

MONTHLY BUSINESS NEWS MAGAZINE

SOLWEZI

T O D A Y

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**Commuter transport apps
changing taxi industry**

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KANSANSHI MINING PLC

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EDUCATION

**GROWING ZAMBIA
TOGETHER**

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NEW TAXI TECHNOLOGIES... AND THE ROADS

It was long assumed that taxi-hailing e-technologies belong to the more developed transport sectors in the north hemisphere, but lately, commuters in Zambia are beginning to tilt towards smartphone-based services.

Internet-driven taxi business is changing the landscape, enabling travellers to connect more quickly and possibly more securely to dedicated vehicles and destinations through the global positioning system (GPS).

There however remains a considerable population of commuters and travellers who will for a time be unable to tune into ride-hailing apps; who form a ready market for those traditional taxi services that are not on the GPS grid. But in light of digital technologies questioning all things, including the very nature of fuel-powered motor vehicles, the old taxi arrangement needs to tweak itself into novel relevance.

The traditional taxi operators will need to rethink and reimagine their business idiom and see how to up their industry even if they do not become apps-centred in the sense pioneered by Uber Technologies which now operates in 72 countries and 10,500 cities.

Such ongoing changes further warrant a total shift in the national management of the roads networks. In Zambia, contractors who deliver roads designed to last only two rainy seasons have gone scot-free forever; and today many municipalities are nursing central business districts whose streets traumatize both pedestrians and motorists. Such roads can only frustrate the evolution of the smartphone-connected taxi service.

It is time poor road construction was listed as economic sabotage. Disastrous roads militate against needed technological advances in our transport sector.



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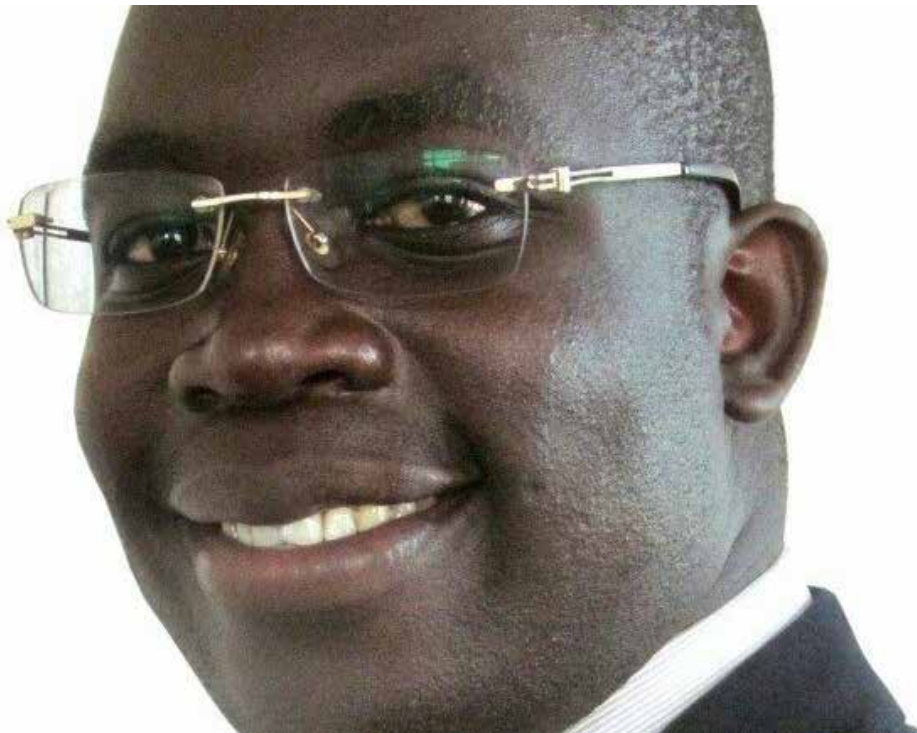
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State okays investment licenses, permits

BY DERRICK SILIMINA

Minister of Commerce, Trade and Industry Chipoka Mulenga has with immediate effect lifted the suspension on the issuance of Investment License, Permits for the establishing Multi-Facility Economic Zones (MFEZs) and Industrial Parks (IPs) and Investment Promotion and Protection Agreements (IPPAs).



This has been done under the Zambia Development Agency (ZDA). Act No. 11 of 2006.

Government recently suspended the issuance of investment licenses, permits for the establishing Multi-Facility Economic Zones (MFEZs) and Industrial Parks (IPs) and Investment Promotion and Protection Agreements (IPPAs).

“This was to allow for a comprehensive review of the issuance process and procedures as well as for consultation with relevant stakeholders. Based on the findings, the ministry has instituted changes to the investment licensing framework in line with the manifesto of the United Party for National Development (UPND),” said Mulenga.

In statement issued by ZDA Public Relations Officer Russel Haamubbi, the

minister said the changes aimed to strengthen the checklist for applications to improve the quality and levels of investment in the country, and promote partnerships between foreign director investors and domestic investors.

Mulenga stated that the measures were aimed at underpinning the scaling up of trade and investment through partnerships and joint ventures to sustainably grow the Zambian economy.

Other changes were the introduction of annual returns and scaling up of after-care services of companies to improve value addition.

Mulenga stated that the measures were aimed at underpinning the scaling up of trade and investment through partnerships and joint ventures to sustainably grow the Zambian economy.

Government through ZDA would enhance monitoring and evaluation in order to help investors actualize their projected investments and other commitments as per conditions of the licenses. The monitoring and evaluation of companies would be done within the confines of the law.

This would assure the envisaged job and wealth creation for the people of Zambia.

Zambia's long walk to debt recast

BY DERRICK SILIMINA

In his quest to jump-start the ailing economy, tackle external debt, tame inflation, create jobs for young people and inspire the confidence of international investors, President Hakainde Hichilema's administration recently secured a deal in principle with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) that it hopes will anchor talks with creditors.



While the debt crisis is once again in the spotlight, stakeholders have been playing hide-and-seek over who is responsible for blocking a comprehensible deal to restructure the country's debt stock.

Although Zambia seeks to rework as much as \$17.3 billion of external debt, it faces a complex test case for international efforts to tackle the looming crisis.

United Kingdom Minister for Africa Vicky Ford recently said that Zambia's debt restructuring efforts are being delayed by one international creditor that seems to be taking more time to make a decision.

Arguably, China is the largest creditor in Africa and it is part of the G20 Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI), which

Zambia's commercial and state-owned Chinese lenders account for over \$5 billion, making the Asian country by far the biggest creditor, according to data from the Ministry of Finance.

is supported by the World Bank and the IMF, and has suspended debt payments to dozens of the world's poorest countries.

Zambia's commercial and state-owned Chinese lenders account for over \$5 billion, making the Asian country by far the biggest creditor, according to data from the Ministry of Finance.

According to financial analysts, Chinese creditors helped finance a spending splurge that led to a socio-economic crisis under Edgar Lungu's fallen regime.

In this context, Minister of Finance and National Planning Situmbeko Musokotwane has shared his hope for rapid progress on Zambia's debt restructuring.

"The New Dawn administration of President Hakainde Hichilema has a duty to the Zambian people to transform the country's economy, so that it achieves sustainable growth, becomes resilient, more attractive to investors and internationally competitive. This methodical approach will help us lift our people out of poverty through the creation of decent jobs, development of enterprises, and sustained formation of wealth," Dr Musokotwane said.

This was during the just-ended World Bank Group and its Bretton Woods Partner, the IMF Spring meetings at the IMF Headquarters in Washington, DC, United States of America.

COMPLETED

The IMF has since confirmed having completed a joint debt sustainability

analysis for Zambia to access debt relief and strengthen its return to sustainable debt levels.

Speaking during the same event, IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva commended Zambia for making impressive progress in implementing measures under the country's economic reform programme.

"We share the hope for rapid progress on Zambia's debt restructuring so that the IMF Board can soon consider the authorities' (Zambia) programme. This comes at a crucial time when we are entering a new phase of the debt restructuring process with the critical path to form the Official Creditor Committee," Georgieva said.

Following the Zambian Government's concern at the delays in the formation of the Official Creditor Committee under the G20 common framework for debt restructuring, the IMF further announced that China is now committed to join the creditors' committee on Zambia's early debt resolution.

Zambia, which became Africa's first pandemic-era sovereign defaulter in 2020, has been seeking to restructure its dollar obligations under the Group of 20's Common Framework, a set of guidelines that the most powerful countries drafted to mitigate debt crises in poorer countries.

