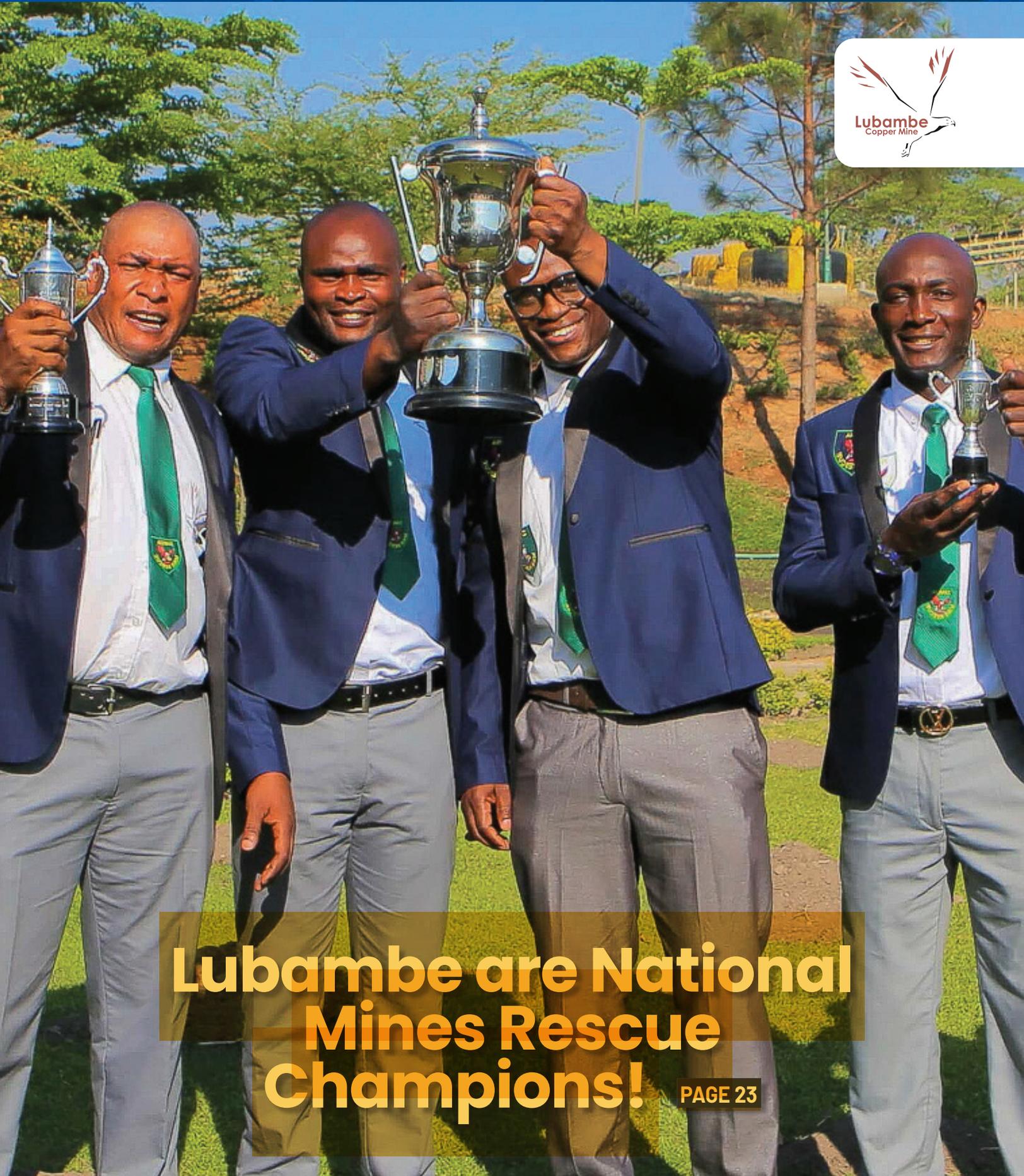


SOLWEZI

T O D A Y

ISSUE 121 | SEPTEMBER 2021



**Lubambe are National
Mines Rescue
Champions!**

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KANSANSHI MINING PLC
A COMPANY OWNED BY



EARLY CHILDHOOD

EDUCATION

***GROWING ZAMBIA
TOGETHER***

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Although the safety and health standards in most mines in Zambia are now considerably high, there is still a likelihood for major incidents such as fire, explosion, in-rush or fall of ground.



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Solwezi town once again came alive as it played host to the prestigious First Quantum Minerals (FQM) Kansanshi Cycling Weekend on September 10 and 11.



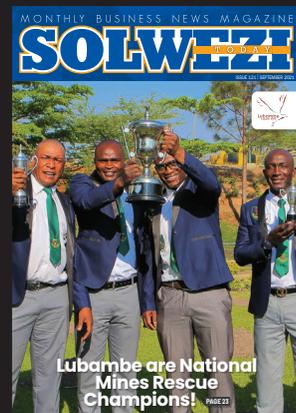
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MINE RESCUE TEAMS ON RIGHT TRACK

The National Mines Rescue Team Competition is in itself an indicator that the mines industry as a whole has placed high benchmarks on safety and preparedness.

The 2021 competition held at Victoria Falls Power Station has seen Lubambe Copper Mine scoop 18 out of 20 award categories, demonstrating that the mine has raised the bar very high indeed.

The copper mine's rescue team convinced adjudicators that it has what it takes to face all threats, dangers and calamities in a typically hazardous workplace, which is a commendable feat.

There is evidence that mine rescue teams around the country are now better trained, more equipped and well-positioned

to deal with all emergency situations.

The Ministry of Mines needs to find ways and means of transferring some of the safety and rescue competencies from the formal industry to the informal mines sub-sector.

In recent years, youth empowerment has tended to focus on black or green or yellow mountains in various historical mining towns, but without any form of training or equipment. Should this scenario persist, the sporadic deaths happening at such mountains will progressively increase.

It is in order to congratulate Lubambe Copper Mine for excelling in a tightly-contested field, and to salute the Zambian Mine Rescue Association for keeping the fire burning among its members.



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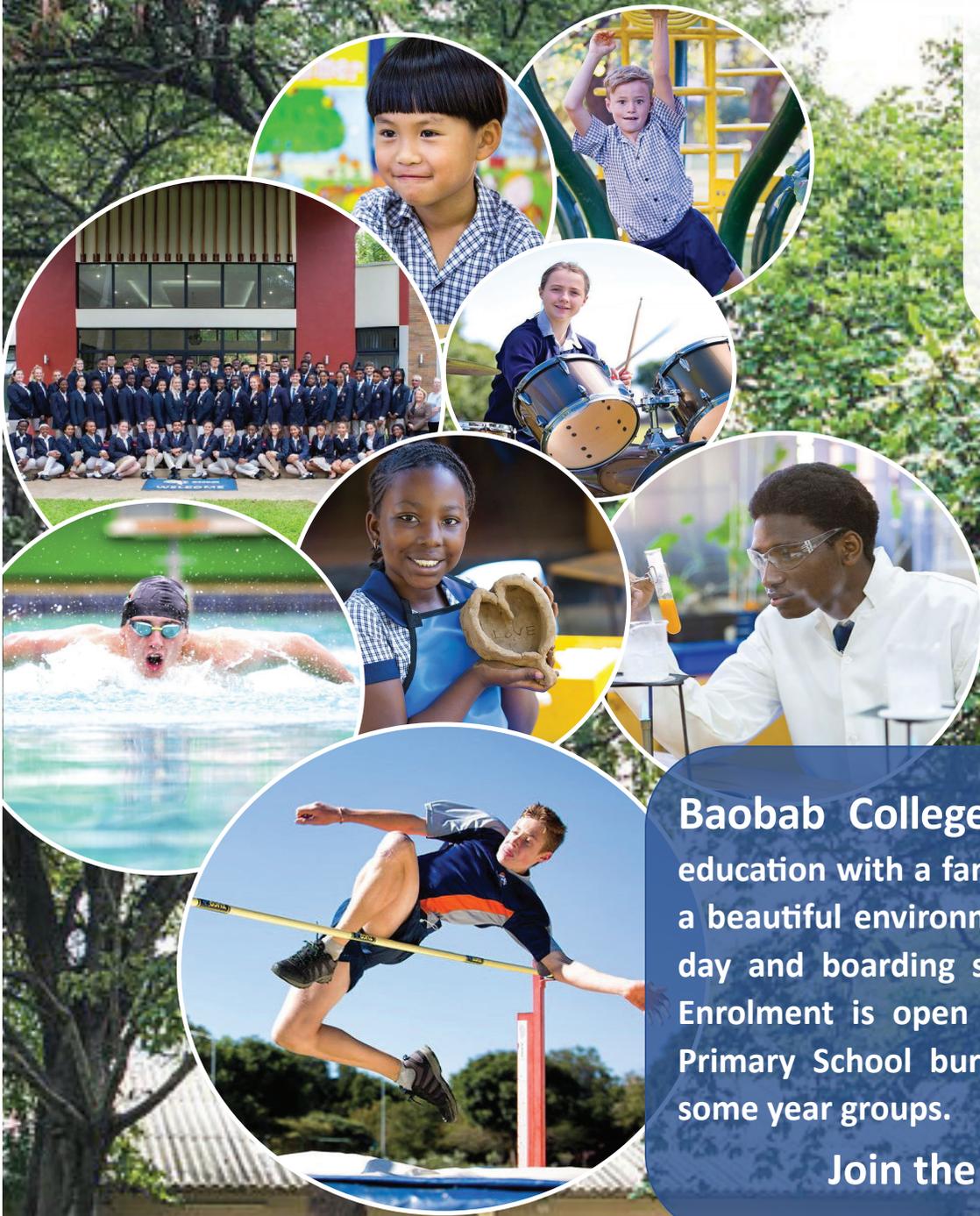
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Italian Companies to visit Copperbelt

BY DERRICK SILIMINA

Italian companies will visit Zambia late November this year to explore business and investment opportunities.

At a recent business webinar held under the theme Doing Business in Zambia at the Italian Cultural Centre (ZICC) in Lusaka, Italian Ambassador Antonio Maggiore expressed commitment to promote bilateral ties at all levels between the two countries.

“Our engagement in fostering our bilateral relation expands into a wider area: we are in fact planning a mission of Italian companies to the Copperbelt on November 29 for a high-level business intelligence round table on the business opportunities in the field of mining, logistics and infrastructures and related services.

“Our cooperation with the Zambian mining industry goes even further. Our Embassy is facilitating the joint project on ethical mining promoted by the Italian Gemstone Association based in Rimini, Assogemme, in collaboration with the Ministry of Mines, the representatives of Zambian gemstone workers’ associations, and the private sector,” he said.

The three focal areas of intervention during the business webinar were agro-industry, energy and water management, all crucial sectors for Zambia’s economy and growth.

Ambassador Maggiore said Zambia merited the attention of Italian investors with whom local companies must be given the opportunity to interact.

The Italian envoy envisaged opportunities to develop initiatives in the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation in the field of climate change vulnerability, risk assessment, adaptation and mitigation as signed by Italy and Zambia in November 2018.



Italian Ambassador to Zambia Antonio Maggiore addresses participants during the Zambia - Italy Business Forum in Lusaka.

The Italian embassy has consistently promoted initiatives in agriculture, agro industry and climate change interventions. Zambian delegations travelled to Italy to participate to the 2018 and 2019 editions of the Macfrut Horticultural Fair, whereas last year, due to the pandemic, a webinar was organized in November 2020.

A moderate number of Italian companies operate in the country:

Parmalat, which unveiled an \$800,000 powered milk plant in 2014;

Brunelli Construction, which has investment in the building sector

Enel, an energy giant that has through its subsidiary Enel Green Power (EGP) signed a 25-year Power Purchase Agreement with ZESCO for 34 Megawatts;

Ngonye Solar Power Projects being developed in the Lusaka South Multi-Facility Economic Zone (MFEZ), a project that will be owned through a Special Purpose Vehicle in which EGP will hold

80 per cent stake with the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) holding a 20 per cent minority equity stake.

Enel Green Power, one of the participants at the business webinar, affirmed its commitment to boosting Zambia’s electrification while contributing to the country’s energy transition.

Enel Green Power Senior Business Developer Katchinga Phiri said with a constantly growing share of renewable energy, the company is making a decisive push in the energy transition towards a greener future.

According to the Ministry of Commerce Trade and Industry, bilateral relations between Italy and Zambia have strengthened as evidenced from the trade flows between the two countries depicting a positive trade balance in favour of Italy.

As of 2019, Zambia’s imports and exports to and from Italy stood at US\$ 58.2 million and US\$ 10.9 million respectively.

