 years.

In the first half of 2022, the Zambia Airports Corporation Limited (ZACL) served 679,177 passengers compared to 289,392 over the same period in 2021, with 335,245 in 2020 and 863,508 in 2019.

The passenger statistics in the first half of 2022 represent a combined recovery of 79 per cent to pre-pandemic levels, compared to recovery levels of 34 per cent in 2021 and 39 per cent in 2020.

Aviation experts say the four ZACL international airports and 10 domestic airports now serve six scheduled domestic destinations, 12 international destinations serviced by three domestic airlines, and 12 international airlines. The developments added towards transforming Kenneth Kaunda International Airport into an aviation hub in the SADC region.

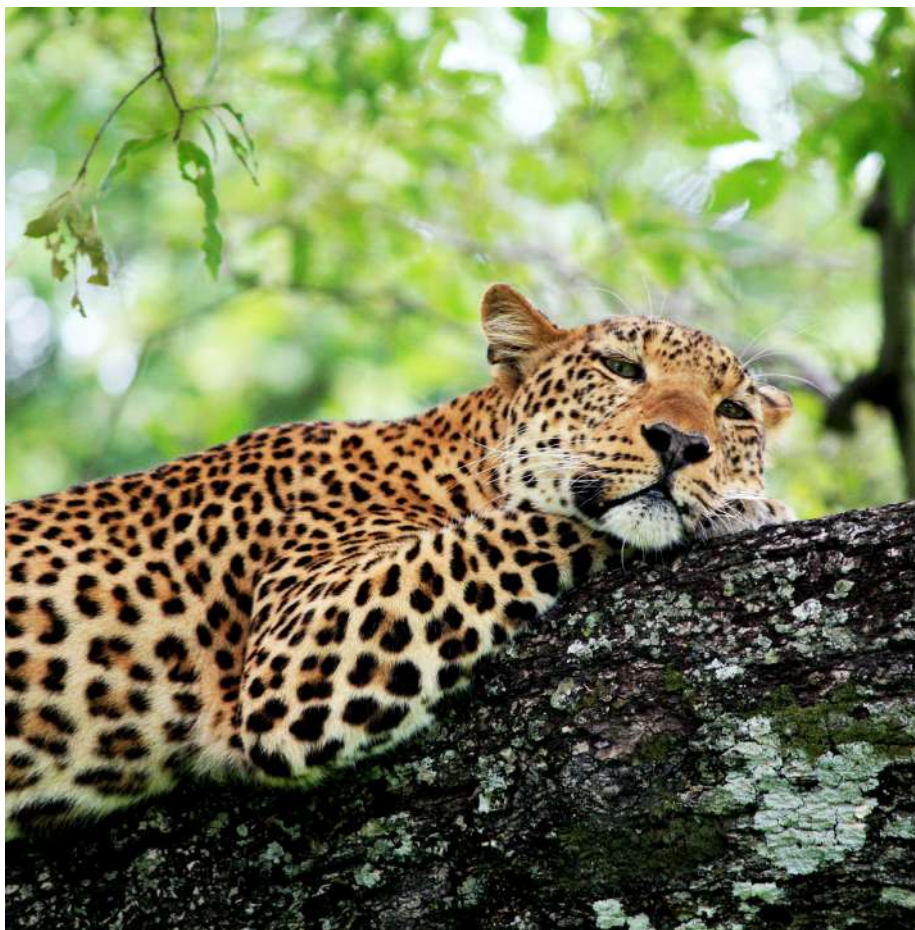
RELAXATION

The relaxation of COVID-19 control measures including the removal of the PCR test requirements earlier this year by the Ministry of Health has spurred increased travel into Zambia.

ZACL Acting Managing Director Maggie Kaunda says inbound tourism and business are key drivers of passenger numbers in the country which is why maintaining service-level agreements with airlines is critical to recovery and customer satisfaction. "The corporation is confident that the new infrastructure in Lusaka and Ndola will help in the provision of world-class airport and air navigation services aimed at enhancing the passenger experience," Kaunda said recently in a statement.

FEES

Opening the Third Session of the Thirteenth National Assembly recently, President Hakainde Hichilema explained



South Luangwa National Park

Air passenger traffic has gained momentum and is expected to recover to pre-COVID-19 levels by mid-2024 as the tourism sector was one of the worst hit by the effects of the pandemic, recording its worst performance in 20 years.

that retention fees for tourism enterprises had been abolished to reduce the cost of doing business.

