

SOLWEZI

T O D A Y

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Nshima Towers: Staying abreast, staying alive

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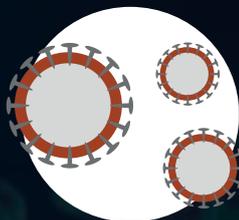
COVID-19 ALERT!

To all staff members,

In light of the Covid-19 outbreak, our priorities are the safety and health of all our people and the continuity of our business during this challenging time.



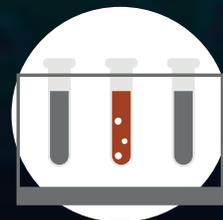
VIRUS SPREADS FROM
CLOSE PERSON
TO PERSON CONTACT
THROUGH DROPLETS



VIRUS MAY SPREAD
THROUGH THE AIR
WHEN TINY DROPLETS
REMAIN IN THE AIR



SYMPTOMS MAY
DEVELOP WITHIN 14
DAYS OF EXPOSURE
TO THE ILLNESS



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DESIGNATED LAB
TEST CAN DIAGNOSE
THE VIRUS

THE SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19



DRY COUGH



FEVER



SHORTNESS OF BREATH

PREVENTION FROM COVID-19



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PEOPLE FREQUENTLY TOUCH



FREQUENTLY WASH
YOUR HANDS WITH SOAP



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A MASK IN PUBLIC

COVID-19 Hot Line || 909 (toll-free)

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AMONG the species of insects that sting, the killer honeybee is one of the most dangerous. Its barbed sting contains venom that causes swelling and pain that sometimes may last for days.



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Making Corporate Social Responsibility Personal...

THERE are many important reasons why Maximilian Katanga deserves the 2021 Kansanshi Mine Employee of the Year award for saving the life of a boy bitten by a snake in Solwezi.

Firstly, he has taken corporate social responsibility, which is his line of work, personally to the extent of battling to save the life of a six-year-old boy who would have died of a puff adder bite.

Secondly, he could have taken the family's roadside appeal for a lift as a routine call and driven off, as many motorists are in the habit of doing.

Thirdly, he could have stopped at the first health centre, Mushitala, where there was no antivenom to treat the boy

whose left hand was badly ravaged by the snake venom, and left matters to the boy's family.

Fourthly, he did all he could to get the boy to Mary Begg Clinic within Solwezi where initial medical attention was provided.

The story ends well after surgical treatment, but Katanga's personal concern speaks to all working-class people.

Here is an employee who has expressed personal social responsibility, beyond corporate social responsibility, and taken it upon himself to save a life he was not obliged to save. In the same spirit, Kansanshi Mining Plc picked up the medical bills without undue bureaucracy, completing a touching family ordeal.



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GRIZZLY Mining Limited Group Human Resources and Corporate Affairs Manager, Davy Phiri (right) hands over pesticides for army worms to Chief Lumpuma (middle) and Lufwanyama District Commissioner Dorothy Chipimpi in Lufwanyama. - Picture by John Chola.

Lufwanyama army worms doomed as farmers receive pesticides

BY JOHN CHOLA

FARMERS in Lufwanyama District now have a better chance of eradicating army worms in their fields following a donation of pesticides worth K200,000 by emerald miner – Grizzly Mining Limited.

Lufwanyama District Commissioner Dorothy Chipimpi has observed that Grizzly Mining has for five years running helped farmers in Lufwanyama safeguard their crop against natural disasters.

Speaking when she graced the donation of pesticides to Lufwanyama farmers whose crops were ravaged by army worms, Chipimpi lamented that while Government continued to heighten efforts to strengthen national food security for Zambia to realise self-sufficiency in various foodstuffs, major threats emerged every year.

She noted that such challenges included scanty rainfall or floods in some parts of the country, and outbreaks of pests such as army worms. It is now estimated that the pests have destroyed 70 to 80 percent of planted crops.

Chipimpi acknowledged, with gladness, that corporate partners at large had not failed to stand shoulder to shoulder with the Government in the fight to save fields from various natural challenges.

“Today, as has been the case for the last five years, Grizzly Mining Limited has stepped forward, once again, to support the war against army worms in Lufwanyama with pesticides. Grizzly Mining Limited is donating 600 litres of pesticides valued at K200,000. We commend the company for this noble gesture.

“This donation is even higher than what the company donated last year, which demonstrates its commitment to helping more farmers to save their fields. This, without any doubt, is what we expect from investors both foreign and local.”

Chipimpi said as Grizzly Mining Limited has continued to do, Zambia expects business houses to exploit the natural resources, and plough back into the communities that surround them in their areas of operation.

“I therefore invite all Zambians to applaud Grizzly Mining Limited for being a steadfast partner of Government and the communities of Lufwanyama District. This step, if replicated by other corporate entities, is what will guarantee food security and reduce poverty levels among our people,” she said.



She noted that such challenges included scanty rainfall or floods in some parts of the country, and outbreaks of pests such as army worms. It is now estimated that the pests have destroyed 70 to 80 percent of planted crops.

She described the gesture by Grizzly Mining Limited as significant because Lufwanyama, being the breadbasket of the Copperbelt Province, supplied maize to many other districts, noting that a poor harvest in Lufwanyama District would adversely impact large numbers of people in other districts because they purchase maize from the district.

“On behalf of the Government, my administration at the district here is truly grateful to Grizzly Mining Limited, and we look forward to more of their support to various interventions that the company will make through its corporate social responsibility (CSR) activities in 2021,” she added.

Chipimpi called on the Ministry of Agriculture in the district to quickly teach

more farmers how to utilise the pesticides and save their crops.

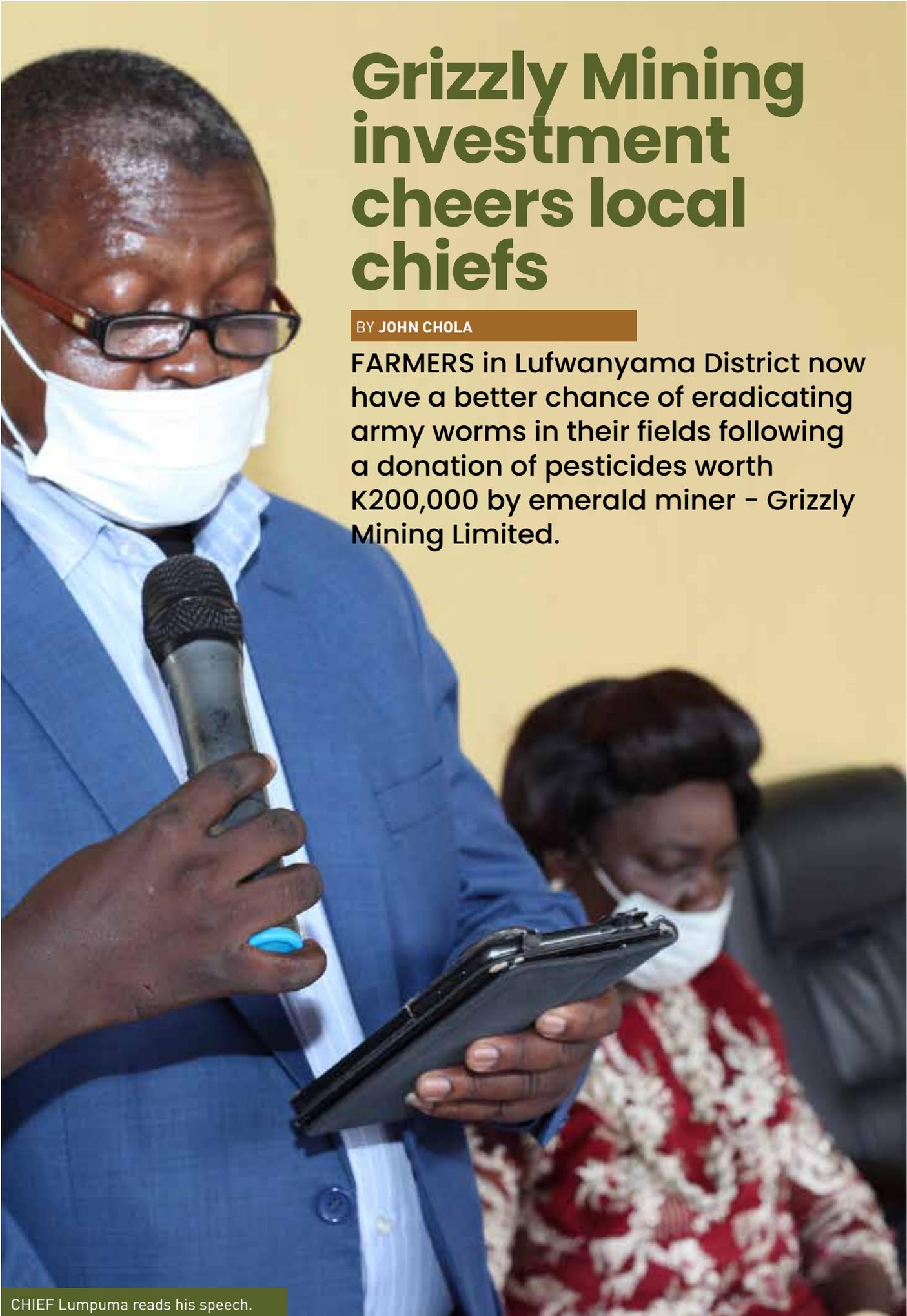
She said President Edgar Lungu had continued to place a high premium on ensuring food security in the country, thereby making agriculture a top priority sector.

