

MONTHLY BUSINESS NEWS MAGAZINE

SOLWEZI

T O D A Y

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**Chief Kapijimpanga
receives mineral -
rich sceptre**

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FIRST QUANTUM
MINERALS LTD.

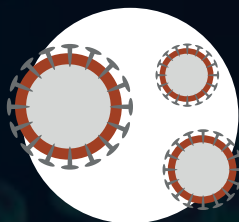
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THROUGH DROPLETS



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REMAIN IN THE AIR



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THE VIRUS

THE SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19



DRY COUGH



FEVER



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CHIEF Kapijimpanga's domain in Solwezi recently received 530 species of fruit, timber and other trees from Nshima Towers Limited who have been actively engaging the communities in agriculture, education and health programmes.



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Saluting Kapijimpanga for social, industrial harmony...

ALL investment is about people, and investors that acknowledge the local populations and their leaders usually succeed in paving the way to meaningful industrial rewards.

Kansanshi Mining Plc in Solwezi has kept its host communities abreast with its business programmes and continues to make substantial investments in sustainable livelihoods within the communities. This has a positive impact on the quality of life in the area.

This time, the company has honoured Chief Kapijimpanga with a scepter, a symbol of royal authority, crafted by his own subjects from copper and other local minerals. In response, the chief has pointed out the historical value of the scepter to upcoming generations in his domain.

There is possibly no more profound way to honour a traditional leader than to present him with a royal scepter because such symbols of power complete the sense of authority of the royal throne. Royal authority worldwide is expressed primarily by a throne, a diadem and a scepter, which makes the Kansanshi Mining Plc gift remarkable.

Such harmony as enjoyed by the chief and the investor is what all business ventures need because ultimately investment is not only about having sufficient capital and running efficiently.

Profitability is about holding hands with the local people and their leaders and working with them for the greater good.



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Tristan Pascall Is FQM Chief Operating Officer

BY JOHN CHOLA

FORMER Kalumbila Minerals Limited (KML) Assistant General Manager, Tristan Pascall is the new First Quantum Minerals Limited Chief Operating Officer.

The global miner announced the appointment of Pascall as Chief Operating Officer, effective January 1, 2021.

In a statement, FQM raised Director of Strategy, Pascall to the position of Chief Operating Officer and said long-time president Clive Newall would now step back from an executive role but remain a Director.

Pascall has been with First Quantum for over 13 years, having joined in July 2007.

Since then, he has worked in metal trading and on project construction and operations assignments in Zambia; from the initial development of the Sentinel Mine of Kalumbila District in North-Western Province.

He has recently been General Manager of the Cobre Panama Mine from the start of the project in October 2015

until January 2020, after which he has retained oversight responsibility and served as Director of Strategy based in London.

Pascall graduated from the University of Western Australia with a Bachelor of Engineering (Hons) and Bachelor of Commerce in 1997 and completed an MBA at INSEAD in France in 2005.

After approximately eight years in corporate finance and investment banking largely to resources and industrials industry clients in Australia, Eastern Europe and Asia, he joined First Quantum.

Newall co-founded FQM in 1996 and has been President and a Director of the Company since its inception.

“He will continue to serve the company in a non-executive capacity through the transition. Clive, as President and a founder of First Quantum, has been with our company longer than anyone.

His wisdom and support through the many challenges and difficulties over the past twenty-five years have been a crucial ingredient in our development and success.

“I am very pleased that he will continue, as a consultant and director, to provide us with his ideas and counsel,” Philip Pascall, Chief Executive Officer and Chairman, said in a statement released by Lisa Doddridge, Director, Investor Relations.

“The appointment of Tristan as Chief Operating Officer reflects the next stage in the journey for First Quantum and paves the way for the next generation of leaders. With the extensive company knowledge gained by Tristan over the past 13 years, he is well-placed to serve in this role and I am confident that he will provide the talent and leadership to take the company forward,” Newall said.

Solwezi Today Magazine bags two media awards

BY DERRICK SILIMINA

SOLWEZI Today, a monthly Zambian owned business news publication, has scooped the 2019 Expo North West Most Consistent Media Award.



NORTH-Western Province Minister Nathaniel Mubukwanu gives awards to Suma Systems Solwezi Branch Manager Peter Musunka. – Pictures by Derrick Silimina.

During the Expo North West awards ceremony held at Solwezi Lodge recently, the publication was also presented with the Minister's Award in recognition of its coverage of developmental, social and economic activities in North-Western Province and other areas in Zambia and beyond.

The corporate-based news magazine whose coverage range includes the mining industry, mining support sectors, energy, hospitality business, banking, agriculture, arts, sport and tourism, featured prominently during the awards ceremony and walked away with the two honours.

Publishers, Suma Systems Group Managing Editor, Martin Musunka said for the management and staff at Suma Systems, it had been a long, long walk uphill to bring Solwezi Today, the firm's flagship publication, to where it is now.

The delayed media awards gala followed the successful hosting of the first-ever North West Expo under the theme Unveiling the Hidden Treasures which was held at Solwezi's City Mall in August 18-24 in 2019.

LONG WALK

Publishers, Suma Systems Group Managing Editor, Martin Musunka said for the management and staff at Suma Systems, it had been a long, long walk uphill to bring Solwezi Today, the firm's flagship publication, to where it is now.

Musunka saluted all those who, from the publishing concern's small begin-

nings to this day, had worked in the ambit of the organisation and helped shape the monthly periodical that was now becoming a household name in Zambia.

“On behalf of my treasured colleagues and indeed on my own behalf, allow me to express my heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to the adjudicators who saw it fit to honour Solwezi Today with two accolades at the Expo North-West Media Awards. It is no small matter that the publication has been recognised as the Most Consistent Media and also been accorded the Minister’s Award. We shall forever remain thankful for this truly encouraging and inspiring recognition.

Be assured that these awards will spur us to raise the bar and aim higher qualitatively in all respects of our operations,” Musunka said.

Zambia National Broadcasting Corporation (ZNBC) was on hand to receive the Best Coverage Media Award while Solwezi FCC Radio scooped the Best Local Station Award.

Times of Zambia staffer Rackson Shamatuku won the Best Print Media Journalist Award while ZNBC’s Brian Mulamba won the Best Television Journalist Award and the Best Radio Journalist Award went to Kimber Chibolya.

Best Blogger Award was scooped by First Quantum Minerals’ freelance blogger Samuel Limande Kapolesa and Creavat Chituta from the National Agriculture Information Service (NAIS) walked away with the North Western Chamber of Commerce Journalist of the Year Award while Anthony Tapa from Solwezi FCC Radio scooped the Atlas Mara-sponsored Most Promising Young Journalist Award.

RECOGNISED

North Western Province Minister Nathaniel Mubukwanu said the North West Media Awards ceremony shall be recorded in the annals of history as a day on which deserving media institutions and personalities were recognised for their outstanding contributions towards the hosting of the Expo.

“We are highly indebted to the media fraternity for their tireless work



MUBUKWANU confers with Peter Musunka.

Kafuta paid glowing tribute to staff and management at Suma Systems for their professionalism as the magazine was known for its high-quality content, international standard of presentation and in a class of its own when it comes to its business news reportage.

in marketing the Expo without whose active involvement, the Expo dream would have been farfetched,” Mubukwanu said.

The provincial minister affirmed that the awarded media institutions and personalities played a pivotal role in marketing the Expo and produced high quality and accurate stories that held prominence in promoting North-Western Province as a premiere investment hub in the country.

He said that the 2019 North West Expo registered 1,094 delegates and exhibitors with 124 media personalities who covered the event and attracted participants from Angola, Australia, Botswana,

China, Japan, Pakistan, South Africa, Eswatini, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda, United States of America, United Kingdom and Zimbabwe.

The aim of the Expo was to attract and stimulate investment in various sectors of the economy and was envisaged to promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and foster intervention while fulfilling Zambia’s vision and aspiration to attain the Vision 2030.