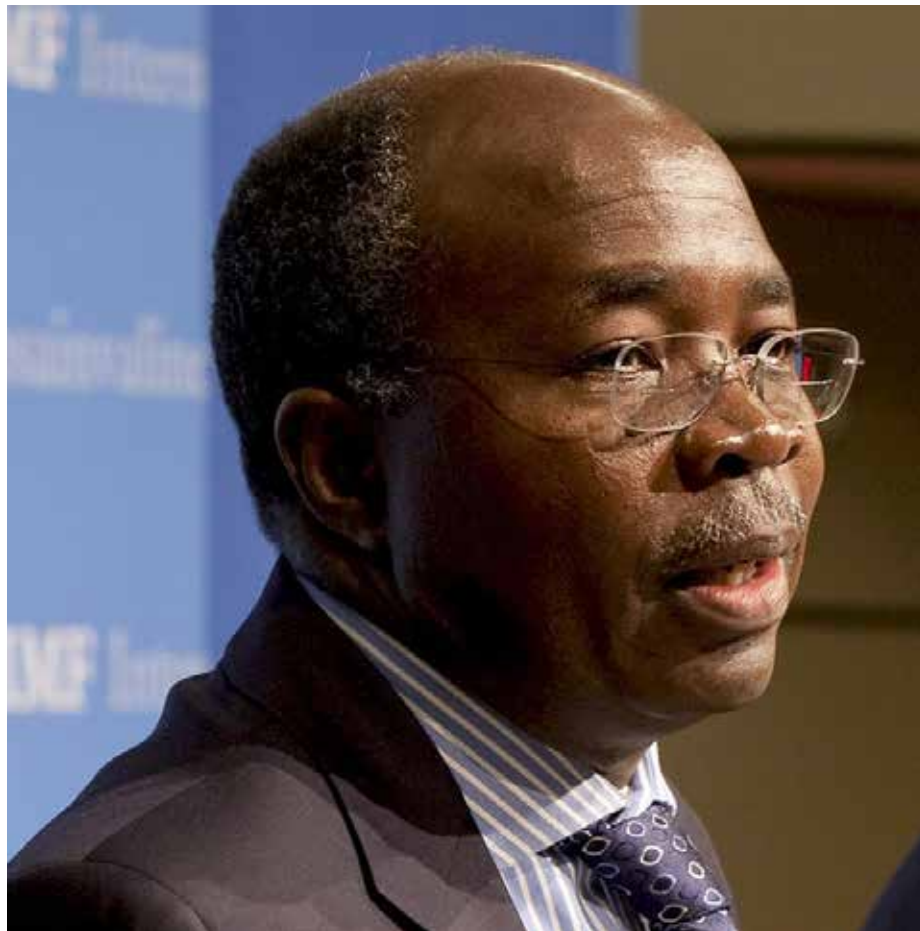
Speaking during the G20 Finance Ministers meeting, China's Finance Minister Liu Kun affirmed that China, with the principle of collective action and fair burden sharing, is willing to implement the G20's Debt Service Suspension Initiative in a methodical fashion on a case by case basis.

In its latest report, World Bank Group President David Malpass met with Minister for Finance and National Planning Situmbeko Musokotwane of Zambia.

COMMENDED

President Malpass has commended Zambia's progress in implementing fiscal and structural reforms and improving public service delivery in health and education.

President Malpass also welcomed Minister Musokotwane's thoughts regarding the impact of the war in Ukraine on



Zambia. Malpass and Musokotwane further discussed the World Bank Group's (WBG) support through IDA19 and IDA20, with projects under preparation for FY22 for a total amount of U\$560 million.

Malpass underscored to Dr Musokotwane the need for a deep and rapid debt restructuring for Zambia.

The World Bank head welcomed China's announcement to join the creditors committee for Zambia under the G20 Common Framework adding that a potential budget support operation from the World Bank could accompany a debt treatment plan by creditors and an IMF programme once it is approved.

"Urgent action from the international community is critical at this point to support Zambia's macroeconomic stability and debt sustainability to spur growth and poverty reduction," Malpass stated.

POSITIVE

Some local financial experts are positive about the outcome of the debt talks at the just-ended Spring summit and they anticipate the strengthening of the economy.

Zambia Revenue Authority Board chairperson Dr Caleb Fundanga recently acknowledged that the slight appreciation of the Kwacha in recent days can be attributed to China's commitment to join the Official Creditors Committee for Zambia's debt restructuring.

According to ZANACO's Indicative Forex Rates as at April 26, the Kwacha was buying at K17.03 and selling at K17.36.

And economist Chibamba Kanyama says most foreign investors believe in President Hakainde Hichilema as evidenced by the number of invitations he receives to officiate at international investment forums.

"Zambia is on the international radar. Foreign investors are highly confident about the prospects of the Zambian economy," Kanyama said.

Certainly, in the spirit of progressive economic fundamentals, China's recent pronouncement and commitment is an important building block to cement Zambia's case for debt restructuring.

"Thank you to China and other creditors for agreeing to join the common framework on debt restructuring... we are on course," Hichilema stated.

ZESCO to earn US\$500 million in Namibia power exports

ZAMBIA SECURES STAKE IN LOBITO REFINERY PROJECT

BY JOHN CHOLA

ZESCO Limited has signed a 10-year power supply agreement worth US\$500 million with the Namibian Power Supply Company (NAMPOWER) for the supply of 80 megawatts of power to Namibia.



Energy Minister Peter Kapala has revealed that the 80 megawatts will be an addition to the 100 megawatts being already exported after the first agreement was signed in 2020.

Kapala revealed this as Zambia actively participated at the 4th edition of the Namibia International Energy Conference (NIEC2022) held April 20-21 in Windhoek, Namibia.

The two-day meeting for the energy industry was being held under the patronage of the Namibian Ministry of Mines and Energy led by Minister Tom Alweendo.

“Aptly themed The Energy Mix: Positioning for Investment, Industrialization and Growth, this Conference convenes energy stakeholders with investors and international partners. It also brings together various perspectives from across

the energy value chain to serve as a catalyst for crucial conversations shaping the future of energy in Namibia and the rest of the continent,” Kapala said.

And Kapala said in its quest to address the perpetual energy challenges, Zambia was looking at synergies with other

Government had successfully lobbied its Angolan counterparts to re-open the opportunity for Zambia to own a stake in the Lobito Refinery project, which will have a production capacity of 200,000 barrels per day.

economies in the region.

“You will recall that in February this year, I revealed that our Government was monitoring events around the discovery of oil in Namibia. This followed the announcement that the National Petroleum Corporation of Namibia (NAMCOR), the Namibian state-owned oil company, and its partners Shell Namibia Upstream B.V and Qatar Energy, had made a discovery of light oil in both primary and secondary targets in the Graff-1 deep-water exploration well in the Orange Basin, which is 270km offshore Namibia from the town of Oranjemund,” said Kapala.

Kapala further disclosed that the Zambian Government was actively looking at synergies with other economies in the region.

Government had successfully lobbied its Angolan counterparts to re-open the opportunity for Zambia to own a stake in the Lobito Refinery project, which will have a production capacity of 200,000 barrels per day.

In the same spirit, on April 14, Minister of Commerce, Trade and Industry Chipoka Mulenga signed an agreement in Luanda, Angola for Zambia to own a stake in the Lobito Refinery project.

“This partnership will guarantee Zambia consistent access to the supply of petroleum on a preferential basis,” added Kapala.

He expressed optimism that the diplomatic engagements and diversified partnerships in the region’s energy sector would lead to a high degree of redundancy and cheaper energy, ensuring stability in the Zambian economy in the medium- to long-term.

Commuter transport apps changing taxi industry

BY DERRICK SILIMINA

The entry of taxi hailing apps for fast and reliable rides appears to be a game-changer in the local transportation industry.



With the dawn of technology, a taxi hailing app is a smartphone application that uses the customer's handset to detect their specific location using the global positioning system (GPS), and instantly connects the customer to the nearest available driver.

In Africa, the Internet ride-sharing transport service has been introduced in South Africa, Kenya, Nigeria and now Zambia.

This technology-driven service that uses a convenient electronic taxi-hailing system to find, book and pay for taxi services presents an innovative new technology platform in the local taxi industry.

In Zambia, the recent entry of Ulendo and Yango taxi has introduced a ride hailing apps for fast and reliable rides within minutes. At the click of a button, you can summon a taxi to your door-

For this reason, Ulendo's rapid expansion in terms of market share and geographical coverage shows the need for more entrants to transform the existing systems in the passenger transportation industry.

step.

"Being a first time user of Ulendo, I enjoyed the services I received in the past two days while in Lusaka. My movements were made easy and faster. Thank you Ulendo!" said Christine

Mumba.

A normal taxi trip from Lusaka's central business district to Kenneth Kaunda's International Airport can cost one approximately K500. But with the electronic taxi-hailing system, rates come as low as K300 to the same destination, thereby re-inventing travellers' satisfaction.

For this reason, Ulendo's rapid expansion in terms of market share and geographical coverage shows the need for more entrants to transform the existing systems in the passenger transportation industry.

Zambia's President Hakainde Hichilema recently said the country is beginning to get on the path towards developing the IT sector.

"I know of innovation hubs such as Bongohive and home-grown tech solutions such as Ulendo, Zpos, among others.



What they need is policy that stimulates the growth of the sector through incentives and investment,” the Head of State said recently on his Twitter handle.

SAFE AND SECURE

Most fans of the smartphone apps have described the taxi innovation as a safe and secure ride which has taken away the tedious work of taxi-hunting or waiting on the roadside to hail a cab.

“The way I enjoy to and from work, that is from town to Emmasdale at K37 with Ulendo is exciting,” Daniel Chisunka said. “Thank you Ulendo for what you are doing!”