The then Commerce Trade and Industry Minister Christopher Yaluma said during the webinar that Zambia had investment opportunities in mining, agriculture, energy, tourism, infrastructure, information and communication technology and value-addition in manufacturing.

ZDA Board Chairperson Bishop David Masupa expressed pleasure with the investment in agriculture in the MFEZ, as it was one of the country’s key priority sectors.

“It is good to see the tobacco plantation and the curing of tobacco by the Golden Eagle Tobacco Corporation Limited one of the companies operating in the zone. The company recently signed an IPPA with ZDA,” he said.

Bishop Masupa reiterated Government’s desire to see the actualization of pledged investments.

ZDA recently signed the Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement (IPPA) with Jiangxi United Limited from China relating to the operation and construction of the Chibombo MFEZ whose total investment was approximated at US\$160 million.

Airtel Mobile, NHIMA in Healthcare Partnership

BY JOHN CHOLA

The one million-plus persons signed up as principal members of the National Health Insurance Management Authority (NHIMA) will now make their contributions through Airtel Money.

Airtel Mobile Commerce Zambia, a subsidiary of Airtel Networks Zambia trading as Airtel Money, says this follows an announced partnership with NHIMA to facilitate e-collection of 1.1 million members' contributions through Airtel Money.

Airtel Money will provide NHIMA with an efficient solution for collecting and managing contributions and penalties from individuals who make contributions based on their income and employing institutions.

Upon making payments, contributors will receive e-mail/SMS notification from the system from which they can also track payments. The solution also facilitates reconciliation of records by NHIMA.

Airtel Money Director James Chona has told Solwezi Today that the NHIMA partnership with Airtel Money fits into Government's agenda to provide a sound and reliable healthcare financing platform to all Zambian households, irrespective of their socio-economic status.

NHIMA paid-up members can then access medical services at public health facilities including registration, consultation, pharmaceuticals, in-patient services, surgical services, ambulance, mobile and referral services, annual medical checkups, mental health, health promotion activities, maternal and pediatric services, dental and vision care.

Chona says the partnership is part of Airtel Africa's growing suite of innovative solutions that are convenient and suited to customers' needs.

"We are excited to work side by side with the Zambian Government in realizing the promise of universal healthcare ser-



NHIMA Director General James Kapesa



Airtel Money Director James Chona

The National Health Insurance Management Authority (NHIMA) was established pursuant to Section 4 of the National Health Insurance Act No. 2 of 2018.

vices to all Zambians through an easy, convenient, secure and seamless mode of payment. This is a milestone in enabling the ongoing transformation into a cashless digital economy, in the spirit of collaboration," says Chona.

And NHIMA Director-General, James Kapesa states that the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) model was built on the commitment to facilitate access to quality healthcare for all Zambians. As such, partnering with Airtel Money that has notable electronic payments and digital prowess will aid the authority in realizing its goal of "leaving no one behind."

Kapesa notes that his organization is cognizant that its mandate cannot be achieved in isolation but will require the combined efforts of various stake-

holders to ensure that mobile money payment options are expanded for increased contributions into the National Health Insurance Fund.

Kapesa observes that the partnership was timely; just before the launch of the informal sector drive as a final push towards registering all eligible members and thus attain Universal Health Coverage.

"In this regard, Airtel is undoubtedly a valuable partner, considering its significant market share and penetration of mobile money services across the country. NHIMA is therefore pleased to welcome Airtel Money to our growing network of partners and encourages NHIS members on the Network to utilize the Airtel mobile money platform to make payments," Kapesa states.

The National Health Insurance Management Authority (NHIMA) was established pursuant to Section 4 of the National Health Insurance Act No. 2 of 2018.

The purpose of the Act is to ensure that all Zambian citizens and established residents have equitable access to high quality essential health services, regardless of their socio-economic status.



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As Airtel Zambia is part of the Airtel Africa global network, the local MPLS is connected to Airtel Africa WAN network with points of presence in 14 countries and over 50 global country partners. There are four (4) exit connectivity border towns Airtel is using to connect to the outside world and these are, Nakonde, Mwami, Kariba and Kazungula town.

To monetize this investment and support the enterprise customer, Airtel has created Airtel Business, a strategic unit focusing at end to end service delivery of all its smart connectivity products.

With a 24/7 Network Operations Centre (NOC), Airtel Networks Zambia PLC is committed to delivering reliable and customized solutions for both mobile and ISP connectivity services to its customers as we not only have the required infrastructure but also the requisite experience and expertise to offer a reliable service.

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THE SMARTPHONE NETWORK

NHIMA, Atlas Mara Bank holding hands to spread health care to all

BY MARTIN MUSUNKA JNR

The National Health Insurance Management Authority (NHIMA) and Atlas Mara Bank are partnering to bring accessible healthcare closer to all people.

NHIMA Director-General James Kapesa and Atlas Mara CEO James Koni have announced an agreement that brings together NHIMA's national outreach and Atlas Mara's digital capacities for the benefit of millions of Zambians.

NHIMA's role is to make sure that every kwacha collected is well spent while the bank provides the necessary technology to facilitate the collection of funds from members in the most convenient way at the lowest cost.

The advancement in the Atlas Mara system now allows the 1.15 million principal members of the scheme to check their registry status, register dependents and make their payments from anywhere in the country. The 11,794 employers so far registered with NHIMA can register employees, make contributions, file returns, add and remove users and members remotely.

At a joint press briefing held at Taj Pamodzi Hotel in Lusaka on September 27, Kapesa said, "We are working relentlessly so that 100 per cent of the 18 million Zambians receive quality healthcare."

Koni said, "We are able to play this role for NHIMA because of the massive investments we have made into our world

class technology. We welcome this opportunity because it enables us to touch the lives of ordinary people, which is something you won't always hear from bankers."

INSURE

NHIMA was formed in accordance with the National Health Insurance Act, 2018 to insure citizens in an arrangement where wealthier contributors subsidize the cost of health services for the less-privileged.

At the inception of NHIMA only 4 per cent of the entire population of Zambia had access to good healthcare service.

A key function of the partnership between NHIMA and Atlas Mara bank is to enhance health care provision by enhancing institutional coordination and management of patients' contributions and facilitation of medical treatment by the use of digital capabilities availed through the bank's technology. The system rides on a range of accredited health provider institutions.

Koni has implored Atlas Mara staff and customers to use the digital platform because of the improvement that it brought to society. Koni also mentioned that apart from having access to the dig-

ital service they could also access the facilities from any Atlas Mara Bank location.

In addition to the digital enhancement, this mutually beneficial partnership allows NHIMA access to Atlas Mara's various platforms realize liquidity to the Fund. This empowers the Fund to effortlessly provide for the needs of all contributors at any given moment.

DOUBTS

There have been some doubts and speculations about this scheme among potential end-users owing to the lack of knowledge of how the structure operates. Most complaints have been about the lack of medication in hospitals.

NHIMA does not procure any medication directly but deals with the reimbursement of claims from both private and public practices. As of August 2021 there has been a total of 30,000 claims that have caused a payout of over K10 million to the 193 accredited healthcare providers.

Some end-users that understand the scheme and followed the process correctly have benefitted from the services.

Eneless Sakala, a Lusaka resident, said "I got my glasses using NHIMA services from Medicare opticians at Manda Hill. To my surprise, they got ready in just two days. I also got to choose from a wide variety of frames. I am really happy with the services..."

Robert Daka, another Lusaka resident, said, "Yesterday, I underwent a procedure that came to a total of K1,100 minus medicines. All I had to do was sign a bill and this was at a posh clinic I was comfortable with."

Daka has invited all citizens to register and enjoy good health care free from the usual financial burden.

He was most grateful for the accreditation of private health providers and pharmacies because of the excellent services that he has experienced.



NHIMA Director General James Kapesa (left), and Atlas Mara Bank CEO Director James Koni (right) sign agreement after press briefing at Taj Pamodzi Hotel, Lusaka, Zambia.

'Start Your Business' attracts 21 Kalumbila entrepreneurs



BY MWIZA NZILA

Kalumbila Minerals Limited (KML) has through its Trident Foundation Limited (TFL) continued to equip people in the mine catchment area with business skills so that income generation is sustainable after the life of the mine.

To enhance entrepreneurship capacity, the mine has facilitated training activities at Nvumabaranda in Kalumbila to stimulate business ideas, initiate small scale business start-ups and support small local entrepreneurs.

Trident Foundation Manager Joseph Ngwira has said the Start Your Business (SYB) training will be followed up with mentorship and coaching sessions to monitor trainees' implementation of the action plans from their training. "This will help ascertain the type of support to render the trainees in order for their businesses to be successful."

The local small scale entrepreneurship training is affiliated to the International

Labour Organization (ILO) and is meant to help individuals to create business plans and turn their ideas into viable businesses. The training includes market research, record keeping, marketing, costing and financial planning; all meant to show how simple business ideas can be actualized.

"Through our local business development support section, we may provide equipment finance or operating cash as a form of microfinance support. Based on due diligence results, more training based on how complex or how big the business is can be facilitated. Others may have already started their businesses but are struggling to sell their products or services, so we may have to connect them to a larger market within

or outside the mine catchment area," Ngwira explains.

He adds that a positive attitude and desire to do better is of utmost importance.

"We also recognize the need to align support with interest and potential, hence identification of viable opportunities is driven by what participants believe they can do better if supported."

The Trident Foundation will work hand-in-hand with the local SMEs to ensure that their businesses become self-reliant and sustainable beyond the productive life of the mine.

"Our support is meant to boost the economic activity of this catchment area and also to help the locals improve their livelihoods by generating an income to support their families and community.

"Our strategy is to promote a realization that the potential to improve the quality of livelihood is within individuals, the wealth is adequate but the missing link is the ability to transform the wealth into liquidity so that we together can address our basic needs."

The trainees include women representing village banking groups; youth groups composed of welding and block-making graduates; hair salon owners and those with ideas of starting agribusiness such as poultry and pig rearing.

Ngwira adds that once the businesses take off, the attendants are taken through further training to improve and enhance their operational systems, and enable them to forecast their performance for short and long-term planning.

Musele Chamber of Commerce CEO Jacob Chikomu has encouraged the trainees to join the chamber for increased access to tenders from the mine.

Accelerated Growth for SMEs in Zambia (AGS) also supported the training programme by providing a trainer.

Representing the trainees, Muse Musemangeji thanked Kalumbila Minerals for empowering community members with business skills, and further urged her colleagues to practice what they have learnt in order for them to benefit from the business loan facility from TFL.

Kansanshi Mine Donates Laptops to EIZ

BY GODFREY PHILIP MSISKA

Kansanshi Mining Plc has donated three computers to the Engineering Institute of Zambia (EIZ) to facilitate a diagnostic survey among their 17,459 members across Zambia.



George Ngulube, Kansanshi Mine Warehouse Supervisor (left) hands over the three laptops to Francis Mwale, who received them on behalf of the EIZ

The three Dell laptops valued at K68,300 were handed over to Francis Mwale, a Kitwe-based member of the EIZ, on September 25. Mwale sits on the Engineering Registration Board, where he represents the interests of Electronic Engineering and ICT members of EIZ.

Francis Mwale reached out to Kansanshi Mining Plc through the General Manager Anthony Mukutuma to garner support for the project – who immediately confirmed the company was keen to partner with EIZ on this project.

“Kansanshi has been a key partner to the EIZ over the years and values the statutory role EIZ plays in promoting and regulating the engineering profession in Zambia. The diagnostic survey that Francis is embarking on will provide invaluable information to EIZ – no doubt,” Mukutuma said.

Receiving the donation on behalf of the EIZ, Francis Mwale said, “These computers will go a long way in meeting the need for the EIZ to undertake a Diagnostic and Satisfaction Survey on how its members perceive, own and participate in EIZ programmes”.



Francis Mwale puts one of the donated Dell computers to immediate use

In the year 2020, Mwale made a proposal to the EIZ Secretariat to undertake such a survey. He was glad to receive the EIZ Chief Executive Officer’s approval to do so in August 2021. The EIZ chief noted that conducting such a survey was one of his organisation’s key performance indicators.

The survey will be undertaken using Google Documents’ in-built survey module to provide access to the questionnaire which will go out to all the EIZ members. The EIZ is hoping to have at least 1,000 responses from its members between mid-October and mid-December 2021.

“We need to get the information in before people start breaking off for Christmas,” Mwale said.

To enable EIZ members with limited Internet access to participate in the survey, an ‘Audio Contact’ centre will also be set up at the EIZ Regional Office in Kitwe. Agents will take calls and fill in the survey questionnaire on behalf of the callers.