He said tourism would boost the number of jobs in the country as the sector had continued to register positive growth after the pandemic, "We encourage more of our people to visit our national parks, museums, heritage and other tourist sites to enjoy our beautiful country. We also call upon tour operators to design packages that are affordable for ordinary Zambians. We encourage the tour operators to consider making pro-

visions that allow the elderly and differently-abled to as well visit these tourist sites."





Charles Chilengi

Trident Wildlife Sanctuary Large Scale Mining and Biodiversity Stewardship Model

Wildlife conservation is among the priority activities undertaken by First Quantum Minerals (FQM) under its corporate social responsibilities.

As a company that appreciates the importance and value of a balanced ecosystem, FQM acknowledges that good wildlife management has the potential for enormous ecological and economic benefits.

A balanced ecosystem provides services and products for the benefit of both animal and vegetation life. Such benefits include eco-tourism, food, medicines and ensures the inflow of clean water into rivers

To support wildlife conservation, FQM signed memorandum of understanding with the Department of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPW) and the Forestry Department to provide logistical and infrastructure support in the restora-



Pangolin

tion and management of the West Lunga Game Management Area. Support includes law enforcement, creation of conservation awareness and promoting entrepreneurship activities such as ecotourism and honey production. The MoU also includes promotion of responsible cutting of trees for charcoal burning and carpentry.

Internally, FQM has created a protected wildlife sanctuary with 12 species of wild animals that have been confined for breeding purposes. The animals are later offloaded into game management areas once the numbers increase. The company also has a deliberate deforestation control method in which for each tree cut down, two are replanted. This progressive rehabilitation program is

supported by a plant nursery on which significant resources are committed with a sole purpose of improving end of mine life liability.

Charles Chilengi is a Wildlife Monitoring Officer at the Trident Wildlife Sanctuary (TWS) located at FQM Trident in Kalumbila. Charles began his conservation career in 2010 under Trident Foundation Limited (TFL) which is a subsidiary of FQM-Trident Limited which was established as a non-for-profit organisation to carry out corporate social investment (CSI) programs for communities surrounding the mine. Charles is from the local community and joined the conservation program at the initial stage of mining development, when conservation was co-opted to be managed alongside large scale mining at FQM Trident. His daily role is to supervise a team of field staff that monitors the sanctuary, looking out for illegal and destructive activities that threaten the wildlife and its habitat. In order to enhance anti-poaching and law enforcement for the protection of the sanctuary, Charles and his team have all been gazetted by the Zambian Department of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPW) as honorary wildlife police officers in addition to the frequent joint operations that are carried out in collaboration with DNPW.

Initially, before the conservation program, TWS and the surrounding area had no significant wildlife population mainly due to poaching that left the area with scanty populations of small animals such as birds, snakes, primates and squirrels.

Furthermore, the conservation efforts at TWS have created a safe and conducive environment for rare and endangered wildlife species such as the ground horn bill and the endemic tree pangolin whose populations are now thriving. This safe wildlife haven created at TWS has also attracted migrating elephant herds that are traversing historical corridors.

Important to note is that passionate local persons like Charles and his team have been intimately involved in the success of the wildlife conservation initiative at FQM Trident.

The conservation program at FQM Trident is a model that demonstrates the coexistence of large scale mining and biodiversity stewardship.

Women's cooperative aims for countrywide rice sales

By JOHN CHOLA



Maggie Mubili Chairlady of Musangezhi Cooperative (L) with a member of the Cooperative

The Musangezhi Cooperative in Kalumbila District has become a major local producer of rice.

Having started in 2000, with one hectare of rice and armed with only hoes and traditional pestles and mortars in the year, the now better-equipped cooperative currently produces between 20 to 25 50kg bags.

The cooperative was established in 1999 by 25 members of a local church who sought a way out of their financial challenges and to end child malnutrition around Musangezhi. The church organized fundraising activities throughout the year, including women-led initiatives of baking scones and knitting garments which they then sold to the community. They later ventured into planting groundnuts which they sold and also incorporated into feeding programmes for malnourished children.

