

# SOLWEZI

T O D A Y

ISSUE 118 | JUNE 2021



## Martin Musunka A pioneer publisher gone too soon

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TOGETHER***

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ZAMBEEF Products Plc has posted profit after tax of K54 million during its half-year period ending March 31, 2021, driven mainly by strong growth in its poultry, retail and cropping divisions.



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# EDITORIAL



## FAREWELL, MARTIN MUSUNKA

It is not often that journalists graduate from mainstream media work and successfully venture into entrepreneurship, less still publishing. Martin Musunka, the now departed founder of Suma Systems and pioneer of Solwezi Today and This Is Zambia, turned out to be one of a kind.

Suma Systems is now a buoyant enterprise with staff and offices in several towns around Zambia, making waves in its quietly consistent way for more than a decade now.

We have suffered a telling blow with the departure of our CEO, a widely respected journalist and noted sports administrator, and it is now our task to find our feet in changed circumstances and soldier on.

Musunka would not have desired to fold up the two publications, which have over the years developed and nurtured

splendid relationships with our numerous stakeholders. His passing has left his hopes and dreams in our hands; therefore we will continue to run the race.

We wish to express our deepest gratitude and appreciation to all our corporate and individual clients for years (and months) of meaningful business association. Without your goodwill and support, our organization would not have cruised to this point.

We further salute and cherish the expressions of sympathy and condolences from all friends, relations, associates and acquaintances of the late Martin Musunka. You have accorded him the kind of valediction that will keep his loving and caring personality in everlasting memory.

Farewell and thank you for everything, Mr Martin Musunka. May your soul rest in peace.



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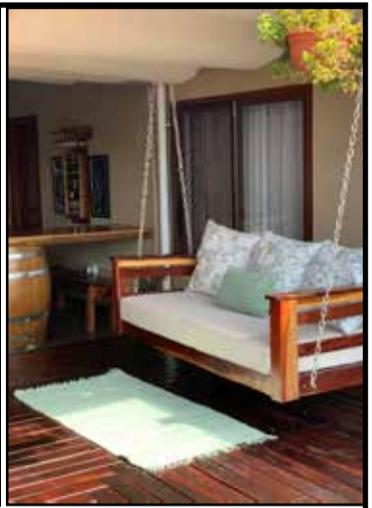
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**LUSAKA OFFICE**  
Suite 3, plot 1728/M, Main Street,  
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Tel: +260 211 281 310

**NDOLA OFFICE**  
Suite 8 Pelican House, First Floor, Vitanda Street,  
Ndola, ZAMBIA  
Telephone: +260 212 611 776  
Fax: +260 212 612 218  
Mobile: +260 977 820 888

**SOLWEZI OFFICE**  
c/o The Royal Solwezi Hotel,  
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KML Project Manager for CR4 Pocket Construction Albert Jonah explains effectiveness of the In-pit ore crushers at Kalumbila Open pit mine.

# In-pit ore crushers to up copper production at Kalumbila

BY DERRICK SILIMINA

**Kalumbila Mine's investment in cutting-edge equipment will boost copper production by 40 per cent.**

**S**peaking during a familiarization tour of its recently acquired In-pit copper ore crusher, a state-of-the-art mining machine, KML Project Manager for CR4 Pocket Construction Albert Jonah said investment in the In-pit crushers is a milestone achievement as they are globally uncommon.

Jonah, a mining engineer, noted that the mega mining equipment is worth

US\$ 15 million apiece, and the company has invested in two sets in Panama and four at its Kalumbila mine.

For this reason, by 2022 copper production at Kalumbila Mine will go up by 30 to 40 per cent, hence the need to procure the fourth In-pit ore crusher.

“By 2022, our copper production will be up by 30 to 40 per cent, and as the pit is expanding towards the east, this latest

crusher will play a vital role as more ore gets exposed on the eastern side of the pit. The other crushers are equally going to be moved as the pit expands,” Jonah noted.

With a capacity of 7,000 tonnes per hour translating into 140,000 tonnes production per day, double the size of the first three crushers on-site, the project manager bubbled with confidence that the masterpiece is an awesome investment in the country's mining history.

“This In-pit crusher is the fourth we've got at Kalumbila Mine, which is more or less double the size of the first three that are in operation. We started the pocket construction of this new crusher in December 2020 and total completion is more or less end of July this year.”

Jonah stated that In-pit ore crushers reduce the mine's haulage costs which saves mining operations in the long run as compared to off-the-pit crushers as the rest of the haulage is done by conveyor belts into the plant.

He further stressed that the installation of each In-pit crusher came at a huge cost as the latest gear has so far gobbled \$2m in pocket construction. In terms of assembling the massive unit, the facility required about 150 to 200 personnel on the project works.

Investment in such high-tech mining equipment facilitates the transfer of technology among the local mining staff as the assembly, and installation of the machinery is accordingly being done by in-house personnel.

“We've got a local project team that's working on this fourth crusher as they have learnt from expatriates that were brought in during the installation of the first and second crusher. I think it's vital for local staff to know dynamics of such technology as this achieves better control of the facility and is cost-effective.”

Regarding the lifespan of the In-pit crushers, Jonah confirmed that the mining apparatus is able to stand the test of time and even up-to the end of the mining lease.

“For as long as we do maintenance works on them, the life of these crushers goes up-to the end of mining operations.”

# Interference in the copper sector making Zambia miss out on the potential windfall from current high Copper price.

Zaynab Mohamed - NKC African Economics Analyst.



BY JOHN CHOLA

**A leading provider of independent economic and political research on Africa, NKC African Economics says Zambia is missing out on the potential windfall from current Copper price which has hit a record high of US\$10,000 per metric ton.**

**A**ccording to the Bank of America, Copper prices could reach as high as \$20,000 per metric ton by 2025 amid the widening supply and demand deficits.

In response to a press query, NKC African Economics notes that interference in the copper sector especially by the state has led to Zambia failing to maximise its benefits from the high global Copper prices.

NKC African Economics' Political and Economic analyst, Zaynab Mohamed observes that the continuous borrowing in recent years by the Zambian government had made the country's debt unsustainable, and led to the default on the Eu-

robond payment last November.

"On economic policy, too, the administration of President Edgar Lungu has not had a great run. Its interference in the copper sector (seizing assets and intimidating foreign investors) have made a big dent in the sector," said Mohamed.

He stresses that the effects can now be clearly seen just by looking at the headline metrics: gross domestic product (GDP) growth fell from 4.8 per cent in 2014 to only 1.5 per cent in 2019.

And further on the political front NKC African Economics noted that since President Lungu came into office in 2015, the

ruling administration has increasingly tended towards authoritarianism and nationalism.

"This makes many fear that there will be interference even in the elections, in the president's favour," Mohamed said.

NKC African Economics, an Oxford Economics Company, has forecast Zambia's GDP growth of only 0.7 per cent this year and 1.2 per cent next year.

Meanwhile, the Policy Monitoring and Research Centre (PMRC) believes government's recent 100 percent acquisition of Mopani Copper Mines (MCM) places Zambia to benefit from higher copper prices, particularly when one considers that copper is a significant source of FOREX.

PMRC Executive Director, Bernadette Deka Zulu says the Zambian government had continued to strive towards attaining fiscal and debt sustainability in order to restore economic growth.

Deka says government's effective implementation of the measures aimed at restoring fiscal and debt sustainability are crucial to ensuring economic stabilization and growth.

"Its commitment is evidenced by the strategies outlined in the Economic Recovery Programme, which when implemented holistically will spur growth and set Zambia on a path of economic recovery," said Deka.

She added that her PMRC encourages the government to continue pursuing avenues that are aimed at restoring the economy, such as debt restructuring, adopting cost efficient measures of doing business and considering the formulation of a medium-term policy that will put the country back on a trajectory to achieving fiscal consolidation.



# 'August 12 polls may slow Zambia economic recovery'

BY STUART LISULO

**ZAMBIA'S economic recovery may be undermined by the ongoing Covid-19 'third wave', compounded by the upcoming August general elections.**

**T**his poses a major risk event for the country's economy, data shows.

According to a RMB Global Markets Research report released recently, Zambia's economic rebound could be halted on account of the August 12 election, a development that has been cited as a major risk event, which could trigger a possible 'fourth wave' and dampen economic growth prospects.

Zambia's economy grew by an impressive 0.7 per cent during the first quarter of this year from -0.3 per cent recorded in the same period of 2020, representing a 1.0 percentage point increase.

Gross Domestic Growth (GDP) growth rebounded over the period under review from last year when Zambia recorded its first-ever Covid-19 case in March, 2020, now standing at 169,003 cases to-date.

Zambia's Covid-19 caseload peaked to nearly 2,800 cases over a 24-hour peri-

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**The PMI is an indicator of economic activity where readings above 50.0 signal an improvement in business conditions on the previous month, while readings below 50.0 show deterioration in the conditions.**

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od during June, the country's worst-ever record so far.

"The seven-day moving average of Covid cases seems to be trending down, currently at 2,153 from the peak of 2,791 two weeks ago. This is good news given that elections, high contact events, will be taking place in just over a month. With the rate of vaccinations picking up, the corresponding deaths

are also showing signs of moderation. The first two waves were notably lower than the current third wave with a risk of a fourth wave triggered by the elections. This poses a risk of a slower-than-expected economic recovery," RMB disclosed.

And data compiled by RMB Markets and Bloomberg shows that Zambia's Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) was the lowest in June of 49.3 from among the six selected countries in sub-Saharan Africa.

The PMI is an indicator of economic activity where readings above 50.0 signal an improvement in business conditions on the previous month, while readings below 50.0 show deterioration in the conditions.

"On average, readings across Africa remained above the 50-neutral line in June, suggesting improved economic activity. Nigeria's recent reading of 53.6 is one of the highest in Africa, with its economy supported by higher oil prices that are set to stay above the US \$70/bbl mark for the remainder of this year, allowing for better export revenue. On the other hand, Zambia's reading of 49.3 is one of the lowest, which is unsurprising given the economic lethargy that is common this close to a general election," said the report.



# Airtel Offers Zambian Businesses Smart Solutions

**...How to meet  
connectivity needs  
during pandemic**

BY JOHN CHOLA

Airtel Business is on course to provide the Zambian business sector with digital connectivity solutions in light of the negative impact of the corona virus pandemic.