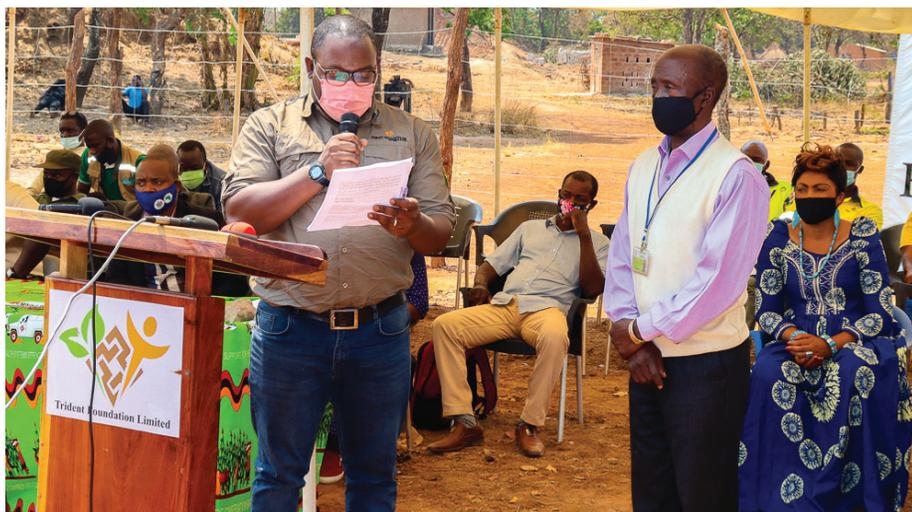
Both the Internet based and audio respondents to the survey will be processed using the three laptops donated by Kansanshi Mine.

This is a milestone for the EIZ and Kansanshi Mining Plc is delighted to be associated with another progressive EIZ initiative.

Two Fishing Dams Open for Business In Kalumbila

BY MWIZA NZILA

The newly-formed Musele Community Resource Board (MCRB) should ensure that Chisola and Musangezhi dams are properly managed.



Dr David Squarre - Wildlife and Forestry Coordinator speaking on behalf of Joseph Ngwira at handover ceremony.

North-Western Provincial Fisheries Coordinator Dr Charles Lwanga said this during a handover ceremony for the dams which will be managed by Musele MCRB which was formed with the help of the Trident Foundation Ltd which falls under Kalumbila Minerals Ltd.

From inception of the two dams, Kalumbila Minerals has introduced more than 81,000 fingerlings into the Chisola and Musangezhi dams and is scheduled to restock 10,000 fingerlings before the end of 2021.

At the ceremony held at Senior Chief Musele's palace in Kalumbila District, Dr Lwanga pledged technical and scientific support from the Department of Fisheries.

The Musele MCRB will work with the Government through the Department of Fisheries to provide fishing licenses and ensure proper fishing methods are being adhered to.

Kalumbila Minerals has provided logis-

tical support for surveillance of the dam, development of the governance system, fish restocking and aquatic ecosystem monitoring.

Speaking during the handover ceremony, TFL Manager Joseph Ngwira said the programme will enable the community to adequately benefit the fish resources through revenue generation and guarding against over exploitation of the fish resources to ensure sustainability of the initiative.

"The combination of community structures through Musele CRB, the governance systems put in place and the technical input of the Department of Fisheries gives us assurance that this initiative will be managed effectively, transparently and sustainably," Ngwira said.

He counseled that in view of the impending challenges ahead of the fishing programme including the pressure of fishing which will be placed on the two dams, the community must consider putting up a hatchery to be a reliable source for fingerlings that will periodi-

cally restock the dam.

"In addition, we would like to encourage the community to develop fish ponds where the fingerlings will be supplied by hatcheries. This will inevitably relieve and mitigate the fishing pressures on the dam. We anticipate the hatchery will play a role in promoting aquaculture in the Musele chiefdom and beyond."

Ngwira said the initiative will provide alternative and sustainable livelihoods beyond the life of the mine.

"The support from the mine is intended to ensure sustainable fishing for nutrition and for income, going beyond the mine life. Kalumbila Minerals believes that a structured governance system shall help avoid community conflicts and optimize the water resources already developed by the mine."

And Senior Chief Musele Musokantanda urged his subjects to take care of the fish resources God has blessed his community with, and advised the fishing community to buy licenses and use recommended fishing tools so that future generations could benefit from the inheritance.

"If you want to practice fishing for business, you must get a permit because if you are caught selling fish illegally, you will be arrested and no one will speak for you because this information has been shared openly here today," Chief Musele advised.

He urged the MCRB to ensure that they deal diligently with anyone found flouting set procedures.

The chief encouraged the community to acquire private breeding cages from the Department of Fisheries and enhance their income.

The Chief thanked Kalumbila Minerals for providing financial support to establish a system that shall enhance a coordinated resource utilization and support livelihoods.



Pridegems Mines limited General Manager Barbra Shilengwe (Middle) helps Monica Kitefu (Queen) to cut the ribbon during the official hand-over ceremony of the car to the Chiefdom

Pridegems Donates Vehicle to Snr Chief Kasempa

BY DERRICK SILIMINA

Pridegems Mines Ltd, a subsidiary of the Grizzly Group of Companies, has donated a Toyota Land Cruiser VX automobile worth K400,000 to Senior Chief Kasempa of the Kaonde-speaking people of North-Western Province.

Company General Manager Barbra Shilengwe said in its quest to enhance its corporate social responsibility programmes, the mining firm has taken it as an obligation to plough back into the community where it operates.

“Having identified the transport challenge over the past three years, Grizzly Copper Mines Limited requests that you accept this token of appreciation, in form of a Vehicle (Toyota Land Cruiser VX), which we pray will help His Royal Highness with ease of mobility,” Shilengwe said during the hand-over ceremony held at Snr Chief Kasempa’s palace in Kasempa district on Friday.

She noted that from its inception in 2016, the mining firm has been accorded an enabling environment through Snr Chief Kasempa’s royal establish-

ment and for this reason, Grizzly copper mines looked forward to a continued cordial working relationship with him and the people of Kasempa district.

Shilengwe pledged that the mining company would continue to partner with the chiefdom in a bid to enhance its corporate social responsibility in the community.

Speaking at the same event, Pridegems Manager Joseph Manyepa said despite the negative effects of Covid-19 pandemic on the company’s operations, works on the proposed mine site have reached an advanced stage.

Manyepa disclosed that as geologists gets down to work from soil sampling up to mine drilling in a bid to kickstart mining, operations would hopefully start soon.

“We are hopeful that from the preliminary studies that we have done, soil sampling and the aerial survey we conducted, Zambia Wildlife Authority and the Forestry were informed as the results where good,” Manyepa stated.

He expressed optimism that once mine operations start, the entire chiefdom would be empowered with direct and indirect employment and various CSR programmes.

Snr Chief Kasempa expressed gratitude to Grizzly group of companies’ for meeting his transport request which would ease the performance of his duties.

“I would like to thank Grizzly Mining for giving us the vehicle for His Royal Highness Snr Chief Kasempa as this gesture has come at the right time. So, we are sending our blessings that as Grizzly operates here in our chiefdom, they should achieve their goals,” Kasempa Royal Establishment Vice-Secretary Caren Kamanga said.

“We are really in support of the Grizzly mining company and since they came here in Kasempa, we have been in good terms with them and we look forward to partner with their investment,” she said.



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Java Foods exports noodles to Zimbabwe, Malawi

BY STUART LISULO

JAVA Foods Limited, a leading Zambian food processor, has penetrated the regional markets after successfully exporting its renowned 'eeZee noodles' to Zimbabwe and Malawi.



In an interview in Lusaka, Java Foods founder and chief executive officer Monica Musonda has disclosed that the company has grown the market for Zambia's leading noodle brand into two neighbouring markets in the last 10 months, with sales volumes of its famous 'eeZee noodles' brand already hitting one million packets.

"Java Foods business strategy and roll out in Zambia was influenced by a number of factors. Firstly, Zambia is self-suf-

And Musonda observes that Java's successful push into regional markets was buoyed by securing strategic local distributors in both Malawi and Zimbabwe.

ficient in wheat, yet locally we use wheat only for bread and confectionary. So there was an opportunity to introduce new products using wheat.

"Secondly, a young (youthful) urban population and changing consumption patterns meant more people were looking for convenience ready-to-eat, affordable meals."

The company realized that the factors were not unique to Zambia (especially on the target market, demographics and consumption patterns) and so it made sense for us to sell into regional markets.

"We started off in Zimbabwe in November, 2020 and Java Foods signed a distribution agreement with Tulips Distribution Limited. The product has done very well; consumer demand has grown and we have sold almost a million packets into that market. The Zimbabwean consumer is quite progressive, willing to try new products. Noodles have been in that market for some time now but it does seem that they like eeZee Noodles because of its high quality and our greatly localized taste and flavour."

She adds that consumer feedback in the Malawian market is positive, with sales volumes equally impressive.

"The second market we looked at was Malawi. We did a little bit of research, trying to understand the Malawian market. Zimbabwe's market is very similar to ours in terms of how they distribute products and in terms of where people buy products."

Research into Malawian scenario took some time because Java Foods needed

to understand the landscape. “It’s a very small country, but very highly populated with people shopping quite differently from what you see in Zambia. Therefore, it took us some time to choose our distributor, but we ended up with a bigger, well-known distributor in Malawi, and the product was first exported into Malawi in June, this year. We are now sending another load through this week.”

In Malawi, the feedback was immediate with people turning to social media to talk about the product, which was notably recognized as a Zambian brand.

And Musonda observes that Java’s successful push into regional markets was buoyed by securing strategic local distributors in both Malawi and Zimbabwe.

“Primarily because we cannot create Java Foods in every country around us, you have to really work through partnerships with people who already distribute products in their local market. And it’s important to work through partnerships because your local partner understands how people buy products, what influences them to buy products,



The company realized that the factors were not unique to Zambia (especially on the target market, demographics and consumption patterns) and so it made sense for us to sell into regional markets.

and they have relationships with retailers, wholesalers and so forth.”

Distribution costs are lower and corporate partners can import Java Foods products without paying customs duty.

SUPA CEREAL

“We are just about to introduce ‘Supa Cereal’ (our fortified instant maize soya porridge) into Zimbabwe. Since the Covid-19 pandemic hit, we do find that our consumers are now looking at nutritious foods to enhance immune systems; eat right to keep healthy. So Supa Cereal

is a product of choice. But we feel that by the end of the year, you will be able to find both products in both countries.”

NOODLE FACTORY

“One very important point, which we are very proud of, is that Java Foods instant noodle plant is the only instant noodle factory in Southern Africa, outside of South Africa. So, it obviously puts Java Foods in a very advantageous position to other noodle brands which are imported from Asia or elsewhere because we are here right next door. We offer a high-quality product at very competitive pricing.”

Amid the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic in Zambia and across the region, Java has successfully managed to mitigate the devastating effects of the virus by implementing business strategies to adhere to health regulations and guarantee staff and consumer safety.

The company has allowed flexibility in working shifts for staff members who do not need to be present at their state-of-the-art plant in Lusaka’s light industrial area, while also employing digital marketing through growth agency Manic Creatives to maintain visibility on social media and drive-up sales volumes.



A new era for Zambian agribusiness following the establishment of the African Continental Free Trade Area

BY ZUNEID YOUSUF, CHAIRMAN, AFRICAN GREEN RESOURCES AND ZUMRAN GROUP

Founded in 2018 and with trade commencing in January of this year, the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) is the largest free trade area in the world, covering over 1.3 billion people across more than 50 countries.

Key goals of the agreement include eliminating intra-African trade tariffs and therefore increasing free trade flows throughout the continent, lifting millions of people out of extreme poverty, diversifying exports, and attracting foreign direct investment into an area of the world with so much economic potential.

Global Director of Trade, Investment, and Competitiveness at the World Bank, Caroline Freund, said of the AfCFTA that it would be a 'huge step forward for Africa, demonstrating to the world that it is emerging as a leader on the global trade agenda'. The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) estimates that intra-African trade can be boosted by 52% with this free trade area, meaning that reliance on traditional export flows is set to decline. This, in turn, sows the seeds for a boost in intra-African trade and a subsequent boost to African agricultural practices as a new internal market (much like the European Union) has been created for such products.

According to the World Bank, Zambia is set to see an increase in its annual income by around 5% as a direct result of the new free trade area. The introduction of this trade agreement and the new administration's aims to liberalise Zambia's economy are set to perfectly align with one another.

There is a clear overlap between the agreement's ambitions to increase intra-regional trade flows, directly benefiting smallholder farmers and President Hichilema's economic modernisation plans. These include assisting farmers by investing in agricultural modernisation projects and lowering the cost of key equipment and materials such as fertiliser. Smallholder farmers are



at the centre of Zambia's economy and deserve to directly benefit from such developments.