Recently, another versatile taxi hailing app, Yango, announced its launch in Lusaka, making Zambia the fifth African country where it is available.

Yango, an international service for ordering rides online already operates in 19 countries across Europe, Central Asia, the Middle East and Africa, including Ivory Coast, Ghana, Cameroon and Senegal. Yango is a part of Yandex, one of the largest European IT companies.

According to the firm, Yango mobile app for iOS and Android is available for free download in English, and many other languages. To order a car, users download the app, open it and specify where they want to go. When geolocation is enabled, the service pinpoints where the

“As comfort, safety and affordability are among our top priorities, Yango has developed our own security features and technologies that allow both users and drivers to feel safe and at ease during every trip,” he said.

user is and finds the nearby driver who will arrive there fastest.

Yango, which is currently a cash-only service, allows a user to order a car by inputting their destination address, and the app algorithms automatically calculate the price of the trip ahead of time.

Looking at its competitive outlook, the rate for rides in Lusaka ordered with Yango start at K40, which is about the cost of a ride from Manda Hill Mall to East Park Mall.

“We see great potential in the African market as Zambia becomes the fifth country after Ivory Coast, Ghana, Cameroon and Senegal where we have launched our service. We are convinced

that people in Zambia will appreciate the care and features we have added to our ride-hailing service,” General Manager for Yango in Africa Adeniyi Adebayo said during the launch of the app.

Adebayo noted that Zambia has a growing, actively developing economy and there is a high demand for a modern ride-hailing service.

“As comfort, safety and affordability are among our top priorities, Yango has developed our own security features and technologies that allow both users and drivers to feel safe and at ease during every trip,” he said.

HOSTILE

However, the entry of ride-hailing apps into the local taxi industry has been met with hostile reactions around regulations and allegations of unfair competition practices.

Some registered taxi operators have alleged that Ulendo is using aggressive below-cost pricing and operating without taxi permits from the local authorities.

“As you can see, we are just languishing here. The so-called mobile taxi operators have taken our business. We urge Government to regulate this industry to enable a business environment conducive for everyone,” charged Timothy Tembo, a local taxi driver who operates at Kulima tower bus station.



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FQM Strengthens Fight Against Malaria

BY SOLWEZI TODAY REPORTER

As malaria remains the top cause of morbidity in Kalumbila District and the nation at large, First Quantum Minerals (FQM) has reaffirmed its commitment to combatting the disease.



Minister of Health Hon. Silvia Masebo presents a bicycle to be used at Mumbezhi Holy Family Clinic



FQM Wellness team explaining the management of mosquito breeding sites in Malaria prevention

For more than 10 years, the company has been involved in enhancing already existing health systems by working with various stakeholders including the Ministry of Health, and promotes enhanced quality assurance activities such as entomological surveillance and improved monitoring and evaluation capabilities.

FQM Trident Limited General Manager Sean Egner says being part of the community that is negatively affected by malaria, the mining firm suffers lost production hours and negative social effects in communities due to the high malaria burden.

He said this during the commemoration of Malaria Day in Manyama on April 25, 2022, in presence of Minister of Health Silvia Masebo.

“Through lost community production time, malaria takes away from agriculture, education and all forms of livelihood activities. Therefore, spending resources to fight malaria is noble and the right thing to do.

“In 2021, First Quantum Minerals Limited supported the training of 63 environmental health technicians, 190 spray operators and 95 community mobilizers in Indoor Residual Spraying (IRS). Through



Representatives from BIA and BME during the handover of bicycles donated to local clinics in Kalumbila District.

this effort, about 48,000 eligible structures were sprayed against mosquitoes in both Kalumbila District and Solwezi District. We also initiated local production of mosquito nets in order to build local capacity to solve our own problems and making mosquito nets easily available,” Egner said.

Egner reaffirmed FQM’s commitment to continue working with the Ministry of Health and the traditional leadership to pilot larval source management, particularly managing mosquito breeding sites. He said timely implementation of all interventions starting with parasite source reduction would accelerate efforts to-

wards ending malaria.

He said FQM would continue supporting communities where the company had business interests in order to leave a positive legacy beyond its mining life.

Masebo emphasized the importance of public-private partnerships (PPPs) in promoting health services, and thanked FQM for its unending support and commitment to the fight against malaria.

At the same event, FQM handed over 22 bicycles which were donated by two contractors BME and BIA. *TO WHOM WERE THE 22 BICYCLES HANDED?



Zambia has plenty onions – ZNFU

BY DERRICK SILIMINA

Farmers have slammed a named chain store that has alleged that there is a countrywide shortage of onions on the local market.

Recently, Shoprite Country General Manager Charles Bota said all the chain store's outlets countrywide had run out of onions as local farmers managed to meet the demand only seasonally.

However, the Zambia National Farmers' Union (ZNFU) has described the report attributed to Shoprite as not only most unfortunate, but totally misleading.

In a statement, ZNFU Public Relations Manager Kakoma Kaleyí said the country is awash with onions from both small- and large-scale farmers, some of which have gone to waste in storage facilities due to continued importation of the commodity even at the time when Government has ordered a stop to onion imports.

"We are alive to the fact that the halting of imports of onions has not been received well by some sector players in the value chain who have all along favoured imports at the expense of ap-

The country is awash with onions from both small- and large-scale farmers, some of which have gone to waste in storage facilities due to continued importation of the commodity even at the time when Government has ordered a stop to onion imports.

preciating the strides the local farmers have made to stop the over-reliance on imports," Kaleyí said.

Data shows that onion imports peaked in the period January to March 2022, hence disadvantaging local producers who had painstakingly invested in driers, which allows for onions to be harvested during late winter then dried, stored, and made available during the lean period which starts in January every year.

"Shoprite is simply ignoring local producers. We are afraid to note that the continued importation of commodities that we have a comparative advantage of is tantamount to economic sabotage and is weighing down all the good intentions being put in place by Government and farmers to ensure we have



improved capacities,” Kaleyi stated.

He charged that the farmers’ Union will not sit back and watch entities bent on proliferating imports arm-twist the Government into succumbing to notions that the country is experiencing commodity shortages.

“We rise to applaud the Government for regulating imports of onions because this is the trajectory that will make various sub-sectors of the agriculture sector become net producers of commodities that we can produce locally.”

In this context, onion and potato value chain stakeholders have since resolved that the country does not need to import the commodity as it has adequate stocks.

Speaking during a protracted meeting by onion and potatoes stakeholders who include traders, processors and producers organized by the farmers Union at the ZNFU Secretariat, the stakeholders resolved that there shall be no imports of onions or frozen onion related products as the country has enough stocks.

They concluded that there was no need for imports of potatoes in the country as the country had adequate stocks from carryovers and fresh stocks. Further, there was no need for imports of frozen chips.

Importers of potato crisps should be referred to the Ministry of Commerce Trade and Industry (MCTI) for further advice as stakeholders were supportive of measures leading to increased production of potatoes locally alongside value-addition.

Some onion farmers from Chipangali District in Eastern Province have

In this context, onion and potato value chain stakeholders have since resolved that the country does not need to import the commodity as it has adequate stocks.

weighed in against Shoprite’s alleged scheme in which the chain store is ignoring local onion producers.

Hanyisi Onion Cooperative Limited Davy Kapwata echoed ZNFU’s statement and affirmed that onions were stuck in the province due to lack of buyers, adding that Shoprite “just wants Government sympathy and to find a way of starting to import onions from South Africa.

“We know these tricks. Most of these South African chain stores always want to create employment in their own country. Because of the criteria used when sourcing onions, our farmers fail to meet their standards; that’s why they can’t find onions,” Kapwata said.

He urged the New Dawn Government not to fall in this trap as promoting local onions was one way of creating employment for Zambians.

“If Shoprite feels our onions are of low quality, let them bring in their experts to train our Zambian farmers to produce the quality they want,” Kapwata added.

Snuffing out air, water, soil pollution...

FQM USES NEW TECHNOLOGIES

BY DERRICK SILIMINA

It is said that legacy of mining pollution in Zambia is the result of many decades of unsustainable mining operations due to lack of investment, rehabilitation or inadequate closure of mining sites.



In the Copperbelt Province for instance, townships adjacent to copper mining sites are grappling with pollution while in the old mining town of Kabwe, there are unacceptably high levels of lead in the soil.

As the North-Western Province, which is touted as the next Copperbelt, due to its rich mineral deposits now being exploited by mining firms, FQM's environmental management is being enforced with new technologies.

"We have employed real time monitoring systems, such that we don't depend on someone going in the field to grab

With the alarming prediction of global water scarcity in near future, the United Nations recently adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDGs) in hope to steer global efforts around social, economic and environmental change.

water samples and take them to the lab for analysis. We have put in place early warning systems along our entire mine plant that are indicative and describe action to take in order to mitigate any potential issues," FQM Trident Limited Environmental Manager Sapalo Kachiwala said during a Media Information Sharing Meeting held at Kansanshi Hotel in Solwezi.