**A**irtel Networks Zambia Plc has announced the launch of 'Airtel Business' to enable small, medium and large business entities access reliable and tailored solutions for business mobility and fixed connectivity solutions, through the organization's robust infrastructure, 100 per cent 4G network and technical expertise.

The new platform further offers a comprehensive telecommunications portfolio comprised of voice services, fibre-based solutions, satellite services, managed data and Internet Services,

Airtel Enterprise Business Director Lindiwe Banda.

managed e-business services and managed customized integrated solutions.

Lindiwe Banda, who is Enterprise Business Director, explains that “Airtel Business Zambia is meant to help local businesses, from large corporate organisations to small and medium enterprises and start-ups, to take control of their digital transformation journeys.”

Businesses that partner with Airtel Business will adopt a unique strategic partnership model with the new platform, to receive customized solutions that will address each business’s unique requirements.

### KEY PRIORITY

“Digitalization is a key priority for any business now, no matter which sector it operates in. At Airtel Zambia, we know that a smart network lies at the heart of any digital transformation journey and is crucial in re-inventing a business’s future. With the onset of Covid-19 last year, we’ve seen business digital solutions become a priority now more than ever,” Banda explains.

Her organization has recognized that many businesses need a helping hand to navigate through the pandemic.

“Airtel Business Zambia is responding to today’s need in helping enterprises become ‘digital’ and all this being done by adopting unique partnership models with businesses and engaging closely with each business for a personalized service to suit their unique requirements.”

Airtel has for a while been involved in business-to-business transactions, Banda says, but has lately felt it imperative to go deliberate and launch a strategic unit focused strictly on business-to-business solutions.

“When we speak of which business segments we are supporting with our business solutions, it basically cuts across sectors because we have been and will continue to support banking and finance organisations, government and quasi-government institutions, international organizations, the mines, energy and manufacturing sectors and the tourism sector which has been im-



acted much more than the other sectors especially during this time of the pandemic.”

She notes that the current global challenges have squeezed many businesses into tight corners, hence Airtel Zambia positioning itself to enable local businesses reduce on their operational costs.

“For instance, we have seen a lot of businesses move from central operation to operating remotely. There has been need for them to digitalize the processes that they have within their businesses to make sure that they continue running as businesses, not only to stay alive but also continue to realize profits.”

### ACCOUNT MANAGERS

Airtel Zambia has dedicated account managers who are assigned to work closely with customers to support the growth of each particular business.

“We also have an indirect model that supports small-to-medium businesses because we have an expectation that these are the corporates of the future. Therefore it’s important that we carry them along on the journey of digital transformation and also in their growth.

“We would like to be the partner of choice for any SME customer, so that we grow with them and they also grow with us; such that at the point where they are moving from small to medium organizations into large corporates, we can proudly look back with them and say we did it together,” Banda says.

Besides the dedicated key account managers assigned to individual customers, clients can get in touch by email at: [airtelbusiness@zm.airtel.com](mailto:airtelbusiness@zm.airtel.com)

### STRANGLER

Since the break out of the Covid-19 pandemic, most business in Zambia have been crippled with some left grasping for breath.

A recent Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry survey report shows that 71 per cent of businesses were partially closed while 14 per cent were closed completely.

The survey of 706 entities, undertaken with support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), found that only 15 per cent of businesses maintained normal operations with the education, transport, catering and accommodation sectors being particularly affected.

# Private Sector Foreign Flows into Zambia Dropped by \$560m

BY STUART LISULO

PRIVATE sector foreign inflows to Zambia dropped by more than US \$560 million after 2018, an investment survey has revealed.



**F**oreign flows into Zambia tallied US \$357.1 million in 2019; drastically reduced from US \$924.7 million recorded in 2018, says the latest Foreign Private Investment and Investor Perceptions Survey.

Speaking during the Virtual Dissemination Workshop of the 2020 Foreign Private Investment and Investor Perceptions Survey Results in Lusaka on June 22, Bank of Zambia (BoZ) Governor Christopher Mvunga revealed that findings from the latest Survey had shown a dramatic slump in private sector foreign inflows to the country in 2019.

Data shows that inflows to Zambia plummeted to US \$357.1 million in 2019 from US \$924.7 million in 2018, marking a huge drop of more than US \$567 million over the period under review.

According to Mvunga, the decline was mainly due to debt repayments by the mining and quarrying sectors, among other corporate entities.

“Private sector foreign flows into Zambia were US \$357.1 million in 2019 compared to US \$924.7 million in 2018. The decline was largely attributed to debt repayments by the mining and quarrying, manufacturing, deposit-taking corporations as well as information and communication sectors,” Mvunga said.

“Nonetheless, foreign direct investment (FDI) liability flows grew by about 50 per cent to around US \$800 million in 2019. The significant increase was mainly due to related party borrowings of almost US\$ 1.0 billion, mostly in the mining and quarrying sector. As a result, borrowing from foreign affiliates increased to about US \$11.0 billion from US \$10.0 billion in 2018. This contributed to the increase in the stock of private sector external debt to US\$15.0 billion at the end of 2019. Switzerland continued to account for the largest share of the debt stock.”

He outlined that the mining and quarrying sector were still the leading recipient of FDI inflows in 2019 amounting

to US \$400 million, but that the rise in inflows was moderated by losses recorded in the sector.

“...The manufacturing sector was the second highest recipient of FDI with about US \$240 million, followed by deposit-taking corporations at US \$90.8 million and electricity sector at US \$54.7 million. With regard to investor perceptions, market potential, peace and security, political stability, favourable tax regime, good infrastructure and non-fiscal incentives were identified as the main motivating factors for investing and re-investing in our economy.

“Despite the deterioration in the ease of doing business, interventions in the foreign exchange market as well as the reduction in the policy rate by the Bank of Zambia were seen as positive measures that supported business activity,” stated Mvunga.

The 2020 Survey, the 13th edition conducted so far, captured the magnitude, types, sources, and direction of foreign private investment for 2019 and the first half of 2020, and also included investor perceptions on the investment climate in Zambia.

It had a response rate of 56.4 per cent, a significant reduction from the 82.0 per cent recorded in 2018, mainly attributed to reduced working hours, rotational working sequences and work-from-home arrangements induced by the Covid-19 pandemic.

The continued participation of various enterprises in this exercise is extremely important as it generates information critical for policy-making decisions.

Information collected is key in assessing developments in the Balance of Payments (BoP), which has important implications for the formulation of sound monetary, fiscal, trade and investment policies

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# Central bank counts 8.6m mobile money users

BY STUART LISULO

**MOBILE** money users now number more than 8.6 million persons as at December 31, 2020, almost double the number using the electronic platforms by the end of the prior year period, says the Bank of Zambia (BoZ).

**S**peaking during the official opening of the 2021 Media Seminar, BoZ Deputy Governor for Operations Dr Francis Chipimo disclosed that mobile money platforms had recorded increased usage last year, with numbers growing to 8.6 million users by December 31 compared to around 4.85 million in 2019.

Higher mobile money usage in Zambia has coincided with increased financial inclusion over the two corresponding years where financial inclusion in the country increased by 10.1 percentage points last year.

“Zambia has continued to make significant progress in the digital transformation agenda, especially in the area of digital financial services. For example, the number of active MNO (Mobile Network Operators)-based mobile money users increased by 77 per cent from 4,852,040 as at December 31, 2019, to 8,607,461 as at December 31, 2020.

“According to the Finscope Survey of 2020, the financial inclusion increase of 10.1 percentage points to 69.4 per cent from 59.3 per cent in 2015 was mainly attributable to mobile money. It is worth noting that these digital payment options have been instrumental in facilitating trade and commerce amidst the Covid-19 pandemic,” Dr Chipimo told journalists at the Urban Bliss Hotel in



BoZ Deputy Governor for Operations Dr Francis Chipimo

Kabwe on June 10.

He added that the National Financial Switch (NFS), Zambia’s first-ever local nationwide shared platform that facilitates for digital payments to operate across networks and service providers throughout the country, had accomplished a significant milestone with a total of 15 participants having gone live on the Mobile Payments module so far.

The establishment of the NFS started in 2014 as a project under the auspices of the Zambia Electronic Clearing House Limited, a company owned by the BoZ and commercial banks, but operating as an independent entity. The objective is to provide inter-bank clearing and payment services in the country.

It was implemented as a two-phased project; with phase one involving the switching of ATM and Point of Sale (PoS) transactions from the VISA platform to the NFS platform, while phase two involved switching mobile payments transactions.

Prior to this migration, all domestic card transactions were switched outside the country and treated as international transactions, and were accordingly priced as such.

Debit or credit card holders in Zambia now enjoy the benefits of reduced finan-

cial transaction charges and fees following the full NFS platform implementation.

“During the year 2020, the NFS project accomplished its final major milestone, the mobile payments module. As at end of quarter one of 2021, a total of 15 participants were live on the Mobile Payments module. This module provides great opportunities for everyone as it provides diverse use cases and enables customers to conduct instant payments across networks and service providers without handling cash. This is particularly important, given that the pandemic period has continued to ravage economies across the globe,” said Dr Chipimo.

The media seminar was organized to provide the media with deeper insights into BoZ operations and its role in the economy, with its first seminar having focused on the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) statement.

In May, the MPC held the Monetary Policy Rate (MPR) at 8.50 per cent to allow for the last Policy Rate adjustment to take full effect on the economy and encourage economic revival.

However, with inflation standing at an unprecedented 23.2 per cent, the MPR is likely to be hiked to rein in inflation at the next MPC sitting scheduled for August this year.

# Discuss Power Transmission Costs, Kitwe Chamber Tells Cec, Zesco

BY STUART LISULO

THE Copperbelt Energy Corporation (CEC) and Zesco Ltd should agree on how the Statutory Instrument Number 24 of 2021, which replaced SI No. 57 of 2020, will benefit both players in the electricity sector, says the Kitwe Chamber of Commerce.



**F**ormer Energy Minister Mathew Nkhuwa issued Statutory Instrument Number 24 of 2021 on April 1, 2021, which replaced SI No. 57 of 2020 that had declared the Copperbelt Energy Corporation (CEC) Plc's infrastructure "common carrier."

CEC subsequently applied for judicial review against Nkhuwa's decision to issue SI 24 on grounds that the statutory instrument threatened the utility's commercial viability.

But Zesco hailed the SI in June, saying it would liberalize and open up the electricity sector where Independent Power Producers (IPPs) can supply customers using transmission infrastructure deemed as 'common carrier' on agreed wheeling tariffs.