Speaking after winning the recent election, President Hichilema asserted that 'in agriculture, we will work to enhance production, agricultural extension services, market access, value addition and lowering the cost of input'.

Coming from a humble farming background, Hichilema clearly understands changes that need to be made to smallholder farming in the country. His government have outlined plans to lower the cost of a 50kg bag of fertiliser from 800 Kwacha (over 40 US dollars) to just 250 Kwacha (less than 14 dollars). With such changes, the production of food such as maize will further increase, making the country even more food-secure despite global issues such as drought, associated with climate change, hindering crop yields. This is further good news given that an estimated 22% of the Zambian population face food security issues according to the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) 2020/2021 outlook report.

The World Bank's outlook scenarios for the future of African trade have positives for all nations involved. Specifically for Zambia, the Agricultural Policy

Research and Outreach Institute (APRI) has outlined a range of benefits that the Zambian people (especially smallholder farmers) will see from the agreement. The abundance of crops such as maize will massively boost Zambia's export market, especially when considering the government's plans to maximise the potential of the country's agricultural practices through incentives such as reducing the cost of fertiliser and modernising farm equipment.

The elimination of tariffs and barriers to trade have created a new, promising international market for Zambian farmers that will likely 'increase farmer incomes, grow small and medium agro-enterprises involved in grain trade, and create local employment within the grain value chain' according to the APRI.

The company I chair, African Green Resources (AGR), helped to pioneer this approach, including partnerships with organisations like US-based African Fertiliser and Agribusiness Partnership (AFAP). Putting Zambian farmers at the centre of our plans, we support farmers and smallholders, connecting them with suppliers and producers, providing access to markets, value addition, and finance. The above partnership, for instance, has turned 125,000 hectares of land into a greenbelt, enabling around 250,000 smallholder farmers to benefit and cultivate the land.

Such partnerships illustrate the requirement for the private sector to work with the Zambian government to bring about key changes for smallholder farmers that will, in turn, facilitate sustained economic growth. This will allow the country to reach its true potential given the opportunities brought about by the new administration and the AfCFTA, providing a better future for all Zambian people.

'Embrace FQM community health programme'

BUNTUNTULU BWA NYAUNDA TAKES OFF IN KALUMBILA

BY STUART LISULO IN KALUMBILA



Senior chief Musele addresses stakeholders through interpreter and director of ceremonies, Winford Mbanvu (r), following his official launching of the Buntuntulu Bwa Nyaundu (BBN) Community Health and Wellness project at Kisasa Rural Health Centre in Kalumbila District

Senior Chief Musele has urged the Lunda people of Kalumbila to embrace First Quantum Minerals' (FQM) "Buntuntulu Bwa Nyaundu" (BBN) programme for living standards to improve.

And FQM Health and Wellness Manager Kylie van der Mere says the BBN aims to support the existing government health system in the provision of essential healthcare services.

The BBN, a community health and wellness initiative, seeks to improve the health status of people living in the surrounding areas of the Sentinel Copper Mine run by Kalumbila Minerals Limited (KML) and Kansanshi in Solwezi District. The mines are subsidiaries of FQM.

"We are grateful to FQM because in the past, it is like we've been working in isolation; each one was doing his own business, but that this time we have seen collaboration, we have seen partnership".

BBN will address health promotion, disease prevention, surveillance and early detection and treatment in diseases like malaria, particularly in under-fives.

EMBRACE

Speaking through an interpreter, Winford Mbanvu, at Kisasa Rural Health Centre in Kalumbila District, Senior Chief Musele, who officially launched the project, urged his subjects in this chiefdom to embrace the initiative as it was aimed at improving people's standards of living.

"We are grateful to FQM because in the past, it is like we've been working in isolation; each one was doing his own business, but that this time we have seen collaboration, we have seen partnership. I am saying, 'congratulations for this move!' The programme that you (FQM)



Senior chief Musele (c) listens attentively to Trident Foundation Limited Community Affairs Officer, Kapita Yabeza (l), who explained the various different health products under the BBN initiative that enables locals access to better health services in his chiefdom;

have brought, which we are launching today, continue like that and we are ready to support you,” Chief Musele said.

“...And I am asking from the general population, let’s put behind the politics because, now, we are no longer campaigning, let’s just forge forward and see the development that is coming, we have to work together. If we can have these preventive measures that are coming on board, we embrace them, we support them; I tell you, we are going to develop our communities. So, let us embrace this programme, which has come to make sure that healthcare is improved.”

Indigenous residents in the area should claim ownership of the wellness initiative for locals to access essential health services.

“Let us, as the owners of the community, as the owners of this programme, lead, and then FQM will follow and support us. On these BBN services, we have learnt a lot; we have learnt how to treat our water so that it is safe for drinking.

“We should also take it upon ourselves to see to it that even our homes are improved; we should not allow a situation of a single room where the mother, fa-

“If we can have these preventive measures that are coming on board, we embrace them, we support them; I tell you, we are going to develop our communities. So, let us embrace this programme, which has come to make sure that healthcare is improved.”

ther and children don’t have enough room to keep the water. Definitely, in such homes, we expect a lot of disease outbreaks. So, we have to improve our houses so that we have enough room to store our water,” said the chief.

SUPPORT

And van der Mere explained that the BBN initiative was rolled out to support the existing government health system in the provision of essential healthcare services.

“FQM has a long-standing commitment to support the communities surrounding the mine site and the BBN initiative is a continuation of this support. FQM has employed a dedicated team of employees to BBN. We look forward to seeing the effects of this engagement and working together with the Ministry of Health and the communities.”

Trident Foundation Limited Community Affairs Development Manager, Joseph Ngwira, has explained that the BBN project is set to enhance healthcare service provision in the area.

“The period 2019 through to 2021 has been overshadowed by the COVID-19 pandemic, and the health sector has been the most affected. The pandemic has, however, helped to identify improvement opportunities and this programme is one of the measures that shall embrace how we shall together respond to health care service provision for our community.”

Ngwira urged the community to recognize FQM as “our investment. The support we have recorded in this community from the inception of Kalumbila Minerals Limited needs to be protected and equally protect the source of that support.”

Small-scale miners preening for \$10m equipment gift

BY JOHN CHOLA

The Emerald and Semi-Precious Stones Mining Association of Zambia (ESMAZ) urges small scale miners to form cooperatives if they are to benefit from Grizzly Mining Ltd's \$10 million worth of mining equipment.



Grizzly Mining Limited's CEO Abdoul Ba

Grizzly Mining Limited recently committed to spend \$10 million to procure mining equipment for small-scale emerald miners. The mining firm pledged to procure the equipment on condition that the 600 small-scale miners in Lufwanyama district, form cooperatives and acquire a single mining license.

Association President Victor Kalesha said its high time small holder miners avoid holding onto their individual tenement but instead take advantage of Grizzly Mining scheme if real empowerment is to be actualized.

"I think time has come for us to do the right thing because in holding on to our individual small tenements, may not take us anywhere. So, what we are encouraging our members is that forming a cooperative does not mean that you will lose your mine or your license but it's in our interest to benefit from Grizzly Mining scheme that would likely take off soon."

He explained that the condition is that

all the small-scale mines should form cooperatives and then amalgamate into a single entity so that Government can issue a mining license.

Kalesha has hinted that since the project will be supervised by government, his association will soon sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with all stakeholders to kickstart the scheme.

"Grizzly Mining has pledged to procure exploration and mining equipment, those cooperatives that will prove to be viable, equipment will move in for operations and any productions will be secured by government through the Ministry of mines to await auction and then the proceed will be shared accordingly," Kalesha noted.

Beneficiary cooperatives will be able to procure own equipment after auction of their commodities is done and will have the capacity to continue working on their own as cooperatives.

Kalesha highlighted that his association will engage with the Zambia Development Agency (ZDA) to ensure that the

cooperatives are legalized to ensure effective and smooth operations of the project.

"As an association, we are proud that we have clinched this deal with Grizzly Mining Ltd and we will very soon be going to sign an MoU which may only be expedited by the formation of cooperatives. We are proud that under the new dawn government, we are ready to contribute to the coffers of the national treasury as well as job creation for our country," Kalesha emphasized.

Grizzly mining Chief Executive Officer Abdoul Ba recently announced that his mining company would procure four dump trucks at \$600,000 each, two excavators at \$800,000 each and two bulldozers worth \$1.3 million each as well as procure two graders (at \$400,000 each), two mining water pumps (\$200,000 each), three drilling machines for exploration (\$800,000 each) and one water bowser worth \$600,000.

He said although emerald mining appears simple, it was not as basic as people think because it requires technical knowhow and proper management as well as discipline.

Ba further explained that emerald mining also required patience as production was not instant and could take a long period before high-grade emerald could be produced.

"The condition is that all the small-scale mines should form cooperatives and then amalgamate into a single entity so that Government can issue a mining license. On our part as Grizzly, we are prepared to procure equipment for them and we will spend \$10 million on condition that they form cooperatives and get amalgamated so that a single mining license can be granted."

Grizzly Mining Limited hails government for creating enabling environment.



BY JOHN CHOLA

Grizzly Mining Limited has applauded government for creating an enabling environment during the stressing time of Covid-19 by putting in place pro-production programmes.

Grizzly Mining Limited (GML) Group Vice Chairman Abdoul Ba made the observation recently when his company signed a collective agreement with the country's two main mine unions.

Mine Workers Union of Zambia (MUZ) President Joseph Chewe said his organisation was aware that most miners were barely surviving because of the hardships that companies, workers and the country were going through because of Covid-19.

Chewe said although the K500 salary increase awarded to employees may not be sufficient, the Unions did what they could under the prevailing environment.

"The unions did consider the hardships of workers and also the need to keep the company. We want to implore our members that lets keep the operations running because we believe that what has been put on the table can help to cushion the hard times," said Chewe.

Chewe appealed to GML management through Ba to implement what had been agreed accordingly.

National Union of Mine and Allied Workers (NUMAW) President James Chansa noted that a number of member companies had attempted negotiations

but during the process failed while others had concluded with serious defects.

"Here is a case to Grizzly Mining where we started negotiations and within a day we managed to conclude. This simply shows how united we are in ensuring that we give the best to the workers. Though it may not be a very good package, per say, but we have to look at the environment that surrounds the mining activities especially the gemstone," said Chansa.

Chansa too thanked the government for making continued efforts to create an enabling environment for the mining industry and in particular the gemstone sector.

He noted that in other countries mines were grounded to a hot due to the Covid-19 pandemic but the Zambian government ensured the continuous operation of the mining activities.

Chansa urged GML to keep up with the spirit of preserving jobs in Zambia regardless of the harsh times the economy may face.

"Like you have done Mr Ba and team, that's how it should be. We have to remind you Sir that the mineral wealth that is in Zambia, belongs to us, we are the custodians and the owners and we strongly feel that as the owners we have to benefit from these minerals, and the only way we can benefit, is by ensuring that employment is assured," Chansa said.

Ba added that the collective agreement signed for the period 2021 to 2023 will see GML employees affiliated to MUZ and NUMAW receive an increment of K500 next year and a similar amount in 2023.

Ba said despite the company being hard-hit financially by the Covid-19 pandemic, Grizzly Mining Limited resolved to improve employees' conditions of service because the company had a heart of the workers and recognised their effort.



Grizzly Group Human Resources Manager Davy Phiri speaking during the MoU signing.

Ba noted that the emerald industry had been particularly choked by the ravaging Covid-19 as companies failed to hold public auctions for a long period despite government remedial measures encouraged continued production.

"Management would have liked to do more in terms of improving employees' conditions of service but as you may be aware world over the Covid-19 pandemic has ravaged most of the economies, and we as Grizzly Mining Limited are not spared," said Ba.

He stated that management was confident that the collective agreement signed would reflect and galvanise the cordial relationship between the parties.

However, Ba acknowledged that it was not easy for management to sit on the round table and negotiate for improved conditions of service because of the prevailing economic situation brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Ba congratulated the negotiating team and two unions for concluding negotiations for the period 2021 to 2023 in record time ever.

He said regardless of the many challenges, management went a step further to sit down and negotiate because it prioritises the welfare of employees.

He thanked employees for their hard work and urged them to be more committed.

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Lubambe are national mines rescue champions!



BY JOHN CHOLA

Lubambe Copper Mine (LCM) is the ultimate winner of the 2021 National Mines Rescue Team Competition held at Victoria Falls Power Station in Livingstone from September 13 to 17.



The Chililabombwe-based team emerged tops among five other participating teams who included Mabiza Mine, Mopani Nkana, Luanshya Copper Mine, Mopani Mufulira and NFCA.