And speaking when he handed over the pesticides on behalf of the company, Grizzly Group Human Resources and Corporate Affairs Manager Davy Phiri said all the communities in the six chiefdoms in Lufwanyama have again been covered under this year’s donation.

Phiri said more than 1,000 hectares of crops will be salvaged through the latest donation.

“As Grizzly, our support to the agriculture sector has always focused on efficient private public partnership to facilitate farmers’ access to delivery of the army worm’s pesticide. We sincerely believe that everything should be done to save the maize crop in the district which, when harvested can also be sold to other areas of the country.”

This year’s donated pesticides will cater for farmers in regions under chiefs Lumpuma, Nkana, Shimukunami, Mukutuma, Chifungulwe and Shibuchinga.



Grizzly Mining investment cheers local chiefs

BY JOHN CHOLA

FARMERS in Lufwanyama District now have a better chance of eradicating army worms in their fields following a donation of pesticides worth K200,000 by emerald miner – Grizzly Mining Limited.

CHIEF Lumpuma reads his speech.

The traditional leaders have acknowledged that the presence of Grizzly Mining Limited (GML) in Lufwanyama District has not only benefited the nation by way of the company meeting its tax and other statutory obligations, but also directly impacted the communities.

Speaking on behalf of Chief Nkana, Chieftainess Shimukunami, Chief Mukutuma, Chief Chifungulwe and Chief Shibuchinga - Chief Lumpuma said since it invested in Lufwanyama, Grizzly Mining has been directly ploughing back profits into the communities to help improve people's lives.

The traditional leader said this when Grizzly Mining donated pesticides worth K200,000 to help farmers fight army worms which have devastated most crop fields in all the chiefdoms of Lufwanyama.

Chief Lumpuma said it was pleasing to the royal highnesses to note that Grizzly Mining has even this farming season sacrificed its resources to supplement Government efforts in fighting the ravaging army worms which have invaded most of the crop fields in the district.

"It is not only this farming season that Grizzly Mining Limited has supported farmers in this similar way, but they have also been doing so in the past five years. We are happy to have you as a caring investor in our land and we wish to thank Government for allowing you to invest here," Chief Lumpuma said.

Speaking at the same function held at the Lufwanyama Council Chambers, Grizzly Group Human Resources and Corporate Affairs Manager Davy Phiri



The traditional leader said this when Grizzly Mining donated pesticides worth K200,000 to help farmers fight army worms which have devastated most crop fields in all the chiefdoms of Lufwanyama.

assured the six royal highnesses that his company will always endeavour to work with them, the community at large and Government, in supporting efforts aimed at improving people's lives.

"We will always ensure that we contribute to the fight against poverty and enhance food security. We are grateful to the Patriotic Front Government and President Dr Edgar Lungu who has continued to provide invaluable support to the growth of the private sector and Grizzly in particular," Phiri said.

He stated that Grizzly Mining stands ready to partner with President Lungu's administration and the Government in general in all areas that make it possible to uplift the living standards of the people as demonstrated by the donation.

"We are open to regular consultation on matters of common interest with both the traditional leaders and the Government as we endeavour to develop Lufwanyama," Phiri affirmed.



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THE new desks and boards donated by Lubambe Copper Mine.



Lubambe Mine uplifts three Chililabombwe schools

BY MARTIN MUSUNKA

THREE schools in communities surrounding Lubambe Copper Mine (LCM) in Chililabombwe have received educational equipment and 2,000 face masks worth more than K160,000 from the mining company.

LCM has further promised to continue strengthening its relationship with local populations and investing in various activities in host communities.

LCM Communications Manager Loyce Sali said the company, through its corporate social responsibility (CSR) programmes, would continue enhancing

the lives of people in local communities by getting involved in health, agriculture, education and infrastructure development.

Sali said this in a statement after Lubambe Copper Mine donated assorted items worth K161,000 to three schools in surrounding communities to mark the World Corporate Responsibility

Day which falls on February 18.

Lubambe Copper Mine donated 2,000 face masks, 50 school desks, black boards, notice boards, teachers' desks and chairs to Konkola Combined School, Kasapa and Miyanda primary schools in Chililabombwe. Sali said the mine had also rehabilitated some old desks at the schools.



LUBAMBE Copper Mine CSR Superintendent Rhoda Daka (extreme right) helps in giving face masks to pupils at Kasapa Primary School in Chililabombwe to mark the World Corporate Social Responsibility Day.



DONATION of face masks by Lubambe CSR Superintendent Rhoda Daka (far right) to the Chililabombwe District Education Board.

“Lubambe Copper Mine is happy to join other organisations around the world in commemorating the World CSR Day by giving back to the community. The mine’s biggest project under its School Improvement Programme now is the construction of a science laboratory at Konkola Combined School which is at roof level.”

Saili explained that Lubambe Mine had improved the status of Miyanda Primary School and Konkola Combined School by painting the walls of the two schools and donating books and uniforms to learners.

“This year, the mine will pay particular

attention to improving Kasapa Primary School so that learners at the school can also enjoy an environment conducive to learning,” she assured.

Chililabombwe District Education Standards Officer for Open and Distance Learning, Joackim Mulenga, applauded Lubambe Copper Mine for playing a major role in uplifting the standard of education in its area of operation.

Mulenga expressed gratitude that Lubambe Copper Mine donated adequate face masks for the three schools to ensure that learners were protected from contracting the coronavirus. He advised learners to always keep their masks clean and follow health guidelines.

“All the donated items will be put to good use. I would also appeal to the mining company to consider extending

Saili said this in a statement after Lubambe Copper Mine donated assorted items worth K161,000 to three schools in surrounding communities to mark the World Corporate Responsibility Day which falls on February 18.

its CSR programmes to other schools in the catchment area.”

Parents Teachers Association Chairperson Benjamin Sengela thanked Lubambe Mine for the donation, adding, “My wish is for you to have increased production so that we continue to be blessed by you.”

Nshima Towers: Staying abreast, staying alive

BY DERRICK SILIMINA



SOME staff members captured at the office.

INVESTMENTS that reach all economic sectors, such as mining, agribusiness, infrastructure, technology, and the hospitality industry among others, improve lives through solutions that are sustainable, replicable, and scalable.

The private sector is known to champion comprehensive businesses by developing strategies that foster inclusiveness in investments, creating solutions for clients, and delivering thought leadership.

For this reason, in 2009, Nshima Towers Limited (NTL) was born out of a felt need to accelerate Zambia's development with more entrepreneurs than workers.

NTL brings to the table, strong business relations and international linkages, having acquired vast practical experience in construction and mining sectors.

The organisation has undertaken joint ventures to attain exposure to large scale projects and financing systems.

After its establishment in 2010, the organisation started with the construction of a lodge in Livingstone and

thereafter diversified into agricultural consultancy and mining.

Since the onset of the mining boom in North-Western Province, NTL with its joint venture partner New Era Zambia, has been providing solutions in technology development, adaptation, and corporate social responsibility, thereby understanding the mining mix of culture, race and business objectives.

“Our core business at the moment is



A member of staff in a jovial mood.

mining and our principal clients are Lumwana and Kansanshi mines in the North-Western Province and we are looking at expanding our presence in the mining industry in the near future,” says company Chief Executive Officer Sinya Mbale.

This approach has led to the company expanding its business processing facilities in Solwezi and Lumwana by supplying iron ore and providing critical elements to the production of copper at the smelter.

Mbale says, in a bid to exceed client expectations, his company has been providing competitive and cost-effective solutions combined with new technologies and innovations.

Notable services and products NTL offers to the extractive industry include drilling machinery and accessories, building and construction machinery and accessories as well as power generation and distribution machinery, among others.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERTISE

Commonly known as an expatriate sector, the extractive industry offers a lot of opportunities, yet very few Zambian companies have provided professional services to the mining firms.