Upon realizing that their land was fertile and had notable water bodies with a favourable rain pattern, the cooperative decided to venture into rice farming in addition to groundnut production. With the money generated

from selling groundnuts, they bought rice seeds and quickly launched into rice farming.

In 2000 the cooperative planted rice on one hectare of land. After harvesting the crop, they processed the rice using traditional pestles and mortars which was a long and strenuous process.

RICE POLISHING

Between 2019 and 2020, the cooperative approached Trident Foundation Limited (TFL) for a loan to purchase a rice polishing machine. Their application was approved and they were awarded K42,000 for the acquisition of the machine. This new piece of equipment made their work easier, faster, and more efficient. As the cooperative recorded meaningful profits, the women were able to pay back the loan in a record nine months.

The current production rate of 25 50kg bags of rice from one hectare translates into a profit of at least

K18,000. The cooperative generates further income from offering rice polishing services to other farmers who are not members of the cooperative.

The rice polisher has also contributed to the quality of the rice. Through business improvement training from TFL, the cooperative has learnt to package and brand their rice to make it more competitive on the market.

Apart from being able to provide the basic necessities for their families, the cooperative has also managed to fight malnutrition in their community. The female members of the cooperative are no longer completely dependent on their spouses as they now earn an income.

INCREASE PRODUCTION

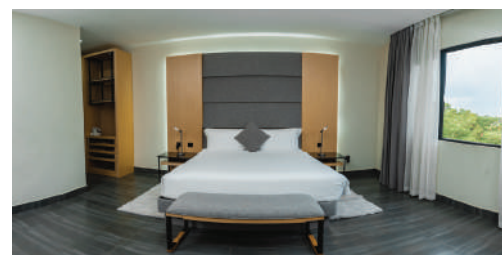
The cooperative, which has grown in number to 43, with 32 being women and 19 men, is working to increase the number of hectares for rice farming to increase production and be able to supply country-wide.

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Kansanshi junior golfers in K20,000 gift

BY SOLWEZI TODAY REPORTER

International Facilities Services (IFS), a catering services company at FQM Kansanshi Mining Plc, has donated K20,000 to the Kansanshi Junior Golf Foundation Club.



IFS Operations Executive Joel Berger (middle) handing over a K20,000 dummy Cheque to Kansanshi Junior Golf Club coach Aaron Simfukwe (left) and 10-year-old Eli Manuel Morgan.

IFS Operations Executive Joel Berger said the company decided to donate to help enhance and grow the sport among children. Berger also expressed his gratitude to Kansanshi Mine for providing the opportunity to grow the sport among the local youth, “We are committed to what is happening here because there is a strong presence of junior golf and IFS decided to make a contribution that can help the junior golf foundation because junior golf is close to my heart.”

Kansanshi Junior Golf Foundation Head Coach Aaron Simfukwe said the club currently has 70 children and plans to

recruit more young golfers from the nearby schools in Solwezi.

“We are going to have many kids, probably into next year. Playing golf has many benefits for children, including keeping them out of vices and teaching them good manners.”

On behalf of the young players, 10-year-old Eli Manuel Morgan thanked IFS for contributing to the development of junior golf. “I’m glad we received this K20,000 because there haven’t been many junior golf events,” Morgan said. He added that the support would enable more children to start playing golf and

eventually become professional golfers.

The donation from IFS is a major boost for the Kansanshi Junior Golf Foundation Club and will help the club continue its work of promoting the sport among young people in the region.

In November last year, the mining company roped more than 90 children into a one-day junior golf tournament at the Kansanshi golf course. With four competitor categories, the event also drew children from an orphanage sponsored by the mining company.

Stanbic crosses financial literacy to NAPSA Stars

By **STUART LISULO**

Stanbic Bank sees a need for professional sportsmen and women to be financially savvy during their prime to avoid becoming destitute after their careers.



Chiwala Shichilaba speaks to NAPSA FC players in Lusaka

Speaking during a Financial Fitness Academy session organized for National Pensions and Savings Authority (NAPSA) Football Club players in Lusaka recently, Stanbic Bank Manager for Personal Markets Boyd Kambidima said professional sportsmen and women should be mindful that their careers had relatively short lifespans. “It is exciting for us to partner with NAPSA Stars beyond sports. We are alive to the fact that a player’s shelf life on the football pitch is, but for a limited time. And this is the time they also have to make sound decisions regarding their investments to prepare for life beyond the pitch.”