The final tabulation of results by a team of six adjudicators led by Tume-lo Pablo Kgafela of Botswana showed that Lubambe garnered a total of 554.6 marks and walked away with 18 out of 20 awards at the tightly contested competition.

Lubambe outshone all other participating mines to become best firefighting team, best team in rescue operations, best team in first aid operations, best team in theory tests, best team in field events and best team in relay race with BG4.

Mopani Mufulira took second position with 502 marks while Luanshya Copper Mine settled for third position with 481.8 marks.

The awards reflect activities in which the teams were tested.

Speaking at an Award Presentation Ceremony on 17 September, 2021, Zambia Mines Rescue President Maron Chongo commended mine rescue teams in Zambia for their dedication and commitment to save lives and property in cases of emergency.

Chongo noted that Mine Rescue in Zambia had evolved and improved over the years and as at now, rescue teams across the country were now better trained, more equipped and well-positioned to deal with any emergency situation.

“There is no doubt that mines rescue teams are adding a lot of value to the operations of our mines in Zambia. When lives and assets are in danger, it is the Mines Rescue Teams that step up and rise to the challenges of saving lives and property,” Chongo said.

Since mining was a hazardous business, there was no telling when calamity would strike, hence the need for rescue teams to be physically and mentally prepared for eventualities all the time.

And Zambia Chamber of Mines Dep-

uty Chief Executive Officer, Talent Ng’andwe commended all participating teams for their commitment to mine rescue.

Ng’andwe pointed out that the mining industry presented unique challenges to safety which required mine rescue teams to be well-trained and prepared. Mine accidents had huge implications on mine operations and human life.

Minimizing of accidents in the mining industry was pivotal for sustained productivity of the sector, and the availability of mine rescue skilled personnel enhanced safety.

A combination of safety practices and skills was highly demanded for improved protection of mining infrastructure, equipment and also human resources.

The Zambia Chamber of Mines, under whose ambit the Zambia Mine Rescue Association falls, has signed a tripartite agreement with the Technical Education Vocation and Entrepreneurship Training Authority (TEVETA) and Mopani Central Training Center (MCTC) to upskill rescue miners in different mines in the country.

“The Training Agreement worth K2 million will benefit 180 miners at Lubambe, Mopani, First Quantum Minerals, CNMC Luanshya Copper Mine, NFCA and other mines. The contract will focus on critical skills required for efficient operation of the mining industry,” said Ng’andwe.

He further noted that the employee upskilling programme was aimed at ensuring that TEVET meets the skills requirement of the Zambian economy, efficiently and sustainability.





The rise of 2021 mine rescue champions

Lubambe Team Captain, Kenny Sakayoyo receiving a trophy from Mine Rescue President Maroon Choongo as Lubambe Team Manager Frank Banda looks on

BY JOHN CHOLA

Although the safety and health standards in most mines in Zambia are now considerably high, there is still a likelihood for major incidents such as fire, explosion, in-rush or fall of ground.

Generally, mines rescue teams provide immediate response in emergency situations to locate, rescue and recover miners unable to return to the surface following the declaration of an emergency; or to fight fires, repair and establish ventilation circuits or other duties as required.

Though such situations are rare, the mines rescue teams are always in a state of preparedness at all times.

To ensure that its rescue teams are adequately prepared and equipped, Lubambe Copper Mine like other mines provides copper equipment and facilities so that the teams train for emergency assistance whatever the scenario.

Mines rescuers are usually volunteers who need adequate training and be-

cause no one knows when an accident may occur, rescuers must be available and ready to respond on a moment's notice.

Such teams in Zambia play an important role in the mining industry and the country at large and managements depend on rescue teams to rescue miners underground and save lives, company equipment and property.

In Zambia, mines rescue is defined as the specialized job of rescuing miners and others who have become trapped or injured, mostly in underground mines because of mining accidents, roof falls or floods and disasters such as explosions.

A brief history

The establishment of Mine Rescue Ser-

vice Units in the Zambian mining industry traces back to the 1930s, reportedly started by management at Luanshya and Mufulira Copper Mines, says Zambia Mines Rescue President Maroon Chongo.

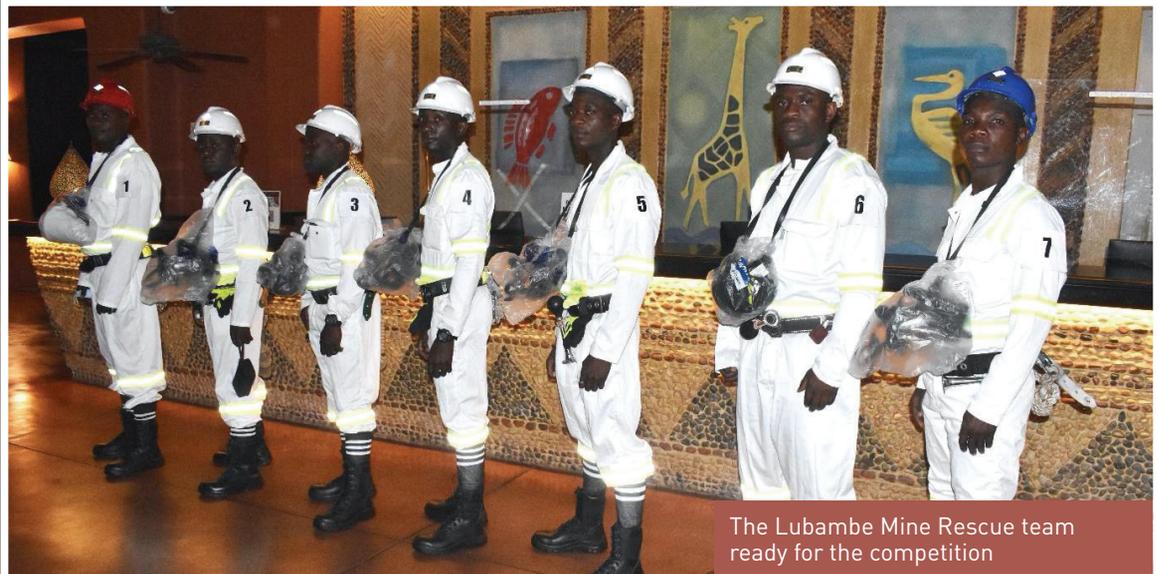
Mine rescue contests or competitions were designed to keep sharpening skills and test the knowledge of team members who would be called on to respond to a mine emergency.

The contest requires team members to solve a hypothetical problem while being timed and observed by judges according to complex rules.

Mines Rescue at Lubambe Copper Mine

Lubambe copper Mine (LCM) are the 2021 Champions of the National Mines Rescue Team Competition held at Victoria Falls Power Station in Livingstone from September 13 to 17.

Lubambe currently has two mines rescue teams which recently both participated in the Zambia Chamber of Mines knock-out stages, but only one team managed to qualify to the Final National Mine Rescue Heat Competition.



The Lubambe Mine Rescue team ready for the competition



The competition did not take place in 2020 due to COVID-19 restrictions until 2021 at which Lubambe Mine participated for the 5th time and emerged overall winner.

Lubambe’s debut at the Mines Rescue Competition was in 2016 when the team

fought up to the knock-out stages but failed to qualify to the Final Heat Competition.

In 2017, the team gave it another try but still failed to qualify, but with determination tried again in 2018 and 2019 and emerged in 5th and 3rd places respectively.

The competition did not take place in 2020 due to COVID-19 restrictions until 2021 at which Lubambe Mine participated for the 5th time and emerged overall winner.

Why Lubambe emerged victorious

Lubambe Mine Rescue Manager Frank Banda says the victory by his team at the 2021 Final National Mine Rescue Competition can be attributed to a number of factors including passion, sacrifice and love by the brigade’s men for the voluntary service to humanity.

“Secondly, over the years, Lubambe has invested massively in Mine Rescue and emergency preparedness. The Mine has procured world class mine rescue equipment for its teams such as critical

spares, rope rescue equipment, lifting equipment and breathing apparatus. The equipment is critical in both surface and underground operations as they serve different purposes in ensuring that rescue operations are carried out successfully,” Banda said.

Additionally, Banda said Lubambe has enlisted the services of Mine Rescue international trainers to upskill its emergency response teams and equip them to respond to any type of emergency effectively.

Banda dedicated his teams’ victory to their fellow brigades’ man, Elijah Maseka, who unfortunately lost his life in a mine accident at the mine in November 2020.

Winners of the 2019 National Mine Rescue Competition (KCM Nchanga Mine Rescue Team) and the 2021 champions (Lubambe Copper Mine) will both represent Zambia at the 2022 International Mine Rescue Competition (IMRC-2022) to be held in September in the United States of America.

The Zambia National Mine Rescue Competition is held annually to prepare

mines for any emergencies in the mines and the Competition is used to test mining companies’ compliance to mining regulations on mine rescue and international best practices.

Mine rescue competitions in Zambia started back in 1972, when Zambia Consolidated Copper Mines (ZCCM) ran Zambia’s mining industry.

Mine rescue activities across all mines in Zambia were then coordinated by Copper Industry Service Bureau (CISB), today called the Zambia Chamber of Mines (ZCM).

During this era, the winning team from the National Mine Rescue Competition would be sent to Zimbabwe to take part in the Zimbabwe International Rescue Competition, which was an annual event. The event was discontinued following privatisation of Zambian mine assets in 2000 and the political instability in Zimbabwe then.

According to Chongo, this led to the closure of the Central Mine Rescue Training Centre in Luanshya and individual mines were then expected to conduct mine rescue trainings in-house.

It also meant that there would be no training centre to train initiates and to coordinate Mine rescue activities in Zambia.

In 2000 when the Zambia Chamber of Mines was re-established, it setup a new mine rescue central training centre at Konkola Copper Mines – Nchanga and since then, the Zambia Chamber of Mines has been coordinating training



and so far trained trainers-of-trainers who are now in charge of training initiates in mine rescue.

The ZCM joined the International Mines Rescue Board (IMRB) and became a member in 2011 in order to keep up with best practices in Mine rescue due to the growing need for this specialised service.

“With the formation of a structured Mines Rescue Association in Zambia by the Chamber of Mines, it is now law and an essential requirement that underground mines in Zambia should have functional mine rescue teams in place,” Chongo adds.

Mine rescue teams from respective companies are not only expected to offer their services to their respective companies only, they are also expected to be ready to assist other mining companies in case of emergencies.

This means, Chongo explained, they are expected to collaborate to save life or property within and outside the chamber’s jurisdiction.

The rescue teams are also constantly en-



gaged by communities to retrieve bodies from wells, dams and rivers.

Mines Rescue Champions

Before privatization, Rhokana (Nkana) Mine Rescue Team was the National Champion from 1979-1985.

In 1986, tables changed and the National Champions title went to Chibuluma Mine, who later handed it over to Nkana Mine Rescue team, who held onto it from 1987-1990.

After re-organization of the Zambian mining industry in 2000, Konkola Copper Mines (KCM), Mopani and Chibuluma have been taking turns to lift the trophy, with Lubambe Copper Mine as a latest addition to the list of champions.

LIST OF CHAMPIONS YEAR BY YEAR

YEAR	CHAMPIONS
2021	Lubambe Mine Rescue Team
2020	Competition did not take place due to COVID-1
2019	KCM Nchanga Mine Rescue Team
2018	Mopani Mufulira Mine Rescue Team
2017	Mopani Mufulira Mine Rescue Team
2016	Mopani Mufulira Mine Rescue Team
2015	Chibuluma Mine Rescue Team
2014	Chibuluma Mine Rescue Team
2013	Mopani Mufulira Mine Rescue Team
2012	KCM Konkola Mine Rescue Team
2011	Mopani Mufulira Mine Rescue Team
2010	Mopani Mufulira Mine Rescue Team
2009	Mopani Mufulira Mine Rescue Team
2008	Mopani Mufulira Mine Rescue Team
2007	KCM Konkola Mine Rescue Team
2006	KCM Konkola Mine Rescue Team
2005	KCM Nchanga Mine Rescue Team

Incidences of Collaborative effort Outside the Chamber’s Jurisdiction

Mine Rescue teams in Zambia have been called upon by government to assist in fighting fires at Collum Coal Mines in Sinazongwe and Maamba Collieries Limited in Maamba, as well as to carry out risk assessments on old tunnels at possible new hydropower sites in Kasama (Northern Province) and Kawambwa (Luapula Province).

In September 2018, the rescue teams managed to dislodge an abnormal load truck which got stuck at the Kafue Bridge and blocked North and South bound traffic for many hours.