Commenting on the SI, Chamber Vice-President in charge of Commerce Emmanuel Mbambiko observed that Zesco and CEC ought to negotiate on how the SI would work in practice to ensure a win-win solution for both parties.

"From our point of view, we came across that SI and also the response from Zesco. We have the two major players right now, Zesco and CEC. With that, the only hope and expectation from us, as a Chamber is that, each one of them must have the liberty to determine at what cost power can be wheeled in their line because CEC is a private entity.

"Therefore, Government or Zesco has absolutely no power to decide how much. So, the 'how much' must be arrived at by CEC or in collaboration with

Zesco so it must be a negotiated and agreed-upon rate, which meets the expectation of the both of them. For us, if that is the case, we have no quarrel with it," Mbambiko has said in an interview.

Asked if the SI would "liberalise" and open the electricity sector to enable more players into the Electricity Supply Industry (ESI) as argued by Zesco, Mbambiko says the SI will only effectively work if there is mutual cooperation between CEC and Zesco.

"If that free-wheeling means that both Zesco and CEC have the liberty to wheel power into their 'friend's' lines without any hindrance or any 'hand' in the background, that is key. If each party has the liberty to get to do business with the other, we have no problem," he replies.

He advises both Zesco and CEC to strive and negotiate the appropriate wheeling charge in line with the SI 24.

"The both of them must sit at the table because you remember that before, what happened was the Energy Regulation Board (ERB), which must've been pressed by Government, determined the price on behalf of CEC, and that's not acceptable because they are not the shareholders of CEC, they cannot come with a predetermined price; that is not acceptable.

"If they come to the negotiating table with 'clean hands' to say, 'we are willing to wheel this power through your lines at US \$2,' the others say, 'no, we want US \$5', then what is the agreed price? Both of them (CEC and Zesco) without any 'hand' in the background, which is threatening the one which appears to be weaker, in this case CEC. If Zesco and CEC can come to the table, negotiate and agree? For us, we have no problem."



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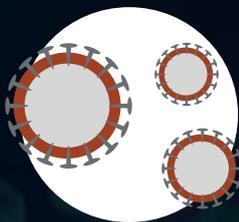
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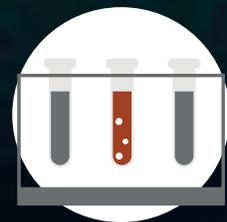
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# Chief Bundabunda extols Kansanshi Mine for sound social relationship with community

BY JOHN MUBAMBE

Chief Bundabunda of the Soli people of Rufunsa District in Lusaka Province is impressed with Kansanshi Mine's generous distribution of mineral wealth to local communities.



Maximilian Katanga, a supervisor at Kansanshi Community Centre, explains to Chief Bundabunda the process of making green charcoal from maize husks. Picture by JOHN MUBAMBE/SUMA SYSTEMS.

**T**he traditional leader, accompanied by 24 of his subjects, toured some parts of the North-Western Province to familiarize with operations in the mining sector and learn how the presence of the mines is benefitting local communities.

At Kansanshi Mine, Chief Bundabunda was taken on a conducted tour of the Kansanshi Community Centre, where he was shown the various projects being funded under the mine's Corporate Social Responsibility Programme.

During his tour of the conservation farming demonstration plots and the Nsanshi Art Jewelry Studio at the mine's Community Centre on Monday, Chief Bundabunda praised the mine's approach in handling its affairs with the local communities.

The chief appreciated the cordial relationship between Kansanshi Mine and the people, which made it possible for the mine to invest in sustainable livelihood programmes.

"Kansanshi Mine is a positive model for the distribution of mineral wealth which is benefitting communities around the mine, and I appreciate the good relationship which is evident between the company and the local population," the chief said.

The communities are beneficiaries of the agricultural and economic livelihood projects which were intended to outlive the mine.

Kansanshi Mining Plc Manager for Public Relations Godfrey Msiska thanked Chief Bundabunda and his entourage for visiting the mine.

"Kansanshi Mining Plc is committed to sharing economic benefits from its mining activities, as this will help improve the living standards of local communities. This is in line with the mine's philosophy of ensuring that stakeholders directly impacted by its mining activities are left in a much better economic position than the mine found them."

Msiska explained that management at Kansanshi Mine was cognizant of its responsibility to operate a profitable business which, in turn, would give its shareholders a fair return on their investment, give the government its tax revenue and enable the local communities to benefit from the company's corporate social responsibility programme.

"This is a typical win-win situation," Msiska said.

# ZCCM-IH posts K300m profit in nine months

BY STUART LISULO

ZCCM-IH has posted profit after tax of more than K300 million in its first nine-month financial year, boosted mainly by returns from its investee companies in the mining sector.



**A**ccording to an audited statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income for its nine-month financial year ending December 31, 2019, ZCCM-IH has announced that it earned a profit of more than K307 million, triggered by strong income generated from its investee companies in its group portfolio.

The ZCCM-IH Group consisted of eight subsidiary companies as at December 31, 2019, including Investrust Bank Plc and Ndola Lime Company Ltd, among others.

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**Three core strategies employed in the mining sector were cited as having contributed to ZCCM-IH's impressive profitability during its nine-month financial year.**

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“The Group reported a profit for the nine-month period of K307 million (March 2019: K448 million). The 31 per cent decrease in profitability was mainly due to the fact that the previous period is accounting for 12 months as compared to 9 months for the current period. Furthermore, there was a decrease in share of profit of equity accounted investee companies on account of the impairment of receivables by associate companies such as Kansanshi Mining Plc and Copperbelt Energy Corporation Plc,” the statement read.

At company-level, ZCCM-IH reported a profit for the year of K153 million compared to incurring a K108 million loss in the 12-month period ending March 31, 2019, mainly due to exchange gains on foreign denominated assets and reduced administrative costs, among others.

The Group's total assets increased by 14 per cent to K15.2 billion as at December 31, 2019, from K13.4 billion as at March 31, 2019, attributed mainly to an increase in values of investments in associates from K10.3 billion as at March 31, 2019, to K11.9 billion.

Three core strategies employed in the mining sector were cited as having contributed to ZCCM-IH's impressive profitability during its nine-month financial year.

“ZCCM-IH's investments were steered towards the mining sector. Thus, three core strategies were employed targeted at driving portfolio growth which were: Pursuit of the royalty model in order to introduce new revenue streams; realignment of the portfolio to achieve more focus in mining and mining-related activities and development of turnaround strategies for loss-making subsidiaries,” explained ZCCM-IH company Secretary Chabby Chabala.

“ZCCM-IH is committed to enhance value creation for its shareholders. Thus, ZCCM-IH will continue to diversify within the mining sector to mitigate slumps that may be experienced in some metals at a particular time while taking advantage of surges occurring in other metals during the same time.”

Directors will recommend a final dividend pay-out of K53.1 million in total, translating to around K0.33 per share.

# Barrick Gold in marginal copper output increase

BY STUART LISULO

BARRICK Gold Corporation posted increased copper production of around 43,544 metric tonnes during its second quarter ending June 30, 2021.



**T**his outcome has been boosted by Lumwana Copper Mine that has continued to record strong growth.

According to a press release, Barrick posted increased copper output of around 43,544 tonnes in the second quarter ending June 30, marginally up from 42,184 tonnes in the first quarter of this year, mainly buoyed by strong production recorded at Lumwana, Barrick's top copper-producing asset.

"Preliminary Q2 copper production was slightly higher than Q1. We continue to expect the company's copper production in the second half of 2021 to be stronger than the first half, mainly

driven by higher grades from Lumwana. Q2 copper cost of sales per pound is expected to be 14 to 16 per cent higher,

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**The Canadian miner however did post reduced copper sales during the period under review, offloading around 43,544 tonnes of copper in the second quarter, down from 51,255 tonnes by the end of the first quarter of this year.**

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C1 cash costs per pound are expected to be 13 to 15 per cent higher and copper all-in sustaining costs per pound are expected to be 20 to 22 per cent higher than Q1, largely due to lower sales at Lumwana and maintenance at Zaldivar, as well as the impact of a higher copper price translating into higher royalty costs," stated Barrick.

The Canadian miner however did post reduced copper sales during the period under review, offloading around 43,544 tonnes of copper in the second quarter, down from 51,255 tonnes by the end of the first quarter of this year. This represented a 15 per cent reduction as Lumwana sold a higher portion of its stockpiled concentrate in Q1, 2021.



KML General Manager Sean Egner with senior staff from the mine's environment department as well as north western province fisheries team during the restocking of fingerlings in Chisola Dam of Kalumbila district

# KML Dives Into Fish Restocking

BY DERRICK SILIMINA

The fisheries sector provides the basis for the livelihoods and nutrition of people as it constitutes a significant source of income, says Kalumbila Minerals Limited General Manager Sean Egner.

**S**peaking during the restocking of fingerlings in Chisola Dam in Kalumbila district in view of the World Environmental Day commemorations slated for 5th June 2021, Egner said the construction of the Chisola and Musangezhi freshwater dams to facilitate mining activities, has manifested a huge opportunity to expand the fisheries sector in the district.

In line with this year's World Environmental Day celebrations theme dubbed, "Ecosystem Restoration – Assisting the recovery of the ecosystems that have been degraded, damaged or destroyed," the mining firm has undertaken a fish restocking exercise at both Musangezhi

and Chisola dams.

"We have cast our net wide with 30,000 fingerlings to be restocked today in a bid to put more fish into our ecosystem. This is not only being done to meet a compliance obligation but confirms our commitment to extracting resources responsibly and our sustainable strategy is an integral part of everything we do," Egner said.

He affirmed that KML leads the industry in its approach to provide positive benefits to local habitat conservation, protection of water resources and the efficient use of energy and other resources.

To sustainably realise this potential, the General Manager disclosed that the mining giant has made good progress in the formation of a community Resource Board to address holistic fish management strategies and establish fish management plans that will promote ecosystem restoration.

Egner has since commended the Fisheries Department for providing guidance through the process to build capacity among local community members to ensure sustainable management of the water ecosystems within the mine catchment area.

"As a responsible mining business, we will continue to look for opportunities to drive the duty of care in the communities in which we operate. We intend to continue these real projects which have real outcomes and continue to show leadership in our approach to ecosystem conservation in the mining industry," Egner reiterated.