Mbale has, however, hinted that the thrust of his organisation and that of his partners lies in understanding the whole scope of mining.

He noted that in the mining sector, one ought to have a combination of certain factors to work; including sufficient financing for operations, technical skills and technology itself as well as trust to deliver to the expectations of a given mining entity.

“If you go into the mining sector with an agenda to make money, you will find it hard to work because initially, mining is all about results. Once you provide your environment with result orientation, you will then find it easy to develop your main goals and be able to make revenue,” Mbale states.

With barely a year in operation in North Western Province, NTL has grown significantly and exceeded clients’ expectations and the organisation now targets new areas of operation within the mining sector.

Mbale has enthusiastically projected that in the next three years, NTL will be one of the key players providing services to different mining companies.

“You have seen that Government is taking keen interest in acquiring mines for the benefit of Zambians; and this



SINYA Mbale.



NSHIMA Towers Chief Executive Officer Sinya Mbale (standing, far left) with company staff members.

requires expertise to be able to partner with these mines. We are prepared to be part of that equation to be able to work with KCM, Mopani and be able to share the experience we have obtained in the short-term, working with FQM—a highly specialised mining outlet in the country.”

TOP-NOTCH TECHNOLOGY

State-of-the-art technology is vital for any mining operation to succeed and NTL stands on the higher end of advanced technology, especially with joint venture support from a Hong Kong-based Sino Mud Group in technology development and training of staff.

NTL is an authorised distributor of Sino Mud in Zambia, a drilling fluid from Sino Mud Group for the period 2020 to 2022.

“We have access to this resource through our partners and we have signed a new business line where we provide drilling fluids to the mines, for which we are the sole distributors in Zambia,” Mbale explains.

Mining investment has never been an easy business venture as it requires huge capital injection in terms of state-of-the-art equipment, manpower, infra-

structure development, and community rehabilitation, among others.

NTL’s start-up capital to the tune of approximately US\$5,000,000 worth of investment in equipment, establishment and manpower is one of its kind for a local company. The capital investment coupled with its formidable partners has made NTL a force to reckon with in the country’s development agenda.

As success hinges on strong business partnerships and collaborations with clients, this has been NTL’s drive to work with business partners, local authorities and communities.

“We have established strong partnerships with ministries of Education, Health and Defence, Zambia National Airports Corporation, Kansanshi Mining Plc, Lumwana Mining Company and other private companies with whom we share and value strong bonds of learning and experience,” Mbale says.

NTL is also working in partnership with Even Ami Civil Engineering Limited, an Israeli civil engineering company known for having completed the Marlex mining project, Kala project and the Lufwanyama project of dam construction for agricultural purposes, among the many projects.

AGRICULTURE

In the agrarian sector, Mbale whose major background is agriculture, says his company, which has been successful in many business ventures, has now built a local and regional company of international clout. The company aims to provide services and products in the safest way possible and be part of the winning systems around.

He reiterates that agricultural training continues to impact NTL’s vision and objectives, thereby constantly seeking solutions that can seal the existing gaps in the national development agenda in contributing to Zambia’s emancipation.

“We are here to serve the country to make good of its resources and people to fulfil the dreams of a united and productive nation. Our journey and purpose are flexible enough to allow us to participate in building a greater Zambia,” Mbale affirms.

With its company motto Growth from Client Satisfaction, the aim of NTL and New Era Zambia to build its competency and become business leaders in the agriculture, tourism, construction and mining sectors is an inspiration. – Feature courtesy of SUMA SYSTEMS.

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Kansanshi Mine Unveils Stringent Covid-19 Measures

BY MARTIN MUSUNKA



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ACCESS to Kansanshi Mining Plc premises is now restricted as part of measures to limit the spread of Covid-19 in the workforce.



The mining company has drawn strict protective measures allowing access to contractors and suppliers with essential business only in exceptional cases, after management approval.

In a notice to all contractors and suppliers, Kansanshi Mining Plc Commercial Manager Murray McDonald has explained that the measures, introduced in view of increased Covid-19 infections, entail that clients from other towns will only be allowed access to Kansanshi Mine in rare circumstances, and only if their business is essential.

The measures which are in addition to those announced by General Manager Anthony Mukutuma to the workforce, contractors and all stakeholders, are aimed at safeguarding lives and ensuring business resilience.



McDonald



FLASHBACK: FQM Health Promotions Officer Charity Mboshi undertakes COVID-19 sensitisation sessions for miners at Kansanshi Mine in Solwezi.

McDonald further clarifies that the validity of the essential business will be determined by hosting heads of department, with possible escalation to the general manager for endorsement.

“With immediate effect, all contractors and suppliers travelling from outside Solwezi will only be considered to access Kansanshi Mine, in rare circumstances, if the purpose is deemed as essential business,” he says in the notice dated January 12.

However, McDonald cautions that, in most instances, contractors and suppliers from outside Solwezi should simply not plan to visit the mine for the foreseeable future.

He has further announced that, in an event that contractors and suppliers from out of Solwezi had been allowed entry into Kansanshi Mine, they would, nevertheless be required to present their negative SARS-CoV-2 PCR test results of not more than 72-hours-old.

They would also be required to undergo a confirmatory rapid antigen test at

Saili said this in a statement after Lubambe Copper Mine donated assorted items worth K161,000 to three schools in surrounding communities to mark the World Corporate Responsibility Day which falls on February 18.

the nearby Kansanshi Mine Hospital before access to the mine site may be granted.

While travelling contractors and suppliers are being encouraged to email their pre-travel PCR Covid-19 test results in advance to their hosts, McDonald says they must all remain in self-isolation until a negative test has been confirmed.

All truck drivers assigned to deliver and collect goods, would be required to ini-

tially report to the Out of Town Truck Park (OTTP), on the Solwezi-Chingola highway where they would wait until they are called to proceed to Kansanshi Mine.

McDonald further says that truck drivers detected with fever while at the OTTP would be taken for rapid antigen tests and those testing positive would be quarantined.

“Drivers who subsequently test positive for Covid-19 are to be coordinated by the transport company or supplier and Kansanshi Mine will sanitise the truck at the expense of the transport company or supplier.

“Whilst on site, truck drivers must remain in their cabs, disembarking only for a short time necessary to fulfill commercial and safety responsibilities. Interactions with Kansanshi Mine employees and contractors on site must be kept to the bare minimum and always whilst adhering strictly to Covid-19 protocols regarding the wearing of face masks, social distancing and hands hygiene.”

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Kansanshi Mine staffer saves snake bite victim

BY RYAN ELLIS

A KANSANSHI Mine employee has saved the life of a six-year-old Solwezi boy whose left hand was bitten by a puff adder while he slept.

The sharp instincts of Kansanshi Mining Plc Community Relations Officer Maximilian Katanga led to the rescue of Sikeva Tobongo of Mushitala area of Solwezi, who risked the loss of his hand or life, when his family had embarked on a walking trip to Mushitala clinic to seek medical attention.

Katanga, from Kansanshi Mine's Corporate Social Responsibility Department was coincidentally in the area when he spotted a family flagging him down for a lift.

He sprang into action upon learning that the family was carrying a victim of a snake bite.

He immediately drove Sikeva and his mother to Mushitala clinic where it was discovered that the medical centre lacked the antivenom which was needed to save the boy's life, although health workers were willing to help.

In his resolve to help save the boy's life, Katanga quickly secured permission from his employers, for Sikeva to be treated at Mary Begg clinic, where the antivenom was immediately administered.

He immediately drove Sikeva and his mother to Mushitala clinic where it was discovered that the medical centre lacked the antivenom which was needed to save the boy's life, although health workers were willing to help.

Katanga was informed by the family that on February 3, Sikeva woke up with a burning pain in his fingers, which was concluded to be a snake bite after discovering a puff adder lying under his blanket as he climbed out of bed.

"As soon as I heard it was a snake bite I knew I had to do whatever I could. Someone in my family has permanent damage to his hand from a similar bite, so I know what a puff adder bite means. I started making calls immediately to get help for the boy," says Katanga.

However, after the initial medical attention at Mary Begg Clinic in Solwezi,



Katanga



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SIKEVA Tobongo before medical attention

Sikeva needed further surgical action to remove the dead tissue in his hand to prevent an infection, which could only be done in Ndola.

The exercise was successfully conducted at Mary Begg hospital in Ndola where Sikeva was ferried on February 8.

“A child with a snake bite is always in very serious condition,” explains First Quantum Minerals (FQM) Health and Wellness Manager Van der Merwe. “It could have been very bad. The fact they were able to respond quickly was key to the positive outcome.”