The Combined Mines Rescue teams which were coming from Mabiza Mine in Mazabuka for a training, managed to sort out the problem, saving many road users who were stuck on the road for many hours.

Incidences of collaborative effort

On April 9, 2001, 10 miners were killed in a landslide at KCM Nchanga Open Pit Mine and on April 21, 2005, 51 miners were killed in a blast at the BGRIMM Explosive Plant at NFCA Africa Mining Plc in Chambishi, the disaster is known as the BGRIMM disaster.

Efforts by mine rescue teams to save lives were observed on July 19, 2012 when four miners were killed at Mopani Underground Mine.

Though not fatal, 22 miners were seriously injured and trapped at the Chinese Coal Mine in Sinazongwe on June 21, 2021 and again in this incident mine rescue teams were at hand to save lives.

Kansanshi Mine Uplifts 7000 Farmers



Kansanshi mine officials taking the ZCCM-IH visitors around the Kansanshi Foundation in Solwezi

BY JOHN MUBAMBE

The Kansanshi Mining Plc conservation farming programme has helped 7000 farmers advance from small scale to emergent status.

The conservation farming programme is primarily aimed at promoting and supporting food security in the communities around Kansanshi Mine.

The mine's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Manager Bruce Lewis disclosed the progress of the 7000 farmers during a recent visit of ZCCM-Investments Holdings Plc (ZCCM-IH) analysts to Kansanshi Mine in Solwezi.

The ZCCM-IH analysts visited Kansanshi Mine to familiarize themselves with its operations and corporate social responsibility projects. ZCCM-IH holds 20 per cent of the shares in Kansanshi Mining

Plc, on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Zambia.

Lewis disclosed that his company had so far trained 40,000 farmers under Kansanshi Mining Plc's conservation farming programme.

"We started with seven pilot farmers in 2010. Today we have 7000 emergent farmers who are aspiring to become commercial farmers out of the 40,000 we have trained throughout the country."

The emergent farmers are now farming for profit, growing 1250 hectares of maize and 250 hectares of mixed crops

which include groundnuts, soya beans, green beans, and sorghum.

Lewis said besides empowering locals with conservation farming skills, his company had extended the programme to other parts of the country like Nsumbu Area around Lake Tanganyika in Northern Province and areas around Kasanka National Park in Central Province.

ZCCM-IH Portfolio Manager Situmbeko Mubano noted the importance of the CSR projects at Kansanshi in line with community sustainability.

Mubano said he had learnt a lot on conservation farming out of his interaction with conservation farming specialists from the CSR Department of Kansanshi Mining Plc.

He encouraged Kansanshi Mine management to continue establishing livelihood projects to improve economic lives of people in communities around the mine.

Esther Chungu Ascends Global Citizen Stage

As first Zambian singer to access global audience

BY WENGO KALUBA

Central Park in New York City sampled its first taste of Zambian talent in September when Esther Chungu graced the stage alongside the world-renowned band Coldplay.



Together, they performed Chungu's powerful Jehovah, with an introduction few can lay claim to. Coldplay's lead singer Chris Martin's introduction likened her stardom in Zambia to that of Beyoncé, to which the crowd gave a riveting reaction before she took centre stage.

Chungu performed the song with grace and composure before a 70,000-strong audience, with thousands more livestreaming the event across the planet.

Global Citizen Live is a series of live concerts aimed at uniting the world and advocate against poverty and coming together for climate change. The Global Citizen 2021 global campaign is called the Recovery Plan for the World, and focuses on ending COVID-19 for all, ending the hunger crisis, resuming learning for all, protecting the planet, and advancing equity for all.

In terms of audience, there are few other

All I can say for now is that it happened in such a miraculous way. I'm putting something together to properly explain how it all happened, so make sure to follow me on my social media platforms so you don't miss out on the explanation of how it all came together.

interests that garner more attention—it is a truly global spectacle.

The Global Citizen Live was a massive platform not just for Chungu, but for the Zambian music industry as a whole. As

much as this was a showcase of Zambian talent to the world, Chungu has undoubtedly inspired a young generation of Zambian artists to aspire to greater heights, and let them know that their dreams are as viable as they are valid.

Speaking exclusively to Solwezi Today, Chungu had the following to say:

How did that moment feel? Stepping out on one of the biggest stages in the world, and receiving that kind of introduction from Coldplay?

It felt so surreal. It was a serious faith boost in my walk with God. He trusted me to be there and I'm so grateful to the Holy Spirit for being with me through it all. Coldplay were so kind to me and I pray that this moment will help open great doors for the Zambian music industry.

How did the call-up happen? What was the process of being called to perform at the Global Citizen event?

All I can say for now is that it happened in such a miraculous way. I'm putting something together to properly explain how it all happened, so make sure to follow me on my social media platforms so you don't miss out on the explanation of how it all came together.

What advice would you give to the generation of artists who look up to you and would like to achieve what you have accomplished?

I would tell them to trust in God and trust the process that you're walking in. Always be ready for God's will to prevail in every way and situation. I heard somewhere that "preparation is a prerequisite to victory," and that has stuck with me. Always stay ready and prepared. And I believe in you!

We want to resolve bulk supply deal with Zesco – CEC

BY STUART LISULO

THE Copperbelt Energy Corporation Plc (CEC) longs to resolve its difficulties with the lapsed Bulk Supply Agreement (BSA) it had with Zesco Limited as soon as possible.

In its announcement of the release of its half-year results for the period ending June 30, 2021, CEC has expressed its wish to restart the stalled talks towards a formal contract with the national power utility.

On March 31, 2020, the BSA, the contract that underpinned the commercial relationship between CEC and Zesco, expired. The BSA included services such as power supply by Zesco to CEC, provision of domestic wheeling and the use of each other's networks for international wheeling.

The parties had engaged in negotiations for a successor agreement, but the talks deadlocked before the expiry date.

“While continuing to seek avenues to resolve the matter, the parties remain committed to continue providing services to all power customers in the Copperbelt. CEC is desirous to resolve this matter as soon as possible,” CEC Company Secretary Julia Chaila stated.

Similarly, CEC's Power Supply Agreement (PSA) with Konkola Copper Mines Plc also lapsed at the end of May, 2020, and was not renewed.

This structure, however, required CEC to enter into two contracts, namely, the transmission use of system and the network services agreement but this has not been achieved.

Zesco Limited Corporate Affairs Manager Dr John Kunda has said in an interview that Zesco is equally keen to sustain positive business relationships with all market players in the electricity subsector, including CEC.

Asked if Zesco would now revisit the

Recently, the sole arbitrator in the matter where Zesco instituted arbitration proceedings against CEC over monies purportedly owed to them by the latter for electricity supplied under the now-lapsed BSA, issued an interim/partial award determining some aspects of the commercial dispute.

lapsed BSA with CEC following the recent change of government, Dr. Kunda says the existing energy policy environment is already favourable and conducive for all players in the electricity subsector to operate.

“For us, I think the policy environment is favourable for everyone to operate independently. The policy environment for Lunsemfwa, CEC, North-Western Energy, is favourable for everyone to operate. And we'd like to have as many private sector operators within the industry; it's good for business, good for everybody,” he replies.

Asked again if there is no real interest on Zesco's part to renew the BSA, Dr Kunda says:

“No, that's not what we are saying. For us, what we are saying is, let's operate on favourable business promises (terms) for everybody. So, if there are any relationships that have to be discussed,

they have to be discussed within an open environment, in a mutually-competitive, and mutually-beneficial way. Otherwise, we are not fighting anybody, we are not closing out any relationships that are beneficial to the country and to all industries.

“It's not like we don't talk, we talk with everybody; we talk with partners; we talk with whoever is interested to work with us. For us, we have a department that deals with business relationships under Business Development. So, our relationships with these entities is purely business; anything that is win-win for Zesco Limited, anything that is good for Zesco Limited, we are not inimical to it.”

ARBITRATION

Recently, the sole arbitrator in the matter where Zesco instituted arbitration proceedings against CEC over monies purportedly owed to them by the latter for electricity supplied under the now-lapsed BSA, issued an interim/partial award determining some aspects of the commercial dispute.

In 2019, Zesco took action against CEC pursuant to the BSA and the UNCITRAL Arbitration Rules surrounding the following matters: firstly, that CEC did not fully pay money due to them for electricity supplied under the BSA. This principal claim, Chaila explained, related to the tariff discussion of 2011 in relation to Konkola Copper Mines Plc (KCM) and the impact of Statutory Instrument No. 33 of 2012, which outlawed charging and/or paying in any currency other than the Zambian kwacha.

Secondly, Zesco disagreed with a statement in CEC's 2018 annual report relating to the contingent liability arising from the 2014 Energy Regulation Board (ERB) electricity tariff increase specific to mining companies.

The mining companies have legally contested and were granted a stay, pending determination of the matter in the High Court for Zambia.

ZDA, Chinese firms sign MoU

BY DERRICK SILIMINA

The Zambia China Cross-Border E-Commerce Industrial Park is becoming a possibility after the Zambia Development Agency (ZDA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Zambia China Economic and Trade Cooperation Zone (ZCCZ), China Commodities City Overseas Investment (CCCI) and the Belt and Road Joint Research Centre (BRJRC) of the University of Zambia.



And the newly-appointed Minister of Commerce, Trade and Industry Chipoka Mulenga has described the Zambia Development Agency (ZDA) as the engine of the Zambian economy.

Speaking during the virtual signing Ceremony, ZDA Director-General Mukula Makasa said the purpose of the MoU was to establish a framework of collaboration aimed at fostering trade relations between China and Zambia through the

establishment of an e-Commerce Industrial Park.

“The signing of the MoU came in the wake of the African Continental Free Trade Area Agreement, Africa 2063 Agenda and the Belt and Road Initiative from China as well as the China-Africa Cooperation Forum Beijing summit call for action.

All this well in line withS advancing trade relations and promotion of e-com-

merce and facilitating market linkages of products produced by MSMEs to international buyers through online platforms,” Makasa said.

He noted that the areas of cooperation included among others the establishment of:

The China-Zambia Cross-Border E-Commerce Training Centre and international influencers’ incubation base.

Makasa disclosed that the institutions in question hope to collaborate on the training of Zambia’s well performing micro, small medium enterprises (MSMEs) and outstanding college students to study in China, in order to master the practical skills of e-commerce.

The Director-General stated that the collaboration would also facilitate market linkages of products produced by Zambian MSMEs to international buyers through an online portal.

Other areas of collaboration include the establishment of:

The African boutique products exhibition hall and commodity wholesale trading market, with platform for the exportation of high-quality Zambian agricultural side-line products and industrial finished products to neighbouring countries and the Chinese market.

The Zambia-China Cross-border e-commerce Logistics warehousing trade platform to enable and ease the completion of product transactions and distribution of bonded goods from Zambia, China and the neighboring countries stored in the bonded library through the electronic logistics trade supervision system.

The establishment of a Customs commodity inspection one-stop service centre to ensure that Zambia customs and commodity inspection functions are built into the Chambishi and Lusaka East MFEZ to improve the efficiency of comprehensive customs clearance of goods.

Makasa has expressed hope that the initiative will result in tangible and meaningful trade and investment deals in addition to the transfer of skills for all involved, especially the MSMEs.

ZCCZ Chairman Oscar Liao stated that the Chinese economic precinct is com-

posed of two zones with different functions and positioning, operated in the mode of “one zone and two MFEZs”, including Chambishi MFEZ in Copperbelt Province and Lusaka East MFEZ in Lusaka Province.

Liao disclosed that as of June 2021, the total number of enterprises in ZCCZ reached 77, with cumulative sales revenue of more than 22 billion U.S. dollars and cumulative tax and revenue of more than 800 million U.S. dollars, driving local employment to nearly 10,000.

He observed that in the new era of China-Africa cooperation development, ZCCZ plans to upgrade the zone into a comprehensive free trade zone in southern central Africa.

“We firmly believe that ZCCZ will continue to flourish in the new era of China-Africa cooperation,” Liao said.

Speaking at the same event, CCCI African Region General Manager Jack Gao said his company, a leading enterprise in the field of trade and commerce in China, aimed to serve the global small, medium enterprises, and build a shared trade service platform.

Gao disclosed that his company had 75,000 booths and sold 2.1 million items from 26 commodity categories and had trade contacts with more than 200 countries and regions around the world.

He said CCCI digital trade hub remained committed to facilitating import and export between Yiwu China and hub-countries, providing one-stop windows service to help MSMEs sell products in China and help overseas SMEs to buy from China easily.

BRJRC Co-Director Andy Liuzhao said the Belt and Road Joint Research Centre (BRJRC) of the University of Zambia is the first specialized research institution on the Belt and Road in Zambia, jointly established by the University of Zambia and the Belt and Road Institute of Science and Technology of Zambia.