He noted that KML's overall environ-



mental objective is illustrated in its commitment to pollution prevention, compliance and continual improvement to protect the environment.

Egner stressed that this is evident in the manner the mining company consult and communicates with relevant stakeholders at each stage of the mine's operation life.

"We are gathered here to remind ourselves of the importance of the environment and to re-energise our efforts to do something for the benefit of nature. It is an opportunity to reflect on our desired actions from an individual, household and community level to foster co-existence with the environment and maintain a sustainable relationship," Egner said.

He further indicated that just recently, the mining company completed an assessment of the aquatic health of the water bodies surrounding its mine operation in collaboration with the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock.

"I am glad to report back to you that this exercise has yielded positive results and continue to re-assure the efficiency of the sound engineering practices established at our operation to avoid potential negative impacts on the receiving environment by providing reasonable controls," Egner stated.

Speaking at the same occasion, North Western Province Fisheries Officer Alick Mbewe said as the world population grows further, this puts a lot of pressure on fish resources hence the need to frequently restock water bodies with a va-

**Egner stressed that this is evident in the manner the mining company consult and communicates with relevant stakeholders at each stage of the mine's operation life.**

riety of fish species.

"As a Ministry, we are really pleased with KML management's initiative to restock both the Chisola and Musangezhi dams with fingerlings. We therefore encourage other stakeholders to emulate KML for having setup such water bodies like these and ensure that surrounding communities take part in managing them as way to avoid bad fishing methods which are detrimental to the ecosystem," Mbewe said.

Mbewe noted that both dams will be re-

stocked with three vital fish species such as the Tilapia, green and yellow breams in a bid to restore the water bodies' ecosystem.

Meanwhile, Zambia Environmental Management Agency (ZEMA) Inspector Gloria Banda said that as an environmentalist, environmental day is every day hence the need to commemorate it by coming together to think about planet Earth and focus on the state it is in at the moment.

Banda further paid tribute to KML for restocking fingerlings in its water bodies as fish is vital to the ecosystem.

"I want to commend KML for this initiative as well as other initiatives they conduct like am aware of the plantations, the game reserve which is very commendable. We should therefore be encouraged to take this back to our communities for them come up with simple and effective ways to restore our ecosystem," She said.



KML General Manager Sean Egner with senior staff from the mine's environment department as well as north western province fisheries team during the restocking of fingerlings in Chisola Dam of Kalumbila district.

# North-west schools catch environmental awareness fever

BY DERRICK SILIMINA

Sentinel Kalumbila and Frontier Nkisu schools from North-Western Province celebrated the World Environmental Day on June 5 through some outdoor presentations and poetry.



This came to light when KML Environmental Manager Kachiwala Sapalo led a delegation of senior staff from the mine's Environment and Forestry Department as well as the provincial fisheries team to help restock the Musangezhi dam in Kalumbila district.

Speaking on the sidelines after both schools made their presentations and recited poems on environmental protection, Sapalo said the mining firm would continue to restore the ecosystem in order to safeguard the environment.

He urged the pupils to become brand ambassadors in their communities and help remind their peers, parents and relatives on the need to protect the environment.

"Well done to the teachers and all the pupils; you have already said what I

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**"Just imagine, if our ancestors destroyed this world before us, we would have failed to survive hence the need for all of us to protect our environment," Mbewe said.**

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was meant to say about ecosystem restoration. But what we appeal to you today is, 'be our ambassadors when you go home.' Talk to daddy, talk to mummy, friends and relatives on what you know today about ecosystem restoration," Sapalo said.

And KML Forest Liaison Officer Rachel Manda added that as a result of failure to take care of the forests that supply oxygen and restore the water cycle, the environment will continue to have a

negative impact on plants and animal life.

Speaking at the same occasion, Provincial Fisheries Officer Alick Mbewe said since the environment is interlinked with water, air and forests being interconnected, there is need to safeguard the ecosystem in a bid to enhance human existence.

"Just imagine, if our ancestors destroyed this world before us, we would have failed to survive hence the need for all of us to protect our environment," Mbewe said.

Sentinel Kalumbila and Frontier Nkisu schools Education Manager Vallery Lungu said the Musangezhi dam being an ecosystem in itself requires a balance between the fish and amount of water in the dam, the plants, the birds that eat the fish, the insects and even the algae.

She noted that unfortunately, human beings have destroyed that ecosystem balance through fishing with unauthorized nets such as mosquito nets, by not following the fish ban and not practicing catch and release policy among others.

Lungu who is also Head of the Sentinel Kalumbila School noted that if communities fail to play their part in preserving the environment, the earth will continue to cry.

"So today, our role in bringing back the ecosystem of the dam by restocking it with fingerlings and this is a vital ecosystem regeneration. Once we have done that, our homework is to ensure that we do not destroy the ecosystem around us."



# MARTIN MUSUNKA TRAILS OF A JOURNALS AND A LEGACY

*Remembering a remarkable journalist, sportsman, businessman, publisher...*

BY MTHONISWA BANDA

**W**hen Martin Musunka passed away on June 17 at Lusaka's Levy Mwanawasa Teaching Hospital at age 54, he had blazed a dazzling trail that many acknowledge was uniquely inspiring.

Survived by his wife Gertrude and three children, he was laid to rest at Leopards Hill Memorial Park in the capital on June 20 amid tributes, accolades and acknowledgments from friends and associates in media, sports, business and publishing circles.

Musunka founded Suma Systems whose flagships are the business monthly Solwezi Today and the quarterly This Is Zambia, with offices in Lusaka, Livingstone, Ndola and Solwezi.

He has been described as a friendly, amiable, chummy and accessible individual who got along with all kinds of people.

In 2010, while at the Times of Zambia, he was elected President of the Zambia Rugby Union, a position he held until 2013. He was a pioneer rugby columnist, penning Rugby Talk in the back pages of the paper. Through this column, he helped make a minor sport more visible and appreciable, kindling among Zambians a love for rugby.

This edition highlights the sentiments of various persons Musunka associated



Martin Musunka joyfully gives his acceptance speech.

# MUSUNKA: A JOURNEY BY

with over many years of active creativity:

**Zambia Rugby Union (ZRU) Communications and Public Relations Manager Cecilia Tresha** said Musunka had dedicated decades of his life to the growth of the sport in various capacities and levels. “Our sympathies and condolences go out to the Musunka family.”

National Olympic Committee of Zambia (NOCZ) President Alfred Foloko said the sports fraternity had lost a great administrator in Musunka who was a fountain of wisdom in sport. “It’s a great loss to the sports family, I enjoyed working with him and we will surely miss him as an Olympic movement.”

Elizabeth Chatuvela of the Zambia Daily Mail said the world of journalism and rugby was struck with a major blow on that fateful Wednesday night when news filtered through that Musunka was no more. Chatuvela described Musunka as one of the few journalists to seamlessly make the transition from the newsroom to sports administration.

**Lawyer Dickson Jere, also former Press Aide to President Rupiah Banda, said:** “In Matero, where I grew up, we had no rugby. So I knew nothing about that sport until I was assigned, as a cub reporter, to cover a rugby game between Lusaka Powerhouse and Diggers at Lusaka showground. I had no clue about the game. After few inquiries

with club officials, I was directed to a reporter, Martin Musunka, of the Times of Zambia. ‘He will help you,’ I was told as I reached out to him. Not sure how a reporter from The Post, a rival newspaper, would help me with rugby rules and the scoring system, I reluctantly reached out to Martin. ‘I am here as a rugby official and not a reporter,’ he said. That is how the bond of many years between Martin and I was established. We became involved in sports administration and served in different roles and capabilities. We later worked together as Board members of the defunct Media Trust Fund (MTF) and Media Law Reforms Committee where he represented the Zambia Union of Journalists (ZUJ) while I was head of MISA-Zambia.”

**Enock Ngoma, Chairperson of the Media Liaison Committee (MLC), the umbrella body of all media associations in Zambia,** was saddened by Musunka’s passing. The Committee had learnt of the development with deep sorrow and shock. “We are saddened to hear that Mr Musunka is no more and as the MLC Committee we are sending our heartfelt condolences message to Suma Systems, the bereaved family and the media fraternity at large.”

Ngoma, a former colleague at the Times of Zambia, said that Suma Systems was an active member of the MLC where Musunka contributed immensely to the

formation and running of the media support institutions such as the Zambia Media Council (ZAMEC), the annual World Press Freedom Day Celebrations and towards the quest to develop a free press in Zambia. “Musunka was always willing to host new media enterprises at this office and we would always rely on his organisations to offer logistical, technical and financial support even at short notice. We have lost one of our greatest local funders and media entrepreneurs.”

**Henry Kabwe, media colleague and former Misa Zambia Chairperson,** wrote, “I last bumped into him at the mall in Garden House as he waited for another good colleague, who he was scheduled to escort to his ‘matebeto’ (thanksgiving ceremony by wife’s family for staying with their daughter) in Mumbwa. My children fell in love with him immediately as he entertained them with a soothing, natural flow. Later, we talked about him hosting us at his office for a review meeting of World Press Freedom Day #WPPFD not knowing that was the last time. Next, he is gone... what an influential soul he was.”

**Richard Mulonga, former Times of Zambia colleague, writes,** “I seldom write this stuff in the public gallery, but the demise of Martin Musunka cannot go unpenned! As deputy editor, Martin would leave me unannounced to be in



Martin Musunka (left) receives the ZAPRA Best corporate publication award on behalf of Solwezi today magazine.

charge on the Sunday Times of Zambia desk at the Ndola hub. He's one of those who coached me in writing the weekly glorious Television Review Column, column that was previously written by great writers like Marta Paynter, Vincent Zulu, Charles Simengwa and others. He also inspired me to single-handedly author leading columns like Sunday Special and other in-depth feature articles I authored in my 10-year stint at the Times of Zambia newspaper.

"Martin Musunka made a strong recommendation for my fulltime employment at the newspaper. I was engaged as a photojournalist, replacing Eddie Mwanaleza and Charles Mumba who had just retired! Martin Musunka encouraged me to proceed to Germany where I earned a lucrative scholarship for a course in new media and photojournalism. I was not even qualified for that 18-months leave as a new employee but Mr Arnold Kapelembi authorized after a word from Martin. After Berlin, that's how the whole wide world opened up to where I am now.