“As a Bank, we deemed it fit to reach out to the players and provide financial fitness sessions that we trust will help them to understand the array of financial markets available that will assist them to invest their resources prudently,” Kambidima added.

Stanbic Bank Zambia Head-Anakazi Banking Chiwala Shichilaba advised the soccer stars to have realistic and feasible budgets that can enable them to remain financially solvent long after their careers are over.

In a vote of thanks, the NAPSA Stars

Team Manager Chizengu Lukama stated that the team had received the session

“It is exciting for us to partner with NAPSA Stars beyond sports. We are alive to the fact that a player’s shelf life on the football pitch is, but for a limited time. And this is the time they also have to make sound decisions regarding their investments to prepare for life beyond the pitch”



Some of the players follow the FFA during the intensive one-day workshop at the Stanbic Yamene Leadership Centre in Lusaka's Kabulonga area (Photos: Stanbic Bank Zambia)

with great enthusiasm and that the players were excited to learn of the many opportunities available for investments that they could explore.

As part of Stanbic’s ongoing efforts to promote financial literacy, the bank runs a Financial Fitness Academy (FFA) aimed at providing its staff and customers with the skills and knowledge to manage personal finances and achieve financial goals.

Since the launch of the Financial Fitness Academy, Stanbic Bank has trained employees from several notable organizations such as Chilanga Cement, and Zambia Sugar as well as for the differently-abled persons of the Bauleni Special Needs Project.

NAPSA Stars Football Club is a Lusaka-based club and currently competing in Zambia’s MTN Super League. It is sponsored by the National Pensions Scheme Authority (NAPSA), with Stanbic Bank being a part sponsor.

While the Club is yet to win a league title, NAPSA Stars are two-time winners of the Absa Cup, having picked up the prestigious league cup back in 2012 when it was known as the “Barclays Cup” and in 2022 while in Division One.

25 August 2023



FQM Trident Talent Fair draws contractors and local business

FQM Trident Limited hosted its inaugural Talent Fair on August 25th and 26th. The primary objective of this event was to create a forum for FQM Trident Limited, its affiliated contractors, and local businesses in Kalumbila to present

their respective activities and outline the specific qualifications and skills needed for their operations. Additionally, FQM Trident utilised this occasion to provide coaching and guidance on CV writing and interview preparation for prospective job applicants. The event encouraged qualified individuals to submit their CVs for potential future employment opportunities. The event attracted over 2000 attendees who had the unique opportunity to engage with various departments within the organisation and its partnering contractors.

26th September 2023

CNMC injects US\$1.3 billion into Luanshya mine.

China Nonferrous Metal Mining Group Corporation (CNMC) Chairman, Xi Zhengping, announced that they will invest \$1.3 billion in Zambia over the next five years to improve mining and add value to resources like copper. This investment is expected to create about 1,500 new jobs and will fund projects including a \$600 million upgrade of Shaft 28 in the Luanshya Copper Mine and corporate social responsibility initiatives.



6th September 2023

Mexico decriminalises abortion

As part of a growing trend in Latin America, Mexico's Supreme Court has made the significant decision to throw out all federal criminal penalties for abortion, ruling that national laws against abortion are unconstitutional and in violation of women's rights. This means that abortion will no longer be considered a crime in Mexico at the federal level. The ruling further requires federal health institutions to provide abortion services to anyone who requests them.

26th September 2023

Zambia find shows humans have been building for almost 500,000 years

Archaeologists in Zambia have made a remarkable discovery near Africa's Kalambo River: two logs from a large-fruited bushwillow tree, modified with stone tools, that were assembled around 476,000 years ago. These ancient artefacts provide evidence of early humans, who came before our species, creating wooden structures. This finding challenges the idea that early humans of that time were solely nomadic hunters and gatherers, suggesting that they had the ingenuity to build things.

5 September 2023

Vedanta reinstated as owner of Konkola Copper Mine, ending four years of sparring



Indian mining company, Vedanta, is regaining control of Zambia's Konkola Copper Mines (KCM) four years after losing it amid accusations of insufficient investment levelled against them by the government in 2019. As part of the deal, Vedanta will invest \$1 billion over five years to revive the mines, located in the Copperbelt region.