Liuzhao said the centre will focus on training of human resource for cross-border e-commerce in China and Zambia, creation of local Zambian celebrities, and promotion of the development of China-Zambia e-commerce industrial park in collaboration with others.



ZDA Director General Mukula Makasa

And, newly appointed Minister of Commerce, Trade and Industry Chipoka Mulenga has described the Zambia Development Agency (ZDA) as the Engine of the Zambian economy.

Speaking during a familiarization tour of the Agency, Mulenga urged the Agency to intensify investment promotion, both local direct investment and foreign direct investment as well as export promotion.

He observed that the country was in dire need of new investments and increased exports for job and wealth creation. Gabby, adding that government was in a hurry to bring development, create jobs, provide social amenities and elevate the living standards of all Zambians.

He pledged government’s commitment to creating a conducive and enabling environment for businesses to thrive.

“I implore ZDA to hold the investors accountable by ensuring that pledged investments were actualized,” Mulenga said.

He appealed to the Agency to promote as much as possible, local investors considering that they do not externalize their profits but invest within the country.

Mulenga assured ZDA Management that he would look into the Agency’s funding problems urging ZDA to optimize the meagre resources at its disposal, to discharge its functions with excellence.

And speaking at the same event, ZDA

Board Chairperson Bishop David Masupa who thanked the Minister for his visit, bemoaned the funding challenges that bedeviled the Agency; explaining that it negatively affected the Agency’s performance and operations.



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Mineral processing plant on the cards

BY DERRICK SILIMINA

A private limited company with 90 per cent South African and 10 percent Zambian shareholding, plans to initially invest US\$ 20 million for setting up Copper, Cobalt, Silver and Gold Processing Plants in Chongwe and Mkushi Districts of Zambia.



In a statement, Zambia Development Agency Communications and Public Relations Manager Mushaukwa Hamusute said Now Import and Export Zambia Limited (NIEZ) is expected to set up an investment venture that will create 1210 jobs of which 90 percent will be for Zambians.

Hamusute noted that Now Import and Export Zambia Ltd will conduct its mining activities in three phases.

She said the first phase will focus on trading for one year to create a base with local suppliers, setting up six buying stations across Zambia, setting up a new copper processing plant (concentrate, cathode and blister), setting up a gold processing plant, setting up a zinc processing plant, preparation to set up 10 mobile mining sites for surface mining, preparing portfolio for investment into

exploration of gold, copper and cobalt mining.

Hamusute stressed that the second phase of the business venture, which will require investment of about US\$ 2 million to US\$ 10 million in both cash and equipment, will involve direct investments in suitable mines, ranging from small to large mines while the third phase will focus on consolidation and expansion of the operations and investment.

In a separate endeavour, Hamusute stated that the firm has submitted an expression of interest to the Ministry of Mines to operate Mopani Copper Mines Limited.

As part of the local business development programme, she said the investor has committed to prioritize local business enterprises for procurement con-

tracts, formulation and implementation of a well-structured knowledge and skills transfer program that will ensure that foreign expatriates are only engaged for a limited period of time during which they will be attached to or paired with local workers for skills transfer purposes.

Now Import and Export Zambia Ltd also pledged to construct at least one clinic at each of its mining and mineral processing sites to cater for both company staff and the community, with yearly donations of medicines and beds.

Hamusute further explained that the investor pledged to construct 1 x 3 classroom blocks at each of its sites for the surrounding community with yearly donations of textbooks and chalk.

The company has also committed to informing the ZDA on the implementation and results of the local business development program through submission of a progress report by December 31st of every year.

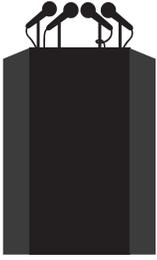
The firm has since signed an Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement (IPPA) with the Agency.

Commenting on the investment during the IPPA Signing Ceremony, ZDA Board Chairperson Bishop David Masupa said the Agency is keen to facilitate actualization of the proposed investment ventures because they will contribute to accelerating industrialization and deepening economic diversification, which, will spawn job creation and spur generation of wealth including foreign exchange earnings through non-traditional exports.

“We are pleased to note that NIEZ Limited has responded positively to an invitation from the Zambian Government to foster long-term symbiotic partnerships between foreign investors and local Zambians,” Reverend Masupa said.

Speaking at the same event, NIEZ Chief Executive Officer Bryan Boucher thanked ZDA for facilitating the investment and signing of the IPPA.

Meanwhile, ZDA Director General Mukula Makasa noted that the investment was in line with government’s agenda of diversification of the mining sector through value addition to steer structural transformation.



HICKS SIKAZWE ON THE PLATFORM



Move vendors to markets in the new dawn

Going by the dictates of the old adage of striking the iron while it is still hot, the new government while wallowing in a celebratory atmosphere of pledges to transform Zambia, needs to move fast and act on vendors, especially those crowded along shop corridors.

Admittedly, these traders are an important part of the economy. They need to survive, they have families to support and for many of them selling merchandise openly is the only way to help put food on the table all year round.

In fact, previous political administrations have used failure to provide unemployment as justification to allow people

In fact, when one speaks to people in the medical sphere they will tell you that cholera in the country does not clear but only reduces and remains in several pockets causing havoc.

to trade all over in goods from food to clothing wear. Over time these failed political practices have contributed to the arrogance by this group of traders.

President Chiluba under MMD even established the vendors' desk at State House appointing a deputy minister to be in charge. But the truth remains that the person responsible did not do anything to solve the issue and instead continued to get a salary, for not doing anything, from the national coffers.

There are further political arguments that the traders provide service. Yes they do but in a wrong way, and risky atmosphere. They pollute the atmosphere that in the end contaminate domestic water supply much of which many councils fail to treat adequately.

They crowd in spaces where there are few public toilets or none at all to an extent that some desperate souls opt to hurl emptied Chibuku packages to relieve themselves and douse the product anywhere and every where. They gener-

ate so much waste that during the rainy season drainage systems get clogged worsening flooding.

That is not the end. Much of that polluted water sips into broken water pipes of conversional supply systems and dangerous and contaminated quantities finds way into domestic settings. As a result for many years Zambia has been a victim country of incessant cholera outbreaks.

In fact, when one speaks to people in the medical sphere they will tell you that cholera in the country does not clear but only reduces and remains in several pockets causing havoc.

It is also clear that most of the vendors operating along corridors and other undesignated areas in city and town centres, lack adequate storage space for the wares, hence some of the facilities they use to store the contraband, again are drainages, and public toilets where they leave items including food such as oranges, apples or even tomatoes and other vegetables.

This is the type of merchandise unsuspecting customers the following morning rush to buy. In such an atmosphere it is difficulty for any country to control diseases not only cholera but a litany of others. With the above background, allowing vendors to continue along shop corridors and other open spaces is courting a serious health disaster, therefore they must be relocated to designated markets.

For all the condemnation the just defeat-





ed government has been bombarded with, at least the administration built markets in many outlets through out the country. The vendors who operate in corridors are people who have run away from conventional markets under the guise of getting closer to consumers.

But this excuse is lame is lame. The tradition of consumers is that they will always follow items no matter where they are. Examples abound. Many people who live in Lusaka, Ndola or Kitwe, will always find time to get to Soweto Market in the capital city, Masala in Ndola, and Chisokone in Kitwe where foodstuffs are sold in bulky.

Other towns and cities have similar outlets where they fall on for items they want. The re is there fore no excuse for vendors to continue crowding along shop corridors covering every space not even leaving walking room for shoppers. There other point is that many of the traders who get to the corridors especially in the evening simply migrate from conventional markets after a day's work.

The vendors survived this far because of broken down systems over the years, the local authorities that were supposed to control the situation have been made incapable by over stretched political interference which many Zambians are hoping will not continue in the new government.

If authorities have provided markets where these people can trade then they have created the enabling environment and helped reduce unemployment as communities are able to put together means of having food regularly on the table.

It should be acknowledged too that because of the crowdedness councils are not able to clean cities and towns properly. As it has been argued in this column before local authorities used to have full departments such as parks and gardens that over saw overall cleanliness in cities including plant flowers trees, and maintaining lawns.

If those units are still operating, what are they doing? The new government needs to give the councils teeth to deal with the problem of vendors. First there should be strong political will to ensure traders stick to traditional markets and other designated areas. After all, by- laws are available, to contain this lawlessness. The problem has been overt political interference.

If authorities have managed to keep away vendors from shopping malls through out the country, where is the problem in applying a similar strong hand in the central business areas of the capital, Lusaka, Ndola, Kitwe or anywhere in the country?

It is this lawlessness and decapitating of local councils authority that led to the emergence of a dangerous group of thugs that floated as ruling party cadres, to control bus station and openly extort money from unsuspecting bus operators. Though there is an order that the thugs should vacate persistent reports, abound some of them on a social media platforms, that the fines have continued by people claiming to be cadres of the ruling party.

Government should go beyond pledges and orders. There is need for people disobeying these orders to face consequences. Why have we not seen arrests

of the new people that have emerged in the bus stations collecting cash? In any case most of them are not new, they are the same people who operated there previously but simply change allegiance and turned themselves into cadres of the people in charge.

There is need to deal with vendors now and not tomorrow. These are not unemployed, they already have something to do since they are traders. It is just that they want to do their business in a wrong way by hanging on to undesignated areas which are in fact illegal. All the government needs is a strong hand, the vendors can comply and move back to the markets.

The vendors have remained in corridors not because they are defiant, but they took advantage of weak systems which in some cases thrived on illegality, if indeed there is a new dawn, Zambians need to see a new and clean page. Take the vendors where they ought to be – Markets.

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Shadreck Mfwana: The rise of a Solwezi film-maker...

BY DERRICK SILIMINA

Youthful Shadreck Mfwana, an upcoming film maker from Solwezi's Kazomba area, started pursuing film-making as far back as 2007 after completing his Grade 12, though without generating any income then.



“I would hire a camera to learn how to go about film-making, and I also did videos and still photos to raise some income,” Mfwana, now 30, narrates.

In 2016, Mfwana attempted to make a film, courtesy of a certain studio, after having borrowed some money to invest in the venture. The attempt flopped.

However, in January 2018, after learning how to manage his talent, Mfwana enrolled for the business development training programme powered by Kansanshi Mine Limited through Fortune World Investment limited (FWIL) and completed the 12 topic module the same year.

Prior to attending the training, Mfwana had little knowledge of marketing and advertising. After the training, he began to advertise his business through Facebook and grew his customer base.

“I have now registered my business and opened a bank account, as the workshops enlightened me a lot on how to run

Some of his works so far include screen writing, translation and time coding for his client, a prominent actor on Zambezi Magic, a channel on DSTV.

my film-making enterprise,” he notes.

Mfwana bubbles with confidence, that he now has the capacity to offer various services including; Film-making, script writing, directing for clients, editing for clients, photography and cinematography (camera directing, placement, lighting).

Some of his works so far include screen writing, translation and time coding for his client, a prominent actor on Zambezi Magic, a channel on DSTV.

He recalls that one of the productions

on Zambezi Magic, in all worth about K270,000, earned him K5000 per series, giving him a total of K65,000 for 13 episodes.

Mfwana has described the film industry as “very lucrative,” but requires capital investment approximately K30,000 to cater for production costs to pay crew members, logistics, food and clothes for actors among others.

He currently has three pending projects; a feature film of 1 hour 30 minutes in length which has the capacity to earn him K150,000 and a two-part series with 13 episodes each, which could earn him about K400,000.

Other pending outcomes include a 50-per cent profit in some film projects and some TV stations pay commission to air every episode.

“My gratitude goes to the Kansanshi Mining Plc management team for the training and I encourage them to continue to raise more self-employed persons like myself,” Mfwana says.

Planning with a heart for veggies and fruits

BY DERRICK SILIMINA

Vegetables are the cheapest source of essential minerals and vitamins and for a long time have remained a popular ingredient in Zambian sauces, soups and stews.

Nonetheless, vegetable farming is one of the little-touted ventures in agriculture, but if well nurtured can offer truly amazing business opportunities.

For this reason, Roger Musemvu, 42, is among many entrepreneurs from North-Western Province who are taking advantage of the large demand for vegetables in Solwezi's bustling city markets.

Musemvu is one of the devoted farmers of Solwezi's Kimale area who in 2018 started cultivating carrots on a half lima piece of land, and green maize on a half lima.

He spent K1,200 on procuring inputs such as seed, fertilizer and an additional K1,500 on fuel for his generator which facilitated irrigation to kickstart his horticultural project.

After harvest, he sold his products and raised K5000 from carrots alongside

K2,800 from maize.