Recovering at Mary Begg hospital in Ndola after successful surgery.

According to statistics, more than 30,000 people die from snake bites on the African continent each year, and the puff adder causes more of these deaths than any other snake.

Kansanshi Mining Plc picked up all the medical bills, including clothes for Sikeva and his mother because of the urgency with which they left home with-

out packing any of their belongings.

“After the life-saving trip, Sikeva and his mother returned home after a week-long ordeal, but he was alive and well, with thanks to the efforts of all involved,” Katanga quips.

According to statistics, more than 30,000 people die from snake bites on the African continent each year, and the puff adder causes more of these deaths than any other snake.

Katanga said Sikeva’s situation was serious, because with every passing minute the venom spread through his hand. In many cases, tissue killed by the venom becomes infected, leading to death or permanent disfigurement of a patient.



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Congratulations to the Graduating

Class of 2020

We are hugely proud of the class of 2020, who have been awarded the best A Level results in the College's history against the backdrop of a very difficult year for our students. Every single student passed every single exam, and more than 40% of their results were A*s or As; a sixth of this group attaining a straight run of A*s. This is an exceptionally strong set of results

and puts Trident College among the leading schools of our continent.

Students did especially well in Maths, and in Chemistry and Physics, with more than half the class awarded A*s or As. We would particularly like to congratulate Chipo Chibbamulilo and Kieran Vlahakis who both received four A*s, and all our

students on their 100% pass rate.

These results are testament to how hard our teachers and pupils have worked to overcome the difficulties caused by the pandemic, and we can't wait to see what our amazing students will do next. Congratulations, class of 2020.



Name: Chipo Chibbamulilo
Results: 4 A* in Maths, Chemistry, Physics & Biology
Destination and degree: UNZA, Civil Engineering
What have you enjoyed most about your time at Trident? The most memorable part of my Trident experience was attending a school that developed me holistically in areas such as sport, music and drama. I was able to balance this with my academic life so well.
What would you like to be doing in ten years time? I see myself as a prominent feminine figure in the world of Science and Technology.



Name: Kieran Vlahakis
Results: 4 A* in Maths, Chemistry, Physics & Further Maths
Destination and degree: I've had an interview with Cambridge University to read Maths.
What have you enjoyed most about your time at Trident? The word that comes to my mind when I think of Trident is 'ambition.' From the students all the way to the teachers – everyone is challenged to aim higher. I am grateful for my time here.
What would you like to be doing in ten years time? I hope to get a PHD in Mathematics and specialise in number theory. I would also like to research more into the Riemann hypothesis!



Name: Inonge Mamilii
Results: 2 A*s, 2 As in Chemistry, Physics, Biology and Maths.
Destination and degree: UNZA, Medicine.
What have you enjoyed most about your time at Trident? When my academics challenged me. This made me a better student. I tried out a range of activities, the most memorable of which was the spoken word poetry. I had fun!
What would you like to be doing in ten years time? I would like to be a research scientist and employer.



Name: Anesu Mumba
Results: 3 A* in Chemistry, Physics & Maths
Destination and degree: UNZA – Electrical Engineering
What have you enjoyed most about your time at Trident? Hard working staff and crazy academic competition fuelled my success at Trident College. We received holistic education in a friendly, peaceful and diverse environment.
What would you like to be doing in ten years time? I look forward to becoming one of the finest minds and Engineers of my generation.



Name: Joshua Mwilima
Results: 3 A* in Chemistry, Maths & Physics
Destination and degree: UNZA, Electrical and Electronic Engineering.
What have you enjoyed most about your time at Trident? I loved exploring my interest in music alongside my academics. Trident gave me an exciting learning environment that developed a strong work ethic and allowed me to work at my own pace.
What would you like to be doing in ten years time? Apart from setting up a music band, in 10 years' time I see myself thriving in the energy industry.



Name: Mwango Makumba
Results: 3 A* in Chemistry, Maths & Physics
Destination and degree: UNZA, Electrical and Electronic Engineering.
What have you enjoyed most about your time at Trident? Far from the hustle and bustle of City life, Trident College is strategically located in a very quiet and peaceful environment, where any student can thrive! I am grateful to have been part of that lovely and richly diverse community.
What would you like to be doing in ten years time? I hope to go and further my studies abroad and come back to help the Zambia community in the field of Electrical and Electronic Engineering.



Educational Excellence in the Heart of Africa



Name: Ngosa Ngosa
Results: 3 xA* in Business, Maths & Physics
Destination and degree: Loughborough University – UK- Aerospace Engineering
What have you enjoyed most about your time at Trident? Everyone at Trident is very caring and supportive. You easily grow a family bond with Teachers and fellow pupils. Absolutely brilliant!
What would you like to be doing in ten years time? In 10 years' time I see myself spearheading innovations in the aviation and space Industry.



Name: Michael Mupeta Njovu
Results: 3 A* in Chemistry, Maths & Physics
Destination and degree: UNZA or Hertfordshire University, UK- Computer Science Engineering with Cryptography
What have you enjoyed most about your time at Trident? Trident College gave me everything I set my heart to: singing, dancing, acting, basketball and many other activities. Trident is indeed a thriving community. I will always be grateful to the teachers and managers there.
What would you like to be doing in ten years time? I will be working with top companies such as Google and Microsoft etc.



Name: Patrick Ngoma
Results: 3 A* in Chemistry, Maths & Physics
Destination and degree: UNZA or Witwatersrand RSA – Electrical Engineering.
What have you enjoyed most about your time at Trident? There is nothing that I enjoyed more than being the Head boy for Trident College! What an honour to be the student leader of the best academic institution in Zambia if not the entire Southern Africa. This gave a rare opportunity to lead a body of extremely talented and diverse students.
What would you like to be doing in ten years time? I see myself fighting for solutions to address educational inequalities in Africa.



Name: Goretta Malaya
Results: 1xA*, 1xA & 1xB in Chemistry, Maths & Physics
Destination and degree: UNZA Electrical Engineering
What have you enjoyed most about your time at Trident? The supportive and well-coordinated teaching and administrative staff did it for me. You just felt at home in the college.
What would you like to be doing in ten years time? I will be looking to have completed my Masters degree in the field. I will certainly be making a huge difference in the energy Industry.

INDICATOR	2017	2018	2019	2020
Number of candidates	10	21	41	30
Distinction Rate (A+)	30%	16%	35%	43%
Band of Excellence (C+)	81%	78%	76%	88%
Subject Pass Rate (E+)	100%	98%	98%	100%

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FIRST QUANTUM
MINERALS LTD.

'Kalumbila Minerals will promote business development'



ANOTHER deserving participant receives a certificate from Joseph Ngwira.

BY JOHN CHOLA

KALUMBILA Minerals Limited (KML) through the Trident Foundation Limited (TFL) has assured Zambians in North-Western Province that the resident miner will this year and beyond continue promoting business development in the catchment area.

And on December 11, TFL held its end-of-year graduation ceremony at which more than 40 participants drawn from across Kalumbila District walked away with certificates; having gone through all three stages of business development training that should be able to enable them grow and stand on their own.

COMPETE

“We have been doing this since 2011 as a way of diversifying the local economy of Kalumbila district and also supporting our communities to benefit from the mine to people down effects. We believe that if we don’t support our local communities, it is very difficult for them to compete,” remarked TFL Coordinator, Joseph Ngwira during the graduation.

Ngwira added that in the spirit of equitable sharing of resources and the benefits from the mine, KML through TFL has been helping communities to get the knowledge, the skills and experience needed for them to be competitive so that they can also be able to tap into the mine business opportunities.

TFL has in the past been reviewing the impact of the business development training on communities around the district which showed that the programme has been worthwhile.

CONTINUING

“We are looking at continuing this programme into 2021 so that we see the results, we don’t just want to throw resources but want to see how much impact it’s making on the community by reviewing and seeing the opportunities for improvement,” Ngwira said.



TRIDENT Foundation Manager Joseph Ngwira (middle) and Business Development Services Providers Association of Zambia President Greenwell Mukwavi (right) during presentation of certificates to deserving participants.

Ngwira added that in the spirit of equitable sharing of resources and the benefits from the mine, KML through TFL has been helping communities to get the knowledge, the skills and experience needed for them to be competitive so that they can also be able to tap into the mine business opportunities.

He explained that TFL started the programme as a way of identifying opportunities and gaps that helped the Foundation to look for expertise to come in and help address the imbalances.

The business development training has three stages; the first one being people currently not doing anything, who are drilled in identifying business ideas.

“The second level is for those who have already identified business ideas and are doing something but are not able to grow it. These are people who keep falling back either because they don’t have systems or they don’t have the knowledge like keeping records. The people you have witnessed graduating today are at second stage.”