This move is part of Zambia's efforts to boost mining investment and increase copper production. The Copperbelt mines, although costly to operate, are important due to their high-quality copper reserves, which are in high demand for clean energy and electrification projects worldwide.

24th September 2023

WGA and major Hollywood studios reach tentative agreement

Major film and TV studios and the Writers Guild of America (WGA), have reached a tentative agreement to end a nearly five-month-long strike of writers in Hollywood. The strike had a significant economic impact, costing over \$5 billion and affecting various industries. While the strike isn't over immediately, WGA has suspended picketing, and members may return to work soon.



Top 3 Ways in which Digital Solution Tools can Help Grow Your Business

Mildred Bwalya Chica,
General Manager - Enterprise Business,
MTN Zambia



In today's digital age, businesses constantly seek ways to adapt, innovate, and grow. Integrating digital solution tools can be a game-changer whether you are a small startup or an established enterprise. Gartner reports that on a global scale, 91% of businesses are engaged in some form of digital initiative, and 87% of senior business leaders say digitalization is a priority. However, Zambia's adoption of digital tools lags behind.

Entrepreneurs in Zambia must embrace technology for business growth in a competitive market. One powerful catalyst for positive change and growth in this context is the telecommunications sector. As MTN Business Zambia, we offer digital connectivity solutions and tools that enable businesses and entrepreneurs to maximize their growth potential and do business better. This is why we launched the **Y'ello Biz** App to fulfil this commitment and empower small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

The app is the country's first business directory offering ICT solutions to connect local businesses with consumers. With a strong focus on digital inclusion, the app holds immense potential for transforming the landscape for SMEs as it delivers innovative business solutions that encompass digital tools, communication resources, and data-driven insights.

Digital tools offer many benefits that can boost efficiency, enhance customer engagement, and ultimately drive business growth. Let's explore the top three ways to achieve this.

1. Streamlined Operations for Increased Efficiency

Efficiency is the cornerstone of a successful business. It allows you to do more with less, and it's essential for staying competitive in today's fast-paced market. Digital solution tools can help you streamline your operations, making day-to-day tasks more manageable and freeing up valuable time and resources. Here are just a few ways:



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Automated Processes: Digital solutions automate tasks such as data entry, invoicing, and inventory management. This reduces the likelihood of errors, speeds up workflows, and allows your team to focus on more strategic activities.

Centralized Data: Digital tools often provide a centralized platform where you can manage various aspects of your business, from customer data to financial records. This accessibility ensures critical information is at your fingertips, enabling quick and informed decision-making.

Improved Communication: Collaboration tools and cloud-based solutions enhance communication among your team members and with your customers, regardless of their location. This facilitates efficient teamwork and customer service, leading to faster execution of business initiatives.

2. Enhanced Customer Engagement and Loyalty

A business's operations strategy should consider the market, the customer, the process, and the resources. Building strong customer relationships is essential for business growth in today's competitive marketplace. Digital solutions can help you engage with customers more effectively and foster loyalty. Here's how:

Real-time Feedback: Online surveys, social media monitoring, and review platforms allow you to gather real-time customer feedback. This feedback loop helps you understand customer needs and concerns, enabling you to improve and enhance their experience.

Omnichannel Presence: Digital solutions enable businesses to maintain a consistent presence across multiple channels, including websites, social media, and mobile apps. This ensures that customers can interact with your brand wherever they prefer, leading to increased engagement.

3. Informed Decision-Making Through Data Insights

Digital solution tools provide access to robust data analytics and reporting capabilities, allowing you to make informed decisions. Here's how:

Data Analytics: Digital tools can analyze large datasets to uncover trends, patterns, and correlations. This information can guide strategic decisions regarding product development, pricing strategies, and market expansion.

Performance Metrics: Key performance indicators (KPIs) are essential for tracking your business's performance. Digital solutions offer customizable dashboards and reports that provide real-time visibility into your KPIs, helping you measure progress towards your goals.

The possibilities are limitless in this digital age. From streamlined operations to enhanced customer engagement and data-driven decision-making, technology advancement and digital business solutions are shaping the future of commerce. Adopting digital solution tools is no longer a choice but a necessity, and I am excited to see what the future holds for Zambian businesses. I am confident that digital solutions will play a vital role in helping businesses succeed in the future.



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