Speaking on the sidelines of the media awards gala, North Western Chamber of Commerce President Mukumbi Kafuta congratulated Solwezi Today magazine for emerging winner of two prestigious media awards. The development was a true reflection of the media entity’s consistency in terms of its wide publicity.

Kafuta paid glowing tribute to staff and management at Suma Systems for their professionalism as the magazine was known for its high-quality content, international standard of presentation and in a class of its own when it comes to its business news reportage.

“I think it is one of the best magazines because it goes deep down to dig very interesting business news and that is done very consistently and it keeps the country up-to date in terms of business and current affairs,” Kafuta said.

Chief Kapijimpanga receives mineral-rich sceptre



FIRST QUANTUM
MINERALS LTD.

BY JOHN MUBAMBE

KANSANSHI Mining Plc recently delivered a royal sceptre to Chief Kapijimpanga of the Kaonde people of Solwezi to express its appreciation of the rapport between the mine and the royal establishment.



CHIEF Kapijimpanga (left) receives the royal sceptre from Kansanshi Mining Plc General Manager Anthony Mukutuma.



FROM left to right: Bruce Lewis (CSR Manager), Chief Kapijimpanga and Kansanshi Mining Plc General Manager Anthony Mukutuma captured at Kapijimpanga Palace.

The body corporate says it values its excellent relationship with the Kapijimpanga Royal Establishment which has enhanced social cohesion with the host community.

Kansanshi Mining Plc General Manager Anthony Mukutuma presented the locally made royal sceptre to Chief Kapijimpanga at his palace.

The royal scepter was crafted by Nsan-

Kansanshi Mining Plc General Manager Anthony Mukutuma presented the locally made royal sceptre to Chief Kapijimpanga at his palace.

shi Art, an all-women run jewelry shop run by the mine in Solwezi, out of minerals existent in the chiefdom.

Mukutuma, accompanied by his Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Manager, Bruce Lewis and other mine officials, explained that the sceptre's substance signified the mining company's exceptional relationship with the leadership of Chief Kapijimpanga.

In receiving the sceptre, Chief Kapijim-



CHIEF Kapijimpanga holds the royal sceptre given to him by Kansanshi Mining Plc General Manager Anthony Mukutuma.



NSANSI Art Jewelry teacher Michelle Scholtz explains features of the royal sceptre to Chief Kapijimpanga as Kansanshi Mining Plc General Manager Anthony Mukutuma looks on.



A MEMORABLE moment for Michele Scholtz, the jewelry teacher, as she poses for a photograph with Chief Kapijimpanga at his palace.



CHIEF Kapijimpanga (left) embraces Kansanshi Mining Plc General Manager Anthony Mukutuma, in a show of brotherhood that has resulted in a symbiotic relation between Kapijimpanga Chiefdom and Kansanshi Mine.

panga expressed gratitude for the precious gift which he said would become a remarkable possession for his family and the entire Kapijimpanga Royal Establishment.

“This sceptre is for our history as it represents our heritage. The children yet to be born will also find this historic gift which will be used to guide them, going forward,” said Chief Kapijimpanga.

He explained that the royal sceptre,

crafted from copper sourced from Kansanshi Mine, symbolized the peace and unity prevailing between Kansanshi Mining Plc and the Kapijimpanga Royal Establishment.

“We have no words to express our gratitude for receiving this product delivered in appreciation of our mutual relationship that we have had with you. We value it very much,” he said.

The traditional leader also thanked

Kansanshi Mine management for its support in traditional matters, fostering an environment conducive to job creation and community projects that had tangibly contributed to the well-being of the chiefdom.

Michele Scholtz, the jewelry teacher and the crafters of the scepter, Nanah Mulumba, Chunga Kanyakula, and Venna Mukwala, also accompanied Mukutuma.

Kansanshi Mine GM counsels Solwezi orphans

BY JOHN MUBAMBE

KANSANSHI Mining Plc General Manager, Anthony Mukutuma has made a passionate appeal to orphans in Solwezi to surmount their challenges and carve out a bright future through hard work as they pursue their educational goals.



KANSANSHI Mining Plc General Manager Anthony Mukutuma (background) with some of the orphans during the Christmas Party.

Speaking when the mining company held its annual Christmas party for orphans from five orphanages at Kansanshi Community Centre recently, Mukutuma recognised the vulnerability status of orphans and prodded them to work hard in transforming themselves into responsible citizens.

In addressing the orphans drawn from Kilelabalanda, Emmanuel, Salvation International Ministry, Gilgal, and EphziZimba orphanages, Mukutuma was emphatic in advising them that leading a prosperous future was possible, only if they worked hard in their endeavours.

“There is hope of achieving a prosper-

ous future if you work hard,” Mukutuma advised.

He acknowledged the importance of love and care for the vulnerable children and that the Kansanshi Christmas spirit was anchored on the essence of love for everyone.



Bertha Kiwala

In addressing the orphans drawn from Kilelabalanda, Emmanuel, Salvation International Ministry, Gilgal, and EphiZimba orphanages, Mukutuma was emphatic in advising them that leading a prosperous future was possible, only if they worked hard in their endeavours.

always remember to study, pray, work hard and prepare their lives for a prosperous future.

Salvation International Ministry Apostle Bertha Kiwala advised the vulnerable children to place the Christian principle as a priority for spiritual guidance.

“I was also a vulnerable child after I lost my father when I was in grade one but I chose to be a Christian in grade five. When you know God, then He will direct your ways and everything shall be possible for you,” said Apostle Kiwala.

She appealed to the vulnerable children to obey their foster parents, teachers and all those that are responsible for taking care of them.

In a vote of thanks, Ponda Lusambo, from EphiZimba Orphanage expressed gratitude to Kansanshi Mine management for choosing to spend the special moment with them.

Lusambo, a grade 11 pupil at Kyawama Secondary School hailed Kansanshi Mine for creating a joyful moment of remembering the vulnerable children.

“We are happy as vulnerable children for bringing us together as one family. May God bless you for the big role you have taken as our parent,” said Lusambo.

The Christmas event was jointly sponsored by Kansanshi Mining Plc, Northwestern Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Fortune World Investments, and Ultron Engineering.



MUKUTUMA addresses vulnerable children during the 2020 Christmas party held at Kansanshi Community Centre.

He explained that management at Kansanshi set a high value on the vulnerable children from all the five orphanages hence extending the gesture to show love and care for them.

“Christmas is a time for giving and loving and it is a good time to gather here to show love for each other and share gifts,” he said.

He advised all the vulnerable children to

Public Health Awareness key to copper production in Kalumbila

BY DERRICK SILIMINA



FIRST QUANTUM
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A SENIOR health practitioner has said public health awareness amid the novel coronavirus is key to sustainable mineral production in Kalumbila District.



Kalumbila Minerals Limited (KML) Public Health Superintendent Kahilu Mumba has said a healthy mine workforce and vibrant catchment population are vital for ongoing productivity.

Speaking during a media information sharing meeting held at the Trident Foundation recently, Mumba said before any mining firm starts its operations, baseline studies are conducted to establish health conditions among the communities.

This is done to prevent diseases and promote good health while mitigating the health impact of the mine operations.

He said such vital studies, together with information gathered from the Zambia Health Information Management System, have established the disease burden around the mine projects so as to prevent the spread of communicable diseases.

“Awareness is our business. We want information to be with our people because we know that when people are aware of what a disease is and how to prevent dis-

KML Public Health Superintendent Kahilu Mumba stresses a point.



KML Environmental Superintendent Kanyifwa Goma at the media event.

eases, then you have less people getting into clinics and hospitals,” Kahilu said.

He therefore noted that, under an epidemic such as COVID-19, the mine is assertive in disease surveillance, which explains why the mining company continued with production even when the disease had negatively affected some other economic sectors.