"Unceremoniously, I got kicked out of the newspaper but he was one of the few people who called and encouraged me to be resilient and traverse new horizons and frontiers. That is why I am feeling like an orphan right now. He was a journalist, an innovative businessman, golfer and rugby fan. Journalists and cohorts like you are rarely honoured, not even posthumously this side of the equator, but I will beat my drum and blow my vuvuzela in your honour. Hamba Kahle!"

**Brian Hatyoka Makwati of the Zambia Public Relations Association (ZAPRA) said to the Musunka family:**

"I was broken to hear of Mr. Musunka's demise. Your husband died less than 10 days after he shared with me the latest soft copies of Solwezi Today and This Is Zambia where he covered our recent ZAPRA elections. We spoke and he was happy that I am now one of the ZAPRA leaders. He asked me to give him brief profiles of each of us, that is newly elected ZAPRA board members, and I did submit them to him. He produced the Magazine with the same details he asked for. He actually pledged to work closer with ZAPRA."

**Miriam Harmon of First Quantum Minerals (FQM) described Musunka as a reliable corporate social responsibility**

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**"Martin was always reliable. If he said he would do the assignment given to him or to Suma Systems, he made sure he did it even if it was at short notice. Martin was a great friend to both myself and the mine. He has left us with a great gift; the importance of friendship, excellence and networking during work assignments."**

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partner who helped organize and promote the company's CSR events and activities, thereby making the world mining giant brand one of the trusted and well-known brands in the country and beyond.

"Martin was always reliable. If he said he would do the assignment given to him or to Suma Systems, he made sure he did it even if it was at short notice. Martin was a great friend to both myself and the mine. He has left us with a great gift; the importance of friendship, excellence and networking during work assignments."

Kelvin Chisanga, featured and promoted by Solwezi Today for the past sev-



en years, said: "Martin was indeed an all-weather friend who has gone down unexpectedly, leaving a big gap in the hearts of many. A man who single-handedly worked hard to put Solwezi town on paper through his journalistic abilities. I have lost someone who gave me hope within media circles as he first started covering me in Solwezi Today seven years ago. We have lost a man who championed media as a serious business and he invested in this industry with all his life without any compromise."

**Andrew Chibuye, onc a cover story on Solwezi Today wrote:** "Allow me to share about Martin Musunka, I never met him in person... BUT he made a HUGE impression on me... AND has left me with a challenge...I never met you in person sir... But from the first day we spoke till now, it's been like we've known each other forever. What a humble and down to earth soul that has gone to his rest. You rarely find people who give something for nothing like he did then and continued to do afterwards. Rest in peace, sir Martin Musunka. The bit of you I encountered... has left me challenged. I still owe you though... I will pass what I owe to someone one day and start with the introduction: 'You don't know me... but I know you'..."

**Dian McCluney, a family friend, said:** "He was like this beautiful pie that we all had a piece of. We all can describe the delicious taste in different ways and the description makes that pie beautiful. This description is how he touched everyone that he came in contact with. It takes a special kind of person to know how to relate to different people and still make them feel special and valued. The gifts that Martin shared, was the pie. We have all partaken of his goodness and his pie brought us a diversity of meaningful joy when we partook of it."

**Wilmot Nah Adekoya said:** "At times we make up stories to make a person look good. But this man was as good as it comes. Humble, friendly, go-getter, never compromised family values, shows unconditional love to his children, love and respected his wife, he treated each one he came in contact with as important and with respect. Take a walk with him around Zambia and you stop on every corner to greet someone. His son told me, 'one advantage my father has is he knows a lot of people'."

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**Trained as a journalist at the Africa Literature Centre in Mindolo in Kitwe, Musunka worked for the Times of Zambia for 25 years where he rose up to the rank of Chief Sub-Editor until he resigned in 2015 to pursue private business and publishing.**

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**Rev Isaac Shupe Makashinyi** who went to the same primary school with Musunka writes. "We first met as classmates in 1982 at Kampemba Primary School in Chimwenwe, Kitwe. He played competitive rugby, and he later became the President of the Zambia Rugby Union. Unlike some sports administrators who cling to these positions for personal gain, Martin resigned as ZRU president. Such was his selflessness that he was willing to step aside in the interest of the sport. 'Isaac,' he told me before he resigned, 'I am leaving room for those who feel they can do better.' You wore your smile as an insignia of your sweet and winsome personality."

**Martin Musunka Jr** at the burial described his father as a courageous person who always knew that the day would come when he was no longer around to steer the business and professional side of Suma Systems.

Musunka therefore prepared Musunka Jr and the teams working on Solwezi Today and This Is Zambia under Suma Systems to continue where he would have left off.

"The passing of my father and our CEO, does not mean the end of our award-winning Solwezi Today and This Is Zambia, but to the contrary it means a continuation of these publications to much greater heights as Mr. Musunka, my father, would have wanted.

"These publications are his legacy and we shall ensure they live on as an honour to his hard work and vision. We would like to assure the Suma System

partners and Solwezi Today clients that the team that Mr. Musunka personally built and trained over the many years he was in charge of Suma Systems are equal to the challenge and would continue to serve you to the best of their ability. Continue to trust us with your partnership."

Musunka had a passion for building a leading business publication that would rival the international business reporting standards of the New York Times, and similarly building a media PR agency able to handle big corporations and their needs. He also wanted to help promote and make widely visible the growing town of Solwezi and its social and industrial activities.

It was no surprise therefore that Solwezi Today was always on the ground to report on the aspirations of the people of North-Western Zambia and the great works being implemented by the surrounding mines and industrial giants based in the province.

Trained as a journalist at the Africa Literature Centre in Mindolo in Kitwe, Musunka worked for the Times of Zambia for 25 years where he rose up to the rank of Chief Sub-Editor until he resigned in 2015 to pursue private business and publishing.

**Gertrude Musunka appreciates you all...**

**Mrs Gertrude Musunka** writes in appreciation of the support from friends, relatives and business partners to her deceased husband Martin Musunka: "It is almost three weeks today since the unexpected happened. I escorted my husband to hospital because of concern for his oxygen saturation which was below 90. He walked in the ward by himself and my assumption was that once he receives some oxygen overnight, we will be on our way home. I was wrong.

"The unexpected death of a loving husband, present dad, a dear friend to many, a brother has left us speechless as we did not see this coming. I still have nothing much to say apart from thanking God for giving us a beautiful human being as a husband and dad; and thanking you all for the outpouring of your love and support during this life changing event. May God richly bless you all."



"The Zambia Rugby Union sends its deepest sympathies to the Musunka family on the loss of immediate past ZRU President, Martin Musunka"

*Rest In Peace*





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# KML Promotes Environmental Awareness Via School Quiz

BY DERRICK SILIMINA

Community awareness in environmental protection will enable environmental protection towards a sustainable ecosystem.



Pupils smiles their way out with brand new school bags after the Quiz

**S**peaking during the 2021 School Quiz held in Kalumbila district ahead of the World Environmental Day that falls on June 5, Kalumbila Minerals limited (KML) Environmental Superintendent Kanyifwa Goma said there is need to raise global action and awareness towards environmental protection.

In view of the World Environmental Day commemorations to be held under the theme Ecosystem Restoration, KML has lined up a number of activities such as the restocking of fingerlings in Chisola Dam and Educore schools, and at Musanzezi Dam among others.

“We have decided as FQM to collaborate with schools because children are the future of this country and therefore, by spreading this information about World Environment Day, we did not think of better agents than schools,” Goma said.

The 2021 School Quiz organized by the KML and its partners attracted Grade Nine pupils from both primary and secondary schools in Kalumbila district.

Against all odds, pupils from Kalumbila North Primary School, Wanyinwa Primary School, Musele Primary School, Kankozhi Primary School, Kisasa Second-

ary School and Jiundu Secondary School exhibited their academic proficiency in Science, Geography and General Knowledge questions.

Kisasa Secondary School emerged champions of the 2021 School Quiz after walloping other competing schools with 30 points. The school walked away with a gold medal and some text books while each of its participating pupils got away with a brand new school bag, three note books, mathematical set, pen, pencil, rubber and a facemask.

The second slot went to Jiundu Secondary School with a hard-earned 26 points during the nail-biting 2021 School Quiz which also earned each participating pupil with a new medium school bag, pen and three note books. The school walked away with a gold medal and some text books as well.

Kankozhi Primary School was at hand to receive the third position after a tally of 24 points during the battle of wits. Its pupils equally smiled their way out with each awarded a new small school bag, a pen and three note books while their school walked away with a gold medal and some text books.

Kalumbila North Primary School man-

aged 23 points to scoop the fourth position which was followed by Wanyinwa Primary School at 16 points while Musele Primary School grabbed the sixth slot after scoring 13 points.

In an interview on the sidelines of the awards gala, Mary Mukangula, a teacher at Musele Secondary School, commended KML for having thought of a School Quiz initiative.

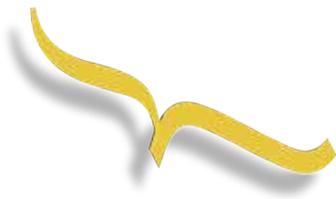
“As a teacher, I feel humbled and this has been an eye opener for me assess where my pupils really need help looking at how they participated during the quiz. They were being asked exam-related questions and this will enable me help my pupils to revise further as they prepare for their exams,” Mukangula said.

In a vote of thanks, Rachel Shipanuka, another teacher from Kankozhi Primary School, applauded FQM subsidiary KML for hosting what she described as “an educative annual quiz which is vital in shaping pupils minds” thereby safeguarding the environment as they are future leaders of tomorrow.

“Thank you FQM for bringing our schools together through this platform because our learners are able to interact with others thereby acquire knowledge with ease from one another and exchange information on environmental sustainability issues and concerning other subjects,”

Grade Nine pupil Elizabeth Katwamba at Kisasa Secondary School expressed delight with the School Quiz which had taught her of the need to study hard at school:

“I feel very happy for having taken part in this School Quiz as I have learnt a lot about our environment. I feel motivated right now, especially that I and my team have represented our school very well and emerged champions. May God continue to bless KML for such a brilliant initiative and other works they do in our communities.”



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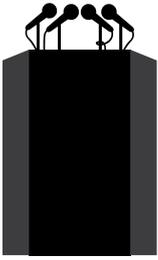
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## HICKS SIKAZWE ON THE PLATFORM



# The story of David and Helen Kaunda

...And their illustrious son

When Zambia's First President died on June 17, there was an outpouring of eulogies on the mountains of his legacy, what he achieved locally and as an international statesman.