In a bid to sharpen his horticultural skills, Musemvu enrolled for the free monthly business development training programme funded by Kansanshi Mine Limited and executed by Fortune World Investment limited (FWIL) in the district.

"With topics such as time and record management, which I grasped from the business training, I learned to spend my time productively as I have no idle time any more. For me, time spent in the field is money."

Having completed the training in December 2018, Musemvu's work culture has transformed positively as he is on his garden from morning to evening every day.

With his records management skills learned from the training, he is able to keep records such as sales, expenses as well as profit and loss accounts.

"Thank you to the KMP management for the training. I urge them to continue and extend their business empowerment programme to others as this is entrepreneurship training is changing many lives in the district," he notes.

Recently, FWIL Managing Director Mukumbi Kafuta paid Musemvu a mentorship visit to ascertain progress made thus far and was impressed that he has continued with farming and has currently invested in cabbages and tomatoes, using water from a nearby stream and a Genset for irrigation.

With an investment of K3,490 into cabbage production, Musemvu is proud now that heads are selling at between K7 and K10 per head, depending on size.

"I expect to make about K36,000 from the venture by the time all my cabbages are sold," Musemvu states.

He has equally invested K1,824 into tomato production and has cultivated more than 800 plants of tomato, which are already being harvested.

Musemvu plans to expand further into planting other crops to expand his niche in the sector.

With one box of tomato fetching an average price of K200 at a local market, the farmer has so far cashed in about K16,800 as per day. He harvests three boxes of tomatoes, has already been harvesting for a month.

Having tested how profitable the horticultural industry is, Musemvu is positioning himself for rapid growth as he is now planning to acquire a bigger piece of land where gardening activities will be expanded and will comprise cabbage, carrots, egg plants, tomato and green maize among others.

On the other hand, he has also planted a nursery of fruits such as oranges, avocado, and bananas.

Musemvu has not yet registered his business, but intends to do so in January 2022.

"I have so far acquired five hectares of land specifically for fruits in Solwezi's Lwamakanda area where I will transplant one hectare of oranges, one Lima of avocado and one Lima of bananas."





Entrepreneur scoring with poulets and eggs

BY DERRICK SILIMINA

Beatrice Mwenze's passion for chicken rearing business unfolded with a poultry house to accommodate 550 birds—now she is building another one for 1000.

“I started the poultry business in 2016 as a way of supplementing my husband's income after I built a (5 x 22m) poultry house with a capacity to accommodate 550 birds,” Mwenze recalls.

Mwenze, 42, a resident of Solwezi's Kandundu area, states that though sometimes the local market gets flooded, poultry business remains profitable as she takes her chickens to Kasumbalesa border, Zambia's entry point into the Democratic Republic of Congo.

With the current local market price of K100 and K120 per bird, she sells her chickens and eggs within a week to avoid feeding them further and to maximize on profits.

From her current investment of K24,000 which is comprised of chicks medicines, feed, charcoal and sawdust, is rearing 450 one-week-old chicks.

“This is a lucrative business because sales of 450 birds at K100 each gives me about K45,000. After I deduct expenses, it gives me a 50 per cent profit margin of about K21,000,” she affirms.

The border market is even better with higher prices as her 450 chickens can take about three to four days to sell.

In her quest to enrich her knowledge in poultry business, Mwenze started attending training in January, 2021 at Aaso Lodge, the main venue for Fortune World Investment's monthly business workshops. And when lessons shifted to radio, on account of the Covid-19 restrictions, she continued following the programmes to date.

“The business training has equipped me with knowledge for better business management, and most topics learned have motivated me create employment for helper who earns K1000 per month,” Mwenze states.

Moving forward, Mwenze plans to increase the number of birds to 1000 and is currently constructing a bigger poultry house at her farm. She also looks forward to a situation where she will begin to supply all her chickens to one source and get paid at once because her record keeping is up to date with details of day-old chicks, stockfeed and sales data.

Additionally, Mwenze is rearing 90 piglets at Weighbridge area and will begin selling them in December when they are fully mature.

With the current local selling price of pork at K90 per kg, Mwenze is encouraged to also look for a market at lodges, hotels and restaurants as a way of increasing her customer base.

Mwenze is hopeful: “In future, I seek to acquire more training in poultry farming, animal husbandry and feed formulation to help boost my agribusiness.”

Davies Kawemba finishes in first place in the Junior Men's category in the Mpumalanga Interprovincial MTB Cup, South Africa

Kansanshi Cycling Team Kicks off South African Tour with a Win

BY RYAN ELLIS

Kansanshi Mines junior cycling team started its two-week tour of South Africa with a successful weekend's racing in Mpumalanga.

Competing in an inter-provincial cup race that featured the top junior cyclists from Gauteng, Limpopo, and Mpumalanga, Kansanshi's Davies Kawemba came away with a dominant win in the under 19 category, ahead of teammate Ernest Mazabuka. In the under 16 category, Kansanshi's Gift Puteho finished a close second to South African rider Willie Willemse.

The win by Davies Kawemba was the first ever win in a South African race for the Solwezi based team, and formed an important milestone in the team's development.

"This was my first South African race, so I wasn't very sure what to expect," said Kawemba. "Now I know where I stand with the juniors, my next goal is to tackle the professional ranks."

The Kansanshi Cycling Team is one of seven sports teams supported by the Kansanshi Sports Foundation, an initiative under the mining company's corporate social responsibility department, and is co-sponsored by Titan Drilling and BME.

The goals of the various teams range from raising the level of elite sports in Zambia to improving the general health and fitness of the general public.

"It was fantastic to have the Zambian riders come here and challenge our top juniors," said Brad Shuttleworth, Mpumalanga Cycling chairperson. "Our top juniors have gone unchallenged in this series for the past few months. Today they got a bit of a shock, and they'll be motivated to get out and raise their game in the coming months."

Reflecting on his second place finish,

Gift Puteho said: "We all learned a bit from this weekend's experience. The racing in South Africa is a bit different from what we do at home in Solwezi, and given a few more weeks to adapt, I'm sure we'll perform even better at the finals."

The riders are now training and acclimatizing to South African conditions at a cycling facility just outside Mbombela, Mpumalanga, before taking on the country's top junior riders in the national schools' finals at Mankele Bike Park, near Mbombela.



Kansanshi Cyclists (L-R) Ernest Mazabuka, Gift Puteho, and Davies Kawemba all took podium positions in the Mpumalanga Interprovincial MTB Cup in Middleburg, South Africa this past weekend.



BY JOHN CHOLA

Kansanshi Cycling Weekend draws 300 riders

...Ernest Mazabuka scoops 50km tussle

Solwezi town once again came alive as it played host to the prestigious First Quantum Minerals (FQM) Kansanshi Cycling Weekend on September 10 and 11.

The Kansanshi Cycling Weekend which has become an annual enthralling event for over 10 years, this time around drew close to 300 riders and 60 trail runners from the age of two to over 60 years.

Since the mining giant KMP birthed the idea that has so far moulded some of the continent's tenacious riders flying the Zambian flag high at regional, continental and global stages, the episode has displayed top talent.

Tournament Coordinator Ryan Ellis has described this year's tournament as a successful show characterized by mountain bike race in the categories covering distances such as 50, 25, 12 and seven kilometres.

Ellis described this year's route, taking off at the FQM's Trident College grounds, as one of the more technically challenging on Zambia's mountain biking circuit.

"It is often an event where the celebrated Kansanshi Cycling Team identifies new talent, and some of our riders have been recruited after impressive performances here," Ellis explains.

Ellis says this year's mountain bike race had some of the highest participation numbers of any race on the international cycling calendar, and attracted the top riders from around the country. As such, winning it was a major point of pride for any rider.

This year's tournament saw 21 tots of ages ranging from two successfully complete in the 1.7 kilometres while the three kilometres race had seven kiddies battling it out.

The 50km race was won by Kansanshi



Kansanshi Public Relations Manager, Godfrey Msiska presents medals to top riders at the Kansanshi Cycling Weekend.



Ernest Mazabuka earned the first position and Bedias Tunkanya came in second place in the 50km race.

Cycling Team's Ernest Mazabuka, finishing in a time of two hours and one minute, just one minute ahead of his teammate Bedias Tunkanya.

In the women's race, Christine Copinger of Jivundu took the win ahead of Solwezi's Kirstin McDonald.

Kalumbila Mine General Manager Sean Egner took part in the 50km race, finishing at 15th.

The Kansanshi Cycling Team gives opportunity to young people of Solwezi who have a passion for the sport, but do not necessarily have the means to access it.

"Currently, the programme provides coached cycling sessions to over 100 kids at various schools around Solwezi on any given weekday. The best performers in the school cycling programmes are given the opportunity to ride for the team as professionals, in which case they also receive sponsored education, fantastic job opportunities, and prospect of earning a spot on any European or South African team," Ellis explains.

Bell Equipment Company Zambia Limited, as previously, was once again one of

the top sponsorship partner of the 2021 Kansanshi Cycling Weekend.

Bell Service Manager Tyrone Coetzee who presented prizes to winners of various race categories of the Saturday races described this year's tournament as successful, worth sponsoring and a healthy sport enjoyed by families too.

"This year's event is going on very well. Everybody in the greater Solwezi has had enough of the Covid-19 sitting at homes without joining our friends and families and this one has once again been the opportunity to get together, get out enjoy the sunshine, the valley and sit together as a community. We will continue supporting it," Coetzee said.



Kalumbila Minerals Limited General Manager Sean Egner after receiving his prize.



(L-R) Aaron Ryan, Zack Weiner, Dan Porter and Brandon Williams... COURTESY OF OVERTIME

High School Basketball League To Dash Players Six-Figure Yearly Earnings

BY MARTIN MUSUNKA JR

Overtime is a media company that digitally distributes authentic sports content across many platforms including Youtube, Snapchat and Facebook.

The company also sells a variety of apparel with its logo and branding that has gotten a lot of recognition and countless celebrity endorsements from its uniqueness.

Overtime has named the youth basketball league Overtime Elite (OTE), which allows players between the ages of 16-to-18-years-old to earn a guaranteed minimum salary of \$100,000 per year. The league has also made it possible for the young players to earn monetary value through their name, image and likeness (NIL).

On the road to youngsters becoming professional athletes, the basketball ecosystem has never been in favour of young athletes capitalizing on their NIL.

Prior to the recent policy changes, The National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) always made their stance on young players making money.

This is seen in the case of Donald De La

Haye, a former University of Central Florida kicker, who was ruled ineligible to play for his college football team and forfeited his scholarship, because he was monetizing his Youtube channel.

Zack Weiner, Overtime co-founder and president said, “These athletes deserve to be compensated right now for what they are. Even if they never make the NBA, people want to watch them play basketball and people want to potentially do endorsements with them off the court, so they deserve to be compensated now.

“For most of these athletes, they will end up playing professional basketball, and hopefully for a long time, so this also prepares them for that and puts the resources around them at an earlier age which is really beneficial. It’s that dual purpose.”

Overtime Elite tackles critical aspects that seem to be broken in the basketball world by offering a year-round devel-

opment programme integrating state-of-the-art sports science, world-class coaching, performance technologies and prime facilities.

Overtime co-founder Dan Porter, an Internet entrepreneur and former president at Teach for America, has leveraged his network to bring forth basketballers’ experiential learning and provide a personalized and dynamic learning environment. This strengthens each athlete’s journey from proficiency to pursuing a career as a professional athlete.

“The most powerful force in education, which everyone strives for, is personalized education because we have different learning styles.

“I’ll look to leverage my network and we’re already in conversations with dynamic school principals—people who are very hands-on—and also individual tutors who have the strongest academic backgrounds we can find but also appreciate and are interested in everything our athletes are going through,” Porter said.

Overtime is also guaranteeing a payment of up to \$100,000 towards college tuition on the occasion that an athlete decides to not pursue a professional basketball career. OTE athletes will also receive disability insurance coverage and full healthcare coverage.

While there has been much speculation on the concept of the basketball league, the highly subscribed media company proved its worth by accruing an astonishing amount of \$140 million during a fundraiser only a month after the league’s announcement. Overtime managed to raise \$80 million in a single round!

The investors in this single round were, Bezos Expeditions, the personal investment firm of the Amazon CEO, NBA stars, including Trae Young, Klay Thompson and Devin Booker. The Toronto rapper Drake is also an investor.

A portion of the \$80 million goes to help pay for salaries of both players and staff, support the league, invest in the NFT sector and enhance its app.

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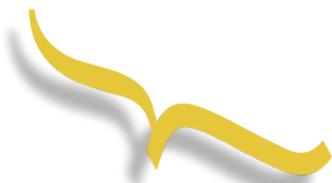
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