“We were able to pick suspected cases of COVID-19 early, do the swab to know whether people are infected or not,” he said.

Kahilu noted that the same strategy of health awareness, test and treat is applied even to other ailments such as HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis, among others, so that people do not become unproductive.

The mine’s public health team managed to reach out to more than 115,000 people in Kalumbila district with health promotion messages concerning COVID-19, malaria, HIV/AIDS, sexually transmitted diseases and non-communicable diseases.

“We have also gone further to ensure that unnecessary discharges that we can prevent or avoid as far as possible are avoided. For instance, from our concentrate production, we ensure that water from the tailings facility is recycled back into the process plant.”

es. The team further screened 15,306 people (5,376 at workplace and 9,930 at community level).

The company’s Environmental Superintendent Kanyifwa Goma said environmental health, monitoring, and compliance as well as waste management were critical.

“We basically align every environmental management requirement to international standards,” Goma said.

Regarding air pollution and open pit mine effluents, Goma said KML had no smelter as the production line ended at copper concentrate as the final product.

“Our process basically ends at the concentrate production and the mine doesn’t emit any pollutants into the air that are adverse around communities.”

The mine’s robust environmental monitoring system was on point to ensure that whatever was being discharged was within safe limits and met legislative requirements.

“We have also gone further to ensure that unnecessary discharges that we can prevent or avoid as far as possible are avoided. For instance, from our concentrate production, we ensure that water from the tailings facility is recycled back into the process plant.”



CHITIYANG'ENU Women Supervisor Lizzy Kamwai.

Futuristic Kalumbila Mine Empowers women

BY DERRICK SILIMINA

KALUMBILA Minerals Limited (KML) has scaled-up its rehabilitation programme of the nursery of trees in Kalumbila district of North-Western Province in its quest to restore the environment to its natural state.

And in doing so, the mining firm has empowered women to maintain and supply the nursery yard with various indigenous tree plants.

KML Environmental Manager Kachiwala Sapalo told journalists during a media familiarisation tour of the nursery recently that environmental protection was key to sustainable mine operations.

Kamwai noted that before the project, their livelihood was difficult as most women in the area lacked household income to raise their families.

“We established this nursery in 2015 for the purpose of raising indigenous tree seedlings that we use progressively in our mining operations. There are sections of the mining operations that we continuously and progressively must rehabilitate by introducing these indigenous species to reinstate the environment as it naturally was.”

In highlighting the daily activities at the nursery and seedbank, KML Environment Superintendent in charge of mine rehabilitation and monitoring, Frackson Sikita said various species of trees, including local species which can thrive well in their ecological zone are reintroduced.

“We currently have raised over 45,000 plants and our plan is to plant them in areas where they are required for progressive site rehabilitation this wet sea-



ENVIRONMENT Superintendent in charge of mine rehabilitation and monitoring, Frackson Sikita.

son and we work closely with various community members in order to ensure that we have adequate stock of seedlings that are needed year in and year out," Sikita said.

Sikita noted that one of the groups of women that the mining company was working with was from Kankonzhi area and the project is dominated by women who are even able to employ men, when need arises.

He hinted that before the Sentinel Mine was commissioned; management deemed it fit to empower a group of women to ease the mine's rehabilitation efforts.

He said the Chitiyan'genu Community

Cooperative was engaged in 2013 even before the Sentinel pit had started.

"We had a futuristic approach to ensure that when the need for the trees comes, we would have adequate stock and so we started training them on how to raise different types of seedlings in the nursery and the first assignment we gave them was the growing of a certain variety of grass rootstock called Vetiver," he said.

In addition, the mine's Environmental Department helped the women to establish and register their business into a formalised cooperative.

The Chitiyan'genu community cooperative has bought a 30-seater bus to ease

their operations in the field.

Chitiyan'genu women supervisor Lizzy Kamwai paid glowing tribute to the mining firm for the empowerment from inception and explained that through KML's Environmental Department, their group has progressed from strength to strength.

"We only started with 15 members, but we have now even managed to employ five men to help us with our work here at the nursery," she said.

Kamwai noted that before the project, their livelihood was difficult as most women in the area lacked household income to raise their families.

"Through this empowerment, I am able to pay my children's tuition fees at college and university level. We even managed to buy a bus, another indication that we have really progressed through this work," she affirmed.

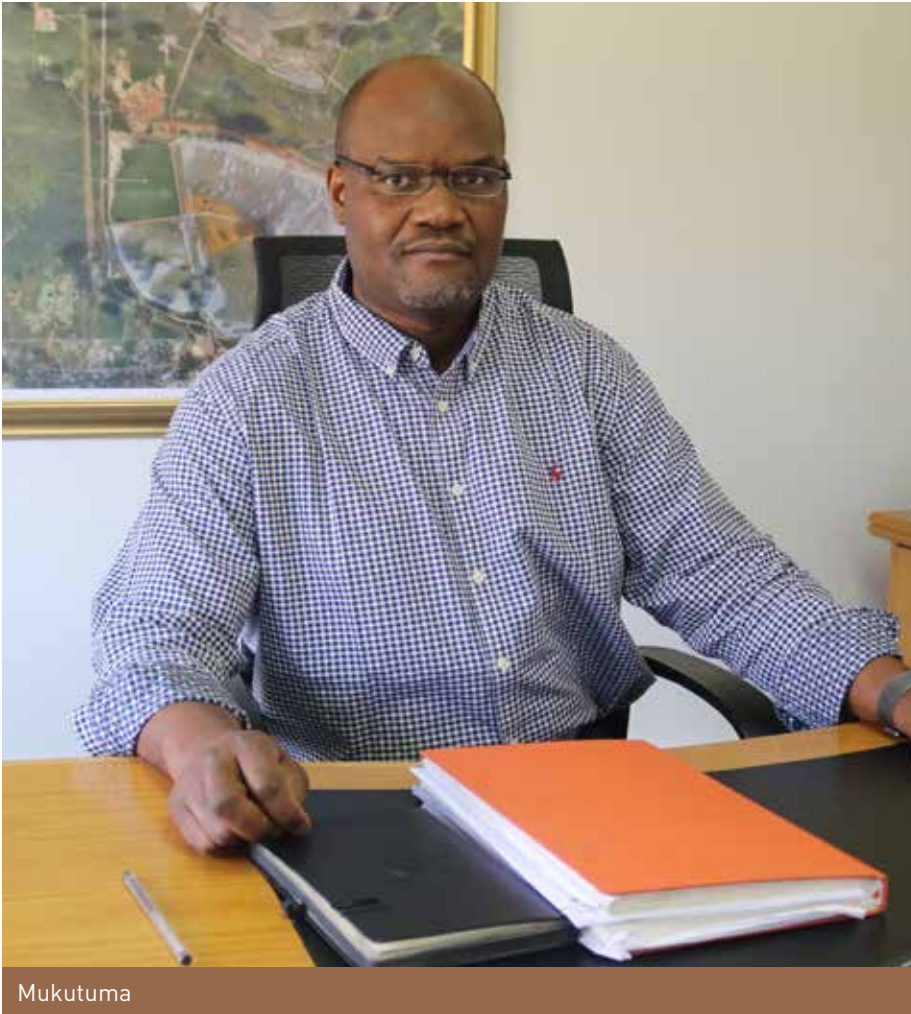
She has urged fellow women to safeguard the environment by desisting from the indiscriminate burning of forests or cutting down trees as the practice will compromise environmental protection in the area.

Kamwai further praised the mining entity's corporate social responsibility (CSR) projects in various communities which are evidently changing people's lives.

Kansanshi Mine salutes labour leaders

BY MARTIN MUSUNKA

KANSANSHI Mining Plc management has saluted labour leaders from five trade unions for the commitment exhibited during the just-ended collective bargaining process for improved conditions of service for the 2,350 unionised workers at the First Quantum Minerals' subsidiary mine.