MONITORING

Kachiwala noted that a similar approach has been put in place through an online monitoring system that detects any emission in the atmosphere that deviates from set standards.

"We do a similar approach with the land, a similar approach with other aspects of the environment. So, the pillar of our monitoring is simple and it is to understand the baseline and what is prevailing before we conduct any mining activities such as the air, land and water quality."

With the alarming prediction of global water scarcity in near future, the United Nations recently adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDGs) in hope to steer global efforts around social, economic and environmental change.

In this context, national governments and multinational companies are putting pressure on the global mining industries that use water resources heavily.

Innovative water reuse technology was already in place at the mine, which was key to sustainable mining operations as



it safeguarded the environment.

“From the water reuse perspective, the controls that we have in place dictate that we reuse a lot of the water in our mining operations. The benefit of that is reduction of stress on the impacted environment. For instance, to mine copper, you interact with water and require water to float the copper in tailings to separate the waste material,” Kachiwala stated.

In 2021, Kansanshi mine reused about 76 per cent of water while the Sentinel mine reused about 56 per cent of its water reserve. In 2020, all the energy that the FQM group used came from renewable sources, meaning it did not use fossil fuels which emit carbon into the atmosphere.

“So, we have put in tools that enable us to make these decisions because we understand our water balance, we understand what we need to withdraw, what we need to use and what to discharge into the environment,” Kachiwala said.

WELL-POSITIONED

The Environmental Manager said FQM was well-positioned with targets to achieve de-carbonization.

According to energy experts, 80 per cent of Zambia’s energy consumption is from renewable sources while 20 per cent is from non-renewable sources which ought to be de-carbonized.

“As a group, we have set ourselves an ambitious target and we have said come 2025, we will further reduce our green-

He noted that in Serenje District of Central province, the mining company was slated to put up a wind project expected to add a total of 400 megawatts of power generation.

house emissions by 30 per cent and by 2030, we will realize a 50 per cent reduction in the greenhouse gasses emissions,” he added.

In his presentation titled Environmental Protection and Climate Change Harnessing Best Practice, Kachiwala further hinted that the mining firm was championing and spearheading work with partners in key projects, and envisioned commissioning a 200 megawatts solar project near Mutanda area in Solwezi.

He noted that in Serenje District of Central province, the mining company was slated to put up a wind project expected to add a total of 400 megawatts of power generation.

“With regards to this green movement in reducing carbon dioxide emission, we have used our innovations and we are a leader in the mining industry in use of technologies such as trolley assist technology, a system for diesel-electric haul trucks that utilizes a diesel engine to drive an alternator that produces energy to power electric wheel motors,” he said.

ENABLING TECHNOLOGY

With an average 0.51 percent of copper grade that is mined at the Sentinel mine, Kachiwala stressed that for it to be economically viable, there was need for enabling technology.

The mine’s in-pit crushers that directly follow the ore to its source enable the ore to be crushed right in the pit, thereby cutting down on hauling trucks that use a lot of diesel while emitting more carbon dioxide into the air.

Noting that market opportunities for electric vehicles were emerging across the globe, Kachiwala reiterated that FQM is well-positioned to embrace the world’s appetite for electric automobiles through its copper production.

“So, FQM has put Zambia on the map because we are saying that we are up for the challenge in this transition and we are looking to ramp up our production going forward. Last year we were at about 55 million tonnes of copper production per annum, we are now looking to ramp up 62 million tonnes per annum and beyond so that we position ourselves for this growth.”

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Military trainees visit Kansanshi Mining Plc

BY JOHN MUBAMBE

A delegation of foreign military training college students recently visited Kansanshi Mine where they were briefed on the diversity of the operations.

The visit was part of the students' training programme with keen interest in learning more about Zambia, its people, culture, the economy and mining in particular.

The 31-man team on the tour also included lecturers, protocol and accompanying staff from Uganda, Kenya, South Sudan, Burundi, Rwanda, Tanzania and India.

The students are attending military training courses at the Uganda Peoples' Defense Forces Command and Staff College of Kimaka in Jinja City, which is 80 kms East of the Ugandan capital city Kampala and near the source of the river Nile.

They were also briefed about how the mine is contributing to Zambia's economic development and supporting local communities through its Corporate Social Responsibility programmes.

The Kansanshi Mine Manager for Public Relations Godfrey Msiska was happy with the lively interaction between the military personnel and the mining team throughout the mine tour.

"As a Zambian corporate citizen, Kansanshi Mine is happy to promote international relations between Zambia and its East African neighbours through such visits, as this also helps to strengthen African unity.

"We can only survive and support each other like this if we continue interacting and learning from each other on the best way to develop our economies, how to maintain the culture and so on," said Msiska.

The students were accompanied by senior military personnel who included Brigadier-General Musonda Mutila, the Zambian defence advisor based in Tan-



Tanzanian Lieutenant Colonel Gaudencia Joseph Mapunda giving a vote of thanks after the mining tour at Kansanshi Mine. Picture by JOHN MUBAMBE

zania but also accredited to Uganda, and Colonel Steven Nahabwe from the Uganda People's Defence Force.

The visiting officers who were joined by military officers from Zambia, were very impressed with the operations at Kansanshi Mine.

Colonel Steven Nahabwe disclosed that the visiting team were not tourists, but were on a guided study tour, looking at Zambia's economy, cultural heritage and traditions.

"The guided study tour will look at how mining and other areas of the economy are doing here so that the military students can present a paper to the college at the end of their visit to Zambia," he said.

In a vote of thanks, Tanzanian Lieutenant-Colonel Gaudencia Joseph Mapunda hailed Kansanshi Mine management for providing detailed information on their mining activities and said this would be beneficial to her team, having broadened their perspective of the global economy.

"This study tour has enhanced our understanding of the history of this copper mine, the mining value chain, mining processing and brought out significant lessons important to our co-curriculum and general knowledge on the subject."



Foreign military training college students enjoyed looking at the scenery of the smelter. Picture by JOHN MUBAMBE

Copperbelt permanent secretary Augustine Kasongo hands over the certificate of title to Luse-Luse Cooperative Society Limited chairperson Chrispin Lipolo whilst FQM's Country Office representative Godwin Beene looks on at Protea Hotel in Ndola. Picture by JOHN MUBAMBE



FQM hands over farmland to Mufulira community

BY JOHN MUBAMBE

FQM has formally handed over a 54-hectare strip of farmland to 21 households of Mufulira that it empowered with new houses in the year 2009.

During that period, FQM agreed with the community that they move to the land FQM owned on Subdivision No. 191 of Farm No. 3597 in line with its resettlement programme to make the way for development.

The title deed handed over to the locals by FQM covers a site known as 21 miles in Mufulira District near Sakan-ya area on the Ndola-Congo Road.

Copperbelt Permanent Secretary Augustine Kasongo has thanked FQM for

“I am happy that FQM has now transferred the title deed of this farm land to the cooperative as promised and this title deed is the one FQM is today ready to handover to Luse Luse Cooperative Society Limited in our presence.

handing over the title deed of land it once owned to Luse Luse Cooperative Society Limited.

Speaking during the handover of the title deed by FQM Country Office Representative Dr Godwin Beene at Protea Hotel in Ndola recently, Kasongo noted that the site came about when FQM planned to have an access road into the Frontier Mine located in the Democratic Republic of Congo where it was carrying out mining activities.

Noting that FQM was committed to



Copperbelt province permanent secretary Augustine Kasongo presenting his speech when he recently officiated at the handover ceremony of the title deed to Luse-Luse cooperative members at Protea Hotel in Ndola. Picture by JOHN MUBAMBE



FQM Country Office representative, Dr. Godwin Beene, was happy for the end of a successful and peaceful long period of working together with locals from 21 miles near Sakanya in Mufulila. Picture by JOHN MUBAMBE

sustainable development through environmentally and socially responsible actions, Kasongo saluted the organization for assisting the community to form a trust registered under the name 'Luse Luse Cooperative Limited Society' which would be the administrator of the 54 hectares.

"I am happy that FQM has now transferred the title deed of this farm land to the cooperative as promised and this title deed is the one FQM is today ready to handover to Luse Luse Cooperative Society Limited in our presence.

"I am grateful you have truly demonstrated that mining can indeed bring

shared values to the mine and the community," he concluded.

Dr Beene said FQM had opted to empower Luse Luse Cooperative Society Limited with the title deed to ensure long tenure of the property.

The idea of involving the Cooperative in the handover of the legal document was to make it impossible for subdivisions leading to the temptation among individual members to sell the land.

"FQM has taken the action of empowering the locals in Mufulila with land on title to uplift their livelihood after having affected their lives by mining

activities.

"It has been a great and successful journey, working for the community. This handover of the title deed marks the end of our obligation to this community," he said.

Cooperative Society Chairperson Chrispin Lipolo thanked FQM for its commitment to the welfare of members of his cooperative.

Lipolo appealed to Government to continue taking care of the cooperative members who have now graduated from the care of FQM.

Kansanshi awards CBU mining graduates

BY JOHN MUBAMBE

Kansanshi Mining Plc has recognized and awarded the seven most outstanding graduating students in the School of Mines and Mineral Sciences at the Copperbelt University (CBU) in Kitwe.