**B**ut very little was written or broadcast about the history of his parents, David and Helen Kaunda, who settled at Lubwa Mission near Chinsali in Muchinga province.

Kenneth David Kaunda's father was a missionary from Nyasaland, now Ma-

lawi, who was sent by the Livingstonia Mission, from Scotland, to Northern Rhodesia. The preferred place for settlement was among the Bemba-speaking people in the present Chief Nkula's area.

According to educationist John Mwanakatwe who held a string of cabinet posts in Kaunda's government, KK's father's full names were David Julizya Kaunda, while his mother was Helen Nyamunyarenda Kaunda.

While David came from the Mwambazi district of today's Malawi's Nkhata Bay, while Helen who was a teacher came from the present-day Karonga. The family arrived in Chinsali around 1904 and immediately established the church of Scotland Mission and a school where Kenneth as a boy went, and later taught and became a boarding master there.

"He (KK's father) had been sent by the Livingstonia Mission of Nyasaland to do a search. David Kaunda settled in Lubwa and lived there with his family until his death in 1932. Kenneth Kaunda his youngest child, and the future president of Zambia, was born at Lubwa in 1924," records Mwanakatwe in his book *The End of The Kaunda Era*.

In an interview with the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) Focus on Africa television programme, eloquent Malawian President Lazarus Chakwera said, contrary to assertions that David and Helen Kaunda were migrants, they were missionaries sent to the then Northern Rhodesia.

After the end of the mission at Lubwa, David Kaunda returned to Nyasaland, but later Chief Nkula invited him back to his domain and the family remained there. Both David and Helen are buried in Chinsali.

When a state funeral service was held at the show grounds in Lusaka, a parallel church service was held in Nkhata Bay in Malawi and attended by KK's relatives, and those of his late mother Helen.

This back ground is critical and important to fortify the legacy of Zambia's First President, what he believed in and achieved. Despite being a vehement supporter of the armed struggle in the first years of Zambia's Independence, he was a committed Christian and believed in peace at all times.

He was a Pan-African who promoted Humanism as opposed to individualism. Many of the countries neighbouring Zambia achieved Independence from colonialism because of Kaunda's concerted efforts.

### EDUCATION

At national level soon after Independence he embarked on a broad-based countrywide education development programme to get as many children as possible into school without charge. Education was free, including exercise and text books.

He developed fast-track teacher training programmes to produce enough mem-



bers of staff to replace colonial teachers who were leaving the country either to go back to Britain or to settle in Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) or South Africa.

Alongside this ambitious exercise he built crafts training institutions to produce manpower to service industries. These fields of training included brick-laying, carpentry, electrical, plumbing, painting and other trades. The entry points ranged from Grade Seven to Form Two. By 1965 Zambia put up her first university, the University of Zambia.

Kaunda did not stop there; he embarked on another assignment to build Zambia's broad parastatal sector. The venture established companies involved in manufacturing, mining as well as provision of goods and services. By the time KK was being voted out in 1991, the country was standing on its able feet.

KK died on June 17, just two months short of witnessing a seventh election that will produce the country's seventh president since he handed over power to late president Frederick Chiluba.

#### **HANDED OVER**

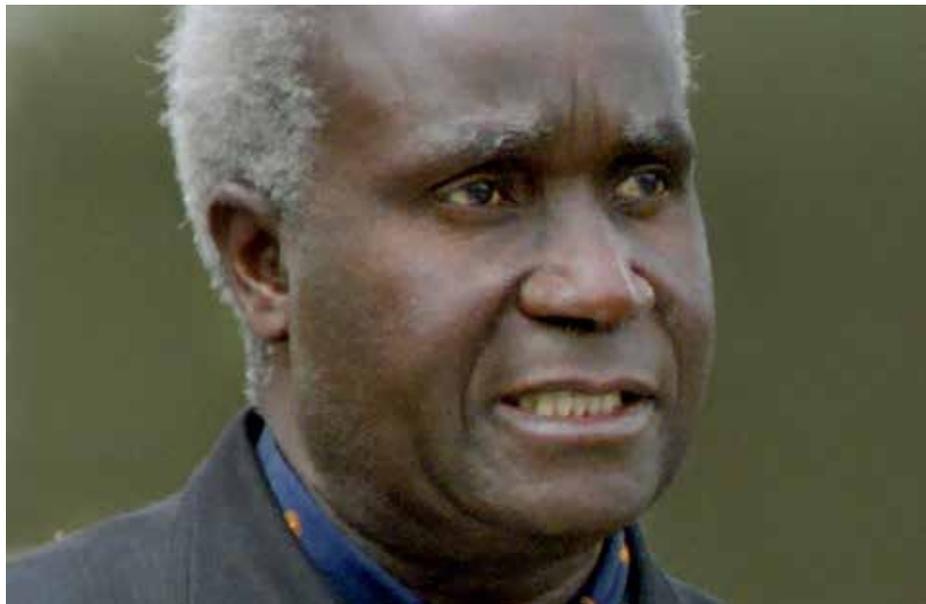
Among the most admired legacies Kaunda took to the grave is that unlike most African leaders, he gracefully handed over power after losing the elections. He did that without any qualms.

To the country's credit, Zambia has continued with regular elections every five years, except for two respective by-elections held when presidents Levy Mwanawasa and Michael Sata died.

After he left political office, KK devoted energies to combating the spread of HIV/AIDS, a global pandemic which has hitherto taken countless lives. Though KK was unable to witness the August 12 election, the country has undergone a host of reforms which Kaunda had witnessed in the last 30 years he was out of power.

The transport sector is one that has been turned around in Zambia's economic resurgence programme.

Those who remember the first 20 years of Independence recall how after two decades, travelling on public buses was such a nightmare. The lone state company, the United Bus Company of Zambia (UBZ) ran the major bus service.



It took more than two days to move from anywhere on the Copperbelt to Mbala, Zambezi or any other rural outpost. As the company was pressed down by the weight of mismanagement coupled by lack of reinvestment, the buses became victims of frequent break downs on the high ways. Supportive hauling firms, Zambia Railways and TAZARA, were also to suffer similar fate.

UBZ was buried and the private sector set in to fill the gap, such that this time even individuals operate public service transport vehicles.

After the liberalization of the transport sector, the travelling nightmares ended. Today a commuter can leave Lusaka and on the same day get to Chipata, Mongu, Livingstone or Kasama.

#### **COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY**

Another area that benefitted from the reforms is commerce and industry. By the time KK was being voted out of power, Zambia was being pounded on an anvil of shortages of basic commodities from sugar, cooking oil to bathing detergents. The many factories Kaunda had set up were relegated into ghost outlets as they could not produce regularly, and others simply closed down.

Many could not afford the Kwacha cover to support foreign exchange needs to import either raw materials for manufacturing or finished products. In the end job losses followed. Again after scrapping foreign exchange controls, the landscape changed. The list is long and inexhaustible.

Otherwise Zambia will always remember Kaunda for creating a solid foundation for the country's development programme. Above all, he contributed to the rebirth of democracy which the August 12 elections are a product of.

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.



# FQM's Kansanshi Mine tops gold sales to BoZ.

BY JOHN CHOLA

First Quantum Minerals (FQM's) Kansanshi Mining Plc; has sustained top slot as the country's main supplier of Gold to government purchased through the Bank of Zambia.



**A** latest Bank of Zambia gold purchase brief indicates that it purchased 478.76 Kilogrammes amounting to 15, 392 ounces of gold at a cost of K604.3 million from a period of December, 2020 to June 2021.

The brief signed by Bank of Zambia (BoZ) Assistant Director Communications, Besnat Mwanza stated that out of the 478.76 kilogrammes of gold purchased, Kansanshi Mining Plc, (KMP) contributed the larger portion of 391.92 Kilograms, equivalent to 12,600 ounces.

Mwanza said KMP raked in a total of K500.5 million for the 391.92 Kilograms of gold sold during the period under review.

“The rest 86.84 Kgs (2,791.91 ounces) was purchased from Zambia Gold Company, a subsidiary of ZCCM –IH at a cost of K103.8 million,” Mwanza said.

She explained that the Reserve Bank plans to purchase a total of 746.5 Kilo-

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**In the last six months under review the BoZ has been buying 65.32 kilograms of London Good Delivery Gold each month from KMP which has accumulated to the reported 391.91 kilograms translating into 12, 600 quantity troy Ounces.**

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grams or (24,000 ounces) of London Good Delivery gold from KMP in a year, entailing that the Solwezi based FQM unit still has to mine an extra 354.58 kilograms of gold for readily available market.

It is further planned that the reserve bank will purchase another about 120 Kilograms, translating to 3,858 ounces of dore gold with a minimum of 88 per cent

purity from the Zambia Gold Company per year.

“The objective of this initiative is to shore up and diversify the international reserves. The attractiveness of this venture is that the gold is being purchased in local currency,” said Mwanza.

The dore gold purchased from Zambia Gold Company will only reflect in international reserves after refining.

In the last six months under review the BoZ has been buying 65.32 kilograms of London Good Delivery Gold each month from KMP which has accumulated to the reported 391.91 kilograms translating into 12, 600 quantity troy Ounces.

Meanwhile, purchases of Dore Gold from the Zambia Gold Company has been varying with December 2020 contributing 47.96 kilograms, 21.83 kilograms unearthed in February 2021 and March adding a total of 17.05 kilograms which all together adds up to 86.84 kilograms.



# KK's legacy: Shoes too big to fit into

BY STUART LISULO

AS Zambians and the world learnt of Dr Kenneth David Kaunda's passing on June 17, 2021, there was an immediate outpouring of grief for the country's founding leader.

**H**aving led Zambia's liberation struggle from the 1950s, Dr Kaunda's contribution to the nationalist movement in the country and wider region was immeasurable.

He followed in the footsteps of his parents to initially become a teacher in Chinsali District before resigning his

post to emerge as the Organizing Secretary in Harry Mwaanga Nkumbula's African National Congress (ANC).

Subsequently, he then rose through the party ranks to the position of ANC Secretary-General where his prominence as a nationalist leader gathered momentum as he was by 1958 fully immersed in the struggle to push for Afri-

can majority rule initially, then outright independence.

His infamous split from Nkumbula's ANC in 1958 on October 24 of that same year was the catalyst for Dr. Kaunda's individual push for independence from Britain after the latter had established the rival Zambia African National Congress (Z.A.N.C) as an alternative party to 'Old Harry's' ANC in direct response to the pressing demand for Independence from Britain.