Mukutuma

The management team from Kansanshi Mining Plc and union leaders from the Mineworkers' Union of Zambia (MUZ), National Union of Mining and Allied Workers (Numaw), United Mineworkers Union of Zambia (UMUZ), Miners and

Allied Workers Union (MAWU) and Consolidated Mining and Allied Workers Union of Zambia (CMAWUZ) agreed to a salary increment of 15 percent for this year and 11 percent for 2022.

The negotiations for the 2021 to 2022

collective agreement which commenced in October 2020 were successfully concluded on Wednesday January 13, 2021 after 13 bargaining sessions.

Kansanshi Mining Plc general manager, Anthony Mukutuma, thanked all the representatives from the five trade unions for the commitment displayed in securing better conditions for their members.

He said the mining company was grateful that union representatives from both branch committees and national executive committees, who sat on the collective bargaining unit (CBU) showed maturity in ensuring that they sealed the best terms and conditions for their members and appreciated their resolve to continue supporting the company's productivity improvement efforts.

"Kansanshi Mining Plc is pleased to announce that it has concluded negotiations for improved conditions of service for the next two years with five trade unions which, collectively, represent 2,350 unionised employees at its mine in Solwezi," Mr Mukutuma said in a statement.

He said management was pleased that a collective bargaining agreement was now in place and that the employees and management can therefore focus on production, supporting local communities and, in view of the Covid-19 pandemic, building business resilience.

Some of the highlights from the agreed conditions of service, are that, the minimum basic salary for the lowest paid employees has been adjusted to K4,460 per month, education allowance has increased to K2,800 per term for 2021 and to K3,108 per term for 2022.

The parties also agreed to introduce a company-sponsored private pension scheme for all employees to which Kansanshi Mining Plc would contribute five percent of an employee's basic salary.



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Zambia will trail DRC in copper production

BY STUART LISULO

ZAMBIA'S copper production is likely to remain below one million tonnes for at least another three years, given the persistent challenges assailing mining companies.

Zambia Chamber of Mines President Goodwell Mateyo has observed that while the marginal increase in copper productivity during 2020 would result in increased foreign exchange earnings, the country was not likely to hit the one million-tonne mark over the medium-term period due to difficulties the 10 large-scale mines still faced.

Recently, Mines Minister Richard Musukwa announced that copper production had increased to 646,111.25 tonnes by September 30, 2020, up from 590,321.13 tonnes in the same corresponding period in 2019, representing an increase of over 55,000 tonnes.

But Mateyo notes that Zambia has lagged behind as Africa's second highest copper producer since the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) surpassed it in 2013 when, for the first time since 1988, it produced 900,000 tonnes of copper.

That development marked a sharp rise in production, and surpassed Zambia's 754,916 tonnes then.

"In my estimates, I don't see us getting to that target in another three years or so because you need to really significantly invest in expansion projects within the operators and with Greenfield mines. Even if significant investment is made to expansion projects for current operations, you'd only be able to realise that at the very least in maybe, three-five years' time," Mateyo has said in an interview.

He observes that Zambia's marginal rise in copper productivity in the three quarters ending September 30, did not reveal the full story of the ongoing operational challenges some mining companies faced.

"Speaking to the production figures, I do know that, as an industry, we are approximately 50-60,000 tonnes higher than we were last year. But it's not the whole story; much of the increased production is coming from one or two mines in North-Western Province.

"If you look at it in terms of all the

mines, most of them have suffered a decline in production. So, it doesn't tell a story with what's happening in the rest of the industry," Mateyo says.

He explains that the majority of mining companies are struggling to ramp up production due to the need to recapitalise their assets, but face difficulties due to Zambia's poor investment climate, characterised by high costs of production.

"A lot of them need to invest into their current operations. But it's difficult to attract investment in this jurisdiction under the current investment climate. Most of the 'old Copperbelt' are high cost operations so to get them to a point where their unit cost reaches a sustainable level; you need to have significant investment into their operations. But investment will come if the climate is attractive."

Mateyo however points out that power supply to mining companies has been stable during 2020 despite the country's ongoing power deficit.

Lubambe copper output on upswing but future of mine lies in Extension Project!

BY JOHN CHOLA



LUBAMBE Copper Mine closed the year 2020 with production rising by 70 percent from one million tonnes of copper ore in 2017 to 1.7 million tonnes.



LUBAMBE Director of Operations Tony Davis welcomes President Lungu.

Lubambe Director of Operations Tony Davis revealed this to President Edgar Lungu and several key Government officials who visited the mine recently.

Davis however informed the President and staff that the future of Lubambe Copper Mine now lay in the Extension Project located six kilometres south of the existing mine.

"It is without doubt one of the largest and highest-grade undeveloped copper resources in the world," Davis told President Edgar Lungu.

In July last year, Lubambe completed an Advanced Concept Study that confirmed the potential of the Lubambe Extension Project at 247 tonnes at 3.64 percent total copper.

"It is without doubt one of the largest and highest-grade undeveloped copper resources in the world," Davis told President Edgar Lungu.



DIRECTOR of Operations Tony Davis introduces Lubambe Mine's Executive Committee (EXCO) members to President Edgar Lungu.



PRESIDENT Lungu with his entourage and members of the Lubambe Executive Committee.

President Lungu hence requested Davis to provide details of the help that Lubambe Copper Mine required so that all pending processes could be expedited.

In that regard, Lungu directed State House Minister Freedom Sikazwe and other technocrats in his office to ensure that Lubambe Copper Mine received all the support and necessary approvals re-

quired to ensure that the extension project took off.

The President described the Lubambe Extension as “too much good news to be ignored.”

He assured Lubambe Copper Mine of Government support to expedite the Lubambe Extension Project.

“You have my support on this project, but I wish to emphasise that all processes and requirements must be fulfilled so that everything is done according to book and within legal requirements and provisions,” President Lungu said.

Davis thanked the President for visiting the Chililabombwe-based mine and for pledging support towards the Extension Project.



PRESIDENT Lungu addresses Lubambe Copper Mine employees.



LUBAMBE employees listen to President Lungu's speech.

Davis said Lubambe will do its part to provide all the required details and information on the Extension Project.

The President was taken on a brief surface tour of the mine and later had an opportunity to address Lubambe mine workers.

In his address to Lubambe employees and the Labour Unions at the mine, Lungu called for increased production.

"I want to tell you that nothing succeeds like hard work. We all need to work hard and sustain production so that no job is lost. Produce more and demand more," President Lungu said.

He also thanked Lubambe Mine management for raising one of the outstanding mines in Zambia in terms of safety and discipline.

Despite the tragedy that happened in

November 2020 that claimed one life, Lubambe had generally realised a good safety record.

President Lungu was accompanied to the mine by Minister of Mines and Minerals Development Richard Musukwa, some Cabinet ministers, permanent secretaries, representatives from Chingola, Mufulira and Kitwe and local Government leaders from Chililabombwe.



DAVIS delivers a speech during the President's visit.



PRESIDENT Lungu (centre), Minister of Mines Richard Musukwa (right) and Lubambe Director of Operations Tony Davis leave the Winder House.



PRESIDENT Lungu with his entourage during the tour of the Mine, led by Director Operations Tony Davis.



RESIDENT Chagwa Lungu sanitises his hands before entry into the Mine.



PRESIDENT Lungu being shown operations of the Concentrator Control Room by Lubambe Metallurgical Manager Lastone Silomba, as Lubambe Director of Operations Tony Davis looks on.

Repay loan, BP Investment tells CEC Africa



BY STUART LISULO

BP Investment Limited has asked CEC Africa Investments Limited to repay an outstanding loan amounting to nearly US\$46 million.



CECA recently announced that it had received a notice for the repayment of an outstanding loan payable to BP Investment Limited (BPIL).

In a market announcement, CECA announced that it had received a notice for the repayment of an outstanding loan amounting to around US\$45.96 million payable to BP Investment Limited (BPIL).