The third level, Ngwira added, is de-



JOSEPH Ngwira hands over a certificate to one of the graduates as Business Development Services Providers Association of Zambia President Greenwell Mukwavi looks on.

signed for those who have managed to graduate from improving their businesses making the sessions hands-on.

BRIDGE THE GAP

Ngwira said TFL had identified a programme under the Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry, funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland dubbed Accelerated Growth for SMEs (AGS) which is engaged in helping bridge the business knowledge and skills gap.

AGS also ensures that participants who graduate are not left alone but provided with continued mentorship on how to improve their business activities.

Most graduates are provided with either financial capacity to get started

or equipment to launch business until they get to a point where they can also improve their establishments.

The latest graduation point was for participants who had walked through all the three stages and were able to stand on their own.

AGS Development Officer, Ignatius Mwaba who was among the training facilitators explained that participants went away with new skills in marketing, cost and stock control as well as record-keeping.

“Our programme follows the International Labour Organisation’s SIYB – start improves your business. From this moment we will give them two to three months for them to actualise their drawn-up action plans and then we will

come back and each of the businesses will be followed up with mentorship,” Mwaba said.

Mwaba said AGS also has what is called the productive assets facility where some money has been allocated to be accessed by graduates.

“Businesses of some of these graduates that will grow potentially have access to about 30,000 euros each, to help them buy productive assets to use in their programme,” Mwaba explained.

Another partner that TFL has been working with, in the business development training programme for community members is the Lusaka-based Business Development Service Providers Association of Zambia (BDSPA).



SOLWEZI District Police Officer Commanding George Zulu (in police uniform) lays a brick during the hand-over ceremony a construction site for a police station in Kalumbila.

North-West police command nods law enforcement interventions

BY DERRICK SILIMINA

THE police command in North-Western Province says corporate intervention systems designed to enhance law enforcement in the region will help safeguard the huge investments that have been benefitting the local people.

Speaking when First Quantum Minerals (FQM) through its subsidiary Kalumbila Minerals Limited (KML) officially handed over the site for the construction of a police station, Solwezi District Officer Commanding George Zulu said the police command was proud to partner with the mining company in providing security to the people of Kalumbila District.

“The police station is coming at a time when the district is experiencing high investment which has also attracted an increased crime rate. We are therefore indebted to FQM for their continued support to the police command,” Zulu said.

Zulu expressed gratitude to Senior

“As FQM, we have a duty to preserve the cultural and moral values of the local community. Good security secures development for a positive impact on local business development, which ultimately affects all areas such as agriculture, education and health.”

Chief Musele for providing two hectares of land for the project and urged the community to work with the police to avoid vandalism because such projects were expensive.

Senior Chief Musele Musokantanda of Kalumbila district said the police post, which will be built by FQM would provide security and serve as a deterrent against lawlessness.

He urged the mining giant to continue with the spirit of improving the lives of the locals with more programmes such as the water project which have given his subjects access to clean water, improved hygiene and sanitation.

KML's Trident Foundation Manager Joseph Ngwira said the police station will be built in Kisasa area of Senior Chief Musele Musokantanda's chiefdom by Provident Investments Limited and that the mining firm is expected to spend K1,500,000 on the project.

Ngwira said the area has experienced an unprecedented population growth due to mining activities, which had resulted in job and business opportunities alongside a rise in security concerns.

“As a respecter of human rights, FQM could not allow people, regardless of the crimes committed, to be kept in unsanitary conditions without running water and poor ventilation. Such a place would not be conducive for human habitation. Therefore, as part of our Community Social Investment (CSI) initiatives, a decision to construct a proper police station was made,” Ngwira said.

Ngwira affirmed that the police station will enhance security for both the local population and the mine.

He stressed that failure to contain criminal activities would slow down investment and contribute to moral degradation as children can be exposed to bad role models.

“As FQM, we have a duty to preserve the cultural and moral values of the local community. Good security secures development for a positive impact on local business development, which ultimately affects all areas such as agriculture, education and health.

“If we don’t work together to improve security in our area, crime levels shall increase, lawlessness shall increase and consequently, investors shall not be comfortable to conduct their business in this area. What we are doing is a proactive way of avoiding such negative elements in our society and fostering a conducive environment that will support development in sectors such as education, health, agriculture and local business development,” he added.

Kalumbila District Commissioner Robinson Kalota said through District Administrative Officer Frank Hatwiinda that Government was pleased by FQM’s gesture and urged the contractor to do a good job.

He called on other investors to join hands with FQM to provide other amenities such as accommodation.

Senior Chief Musele has provided two hectares of land for the project while the Government offered the building plan and design of the police post for which manpower will be dispatched once it is completed. The first station that FQM built is Kalumbila Police Station which is fully operational.





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Fortune World schools Solwezi Farmer on Goat Export Market

TO start farming as a business is not for the faint hearted but a reflection of one's willpower, curiosity and the drive to make profits.



FORTUNE World Investments managing director, Mukumbi Kafuta (left) during a mentorship visit to Philemon Chasunga's homestead.

This is the case of Philemon Chasunga, whose gritty approach to farming coupled with his passion to make it in agribusiness has inspired consistency, hard work, and eventually accomplishment.

Before he ventured into mixed farming, Mr Chasunga from Solwezi's Kifubwa area started with neither farming experience nor training but only his ambition to produce something off the land.

At 66, Chasunga is an accomplished farmer who is into various agricultural ventures including pineapple farming, maize production, fish farming, cattle as well as goat rearing.

"I started my agribusiness with a K4,000 loan I got from Government way

back in 1987 when I used to work as a civil servant and bought two cows and in four years' time, I managed to pay back after my cattle reproduced up to 10 animals," Chasunga said.

However, what is paramount about Chasunga's agribusiness journey is his shrewdness in goat production which he started in 2002 in a bid to supply the lucrative market in the neighbouring countries.

Locally, the prices for goats depend on the demand and supply but on average one animal fetches between K300 and K450 and Chasunga has since sold over 20 goats to help take his children to school and ploughing back into his agribusiness.

Government's recent trade agreement

with Saudi Arabia to enable local livestock farmers export goats to that country inspired Chasunga to take goat rearing seriously by taking advantage of the international market such as in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Angola.

Meanwhile, having realised the need to explore the lucrative export market, Chasunga sought to move away from the traditional way of keeping and marketing his goats, thanks to Fortune world's monthly training workshops powered by Kansanshi mine.

"I decided to enrol for the Fortune World's business training programme in 2019 and the knowledge I got has transformed me from a primeval way of managing goats to a progressive one by understanding the dynamics of marketing goats profitably," he noted.

For this reason, Chasunga started exporting his goats to the ever-yawning Congolese market through Kipushi border, which is about 102 kilometres north of Solwezi town.

"Each year, I sell 12 to 15 goats at Kipushi border and each goat fetches around K400 to K600. I have since managed to take my children to school, pay for medical bills, buy fertiliser for my crop production and re-invested into my agribusiness," Chasunga said.

He confessed that his entrepreneurial mindset has been transformed positively after he acquired more knowledge on how to enhance his agribusiness and marketing his goat business.

Speaking during a mentorship courtesy call, Fortune World Investments Managing Director Mukumbi Kafuta who was accompanied by his Director of Programmes Patrick Matanda commended Chasunga that despite his age, he has demonstrated to the young people that out of one's abilities and applied knowledge, business success is inevitable.

"I think that you are an inspiration especially to the young people that you have demonstrated the ability to apply your knowledge in business diversification and you are now able to keep goats, cattle and crops which is a good thing and please keep it up," Kafuta said.

Solwezi Teacher taps into Fish Trading

Younger entrepreneurs are emerging with various business ideas to satisfy the local market demand in Solwezi district of North-Western province.

At 26, Daffen Ngandu started her own business after realising that there were few suppliers of rice in Solwezi and that they were unable to meet the growing demand of the commodity in the bustling mining town.

In 2016, Ngandu raised K2,000 and travelled to Nakonde to order a 50 Kilogramme bag of rice and kick-started her business venture to beef up her initial enterprise of selling secondhand clothes, locally known as 'Salaula.'

At the time she started her business, Ms Ngandu, a mother of two was a student pursuing a diploma in secondary school teaching course at Zambia College of Open Learning (ZAMCO) in Solwezi.

"I was still at college pursuing my teaching studies and started with selling salaula and rice that I used to sell door to door during school holidays. I raised enough to sustain myself at school," she said.

Determined to make money even after she has graduating, Ngandu believes that waiting to be deployed by Government may take long despite many attempts to apply in the civil service, so she thought wisely to consider venturing into the lucrative fish trading business.