Dr. Onward Mandebvu (in a red neck tie), the Head of the Education Unit at Kansanshi Mining PLC presents an award to a deserving student whilst the Minister of Education, Honourable Douglas Syakalima (in between them) looks on. Picture by JOHN MUBAMBE

Each of the deserving students took home an award and K2000 each at the Second Session of the 30th Graduation ceremony at the university's Riverside Campus on April 22.

The graduation ceremony, at which the Vice-Chancellor conferred diploma, degree and PhD certificates to around 2500 candidates, was celebrated under the theme Sustainable Development Through Innovation.

The awards were presented by Kansanshi Mining Plc Head of the Education

Unit under the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Department Dr Onward Mandebvu.

Dr Mandebvu awarded graduating students under the School of Mines and Mineral Sciences in the Bachelor of Engineering in Chemical Engineering, Environmental Engineering, Geomantic Engineering, Metallurgical Engineering, Mining Engineering, and Mining and Exploration Geology programmes.

"Kansanshi Mining Plc has given awards to the seven best students in the different degree and diploma programmes of

the School of Mines and Mineral Sciences. We encourage the recipients to take the shield as a badge of honour associating them with a company that belongs to a top global brand in mining and metal production. The badge of honour also comes with responsibilities to strive at all times to be a worthy and proud ambassador of the Copperbelt University," said Dr Mandebvu after the ceremony.

Dr Mandebvu noted that Kansanshi Mining Plc anchors its success on the ingenuity and supremacy of the human resource in business. His company, a subsidiary of First Quantum Minerals (FQM), centres its business on core values of being bolder, smarter, driven and together, which encapsulates the company's philosophy.

Kansanshi Mining Plc's partnership with CBU also extended to the sponsorship of its employees to pursue studies at the university.

Dr Mandebvu was optimistic that the theme of the 30th CBU graduation ceremony would spur the learning institution to achieve in the learners 21st century skills of innovation, creativity, social responsibility, lifelong learning, collaboration and technological literacy, among others.

And Elias Mulenga, representing 21 graduating students who were sponsored by Kansanshi Mining Plc, thanked company management for sponsoring their tertiary education at CBU.

He attributed the educational success of the sponsored students at CBU to a responsible and caring management at Kansanshi Mining PLC.

"This gesture of generosity from our company is beneficial to us, and we pledge to apply the skills we have acquired and optimize use of the new technology we have been privileged to acquaint ourselves with from a studious institution like the Copperbelt University."



Some of Kansanshi Mine's sponsored students ready to graduate at Copperbelt University. Picture by JOHN MUBAMBE

Fraudsters terrorize mobile money platforms

BY JOHN MUBAMBE

Sitting unsettled in her Airtel money kiosk situated along Cairo Road, one of the busiest streets in the Lusaka central business district, 25-year-old Susan Chembo narrates through tears how she was swindled of her hard-earned money.



I am requesting you to send your money via this number,” the message read, then provided a mobile number.

Coincidentally, Chembo had just told her uncle that she would send him money to help clear her goods at the border. She assumed the anonymous message was from her uncle who works as a clearing agent at Kazungula border in Southern Province. So she sent K5000 to the number. Her uncle never received the money.

Chembo reported the incident to the police, but the mobile number to which she sent the money was no longer in use. The fraudster could not be traced.

While the dawn of digital payment technologies is opening doors to a whole new generation of clientele in Zambia whose very first ‘bank’ account is accessed purely through mobile phones, fraudsters have gripped the local money transfer solution.

Lauded as a revolutionary tool for expanding access to financial services in low resource environments on the continent, the onset of mobile money technology is helping transform economic sectors in many developing countries.

The Bank of Zambia recently disclosed that mobile money platforms had re-

Its statistics showed that the number of mobile money agents in Zambia stood at 47,000 by the end of 2018 compared with 23,000 in the previous year. The number of mobile money accounts increased from 2.3 million at the end of 2017 to 4.3 million in 2018.

corded increased usage with numbers growing to 8.6 million users by December 31 compared to around 4.85 million in 2019.

Its statistics showed that the number of mobile money agents in Zambia stood at 47,000 by the end of 2018 compared with 23,000 in the previous year. The number of mobile money accounts increased from 2.3 million at the end of 2017 to 4.3 million in 2018.

With Zambia’s population estimated at 18 million, the two largest mobile operators Airtel and MTN both supply mobile money services. In April 2018, MTN announced a concerted effort to up the number of agents in the country to expand usage of its platform while the state-owned Zamtel also supplies standard mobile money services through its Kwacha brand and smartphone mobile e-wallet app, Zampay.

The levels of financial inclusion in Zambia, as measured by the 2020 Finscope survey stood at about 69.4 percent, an increase of 10 percentage points from the 59.3 per cent recorded in 2015. The major contributor to this growth has been mobile money services. But with all that growth comes more opportunity for crime.

SCAMMERS

As a result, mobile money scammers have gone on rampage swindling unsuspecting clients who rely on digital payments for their daily transactions of their hard-earned money.

While the Finscope survey has shown growth in the uptake of digital financial services in Zambia, there are some teething issues to address to fully exploit the potential of these digital pay-

ment systems at both national and regional level.

“As we continue to migrate customers towards digital technologies, it is important to safeguard customer funds, especially new users of such services,” Bank of Zambia Governor Denny Kalyalya recently told stakeholders at the Fourth COMESA Business Council Digital Financial Inclusion Public-Private Dialogue whose theme was Towards A Regional Digital Payments Platform for Micro, Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (MSMEs).

“We must ensure that we fully exploit these tools. It is therefore imperative that cyber fraud incidences are ad-

ressed to ensure the gains made so far in financial inclusion are maintained and enhanced,” Dr Kalyalya said.

“We have at our disposal several tools including investment in secure systems and applications, consumer awareness, and knowledge-sharing.”

CRIPPLE

Arguably, if left unchecked, digital fraudsters have the capacity to cripple digital payment platforms that are contributing to financial inclusion by opening doors to a whole new generation of clientele base in Zambia and beyond.

But as more mobile money account holders find it difficult to change habits since mobile money is so convenient, another fraud victim is Raymond Solochi who recently also lost K500 in a mobile money scam.

“These thieves are just using psychology, because they know that at one point or another someone might be sending money especially during paydays.”

The Zambia Information and Communications Technology Authority (ZICTA) has lately relayed SMS messages warning people against posting their contact information on social media networks and to keep their PIN numbers secret.



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Elon Musk Buys Twitter For \$44 Billion

BY MARTIN MUSUNKA JR

Co-founder and CEO of Tesla, Elon Musk, has bought Twitter at \$44 billion and becomes the most recent addition to the billionaire moguls that own media entities.

The trend of billionaire moguls snapping up media entities can be seen in Jeff Bezos owning the Washington Post, Rupert Murdoch the News Corp, John Henry the Washington Globe and many more.

Musk's acquisition of the news and social media networking platform adds a different dynamic to the social media landscape because of his views on what the essence of social media should be, challenging what has been the norm for the past few years.

Big Tech (also known as the Tech Giants, Big Four, or Big Five) have been using

their market power and influence to manipulate public information through the control, use and management of personal information.

Musk, the richest person in the world with a net worth of \$273 billion, believes that social media platforms should allow freedom of expression and is against censorship and the unscrupulous digital practices that have been exposed in recent years.

"Free speech is the functioning bedrock of democracy, and Twitter is the digital town square where matters vital to the future of humanity are debated I look

forward to working with the company and the community of users to unlock it," said Musk.

The Twitter takeover seems to be more of a political acquisition than financial, going by how Elon Musk has brought a very specific libertarian approach to this acquisition.

TROLLING GENIUS

Musk's freewheeling approach to the digital space can be seen by the satirical setting of the Twitter share price at \$54.20 per share (April 20) which is considered as an occasion for smoking

or celebrating the smoking of cannabis) and his advocacy for Dogecoin (which is a cryptocurrency and an almost sarcastic meme coin).

Musk has used the 420 reference before in 2018 when he tweeted that he had “funding secured” to potentially take Tesla private at \$420 per share, causing him to get sued by the SEC. The filing discusses Musk’s reasoning behind choosing \$420 for the price of shares in his tweet and explains:

“Musk stated that he rounded the price up to \$420 because he had recently learned about the number’s significance in marijuana culture and thought his girlfriend ‘would find it funny, which admittedly is not a great reason to pick a price.”

FREE SPEECH ADVOCATES

Former President of the United States, Donald J. Trump, launched a social media platform earlier this year called Truth Social in his attempt to promote freedom of speech after his permanent suspension from Twitter following the January 6, 2021 Capitol riot.

Twitter going private and potentially having new policies enhancing free speech sparked curiosity on whether Trump will be returning the social media platform.

“I am not going on Twitter, I am going to stay on TRUTH,” Trump told Fox News. “I hope Elon buys Twitter because he’ll make improvements to it and he is a good man, but I am going to be staying on TRUTH.”

Trump told Fox News he will begin “TRUTHing” over the next week. Stock tied to Donald Trump’s social media venture has fallen 13 percent while Dogecoin has increased by about 30 percent.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR TWITTER?