“In compliance with the disclosure re-

quirements under the Act, CECA hereby notifies its shareholders and the market that, the Company received a notice of enforcement from BPIL on 11 November, 2020, for repayment of an outstanding loan amount of US\$45,968,657.

“The loan was originally between the Company and Copperbelt Energy Corporation Plc (CEC) and was secured against the Company’s shares in CEC Africa Hydro Investments Limited, a subsidiary of CECA. The loan was transferred to BPIL following CEC board approval on 12

June 2020,” says the statement.

“In compliance with Section 157 of the Act, CECA further notifies its shareholders and the market that, as of 16 November, 2020, BPIL has called the share pledge on 23,824,011 CEC Hydro Investments Limited shares in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Share Pledge between CEC and CEC Africa Hydro Investments Limited, as well as the Assignment Agreement between the Company, CEC and BPIL; and the shares are being transferred to BPIL. In the meantime, investors and the market are advised to seek professional advice, when dealing in the securities of the Company.”

CECA is a public company in terms of the Securities Act No 41 of 2016 and its shares are registered and regulated by the Securities and Exchange Commission of Zambia (SEC), and has its shares traded on the second-tier market of the Lusaka Securities Exchange (LuSE).

CECA was established in early 2013 as a pan-African company with a mandate to develop, finance and operate power projects across sub-Saharan Africa.

Sponsored by one of Africa’s most successful private power utilities, CEC Plc, CECA was set up to leverage indigenous talent in the power sector and bring about capital to assist in building Africa’s energy platform.

In a separate development in August, last year, CECA had reached an amicable settlement over the outstanding loan amounting to over US\$15.4 million with the Zambia Energy Corporation (Ireland) Limited (ZECI) following an agreement entered into between the two parties, which had subsequently triggered withdrawal of court proceedings.

ERB rules out 'fast-depletion' in Zesco prepaid meters



BY STUART LISULO

There is nothing irregular about Zesco's prepaid meters which consumers suspect are depleting purchased power units too swiftly.

According to the Energy Regulation Board (ERB), an investigation into the alleged unusual and unexplained depletion of electricity units on Zesco prepaid meters has found nothing irregular as the devices meet the required specifications.

In a statement released recently, ERB Public Relations Manager Kwali Mfuni announced that investigations into the alleged depletion of electricity units on Zesco's prepaid meters had been completed and found nothing irregular as the devices met the required specifications.

This follows complaints received by the regulator earlier during 2020 on the alleged fast-depleting units, particularly immediately after power tariffs were adjusted upwards in late 2019 and implemented from January 1, 2020.

"Investigations into complaints of alleged and unexplained depletion of electricity units on Zesco's prepaid meters

have been completed and the results show that the meters meet the specifications. The ERB and the Zambia Metrology Agency (ZMA) had collaborated to determine the accuracy of Zesco's prepaid meters following complaints from different parts of the country about the unusually high consumption of electricity experienced in the period leading to August 2020.

"Further, a review of both Zesco's vending system for possible tampering of meters remotely and verification of compliance to ERB approved tariffs for transactions were undertaken. In terms of accuracy of meters, 14 meters were tested out of the 15 complaints received by the ERB and all were found to be within the maximum permissible limits of error as stipulated in the Zambian Standard ZS 643 of 2006: Electricity Metering Equipment (a.c.) - Particular Requirements Static Metering for Active Energy (classes 1 and 2)."

She added that the regulator had equally ruled out the possibility of remote

tampering of the domestic prepaid meters following thorough investigation.

"Furthermore, based on the complaints received, the possibility of remote tampering of domestic prepaid meters was investigated. In that regard, our investigations established that it was impractical to remotely tamper with the domestic prepaid meters as there is no remote communication link between electricity meters and the Zesco metering system or its electricity vending points (credit dispensing units).

"Given the nature of the complaints received, it became necessary to also verify Zesco's compliance to the ERB approved tariffs. In that connection, our investigations established that electricity transactions on Zesco prepaid meter accounts conformed to the ERB approved tariffs, which came into effect on January 1, 2020."

She further stated that the regulator would, however, continue to monitor Zesco's prepaid metering system to ensure compliance to all applicable standards in view of the high number of complaints.

The ERB and the ZMA had instituted investigations to verify the consumer suspicions that the meters were not functioning normally.

Consumers had suspected that there was a possibility of remote tampering of the prepaid meters through unauthorised access.

A total of 15 complaints were received from various parts of the country.





Bank of Zambia

Central bank buys Zambian gold

BY SOLWEZI TODAY WRITER

THE Bank of Zambia has commenced its accumulation of gold bullion as a means of shoring up the country's reserves.

An initial 47 kilogrammes of Dore gold was purchased from Zambia Gold Company Limited (ZGC) on January 5, following which the central bank expects Kansanshi Mining Plc to supply gold bullion within the first quarter of 2021.

The local purchase of gold follows the signing, on December 11, 2020, of the Gold Purchase Agreement with Zambia Gold Company Limited and Kansanshi Mining Plc which has been producing the commodity on a com-

The gold purchase follows a strategic decision by the central bank to broaden the composition and diversification of international reserves portfolio.

mercial basis since 2006. ZGC oversees mining, processing, refining and marketing of gold in Zambia.

The gold purchase follows a strategic decision by the central bank to broaden the composition and diversification of international reserves portfolio.

The Purchase Agreement offers positive spillovers to local businesses and communities, given that some of the gold will be purchased from small-scale miners.



This will not be the first time that the Bank will be acquiring and holding gold as a reserve asset. Before 1995, the Bank procured gold for reserves from Zambia Consolidated Copper Mines (ZCCM) Limited.

However, due to the severe foreign exchange liquidity challenges that the country faced during the 1990s, the gold reserve portfolio was liquidated in 1995.

Besnat Mwanza, Assistant Director-Communications at BoZ, explained in a press statement that the addition of gold as a



reserve asset will augment the country's international reserves. Reserves are an essential part of the Bank's toolkit in providing protection against adverse economic shocks, and in achieving the monetary policy objectives of price and financial system stability.

"Purchasing gold locally using local currency provides a sustainable avenue of international reserves accumulation, provides a long-term store of value, and further enhances investor confidence. It also provides the necessary liquidity for the Bank's foreign market operations. This is consistent with the broad objectives of the Government's Economic Recovery Programme, which was launched on December 7, 2020," she said.

Gold has continued to feature strongly in foreign reserves of several central banks around the world for a long time. This is despite the official end of the gold standard monetary arrangement in the early 1970s, an arrangement which effectively justified central banks' appetite for monetary gold.

Central banks' total gold holding has risen to 34,000 tonnes by the end of 2019 from a low of 28,000 tonnes recorded in 1997 since the end of the gold standard, according to the World Gold Council. These dynamics demonstrate the strategic value of gold.





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THE POWER OF LOVE....



DUMISANI Muntanga, an Operator Technician at the British American Tobacco in Lusaka bade farewell to bachelorhood when he married Priscilla Musunka, a Microbiologist at Mazabuka General Hospital at a colourful wedding ceremony at Garden Events With A View in Lusaka's Makeni area on December 20, 2020.

Female traders aim for auto shop

WOMEN-OWNED businesses continue to be shining lights despite the current economic stress the country is going through. There are many examples of women in business who are truly inspirational, having overcome great odds and now serve as a beacon for others to emulate. Some women have the spark of greatness within them, as William Shakespeare stated, "Be not afraid of greatness; some are born great, some achieve greatness, and others have greatness thrust upon them."



FORTUNE World Director of Programmes Patrick Matanda (left) having a feel of Chasha and Njamba's merchandise in Solwezi's Kimasala area.

This is a similar case of Bridget Kakoma Chasha from Kimasala area of Solwezi District of North-Western Province.

Chasha, 42, has traded in second-hand clothes, locally known as salaula since 2010. Having started small, she has managed to grow her business acumen fervently over the years.