Ngandu noted that, in her quest to diversify her business, she realised the need to expand her food supply chain by considering going into the supply of dried fish in Solwezi.

Armed with K5,000 as capital that she had raised from her previous business early this year, she travelled to Mongu in Western Province to procure dried fish, taking advantage of the fish ban, a period when it becomes highly marketable at the local market.



ENTREPRENEUR Daffen Ngandu displays her fish merchandise ready for market.

"I was still at college pursuing my teaching studies and started with selling salaula and rice that I used to sell door to door during school holidays. I raised enough to sustain myself at school," she said.

Ngandu stated that she looks forward to living her dream because fish trading seemed to have huge profit margins, compared to other businesses.

"I have done my research very well and found out that after a capital injection of K5,000, I will be able to make 100 percent profit and most of my friends in this business are really doing fine," she affirmed.

With a bunch of five medium salted breams going at K100 while slightly smaller ones fetching K50 a bunch of eight salted fish, Ngandu is certain that the business has massive potential, noting that food business is always viable

as people need to eat at any given time.

She acknowledged that the business training workshops run by Fortune World Investments have helped sharpen her skills in business management the moment she got enrolled in the programme in January 2020.

"I thought of advancing my knowledge on how to handle my customers to help me attract more clients and I have learnt key lessons such as how to avoid debts in a business and coming up with a business plan among others and I have managed to apply them in my business," she said.

Fortune World Investments Managing Director Mukumbi Kafuta advised Ngandu to be consistent in measuring her business and cash flow projections to help her monitor her progress.

"Being a qualified Mathematics teacher, I urge you to consider doing a cash flow projection for a certain period of time to ascertain the amount of money you will be able to make," said Kafuta, who was accompanied by the company's Director of Programmes Patrick Matanda.

Solwezi Construction Boom Creates Business Opportunities

AS Solwezi town emerges from decades of economic decline through a typically capital-led development on account of foreign investments in the country's mining sector, frontiers of mineral extraction have led to job creation in North-Western Province.

It is a well-known fact that the existence of big mines in any area stimulates local economies and drives economic growth, resulting in the creation of jobs, wealth and disposable income far beyond the boundaries of the mines themselves.

The population boom in Solwezi town which has been triggered by increased mining activities has since exerted pressure to construct social infrastructure such as housing units thereby creating jobs in the construction industry.

Fred Chinyama of Solwezi's Saviye area, has noted that as economic activities increase in the district, there is high demand of people seeking to own housing units for rent and lodges and that being a builder, an opportunity has presented itself to make money.

"I learnt this skill in 2009 from my father who was a builder. He is the one who gave me the courage to learn from scratch at a tender age. He was well known in the district then as he worked on many Government projects which include the construction of facilities such as Kyawama local court, DEBS offices in Solwezi, maize sheds in Kasempa," Chinyama said.

Inspired by his late father – Edward Chinyama who was a prominent builder known for his outstanding building works and had contributed to having built many notable facilities within Solwezi's central business district.



Fred Chinyama.

After the demise of his father, Chinyama had no choice but to fit into his late dad's proficiency and acumen in the building sector.

In 2019, he realised the need to beef up his knowledge on how to take construction as a business and got interest in Fortune worlds' business training workshops which he described afterwards as a game changer for him.

"I have acquired more knowledge on how to save money, on how to associate with my clients, how to advertise my business online, among others," Chinyama said.

After a short stint at Mapchan construction company, he became his own boss and his first project was in 2015 when he got his first tender to plaster a client's house near Solwezi's Urban clinic and after a neat work, he got paid K2,500 and after a month, he earned K7,000

from other works. He also works as a plumber and as a painter.

"By then, I was not well known and people used to doubt my building abilities due to my young age especially those who knew me. After seeing some of my projects, they got convinced and started appreciating my work. I got encouraged after I started earning enough money which I used to pay for my child's school fees and settled other bills at home," he said.

At 32, Chinyama is owner of Frebet Construction Company which he intends to register soon but through it, he has built over 20 big building projects for individuals and companies in the district and earned more than K80,000 in a space of five years.

"I have bought myself a plot and I intend to start building soon, and this venture also helps me to take my kids to school and provide household income. I am also a proud employer of three workers as well and in the next five years, I look forward to registering my company and win construction projects," he said.

Chinyama has since paid glowing tribute to Kansanshi Mine's generosity for having continued to sponsor the training programmes through Fortune world Investments.

In his mentorship message, Fortune World Managing Director Mukumbi Kafuta urged Chinyama to hasten the formalisation process for his business for him get more contracts and expand his business into real estate.

"Your work is very smart due to your seriousness to succeed. We can even recommend you to some people in future, but you need to formalise your business first. As you grow your business, consider to also engage in real estate another lucrative venture as the demand for housing units in the country is huge," Kafuta said.



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Friday	LUN-JNB	10:10 LUN
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ZCCM-IH facing default on \$1.5bn Glencore debt

BY STUART LISULO

GOVERNMENT'S newly acquired Mopani Copper Mines may delay its scheduled US\$1.5 billion debt repayment to Glencore Plc, says economist Oliver Saasa.

And Saasa has observed that Mopani's asset valuation is reportedly around US \$630 million, not the US \$1.5 billion ZCCM-IH will now be paying back to Glencore, to complete acquiring the asset over a 10 to 17-year period.

In an analysis on the implications of Government's takeover of Mopani, Saasa, who is Premier Consult Limited Chief Executive Officer, cautioned that ZCCM-IH could struggle to meet its scheduled US\$1.5 billion debt repayment should copper prices fluctuate from the current high of around US\$8,000 per tonne.

On January 19, 2021, the Zambian Government, through State-controlled mining investment firm ZCCM-Investment Holdings acquired 90 percent shares in Mopani, adding to its already existing 10 percent shareholding in the company.

The signed off-take arrangement deal is priced at US\$1.5 billion, which will be financed through a loan to be serviced from Mopani's copper sales.

Government now holds 100 percent ownership of Mopani, a move, which has generated mixed reactions, with more stakeholders voicing serious concerns as to the decision's commercial viability.

Questions have been raised around economic benefits Government would accrue on behalf of taxpayers in the off-take arrangement deal negotiated with Mopani's outgoing parent company, Glencore, the Swiss-based commodities and minerals trader.

"Glencore is also perceived as having come out of the deal in a more favoured position. Glencore has guaranteed the ZCCM-IH repayment of its loan by securing 10 percent of Mopani's cop-

per output until the repayment of the US\$1.5 billion loan is completed.

"While the price of copper is currently healthy, it is still reasonable to assume that, in the event that the price plummets to very low levels and Mopani is threatened with a default on loan servicing, Government will have to step in, as the 100 percent shareholder, to avoid possible confiscation of national assets by Glencore. Related to this, it is noteworthy that debt repayment to Glencore is not going to be paid out of profit, but revenue. This means that Glencore will receive its payments at source (before tax) irrespective of whether or not Mopani makes profit," Saasa said in a statement.

"At the macro-level, while, granted, the US\$1.5 billion is not going to reflect on the external sovereign debt stock, a protracted repayment if and when the price of copper declines significantly,



could result in Government bailout for a struggling State-owned Mopani. This has happened before when, prior to privatisation, State-owned mining companies under ZCCM became a drain on the national Treasury due to the need for subsidies to keep them afloat. Legitimate concerns can, thus, be expressed regarding the implications for Mopani servicing a large debt based on turnover and the probability of the Treasury, using taxpayers' money, stepping in to bailout a struggling company. A debt payment formula that is based on profit was going to be more ideal."

He also observed that Mopani's asset valuation was less than half the US\$1.5 billion ZCCM-IH will now be paying back to Glencore to complete acquiring the asset over a 10-17-year period.

"In my view, the US\$1.5 billion for the purchase of 90 percent shares in Mopani is on the high end, especially seen

against the fact that it is actually being sourced from a subsidiary of no other than the very company that is being bought-off (Glencore). As one of Glencore's global 'focus' assets that initially enjoyed heavy investments, Mopani subsequently suffered from cash haemorrhage on account of operational challenges; high costs; and a relatively un-supportive fiscal regime for the mining sector in Zambia.

"COVID-19 worsened the situation, which contributed to the decision by Glencore to put Mopani on care and maintenance. Due to all these challenges, in August, 2020, Glencore is reported to have written down the value of Mopani by as much as US\$1.1 billion to put it at just above US\$700 million," he added.

"Since Glencore owned 90 percent of US\$700 million, then the real market price of 90 percent shares should be around US\$630 million, not US\$1.5 billion unless there is information that has been withheld from the public domain that I am not aware of. Under these conditions, selling off Mopani for more than twice its written-down value may suggest to those that are not privy to any other considerations as a reflection of weak bargaining power on the part of ZCCM-IH."