Musk has not shied away from expressing his dissatisfaction in the management of Twitter which has caused a panic to the people that are currently employed by the company.

In a recent statement, Twitter’s current CEO Prag Agrawal said, “Twitter has a purpose and relevance that impacts the entire world. Deeply proud of our teams



and inspired by the work that has never been more important.”

Bloomberg US Deals reporter, Crystal Tse said that his statement alluded to the fact that he is ready to let go of everything. Agrawal would get an estimated \$42 million if he were terminated within 12 months of a change in control at the social media company, according to research firm Equilar.

Elon Musk’s radical approach to how he runs his businesses made the team at Twitter freeze all coding and algorithm changes. The only features that have been left untouched are those that are necessary for business continuity.

While Twitter may seem to be a relatively smaller platform with 206 million active users in comparison to Meta which has 3.6 billion subscribers, Twitter has commanded much more of a profile than what the numbers suggest.

TRANSACTION TERMS, FINANCING

The transaction has been unanimously approved by the Twitter Board of Directors and is expected to close in 2022, subject to the approval of Twitter stockhold-

ers, the receipt of applicable regulatory approvals and the satisfaction of other customary closing conditions.

Elon Musk has secured \$25.5 billion of fully committed debt and margin loan financing and is providing an approximately \$21.0 billion equity commitment.

Twitter’s Current Report on Form 8-K has all the information regarding all terms and conditions contained in the definitive transaction agreement, which will be filed in connection with the transaction.

ADVISORS

Goldman Sachs & Co. LLC, J.P. Morgan, and Allen & Co. are serving as financial advisors to Twitter, and Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati, Professional Corporation and Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP are serving as legal counsel.

Morgan Stanley is acting as lead financial advisor to Musk. BofA Securities and Barclays are also acting as financial advisors.

Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP are serving as legal counsel.

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FQM Trident's staff pose for a photo at the University of Zambia's graduation ceremony.

FQM Trident Upskills Staff At UNZA, CBU

BY SOLWEZI TODAY REPORTER

FQM Trident Limited has successfully trained 15 of its local Kalumbila staff in metallurgical engineering at the University of Zambia (UNZA).

All the 15 graduated with a certificate in metallurgical engineering at the 51st University of Zambia Graduation ceremony in April 2022.

FQM Trident, a First Quantum Minerals (FQM) subsidiary, has recommended 16 more employee students for the second cohort of certificate in metallurgical engineering at UNZA on full sponsorship.

The first cohort for the certificate in metallurgical engineering enrolled in June 2020 with 15 employees who were recommended by FQM Trident to take an on-site class with UNZA lecturers who came to the mine in Kalumbila to offer the programme.

FQM Trident, a First Quantum Minerals (FQM) subsidiary, has recommended 16 more employee students for the second cohort of certificate in metallurgical engineering at UNZA on full sponsorship.

The Copperbelt University also offers a certificate in mining engineering to FQM Trident employees under the same conditions as UNZA. Last year, 15 students graduated under CBU and 15 more are in the second cohort and looking forward to graduating next year.

"This programme will support metallurgists in designing new processing plants, overseeing metallurgical operations in an efficient and effective manner as well as conducting research and development to maintain and improve existing processes by bringing new ideas that will help in developing new processes for the mine," explained Scott Luonde, Senior Metallurgist at the processing plant at FQM Trident.



The programme is a Senate-approved programme, which has a strong bias towards training students in metal processing technologies and adaption of metals for various engineering applications.

The company is dedicated to developing its employees so they can excel in their current and possible future positions. This is realized through promoting equal opportunities at all levels of the company, enforcing a strict policy against all forms of discrimination and respecting employees' right to free association and collective bargaining.

"We targeted our outstanding employees and upskilled their knowledge



based on their plant experience so that they can understand more technical aspects," added Luonde.

Lecturers conduct 14 days of residential classes at the beginning of the programme, followed by online classes and further residential courses towards examinations.

"It is good to see that this programme is bearing fruit, and results can be seen. Some of the people that have been on this programme have been appointed to senior and supervisory positions within the establishment. Others have been appointed to semi-management positions."

FQM Trident Ltd Senior Specialist for Learning and Development, Cindy Mwiinga, says the company is deliberately targeting female students in order to change the narrative that mining is a male-dominated field.

"A company is only as strong as its people, and we don't want to leave anyone behind, so we want to bring on board as many women as possible. A productive workplace is vital to the success and sustainability of every company and we value the input of all," Mwiinga.

FQM has put in place measures that help to provide suitable employment opportunities to local community members through a local recruitment database of

community members established with traditional leaders, and a local baseline census.



Intellectual property, the youth, the future

BY BEMANYA TWEBAZE

The 2022 World Intellectual Property (IP) Day theme is IP and Youth: Innovating for a better future. This theme resonates with the African continent, which has the youngest and fastest-growing population globally. The continent is home to over 1.2 billion people, and youth below the age of 25 make up 60 per cent of the population.



Our young people are an incredible source of creativity and ingenuity. Positive change cannot be driven on the continent without them. The African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO) believes that the fundamental aspects of IP need to be introduced to the youth at an early age to understand IP, its generation, protection, and commercialization.

For this reason, ARIPO undertakes initiatives in its Member States to promote innovation, IP protection, and commercialization among the youth. The following are some of the initiatives undertaken by the Organization:

EDUCATIONAL VISITS

The Organization hosts students, mostly from tertiary institutions, who visit the ARIPO Secretariat to learn about the operations of the Organization and how to protect intellectual property.

INSTITUTIONAL IP POLICIES

Academic and research institutions host many youths who are innovative and creative. In these institutions, where close to 90 per cent of knowledge and IP are created and disseminated, the institutions must be aware of the IP system and its importance for innovation and creativity.

To promote the generation and exploitation of IP by owners, ARIPO encourages the development and use of institutional IP policies. ARIPO does this by conducting IP awareness seminars for academic and research institutions in its Member States.

ARIPO, in collaboration with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), has mooted guidelines for developing institutional IP policies for universities and research institutions. These initiatives will help enhance IP awareness and IP protection among students, mainly the youth.

MASTERS IN INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

ARIPO partnered with universities in its Member States to jointly offer a master's programme in intellectual property. The objective is to create a human resource pool in IP for Africa as a continent.

Specifically, the Organization partnered with Africa University in Zimbabwe, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology in Ghana, and the University of Dar es Salaam in Tanzania, where we have young people enrolling to study for a master's degree in intellectual property.

The Organization offers scholarships to some of the students to allow them to undertake their studies in IP.

A tracer study undertaken to assess the impact and effectiveness of the master's programme revealed that the young graduates have remained relevant to the IP system in their countries.

Some have been instrumental in re-



viewing IP acts and laws, teaching IP in educational institutions, conducting IP awareness, and managing IP units in universities and research institutions. This contributes to building the needed capacity in IP development.

THE WAY FORWARD

ARIPO is planning to develop a Model IP Curriculum for universities and colleges. The aim is to assist these institutions in introducing IP teaching to all students. This will help to ensure that every student who graduates from these institutions is aware of the IP system and its benefits to IP owners and generators.

“I urge you to formalize your business and affiliate with the chamber to benefit from business to business linkages that the chamber platform offers,” FWIL Managing Director Mukumbi Kafuta said.



In the past, ARIPO has also engaged the youth through initiatives such as copyright competitions and the production of songs, building awareness on trademark counterfeiting and piracy, in collaboration with WIPO and the Japan Patent Office.

The success of these events led to the ARIPO Member States considering and adopting the proposal to promote IP awareness and building respect in the Member States' schools in 2019.

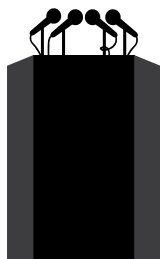
Based on the foregoing, in 2022 ARIPO commenced the implementation of the Pilot Project on the “Establishment of IP Clubs in Secondary Schools” in Botswana, Malawi, and Zimbabwe, with a view to eventually cover all the ARIPO Member States.

We are cognizant that the future is characterized by a high youth population, the convergence of IP norms, and opportunities and challenges posed by the 4th Industrial Revolution (4IR) Technologies. These technologies Big Data, blockchain, artificial intelligence, the Internet of Things, augmented reality, cloud computing, and autonomous robots – embraced mainly by the youth will reshape norms, rules, and standards, particularly at the interface of IP and industry.

As the 4IR develops and evolves, ARIPO will be at the forefront of developing a shared approach to these issues regionally and globally.

The continent's youth are its most valuable human capital resource and constitute its engine of growth.

To that end, by supporting the youth in protecting their innovation and creativity, we will create and foster a culture of innovation and creativity that will drive economic growth in Africa. The News Times/Solwezi Today.



HICKS SIKAZWE ON THE PLATFORM



Charcoal trade: Surviving the hard way

If you are a regular user of Zambia's highways, one of the common encounters on the way are charcoal vendors carting loads on bicycles.

Mostly you will never meet them during the day. Their numbers pick up as dusk falls from about 1900hrs to dead into the night.