"I started with K1,000 by trading in salaula which I used to order from Lusaka and Nakonde for resale here in Solwezi. Some of the key salaula products I specialised in were duvets, blankets, slippers and shoes," Chasha says.

From 2013 to 2014, Chasha made remarkable progress from her sales of salaula and supplying of rice and mopani worms locally called ifinkubala. She raised K20,000, an amount that positively transformed her business mindset.

Chasha, a mother of four, was able to purchase a vehicle for business deliver-

ies. Today, she is the proud owner of a farmland where she is currently growing maize, and a plot within Kimasala area where she is building a house.

Chasha attributes her progress to will-power in the face of serious impediments to growth in her businesses.

She later engaged and groomed her sister-in-law Cynthia Matabishi Njamba as a business partner to help run business errands.

SKILLS

In January 2019, as they contemplated their lack of effective business management skills, Njamba leant of a business consultancy firm that was conducting monthly business workshops free of charge at Solwezi's Aaso Hotel.

"We realised that if we started attending the Fortune World workshops sponsored by Kansanshi Mine, our business would record growth. And it happened

after we learned vital business skills such as how to write a business plan, business formalisation, how to make a budget and financial management," Njamba says.

Njamba affirms that they used to record losses, and the lack of a business plan used to affect their operations. After they attained business skills, their enterprise had tremendously grown, and their clientele base of duvets and rice has sharply increased.

"Currently, our business is worth K130,000 and our plan is to open an auto shop and a garage at Solwezi town centre. After having learnt of the need not to store eggs in one basket, we saw that business diversification was key," Chasha adds.

And Chasha pays glowing tribute to Kansanshi Mine for its continuous sponsorship of the business training programme and feels that Fortune World Investments should continue with its good work of monitoring progress of its participants as it is the surest way of encouraging them to work hard.

During the routine mentorship visitation, Fortune World Director of Programmes Patrick Matanda, urged both businesswomen to be cautious of price fluctuations on the market if they were to sell their merchandise profitably.

Matanda, who was accompanied by the company's Administrative Assistant Kembe Mufwaya, encouraged both ladies to maintain their enthusiasm for them to sustain progress in their business endeavours.

"We appreciate your efforts and drive to do business productively by following

Ambitious metalworker opens hardware outlet

THE future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams, so goes an old adage.



JESSQUEEN General Dealers Proprietor Emmanuel Chipeta (right) with his worker Daisiedelia Tengwe doing what they know best at his workshop.

It is also said that passion for one's career generates the energy needed to plough through the biggest obstacles and overcome the most intractable challenges in life.

This is the case of Emmanuel Chipeta, 33, proprietor of JessQueen General Dealers, a metal fabrication workshop and hardware outlet at Solwezi's lively Kazomba market.

"I never had any coin in my pockets when I started my business. With sheer passion for metal fabrication, I started business in 2016 from scratch so that I could better my life and that of others too," Chipeta explains.

The first client was a friend who needed locally made window frames. With an upfront payment of K700, a determined Chipeta paid rent for his new workshop at Kazomba market and hired a welding and grinding machine to accomplish the assignment. Chipeta was afterwards paid the balance of K1,700.

After his first month of operations, Chipeta made a cool K4,000 from his laborious work and gradually, started to procure equipment for his workshop, and

in the process employed three workers including a woman.

From his humble beginnings, and as his workshop started to record remarkable growth, Chipeta yearned for knowledge on how to grow a successful business enterprise. He was getting tired of doing business as usual without any direction.

"Since I was taught metal fabrication skills via a job-on-training arrangement, I realised the need to acquire vital knowledge to help shape my business acumen going forward. That is how I started attending the Fortune World business training workshops and I have never been the same. The business data I have acquired thus far has really transformed my life."

In January 2019, he started attending the workshops funded by Kansanshi Mining Plc, and learned vital business skills which enabled him to diversify into a hardware shop within Kazomba market.

Within two years from the time he enrolled for the monthly workshops, his life has exceptionally transformed.

Chipeta affirms that his business enterprises are now worth between K80,000 and K100,000. He appreciated lessons on the need for diversification, the importance of registering a business, digital marketing and record-keeping among others.

"They opened my mind as to which successful business direction I ought to take, which I didn't know then. As CEO of JessQueen General Dealers, I am glad that my business is now fully registered with PACRA and I am now able to trade online via social media platforms," Chipeta adds.

He applauds the mining giant for its consistency in the sponsorship of the business training workshops as the programme is changing lives in Solwezi and hopes the venture would continue for the good of many other entrepreneurs.

"I don't whether they know that this is what they are doing, but I am here to confess that we are not the same because of the knowledge that they've pumped into many local entrepreneurs. This is directly and indirectly helping to develop our communities."

Fortune World Director of Programmes Patrick Matanda, accompanied by the company's Administrative Assistant Kembe Mufwaya, has commended Chipeta's goal-oriented approach to his business.

"We are grateful for your achievements because, after six months from our last mentorship visit, we are impressed to note that those targets that you set, have been met 79 percent. When we calculate the value of your goods here, they are surely of significant amounts and we hope your fellow youths here in Solwezi will emulate your efforts," Matanda said.

Exploiting IT skills pays off in outskirts market

NOTHING is more effective and sustainable than consistency when it comes to making any business venture grow or stand out.



FORTUNE World Administrative Assistant Kembe Mufwaya (right) delivers his mentorship message to Jonathan Maseka.

Just like in any sport, the best teams have consistency and chemistry, and so does a business entity. In short, consistency in entrepreneurship is a habit that leads to sustainable profits.

For Jonathan Maseka who started a stationery business in 2018 at Chimpwena Market, situated on the outskirts of Solwezi's Central Business District, consistency and love for information technologies have been his driving force.

At 23, Maseka is the Chief Executive Officer of Jomtech Link Solutions, a business entity he started from scratch in an area that lacked photocopying, printing and stationery services which are only accessed at Kyawama main market.

An information technologist by profession, Maseka also teaches computer courses at his business premises.

Despite some economic hurdles, he has managed to keep his business afloat,

thanks to business tactics acquired from the Fortune World Investment's business training workshops which are powered by Kansanshi Mining Plc.

"The business skills I acquired from the workshops have strengthened my capacity to remain resolute and run the business prudently."

Maseka notes that despite the rough economic terrain in the country, he has been able to get some printing and photocopying contracts from public and private schools, a development that has energised his quest to open another stationery outlet in the district, come 2021.

"Through my consistency, I have earned the trust of some local learning institutions."

Maseka has since paid glowing tribute to First Quantum Mineral's Kansanshi Mine for its illustrious sponsorship of Fortune World's business workshops which has inculcated rare business

skills in him, that come at a huge cost.

"I am now able to publish my goods and services through my registered business, thanks to Fortune World and Kansanshi Mine for investing in me this rare business insight. Come 2021, I look forward to running a bigger stationery shop that will be able to supply to Government departments."

FWIL Administrative Assistant Kembe Mufwaya who was in the company of the company's Director of Programmes Patrick Matanda encouraged Maseka to consider capturing all business opportunities that fall under his line of enterprise such as T-shirt printing, issuing passport-sized photos and produce learning materials.

"We are impressed with your consistency and positive attitude towards running your business thus far and we wish you all the best and please continue on this commercial trajectory," Mufwaya stated.

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Zambian royalty colours southern African skies...

STORY BY: JOHN CHOLA, IMAGES BY: MARTIN MUSUNKA JUNIOR

ROYAL Zambian Airlines winged into the southern African skies with the Lusaka-Johannesburg route being the first as officially launched on December 17, 2020.

The airline launched its first return flight to South Africa using its 'best-in-class' medium-range jet capability for 50 passengers, by way of an Embraer 145LR.

Royal Zambian Airlines operates within the long-standing Royal Air Charters brand which has flown the Zambian flag in the local skies since 2007.