He urged Government to disclose the full details of the deal with Glencore to enable a more informed analysis, stressing that policy clarity in the transaction remained cardinal.

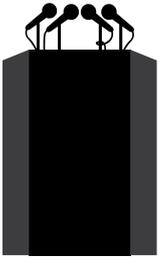
"Starting with the policy environment, I believe that a clearer Government position ought to be crafted and communicated by Cabinet to ensure that nobody, including foreign investors, cooperating partners and multilateral institutions, gets conflicting policy signals that could be injurious to the assumed receptiveness of Zambia to enhanced inflow of foreign investment," stated Saasa.

"Policy clarity is cardinal in this situation because many analysts and observers are still unsure whether Gov-

ernment's move on Mopani is primarily due to what the State considers as failure by Glencore (or Vedanta in the case of KCM) to follow sovereign rules of corporate engagement or to invest sufficiently and responsibly (hence, the Government takeover should be seen either as transitory and that private investors will be sought to assume significant, if not controlling stakes in the companies) or it is the State's new policy position that it now wishes to more directly own, control and run economic ventures, which would amount to resource nationalism in the Mopani case."

He said the effects of the US\$1.5 billion signed off-take arrangement deal also needed to be scrutinised with a view to ensuring that, in the medium-to-long-term, it did not result in significant macro-level fiscal or liquidity stress to Mopani itself.





HICKS SIKAZWE ON THE PLATFORM



How to tap into a mushrooming God-sent industry...

MUSHROOM is one of the commonest delicacies consumed throughout the country and available in abundance during the rainy season, that is from the time the first drop falls in November to March.

This is almost the same period the traditional common cereal, maize, lasts from planting period to the exciting days of harvesting.

The only difference is that mushroom

is purely God-sent, but there is no effort needed to prepare the land, sow the edible fungus or apply fertilisers. What mushroom needs is good rainfall, and it grows anywhere, and sometimes everywhere.

Since much of tropical Africa, Zambia too, is yearly endowed with good rains; mushroom is widely available and plays a critical part in the alleviation of hunger in many communities.

In villages, assuming the dry season had left behind pangs of hunger, the rainy season is welcomed with open arms as the mushroom calendar brings hope and ends endemic shortages of food.

As soon as the first rains set in, families will spread out in adjacent forests and beyond in search of this age-old delicacy. That means for the next three months or beyond, there would be very little cause for worry as to where the relish would come from.

VARIETY

Since most of it also shoots up in a variety of types, it can thus be eaten regularly without consumers getting kind of fed up. In fact, some of the varieties can be cooked or roasted depending on how the consumer prefers it.

Unlike many foods that demand additions like spices and others, mushroom in the whole simply requires some drop of

salt. A lack of cooking oil, tomato or onion will never make it less tasty.

In the villages, mushroom consumption does not end with the wet season. Families would usually crop as much as is available and preserve it for the next season especially in the period when there is little food in communities.

The preservation process is simple and basic. It is boiled in large quantities, dried in the sun where available, or simply smoked in well heated hangers in private or communal kitchens. Once dried, it is then packed and stored. Thereafter, it can be eaten for even a year or more. It does not go bad at all. This way, mushroom has played a critical role in alleviating hunger and preventing abject poverty in swelling rural populations.

Beyond that, if the family dried more than enough of it, part of the processed mushroom can be taken to the market for sale and raise money for other deficit foods, uniforms, fertiliser or any other activity.

INNOVATIVE

In this modern world, many people, including innovative womenfolk have risen as entrepreneurs who are selling fresh and preserved mushroom.

In towns and cities where there is a greater demand for food, especially with



the continued high cost of living, the advent of mushroom during the rainy season is a time of relief for many. Again, some marketeers even abandon other activities to plunge into selling mushroom.

Another advantage is that even to a business starter, venturing into selling mushroom does not need any capital at all. What is needed is to venture a few yards away from home—if you find some, crop it and move the find to the market.

Alternatively, it needs very little capital. As the rainy season peaks, more and more of the foodstuff is available cheaply all over and everywhere, so some innovative soul can buy it and resell elsewhere.

Undoubtedly, even in the urban areas, mushroom changes the lives of many communities in the few months it is available. Like in rural areas, entrepreneurs in the cities and towns can raise money for school uniforms, gas, food and more.

ADVANTAGE

But tragically, much as the perennial food is available free, there is very little effort to take commercial advantage of it, especially in urban areas. Mushroom is available all over the landscape; for travelling motorists large quantities are there with village vendors positioned along the road. It will similarly be available from vendors along shop corridors and the market for bulk orders.

Assuming it is not sold, the next day it

would not survive for long unless it is bought in the early hours of the market day. While in villages, it is easier to preserve mushroom in the processes highlighted above, but it may be so in the cities.

In short, there is need for families and authorities to establish a sustainable mushroom industry in the continued quest to fight hunger and poverty. The amount of mushroom we see around is so much in abundance but never kept for the rainy day.

Those motorists who would want to venture into the enterprise as a hobby could shuttle between two towns; buy mushroom for domestic consumption and preserve the rest. Doing that for the rest of the time it is available would have preserved tonnes of the crop for resell.

That could help in boosting food security at home and go towards raising funds by selling to the neighbourhood without even having to go out to the marketplace. In these days of modern technology, all one needs is to post information about the availability of the merchandise on a social media platform and it would be swamped within hours.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE

As more and more people get involved in this less expensive activity, families could one day find that there is so much preserved mushroom that could be exported to earn foreign exchange.

With the launching of the Africa free trade area (FTA) that kicked off on January 1, the continent will need innovation and creativity to sustain the facility. For

years, though Africa has been painted as a doyen of hunger and suffering, people in this great region have so much they can sell to each other and survive.

After all, for many years, much of the Western world has survived on African resources and even labour as the continent continues to wallow in poverty, hunger and deprivation. This kind of suffering has been uncalled for.

Mushroom is just one example; there are several other foodstuffs that communities could venture into and turn things around.

The advent of the new technology will not only complement on local innovations but will improve the sale and distribution of goods and services. It is worth a try in the New Year.

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Living with the Sting of Death

BY PASTOR ISAAC MAKASHINYI

AMONG the species of insects that sting, the killer honeybee is one of the most dangerous. Its barbed sting contains venom that causes swelling and pain that sometimes may last for days.

I have been stung by bees before, and I am familiar with the pain associated with bee stings. Tragically for a bee, when it stings, the stinger becomes detached from the insect leading to its death; hence bees can only sting once.

There is something else that stings with a much more venomous harm than the sting of a bee. It doesn't sting once, but multiple times. It is mankind's most dreaded enemy—and that is death.

Few people, if any at all, can claim ignorance of the experience of the shuddering terror and horror of death. At no time, perhaps, in the history of our country have we gone through a season when death has come knocking on many doors as it is doing now. Hardly a day passes without the sad news of the passing on of someone close to you, or someone you knew.

The Covid-19 pandemic has brought death closer home to our hearts like never before. Its sting has been felt in many hearts. As I write this, I have missed four funerals of people that were very close to me because I have been on a 14-day self-isolation after being exposed to the coronavirus, and thankfully, I eventually tested negative.

Whether from the dreaded virus or not, the truth is that one day, the moment will surely come, when the angel of death



will swoop down to snatch your heart's treasure, or to tear you away from those you treasure. Every day, we live a thread away from the sting of death.

THE NAKED TRUTH

The Swedish-American poet Carl Sandburg (1878-1967) wrote what he claimed to be the shortest poem in English literature: "Born. Troubled. Died." That is an undeniable truth of our human experience. And Job sums it perfectly in his cry of pain:

When death visits us, like a bee, it stings; and the sting is painful, but it also has a purpose. It comes to remind us of our sin, God's righteousness, and the impending appointment before the bar of justice.



Man who is born of a woman is few of days and full of trouble. He comes out like a flower and withers; he flees like a shadow and continues not. (Job 14:1-2).

When we read the Bible, death is not painted as something natural but as something that has invaded God's good creation. In fact, the Bible presents death in terms that are almost adversarial; even calling it an enemy (1 Corinthians 15:26).

When God created the world, there was

nothing such as death or mourning, but only joy. But a great rebellion took place in the Garden of Eden when Adam and Eve ignored God's command and plunged this world into the darkness of sin. God, being just and righteous had to punish sin, so in his justice, he judged our first parents, and thus death entered into this world (Genesis 2 and 3; Romans 5:12). This judgment of God is seen very clearly each time someone dies.