According to Kaunda's memoirs, as famously recalled in his landmark autobiography, *Zambia Shall Be Free* (1962), the resolution to form the Z.A.N.C was passed at his personal residence in Lusaka's New Chilenje township at house number 280 (now 394), which today stands as a recognised tourist site.

The All-African Peoples Conference in December, 1958, in Accra, Ghana, hastened Kaunda's nationalist programme and drew more attention from pan-African political circles. As historian David Mulford recounts in his narration of *Zambia: The Politics of Independence* (1967), the split, which had caused a strain in the Nkumbula-Kaunda relationship, had caused both men to refute reports of re-uniting both the A.N.C and Z.A.N.C.

As Nkumbula returned to Northern Rhodesia shortly after the end of the Conference, Kaunda remained in Accra for one more month to carry on lobbying the Nkrumah government to register his opposition against Federation and the Benson Constitution of 1959, Northern Rhodesia's first 'multi-racial' constitution that facilitated the territory's March 20 general election, which was boycotted by ZANC.

Dr Kaunda had dedicated Z.A.N.C to the total destruction of the Benson Constitution, which had disenfranchised the African electorate.

For instance, as Mulford recalled, African voters were allocated a "special" electoral roll, while Europeans were allocated an "ordinary" one. Despite an African voter turnout of approximately 85.7 per cent, only six Africans were returned to the Legislative Council out of a total number of 20.



## BANNING OF ZANC

With the colonial government's banning of the Z.A.N.C party ahead of the March 20 polls, the party's political operations were only forced "underground", and with tensions mounting, guided the liberation movement in unchartered territory.

Z.A.N.C's Western Province Organizing Secretary A.J. Soko summed up the nationalist mood during that tense period of nationalists being "the elephants of this country," where "prisons are our playing fields and death is our game!"

The United National Independence Party (UNIP) was eventually established on August 1, 1959, while Kaunda was behind bars, and it was to become the embodiment of the nationalist struggle and colonial Zambia's new national entity.

It was testament to Kaunda's leadership skill and tactical prowess that UNIP, which he took over from Mainza Chona on leaving prison, as the future governing party was already organizing its structures and articulating its policies while he was incarcerated during that same year.

Kaunda's time spent in prison energized and reinvigorated the grassroots level of the party's hierarchy, and the party increasingly became synonymous with the name "Zambia."

Upon release from prison in Lusaka on January 9, 1960, a defiant KK insisted on continuing the struggle to free colonized Zambians as he said:

### NON-VIOLENT STRUGGLE

"Freedom! All I am asking the Africans of Northern Rhodesia is that they should remain calm and patient; and should prepare themselves for a real non-violent struggle that lies ahead. The Zambia African Congress was banned, but there is no power to ban our desire to be free, to shape our own destiny," he said, as quoted in his autobiography.

As he subsequently was elected as UNIP's president unopposed on January 31, 1960, the political fortunes of Nkumbula's ANC were waning. And from July 10, 1961 at the time of the historic Mulungushi Conference, which saw Kaunda make an impassioned speech to an impressive 4,000 delegates amid shouts of "Action Now!" and "Kwacha!" the na-

tional mood was one of urgency.

There was a determined drive to achieve Independence through concerted efforts, ranging from widespread civil unrest to positive action campaigns in response to the tedious Macleod constitutional proposals.

Emerging independent on Saturday, October 24, 1964, KK's legacy had already been secured 57 years ago. But his influence and legacy would extend way beyond Independence Day.

Following news of his demise, his comrades from the First Republic onwards paid glowing tribute to the statesman.

Veteran politician, diplomat and personal friend of the late president, Vernon Johnson Mwaanga, also commonly referred to as VJ, hailed the national hero for his steadfast commitment to liberating all oppressed peoples on the African continent, especially Zambia's neighbours.

VJ, the country's youngest-ever diplomat (at 21), was given life-changing opportunities to serve as Zambia's Ambassador to the-then Soviet Union and later the United Nations. Other world lead-

ers equally paid tribute to the founding Republican President including, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa; the Queen of the United Kingdom, Queen Elizabeth II; German Chancellor, Angela Merkel; British Prime Minister, Boris Johnson; and Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari among others.

Reflecting on his legacy requires one to assess Dr. Kaunda's immense contribution to Zambia and Africa's liberation movement as a whole.

#### ONE-PARTY STATE

An appreciation of the philosophy of the One-Party Participatory Democracy, alias One-Party State, calls for a grasp of the full context in which Zambia was developing as a modern, independent African nation-state.

From 1973 to 1991, the country experienced economic stagnation that coincided with a crash in copper prices on the international market at a time copper production was State-owned and managed. The price of crude oil had leaped in 1972, causing negative ripple effects across many African economies.

The food riots of the mid-1980s, characterized by shortages of essential commodities, resulted from years of one-party politics and the dominance of State ownership of the economy.

Then in 1990, to his credit, Kaunda cut short his sixth term as President to pave way for the holding of a multiparty election in October, 1991. The election was won by the opposition Movement for Multiparty Democracy (MMD) party, who secured a landslide victory. Notably, again to his credit, Dr. Kaunda did not try to hold onto power by using force as is common in many African countries, but rather gave way to a new democratic dispensation.

Ahead of this year's polls slated for August 12, presidential candidates have roundly hailed Dr. Kaunda's legacy as a beacon of hope, peace and unity. As expected, reaction from various political stakeholders was overwhelming.

His legacy, however, will be a tough act to follow with the current crop of politicians given his immense contribution at nation-building and uniting the country's diverse 73 ethnic groups.

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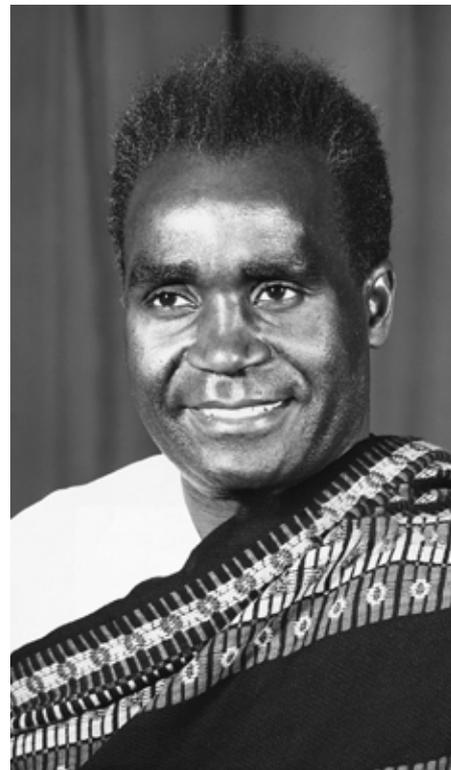
Drawing similar parallels from the liberation movement during the 1950s and early 1960s, People's Alliance for Change (PAC) President Andyford Banda, one of the 16 presidential aspirants at this year's polls, says his party has been encouraged by KK's resolute determination to usher in Independence despite the relentless onslaught of oppression from the autocratic colonial regime.

This time around, opposition leaders are pushing for economic emancipation and empowerment.

#### SACRIFICED

"What encourages me the most is the fact that, during the struggle, the freedom fighters sacrificed everything to achieve the target. They didn't have all the tools, equipment, to ensure that Zambia was independent, but they knew that there was something they were supposed to achieve. That's the message we are telling the people that they should emulate freedom fighters, they should sacrifice for what they are fighting for," Banda said in an interview while on the campaign trail from Kankoyo constituency in Mufulira District.

"We are very well aware that the colonial masters were getting resources that should have benefited the people of Zambia. Now, we are almost in a similar situation right now where in



as much as we got Independence, we are in a situation where the resources of this country are just benefiting a few individuals. So, what we're doing, as PAC, is that we want to fight the system that benefits a few people and come up with a system that benefits the majority."

It is a known fact that Dr. Kaunda was a selfless leader who put the interests of the nation first before his own. His life calling was to liberate oppressed people.

But over and beyond political freedom, Dr. Kaunda was desirous to achieve economic emancipation and improve the welfare of ordinary citizens by an enormous drive to accelerate investment in the fields of education and healthcare.

Notwithstanding the economic decline of the 1980s brought about by a combination of global and local factors that precipitated the reintroduction of multipartyism in 1991, one result of Dr. Kaunda's incredible investment in Zambians is the laying of a strong foundation on which the current generation of leaders across all walks of society can build.

With the current crop of politicians who have been guilty of perpetuating tribalism in this year's election campaign, it is clear that the veteran UNIP leader's shoes are too big to fit into.

# Zambeef profits soar to K54m



BY STUART LISULO

**ZAMBEEF Products Plc has posted profit after tax of K54 million during its half-year period ending March 31, 2021, driven mainly by strong growth in its poultry, retail and cropping divisions.**

In a statement announcing its half-year unaudited financial results for the period ending March 31, Zambeef posted a profit after tax of K53.9 million during the six-month period, buoyed mainly by strong volume growth in the agro-processing company's poultry, retail and cropping divisions, up from just K2.1 million earned during the corresponding period last year.

Gross revenues were up to around K2.2 billion during the same period under review compared to approximately K1.8 billion by the end of the last half-year period.

The company also generated a significant net profit from its discontinued operations of around K20.8 million, which contributed to its overall improved financial performance during

the half-year period from posting a loss of K9.4 million during the same corresponding period last year.

"The Group had a strong start to the financial year, delivering results ahead

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**Gross revenues were up to around K2.2 billion during the same period under review compared to approximately K1.8 billion by the end of the last half-year period.**

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of pre-pandemic levels. Demand for products, particularly poultry products, remained strong allowing the Group to remain in line with revenue expectations. The cost containment embarked on by management also continues to yield significant savings and contributed positively to the results.

"Revenue was ZMW2.2 billion and we achieved a gross profit of ZMW739.4 million, respectively 21 per cent and 22 per cent above the prior year in kwanza terms, but both down by 21 per cent and 22 per cent in US dollar terms, respectively," stated Zambeef Company Secretary Mwansa Mutimushi in the company's results released recently.

"The Group's strong performance was driven by growth in the poultry, retail and cropping divisions. Management continued optimizing top line growth through revenue management while the continued cost control measures helped deliver strong Earnings Before Interest Taxes, Depreciation and Amortisation (EBITDA). Despite the macro-economic headwinds and uncertainty caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, Zambeef's underlying performance is expected to remain resilient."