Company Business Development Consultant Joseph Mulenga was on board the return maiden flight, accompanying the first clients.

"Basically all we are saying is that we are officially now announcing our presence in the aviation sector in Zambia and the region. As a result of Royal Air Charters experience in the aviation sector now, we decided to have scheduled international flights beginning with Johannesburg."

Mulenga says his team identified the low presence of local players in the aviation industry in Zambia hence when the company acquired the Embraer 145LR, an idea was mooted to consolidate the charter presence in the country and then tap into the existing opportunities in the region.

The launch of Royal Zambian Airlines has excited the Zambia Airports Corporation Limited with Communication and Brand Manager Mweembe Sikaula describing the development as a pride and honour to the country.

"The ambition is to become one of the locally bred airlines, grow beyond the region and become one of the best players in the aviation industry from Zambia. Today is a manifestation of the first step towards our dream of going regional and then eventually we want to go beyond the African skies," adds Mulenga.

CHALLENGING

He says that although it has been challenging for Royal Air Charters to finally fly higher into deeper regional aviation skies, the initiative has received a lot of support from Government and its regu-



BUSINESS Development Consultant Joseph Mulenga (right) talks to Lusaka Mayor Miles Sampha.

latory bodies.

"In terms of the market, it's a big challenge because we are launching at a time when the whole aviation industry globally is on its knees because of the COVID-19. But we are also looking at opportunities that might accrue from this market that has been opened up because certain players have faced challenges to the extent that they cannot sustain themselves," Mulenga states.

INVESTMENT

"Of course, the investment is massive



LUSAKA Mayor welcomes the first passengers from Johannesburg.



Joseph Mulenga.

because we have got to invest in new aircraft and invest in the retraining of our crew. We are proud to mention that the Royal Zambian Airlines is 100 percent Zambian run. From the young Zambian pilots, cabin crew, ticket handling, I think the entire process is Zambian managed. So that required massive training as investment in human capital," Mulenga explains.

The launch of Royal Zambian Airlines has excited the Zambia Airports Corporation Limited with Communication and Brand Manager Mweembe Sikaula describing the development as a pride and honour to the country.

"This is a totally Zambian airline that makes us even more especially proud. We may have other international airlines operating the Lusaka route but having another of our own like Royal Zambian Airlines is exciting."

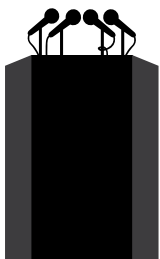
Among many dignitaries that witnessed the launch were Lusaka Mayor Miles Sampha who praised Mulenga and team for continuing to make Zambia proud in the region and beyond.

The launch schedule indicates that Royal Zambian Airlines will take off from Kenneth Kaunda International Airport at 10.00 hours every Tuesday, Thursday

and Friday and from Johannesburg at 13.30 hours on the same days.

The new airline boasts of a rare feature of flexible air ticketing which allows clients to change their travel plan up to 24 hours before departure without incurring any charges.





HICKS SIKAZWE ON THE PLATFORM



Premature, childish politicking can hurt Zambia in 2021

WHAT will work for Zambia in 2021, an election year, is for everybody, Government, the people, civil society and other groups to ensure that the country builds and retains some confidence in the sagging economy.

This is not the first election, since the advent of democracy in 1990; Zambia has witnessed successful multiparty elections seven times, two of which administration has changed hands from a sitting government to an opposition party.

In 1991 there were possible fears of the consequences if Kaunda won again. Clearly because of tension that the political surge had created, uncertainty spread across the business community in the country. Quite a number held back new investment while others partially moved their operations to Zimbabwe and South Africa just to wait and see what would happen after elections in November that year.

Because of this reaction by those running foreign outlets, shortages of food-stuff and other basic needs for the ordinary people worsened. There was no foreign exchange to import items that were badly needed and could not be obtained locally.

As if that was not enough, an erratic supply of fuel set in; crippling the already limping country's transport sector whose vehicles, some of them grounded, could not get spare parts because of the problems in bringing in imports.

But shortly after elections passed, life returned to normal as business operators began gaining confidence in the economy; more operators who had closed shop began flocking back.

NEW POLICIES

The new policies rapidly rolled out by the just-elected government such as promotion of the private sector by selling State enterprises to investors, scrapping

foreign exchange controls, ushering in a free-market economy and liberalising much of the activities, Zambia was again awash with business people; therefore creating further confidence in the economy and those running it.

Subsequent elections held every five years did not bring as much of a scare as those of 1991. The MMD which had grabbed power from UNIP in 1991 sailed through in 1996. The campaigns were simple; they focused on the transformation that had been undertaken and already results began to show in some sectors.

For example, after the State transport company United Bus Company of Zambia (UBZ) was liquidated, Government allowed individuals to import buses, duty-free for one year. Zambians seized the opportunity and brought in buses of all sizes, filling up the void left by UBZ.

The liberalisation of the transport sector had an immediate impact on the economy and the welfare of citizens country wide. After a long time, travelling between towns or provinces became enjoyable, fast and efficient. The movement of goods and services improved immediately, so much that it was easier to move, say, produce from rural areas to the urban markets.

The aviation sector was also opened up; new private airline companies were formed in the country while more air-



lines from within Africa and the rest of the world began flying into Zambia. This development saw an upward surge in tourism. More lodges and hotels sprouted, as more visitors entered the country to view our game and other tourist attractions.

Further opportunities opened up as entrepreneurship boomed and Zambians began crossing borders into neighbouring countries to bring in the much-needed items which were scarce—from foodstuff to auto spare parts and clothing. This surge in the new business led to many people setting up shops and employing others who had stayed without jobs for a long time.

Those who had lost employment in the mines and other firms found new activities or simply also looked for capital and went into business, thus today the country continues to build and hold on to investor confidence.

Zambia needs to keep the above profile for it to continue with holding to confidence that will retain the business community and attracting more. The economy is already in deep problems following the effect of the outbreak of coronavirus, the nation thus needs to remain stable.

ELECTIONS

This simply means that as we get closer to the elections the politics should be civil. Facts and campaigns that focus on issues will be key to achieving this goal. Unsubstantiated claims that cannot be proved but simply meant to woo unsuspecting voters will simply hurt the

struggling economy and erode investor confidence.

What should be borne in mind is that these elections are not any special as Zambia has conducted similar ones in a non-volatile atmosphere and manner. There is thus nothing spectacular with this year's voting, to warrant campaigns turning violent and laced with lies and propaganda.

Since Zambia reverted to multiparty politics, it should be emphasised that people have acknowledged co-existing politically, thus there is no need for tumultuous campaigns that will either scare away investors and in retrospect ebb investor confidence which the country needs to rebuild the economy especially after the onset of the coronavirus.

There is so much needed that is beyond politics of hurling invectives at each other for political expedience. Unemployment is still high amongst the youth and it continues to rise. Our hospitals, clinics, and health centres need medicines to serve people both in urban and rural areas.

The power deficit that has been with the country for long now needs to be tacked until it stabilises to the benefit of Zambians and domestic welfare. Productive activities are vital to boost efforts to increase exports in the continued bid to create wealth at home and help stabilise the Kwacha by the country earning some foreign exchange too. Examples are limitless.

To achieve the above, it will be critical for those in politics to watch their lan-

guage and presentation of issues. Surely, campaigning for office does not include insulting each other, telling lies about others and simply purveying propaganda to win support.

The country will benefit from sober and issue-based campaigns that will demonstrate our maturity as a country that has run multiparty elections several times before, and above all to create an atmosphere that will help foster investor confidence.

Elections come and pass; the people and their businesses remain to continue building the economy.

Unconventional politicking will be premature, childish and at the most will hurt Zambia's sagging economy, a development the country does not really deserve.

Hicks Sikazwe is a former Deputy Editor-in-Chief, Times of Zambia, now Media and Communications Consultant based in Ndola. Comments: hpsikazwe2017@yahoo.com, hpsikazwe2010@gmail.com or 0955/0966 929611.