But far worse than physical death is what the Bible calls our spiritual death. Of our inability to live lives that please God, Paul in Ephesians 2 tells us that "we were dead in trespasses and sin." This position is particularly troubling because we cannot get ourselves out of it. In fact, you can do no more to get yourself out of spiritual death than you can physical death.

THE SPIRITUAL ANSWER

When death visits us, like a bee, it stings; and the sting is painful, but it also has a purpose. It comes to remind us of our sin, God's righteousness, and the impending appointment before the bar of justice.

Every time you see a coffin at a funeral, let it preach to you the sobering truth that you live in a broken and fallen world under the curse of death—and soon it will be your turn to lie in that box. Death is not merely an event that awaits us, but a power that rules us now, the leaven of futility that denies our souls, peace and contentment.

And though we try to keep ourselves busy and endlessly entertained, mainly as an attempt to divert our gaze from the shadow, death casts across our lives, sadly, we discover that nothing earthly can successfully divert our minds and hearts away from the subject of death.

The only answer to death's crippling fear is the Lord Jesus Christ. Only in Jesus are we given the freedom from the dear of death. (Hebrews 2:14-15). That is why Christians do not try to mitigate the pain of death with sentimental and fluffy encouragements that will not bring true comfort. What we hold forth is the Saviour, the Lord Jesus who alone has defeated death and offers life and true comfort to those who will come to

him.

It is here and here alone that the grieving heart may be comforted and truly brought to joy even in the midst of pain. Humanity's relief from the pain of death comes from Christ (John 3:16; 11:25-26).

And this is the good news, this is the encouragement, the hope and the truth that fortifies us in the face of death. The Gospel of salvation comes to us on death row, in the prison of our fallen nature, from which we have no possibility of escape. There, inside our barred prison cell, the Gospel declares that God has a gracious answer to the problem of our sin — Christ's death on the cross which opens the door to our freedom if we look up to Him with the eyes of faith.

LIVING WITH HOPE

As we, with a near-perfect choreographed routine, sanitise and wash our hands with soap numerous times every day, all because of the fear of a tiny, invisible microscopic virus, and the deathly ravaging harm it is capable of doing to our respiratory system, let us remember that since we were born, we have been living with a far deadlier virus in us that kills both body and soul. Let us not stubbornly refuse the "heavenly sanitiser" that can make us permanently clean from our depravity.

So, as the arrows of death fly over our heads, may we be jolted back to reality that we are "like a dream, like grass that . . . fades and withers" (Psalm 90:5-6).

While this vapour of life still lingers, and we stock up on face masks, hand sanitisers, lemons, eucalyptus oil and all other medications to fight off the pandemic of Covid-19, remember that there is only One Person that will make the difference when your ruined clay begins its journey to dissolution—He is the One who said "I am the resurrection and the life."

Death is the stealthy assassin who penetrates the defences and slips into the fortified castles. Though its sting has been removed, its bite remains and aches, but in Christ, that sting has been diffused so that it does not inflict the maximum harm.



CEC lines cannot be common carrier—high court

BY BY SOLWEZI TODAY WRITER

THE Lusaka High Court has quashed Energy Minister Matthew Nkhuwa's decision to declare Copperbelt Energy Corporation (CEC) transmission and distribution lines as common carrier.

Judge Elita Mwikisa said Nkhuwa's action in declaring CEC's transmission and distribution lines as common carrier was disproportionate and ultra vires the provisions of the Electricity Act, more especially Section 15 of the Act and therefore illegal.

She said in a judgement delivered on Friday February 26 that the ministerial decision had taken away CEC's rights to negotiate terms and conditions of use of its infrastructure in view of the fact that any enterprise could use CEC's infrastructure at the wheeling charge that the Energy Regulation Board (ERB) has set, which CEC had argued was not cost-effective.

“The applicant (CEC) was not given a chance to negotiate the terms and conditions of use of its infrastructure with KCM. In fact, KCM has abrogated its contractual obligations under the Power Supply Agreement (PSA) to pay the debt owed to CEC amounting to US\$144 million.

This was in a matter in which the CEC which had cited Attorney-General Likando Kalaluka and the ERB as respondents, seeking a declaration that Nkhuwa's decision dated May 29, 2020, to declare its transmission and distribution lines as common carrier was unlawful.

CEC wanted a declaration that the decision of Minister of Energy should direct it to provide a wheeling path for Zesco Limited to supply power to KCM on terms directed by the ERB was illegal and therefore null and void.

It also wanted a declaration that the decision by the Director General of the Energy Regulation Board of May 31, 2020 to direct it to charge a wheeling



tariff of US\$5.84/kw/per month was illegal and therefore null and void. CEC further wanted among others, an order to quash the said decisions and a further order to stop Mr Nkhwa from enforcing Statutory Instrument No.57 of 2020 as it was illegal.

In her judgement, Mwikisa said that there was a failure on the part of the Minister to act with procedural fairness towards CEC.

Mwikisa said CEC was not fairly treated by the Minister who arbitrarily used his powers to declare its transmission and distribution lines as common carrier without giving CEC a chance to negotiate terms and conditions for the use of its infrastructure.

“The applicant (CEC) was not given a chance to negotiate the terms and conditions of use of its infrastructure with KCM. In fact, KCM has abrogated its contractual obligations under the Power Supply Agreement (PSA) to pay the debt owed to CEC amounting to US\$144 million.

“I agree with CEC that SI No. 57 of 2020 is too wide in its application in that it affects all the applicant’s transmission and distribution lines instead of only affecting lines supplying power to KCM,” Mwikisa said.

She said that the Minister’s decision to declare CEC distribution and transmission lines as common carrier was not for purposes of the Act but was intended to assist KCM avoid the effect of Section 43 of the Electricity Act.

Mwikisa agreed with CEC that the Minister’s decision was meant to ensure continuous supply of electricity power to KCM, despite it being indebted to CEC.

“The Minister’s decision is ultra vires the provisions of Section 15 (2) of the Act and therefore illegal. KCM failed to pay the debt of US\$144 million and CEC has the right under Section 43 (1) to discontinue the supply of power,” she further said.

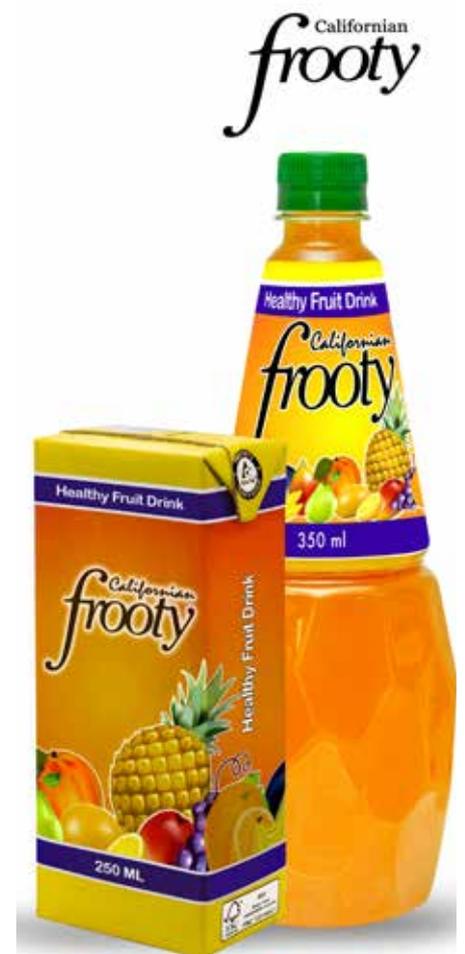
Mwikisa further said ERB’s decision to set the wheeling tariff before the contracting parties could engage in negotiations was an act of illegality and was procedurally improper.

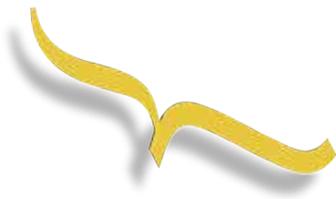
She said that ERB, on the authority of the Minister violated Section 15 (2) of the Act by dictating the wheeling tariff payable to CEC by Zesco when the law specifically provides that terms and conditions ought to be agreed between the enterprise and the owner of the transmission or distribution line.

She explained that what the Minister

could have done under the circumstances, was to declare only those transmission and distribution lines of CEC that supply power to KCM (in liquidation) and not to declare the entire interconnected system of CEC as common carrier, thereby opening it to any enterprise to use it indiscriminately.

“All in all, I find that the applicant has succeeded on all grounds under Order 53 Rule 3 of the Rules of the Supreme Court. I accordingly quash the decision of the Minister of May 29, 2020, to declare the applicant’s transmission and distribution lines as a common carrier. Costs follow the event.”





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