Alternatively, if you are an early road user, you will certainly meet columns of these traders even as early as 0400hrs. Their destination? The nearest market to sell their merchandise. They will not travel in the day because of the fear of being accosted by the Government's Forestry Department or even police.

They then opt to plough long ways at night, often risking being hit by speeding motorists and indeed several of them have been victims of road accidents. Those who are fortunate end up maimed with their bicycles damaged. Those less fortunate not simply die. For many years that has been the cycle.

FUNDS

In Ndola there is a story of a young lady who completed secondary school but did not have funds to proceed to college or university.

Melia Pandale (not her real name), 20, completed secondary school in 2015. Though she obtained 11 points with good marks in English, Mathematics and

Science subjects, she was not able to proceed to college or university.

She was offered to study education at a university in Lusaka but she could not, because she was unable to get a bursary. Her mother, a maid, could not afford about K21,000 tuition fee per year as demanded.

Melia attempted to look for any job so that she could raise money and apply for university or college entry in future, but she could not find any work in her town Ndola or anywhere in the country.

As a last resort her aunt offered that Melia joins her in selling charcoal at the market. The aunt told the niece from the charcoal enterprise the family could



raise money for the school fees.

After three months of lending a hand at the market stand Melia was given K1,500 as capital to start ordering bags of charcoal and selling at the aunt's stand, in hope of raising what was required to meet university or college entry fees.

Melia is only one of the many of examples of school leavers that have opted to fall on charcoal selling to find money for school fees. In townships, charcoal selling is one of the most common businesses people venture into.

With the power outages that have plagued the country for more than five years now, the commodity has become a money-spinner. It is fast-selling whether in small packets or large bags.

Its popularity aside, dealing in charcoal remains a dangerous business. Environmentalists have ramped up campaigns to curtail charcoal use but to no avail.

DESTRUCTION

Their argument is valid: Preparation of the commodity requires destruction of huge tracts of land by felling full-grown, mature trees. That practice, campaigners have argued, has contributed to the current problems of climate change in the world today.

In Northern, Muchinga and (parts of) Luapula provinces, there are running battles between government officials and villagers over the Chitemene system of farming. This is the type of agriculture which requires cropping trees, heaping branches together and burning them to generate organic fertilizer before sowing millet or sorghum.

Both Chitemene and charcoal burning have been banded together as destructive activities and running against the preservation of forests to avoid environmental degradation.

Melia could have later put together enough money to sponsor herself for further studies. There is also a probability that the business did not do well and she abandoned it.

But assuming the venture succeeded, she would have become an ambassador for the business and probably sold the idea to more people in her situation.

Going by the current economic hard fare in the country, many more people in her situation could have ventured into the charcoal business. It is therefore frightening to imagine the amount of destruction of the forests that has followed.

The process of charcoal preparation is not only cumbersome but it is tedious, labour intensive and above all a healthy risk. People who cut down trees have to be extremely careful. If they are not, the trees could fall on them. They can get injured or die.

After burning, the kiln needs to be opened to allow the fire get attended to and save the charcoal. The intense heat that is emitted affects those working the kiln and a number of them have often ended up in hospital where they have been found with dropped blood levels.

The carbon that comes from the charcoal is not only harmful to everyone nearby but has contributed to the fatal ending of people with respiratory problems who get exposed there during the process.

VICTIMS

So when hundreds of young people that have finished secondary school, college, or university and can not find anything to do but opt to go into the charcoal enterprise will be victims of the vagaries listed above.

Tragically, even Melia who spent time in the charcoal business may have picked up some dormant plague that may erupt at one point. Wherever she is, the young lady may be in real danger.

The point here is that as the economic conditions of the world and of Africa become rough, there is need for governments to create employment especially

The carbon that comes from the charcoal is not only harmful to everyone nearby but has contributed to the fatal ending of people with respiratory problems who get exposed there during the process.

for the youth. In Zambia, if they are not surviving on charcoal they will find other some item to deal in.

The recently enhanced Constituency development Fund (CDF) seems to be one of the ways youth can be helped.

Measures are thus need to improve the administration and processing of the fund so that it can reach as many people as people and thus serve its purpose. Is there a way that those charcoal vendors that traverse the highways at night with pastry bags of the commodity can be helped?

Is there a way authorities can work out something less destructive and dangerous so that they keep away from charcoal?

Zambia will need innovation and a lot of hard work to tackle the problem of unemployment especially among the youth.