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# From Brick Moulder to Wholesale Owner



BY JOHN CHOLA

**Daniel Musechi is a 26 years old trader who runs a wholesale business located at Solwezi's Kyawama market.**

**W**hen Daniel Musechi recruited for the Kansanshi Mining Plc, business development training programme in September 2019, he had no particular business and did not know where to start from. Today Musechi can boast of a business with a net worth of about K105, 000 in terms of stock and cash.

The success of Musechi can be purely attributed to the Kansanshi Mining Plc (KMP), sponsored Business development training programme.

The Fortune World Investments Limited (FWIL) team during one training session taught participants on how to start a business with little or no capital.

Attending this lesson gave birth to Musechi's entrepreneurship spirit and he decided to become a business person.

FWIL Managing Director, Mukumbi Kafuta explains that to raise capital for business start-up, Musechi did a part-

time job of moulding bricks for someone who wanted to build a house.

"He was paid an amount of K300 upon completing the job, and that became his seed money for business. This money was invested in buying groceries from a wholesale shop and were being sold from a table outside his house. In a few months, his capital grew to K2, 000 which he used to rent a small shop in Kazomba area at K250 per month where he continued selling groceries from," Kafuta said.

In order to fast-track his capital growth, Musechi decided to plant a cabbage nursery at a cost of K2, 000 worth of investment.

This gave him about 18, 000 seedlings which he transplanted and started managing the project at the family farm located in Mitukutuku area in Solwezi.

Kafuta said Musechi's farm was located at a stream and was fortunate enough to use his uncle's water pump which made garden irrigation easier.

"Three months later, Musechi sold his cabbages at an average price of K5 each, and was able to raise about K90, 000. He then used this money to register his business with PACRA, acquire a trading license and a health permit at the council, and establish his wholesale business at Kyawama market which specializes in selling drinks and groceries," Kafuta noted.

Musechi invested in a fridge worth K16, 000, put up shelves and bought goods worth K65, 000 as his initial stock.

As of June 2021, Kafuta said, Musechi's business was worth about K105, 000 in terms of stock and cash.

His rentals are now worth K1, 250 per month and plans to diversify business by opening a saloon and barbershop, whose shop has already been identified at Kyawama market.

Kafuta said Musechi's next shop is likely to open in 4 months' time, and an initial capital of K4, 000 has been set aside to be invested.

Going forward Musechi intends to acquire additional skills in computers to enhance his business as well as helping him with electronic records management.

He currently keeps manual records in form of a cashbook showing sales and expenses, and he intends to come up with a stock management system.

The Fortune world team's assessment was that Musechi had understood the training objectives and was able to apply them very well.

Musechi thanked KMP for the knowledge he acquired as he was still able to utilize it today.

# Training changes, fire up farmer's mindset



BY JOHN CHOLA

Before Kenneth Mbumba started attending the Kansanshi Mining Plc (KMP) funded business development training in October 2018, he did farming as a mere cultural activity which did not translate into much economic benefit.

**T**he training by Fortune World Investments Limited (FWIL) has however helped to transform Mbumba's mind to begin thinking of farming as a business, hence engaging in various high value crops.

Mbumba, 45, is now positioning himself to make his farm based in Kamiba area, about 40 kilometres from Solwezi town, a more sustainable business.

Some of the crops he has grown at the farm include 3 limas of maize, 3 limas of popcorn, 30 plants of bananas, a

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**Recently the FWIL team led by Managing Director Mukumbi Kafuta visited Mbumba and found that this year alone his expected yields from crops is about 30 bags of maize, eight bags of popcorn, and 25 bunches of bananas.**

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quarter lima of chili, a quarter lima of eggplant and another quarter lima of sweet potatoes.

Recently the FWIL team led by Managing Director Mukumbi Kafuta visited Mbumba and found that this year alone his expected yields from crops is about 30 bags of maize, eight bags of popcorn, and 25 bunches of bananas.

"His chilli has started fruiting and he expects to make significant amounts of money from them because of the anticipated high prices during the dry season. In the coming seasons, Mr Mbumba intends to specialize in chili, eggplant and okra production - the main crops to be done on a large scale," Kafuta said.

In fulfilment of the training objectives, Mbumba has created a permanent job for himself and engages part-time workers to help him with land preparation and weeding.

The rest of the works such as irrigation and general crop management are done by himself at the moment.

Kafuta noted that Mbumba's vision is to increase his area of cultivation to 1.5 hectares to plant more high value crops as way of ensuring continuity.

To beef up his skills development, Kafuta explained, Mbumba would like to acquire training in conservation farming to help him with better farming methods and higher yields.

Kafuta said his mentoring team was impressed with Mbumba's ability to do much with minimal resources and hand tools.

He was encouraged to keep working hard and raise enough resources to purchase basic farm machinery such as a water pump and Genset to help him with greater irrigation capacity.

Mumba was thankful to Kansanshi Mining Plc for enabling the mentoring team to visit him, and he promised to continue utilizing knowledge acquired from the training.

# Mobile Phone Business Born from Scratch



BY JOHN CHOLA

Princess Mangimela, 24, is an entrepreneur who owns an MTN mobile booth in Solwezi's Kyawama area.

She recruited for the Kansanshi Mining Plc (KMP) powered business development training programme in February 2019 and has continued following the training on radio as a way of revising and consolidating her knowledge on various topics.

Encouraged by the training, Mangimela decided to get a part-time job at a restaurant where she worked for one year.

While working for the restaurant, she was able to save K1, 500 from her pay and used K500 to register for an MTN mobile money sim card, K1, 000 to purchase float which she used to start her business in February, 2021.

The business has since grown and is worth K2, 000 and she also sells MTN talk time in addition to her mobile money services.

According to Mangimela, the mobile money business was quite lucrative es-

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**Mangimela was full of praises for KMP who have made it possible for her to have acquired business knowledge, without which she would not have started any business even up to this time.**

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pecially in highly populated areas such as Kyawama compound where high volumes of transactions are conducted to earn higher commissions.

She told the Fortune World Investments Limited (FWIL) mentoring team that the higher the capital, the better it is for mobile money business.

Her projection is to grow the capital to about K10, 000 by December this year.

FWIL Managing Director Mukumbi Kafuta said the training program has had a positive impact on Mangimela as it enabled her to start a business with little capital and was now able to grow it steadily.

Mangimela was full of praises for KMP who have made it possible for her to have acquired business knowledge, without which she would not have started any business even up to this time.

# A New Dawn for Zambian Football

BY WENGO KALUBA

It was March 2017. Tensions and excitement were at all-time highs as the Zambian Under-20 national football team stepped out into Heroes Stadium to play Senegal. Having already secured places at the Under-20 World Cup later that year, this match was all about continental bragging rights. Who would come out on top?

**S**enegal, who had showed themselves to be formidable opponents throughout the tournament, were blown away by two first half goals by Edward Chilufya and Patson Daka. For Zambia, this was euphoria. Since winning the senior version of the tournament in 2012, this was undoubtedly the latest highlight for Zambian football. At the Under-20 World Cup, we made a strong push to the quarter finals, before losing out to Italy 3-2. Nonetheless, we had a team that was young, vibrant, and ready to take us forward.

Though this may seem like a distant memory, the flowers from that team have begun to blossom.

The players from that memorable team have each gone on to shine in their own regard. However, in the last few months, three of the players from the 'class of 2017' have secured major moves to major clubs across Europe.

**Fashion Sakala Jr.** - Glasgow Rangers (Scotland)

With three goals in that tournament in 2017, and then four at the Under-20 World Cup just a few months later, Fashion Sakala was at the forefront of the "class of 2017" team. At the time, he played for Russian outfit Spartak Moscow. His club of origin in Zambia was Chingola side Nchanga Rangers. After the tournament, he had a solid season with the club, scoring 10 times in 31 appearances for the club in what would be his last season before moving to Belgian outfit KV Oostende, where he scored 31 times in just over 100 appearances. Quick, alert, and gifted with a sharp eye for goal, Sakala can either be used either right down the middle or out wide to give opposition



defenders a tough time.

In May of this year, Sakala secured a move to Scottish champions Glasgow Rangers, who went undefeated in the league last season. Manager Steven Gerrard has said he believes Sakala "has the attributes to not only thrive in Scotland but on the European stage as well." Time will tell, but for now, Rangers have gained a new audience in the nation of Zambia.

**Patson Daka** - Leicester City (England)

Patson Daka was yet another star in Zambia's "class of '17" along with Fashion Sakala. Like Sakala, his career also started locally, at Kafue Celtic. He scored an impressive four goals at the Under-20 AFCON and supplemented that with two more and the Under-20 World Cup. He initially moved to Austrian club Liefering on loan in 2017, before signing for Red Bull Salzburg later that same year. This was where his talent began to show: he scored an impressive 54 goals in 82 appearances for the club, winning 4 Austrian Bundesliga titles. Daka was named Austrian Bundesliga Player of the Season for the 2020-21 season, asserting himself as one of the most prolific young goalscorers in Europe. He also made history by becoming the first Zambian to score in the group stage of the UEFA Champions League.



With a rapidly rising reputation, it was only a matter of time before Daka started attracting attention from some of the "bigger dogs" in European football. In June this year, the big dog that came calling were 2015-16 English Premier League champions Leicester City. He secured a move for a reported £23 million. His move created a buzz around the nation, with Zambian fans eager to see him continue his form at the highest level.

**Enock Mwepu** - Brighton & Hove Albion (England)

Perhaps the unsung hero in our "class of 2017" team, Enock Mwepu was a pivotal piece of the "spine" of the team, reading the game and stopping (or starting) moves from the center of the field. Like Daka, Mwepu started out at Kafue Celtic as well, before being noticed during the 2013 edition of the Airtel Rising Stars competition and moving to the more prominent Power Dynamos. He then moved to NAPSA Stars in 2016 before that fateful tournament. At the Under-20 AFCON, he played 5 games and scored once, before really impressing at the World Cup a few months later, scoring two goals and registering three assists in five appearances. Following the same trajectory as Patson Daka, he moved to Salzburg's feeder club Liefering before moving officially to Red Bull Salzburg, where he managed 18 goals and 12 assists in just over 100 appearances.

It is indeed a new dawn for Zambian football!





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