530 tree species to take root in Kapijimpanga area

STORY AND IMAGES BY: CREAVAT CHITUTA

CHIEF Kapijimpanga's domain in Solwezi recently received 530 species of fruit, timber and other trees from Nshima Towers Limited who have been actively engaging the communities in agriculture, education and health programmes.

Government in North-Western Province has applauded the company for its corporate social responsibility (CSR) works in the area.

Representing North-Western Province Permanent Secretary Willies Mangimele and the Kapijimpanga Royal Establishment, Deputy Permanent Secretary Emmanuel Chihili praised the company for donating the trees in various species to the royal establishment as a way of responding to effects of climate change.



NSHIMA Towers Limited Chief Executive Officer Sinya Mbale presents his organisation's corporate social responsibility (CSR) Strategic Plan at Nshima Towers offices in Solwezi.



NSHIMA Towers Limited Chief Executive Officer Sinya Mbale (left) hands over a horticultural plant to North-Western Province Deputy Permanent Secretary Emmanuel Chihili during the end of year interaction in Solwezi.

Chihili was speaking when he graced the end of year party for business partners that Nshima Towers staff held at their office in Solwezi.

He added that barely nine months present in the province, the company was already ploughing back to the community.

Nshima Towers Chief Executive Officer Sinya Mbale, who is also the Honorary Consul of the State of Israel in the Republic of Zambia, whose office has attracted new investment to the province after the 2019 Expo North West Zambia, won acknowledgement from the deputy permanent secretary.

"Just nine months doing business in the province and you are already showing the commitment not only to creating employment and wealth but also ploughing back to the community, which is highly commendable," Chihili said.

He stressed the need for the province to attract more investment in water, energy and agriculture through Israel consul's office. He urged the people in the province to embrace the investment opportunities as the region was endowed with natural resources.

While imploring Nshima Towers to explore further investment op-

He stressed the need for the province to attract more investment in water, energy and agriculture through Israel consul's office. He urged the people in the province to embrace the investment opportunities as the region was endowed with natural resources.

portunities in the province, Chihili called for protection of the environment in the chieftdom through replanting trees in the area.

Mbale, who reaffirmed the company's commitment to its CSR obligations, said the focus of the end of year party was to present their company strategy to the royal establishment and highlight priority community projects in chieftdom.

"Nshima Towers has been in existence for 10 years now, but we have been in the province for nine months now, and

we thought it was a good moment for us to engage constructively with the royal establishment and our business partners as we present our corporate social responsibility strategy.

"As Nshima Towers, we have a mandate to attend to the needs of the people and plough back to the community where we are operating. We assure the royal establishment of our continued support in the chieftdom."

Mbale assured the provincial administration and the royal establishment that the investment opportunities emerging through his consul office would be useful to the province.

He urged other business partners operating in the chieftdom to come on board and join in ploughing back to the community, especially in agriculture, education, health and other sectors.

Zambia Centre for Conservation Farming (ZCCF) Agricultural Manager Sinabo Mwiya said the organisation, a subsidiary of Nshima Towers, would ensure all the donated 530 horticultural and other timber trees were disease-free.

Nshima Towers Limited is specialised in agriculture, mining and tourism.-NAIS/SolweziToday.

CYCLING DAY AT KALUMBILA

WELL, what a day it was!

Thank you to everyone for making the effort, it was a great turn out and a special thanks to James Stephenson and Ryan Ellis for putting out the word at Kansanshi. Another big thank you to Aiden and his staff for laying on such a great spread at the club, form the "Special be good to yourself" range, just what an athlete needs after a strenuous work out. At one point it looked as if the weather was not going to be on our side but alas it came good in the end. It was very much an FQM family day. – Courtesy of event organiser, Jamie Lauderdale.

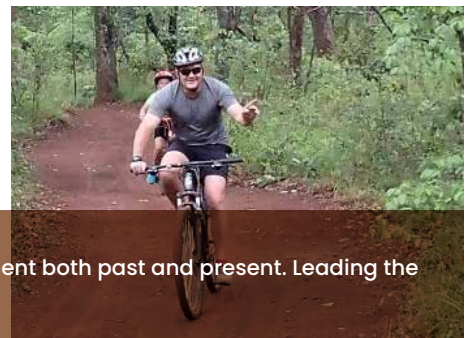
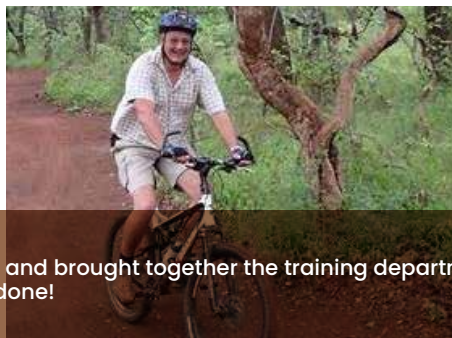
1

Participants of the combined Kalumbila Minerals Limited and Kansanshi Mining Plc Cycle Day pose for a group photo in front of Trident Country Club on November 22, 2020.



2

It was a great day for all ages and brought together the training department both past and present. Leading the way and showing us how it's done!



3

Leading the way as well by example for most of the day was "The Raging Bull Boecker," here seen at the front of a stage stop and showing us how to dish up a hearty breakfast.





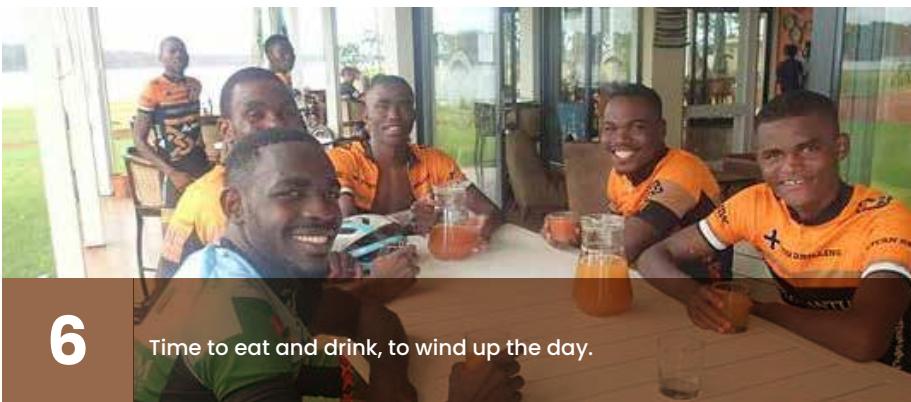
4

It was mentioned at the start of the day that there would be a prize for the person who got the muddiest! This challenge was taken up with great enthusiasm by some. It could be asked, does lightning strike twice, or is that a myth! One thing that has been proven is that "Electricity does go to earth." Definitely "Brothers in Arms". Not only that but the GM tried to get in on the prize. Sorry, Sean, must try harder next time!



5

It was fantastic to see so many enjoying the day and getting to know new people, some took full advantage of the situation! I guess this is why he is a communication engineer!



6

Time to eat and drink, to wind up the day.



7

And finally, it would not be right not to mention our illustrious security team patrolling the boundaries keeping us all safe. Again, yet another athlete in motion.



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SERMAC

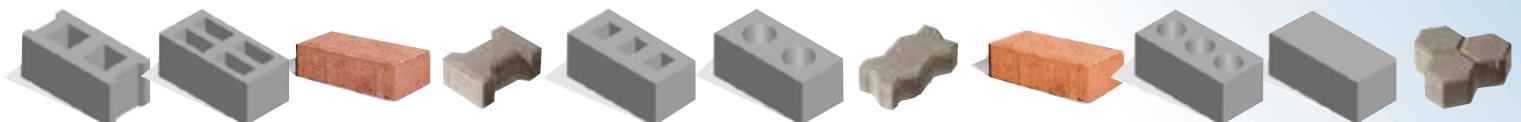
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