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

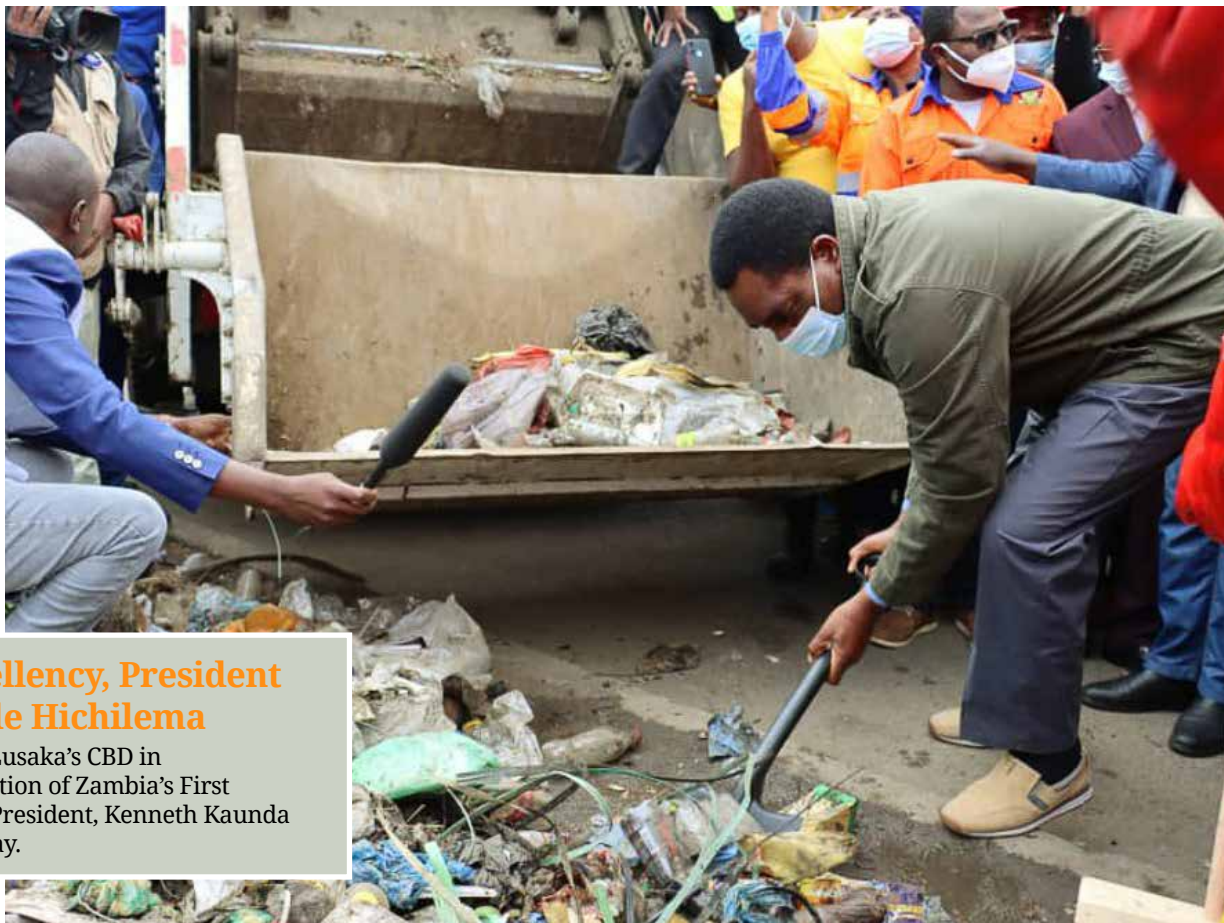


April HIGHLIGHTS

28th

His Excellency, President Hakainde Hichilema

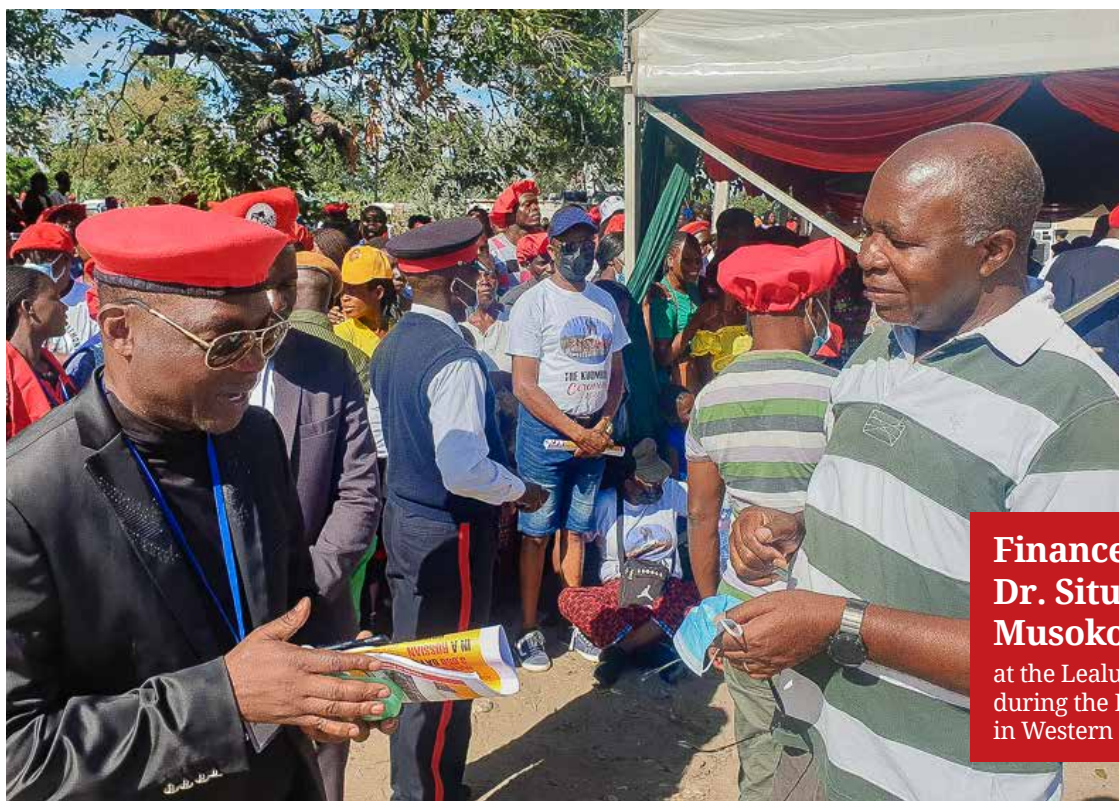
helps clean Lusaka's CBD in
commemoration of Zambia's First
Republican President, Kenneth Kaunda
during KK day.



28th

Finance Minister, Dr. Situmbeko Musokotwane

at the Lealui Palace & Royal Village
during the Kuomboka Ceremony
in Western Province, Zambia.





20th

Actor Johnny Depp testifies Wednesday, April 20, in his defamation case against ex-wife Amber Heard. Depp is suing Heard for \$50 million over a 2018 Washington Post op-ed in which she wrote about her experience with domestic abuse. Depp claims it cost him lucrative film work in Disney's "Pirates of the Caribbean" franchise. Evelyn Hockstein/Pool/AFP/Getty Images



26th

FQM staff during the University of Zambia (UNZA) 51st Graduation Ceremony at Heroes Stadium in Lusaka on Tuesday, April 26, 2022.



17th

Britain's Prince Harry and his wife Meghan, the Duchess of Sussex, hug Lisa Johnston, a former army medic who won a medal at the Invictus Games in The Hague, Netherlands, on Sunday, April 17. Prince Harry founded the Invictus Games, which is a sporting competition for service members and veterans who have been wounded, injured or sick. Peter Dejong/AP

Mixed farming in Kimale...

BY DERRICK SILIMINA

Armed with the knowledge acquired in business training sessions between 2018 and 2020, Gift Milanji is a proud upcoming mixed farmer and currently is rearing six pigs, growing vegetables and maize at his smallholding in Kimale, Solwezi.



Mr Milanji left shows off one of his piglets.

“I started this business this year and the key areas that the training has benefited me include change of mindset. I was able to switch from working for others to become my own boss,” he says.

The training, courtesy of the Kansanshi Mining Plc (KMP) and Fortune World Investments Limited, Milanji, 26, affirms that the training has transformed his entrepreneurial mindset.

“Financial management is another topic which has helped me with financial prudence, utilizing funds for the intended purpose, budgeting and reinvestment.”

With his medium-term plan to open his own butchery where pork, chicken and fish will be stocked, Milanji anticipates to realize K1000 as profit per animal.

Milanji told the Fortune World mentoring team which visited him recently that immediately after the rainy season, he intends to expand the piggery and dig fish ponds in a bid to raise his own fish.

“I urge you to formalize your business and affiliate with the chamber to benefit from business to business linkages that the chamber platform offers,” FWIL Managing Director Mukumbi Kafuta said.

He plans to order ready-made sausages too.

“Thank you KMP for the training as I have acquired valuable knowledge. I hope for more business training opportunities. I also request the Fortune World team to consider including general agriculture, and professional piggery management in future training,” Milanji has proposed.

The FWIL mentoring team were impressed with Milanji’s ability to start and sustain his business with little capital and implored him to work hard.

“I urge you to formalize your business and affiliate with the chamber to benefit from business to business linkages that the chamber platform offers,” FWIL Managing Director Mukumbi Kafuta said.

Livestock rearing as a childhood dream

BY DERRICK SILIMINA

Immersed in her childhood passion for livestock rearing, Jane Makonde, of Zangamenu area of Solwezi District is an upcoming farmer who is into goat, chicken and duck rearing.



Mr. Makonde shows off her goats, ducks and chickens.

“I obtained eight broiler chickens which laid one egg per day and these eggs were meant for hatching chicks, and raising birds for resale,” she said.

When the Fortune World Investment mentoring team first visited her in 2020, she only had a few broilers, guinea fowls and only six goats.

Two years down the line, Makonde's immediate plan is to buy an incubator that has capacity to hold 90 eggs which costs about K6000.

Makonde noted that since the incubator takes about 21 days to hatch eggs, she will be able to raise more birds for her project and expand with ease.

“With a duck fetching at a local price of

K120 each and chickens currently selling at K100 each respectively, I will be able to diversify into other livestock production such as goats,” she said.

From only six goats she started with to the current 13 after selling a few, Makonde is optimistic to make it big in the sector considering that with the price of each animal ranges between K600 and K1,800.

“I am now the proud owner of three male goats and 10 females. Since goats give birth once per year, I anticipate an increase in number next year.”

Asked how she manages her birds productively, Makonde explains, “I feed them with maize bran bought from the local millers, and supplement it with special village chicken feed.”

She is able to identify market opportunities and is able to sell sausage and chicken portions to the community. Her record keeping is done by recording all receipts to determine the amount of value of stock feed purchased and sales made per day.

“I am thankful for knowledge acquired from the training and thanked KMP for the gesture. I have since bought a five hectare farmland and grown maize for resale,” Makonde states.

The Fortune World mentoring team led by FWIL Managing Director Mukumbi Kafuta were pleased that Makonde is able to put what she was taught into practice and further urged her to keep it up in managing her business opportunities.

Constructing and fabricating at small-scale level

BY JOHN CHOLA

He manufactures window frames, door frames, fish-smoking machines, mini-bus trailers and hammer mills.



Mr Jack Chisanga (left) displays his products.

He also performs plumbing works such as geyser installation, toilet mounting, pipe lining and sewer lines.

Additionally, he has a running contract with the Citizens Economic Empowerment Commission (CEEC) to produce fish-smoking machines and steel tables for SMEs funded by CEEC in the fish value chain.

Joy Chisanga, 29, of Solwezi's Kyawama Compound started his small business with an initial capital of K2000 and now can boast of K15,000 cash at bank, thanks to knowledge imparted from the Kansanshi Mining Plc-sponsored business development training implemented by Fortune World Investments Limited (FWIL). From K2000 start-up capital, Chisanga now makes a monthly income in profit of about K5000.

A FWIL team recently paid a mentoring call on Chisanga and found that he had also grown his assets; machinery and stocks belonging to the business are now

currently valued at K30,000.

FWIL Managing Director Mukumbi Kafuta who led his team on a visit has noted that Chisanga had a bank account with FNB where proceeds from the business are deposited for safe-keeping and future reinvestment.

Kafuta said Chisanga had since em-

The Fortune World mentoring team advised Chisanga to look out for opportunities under the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) and apply for tenders in the construction sector.

ployed three workers, thereby fulfilling one of the training objectives, which is employment creation.

"He enrolled for the business development training programme in January 2019 and attended 12 topics in year one. He received two certificates in the same year, and acquired sufficient knowledge to help him in his business journey. Knowledge acquired from the training gave Chisanga the idea of registering a Business Name at PACRA.

"He has also acquired a tax certificate from the Zambia Revenue Authority (ZRA) and is in the process of acquiring certificates from National Pension Scheme Authority (NAPSA), Workers Compensation and Zambia Public Procurement Authority (ZPPA). The company is registered for construction and metal fabrication works," Kafuta observes.

"In the next two years, he plans to begin operating from his own premises and relocate from the current business location belonging to his father. Furthermore, Chisanga plans to open a branch in Kisaasa area of Kalumbila District where his services were currently also on high demand," says Kafuta.

The Fortune World mentoring team advised Chisanga to look out for opportunities under the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) and apply for tenders in the construction sector.

Chisanga thanked Kansanshi Mine management for the life-transforming knowledge which he was able to utilize, and further praised Kansanshi Mine for being the only mine sponsoring such a programme which enabled beneficiaries to access free training.



From superteam to superflops: Who is to blame for the Nets' playoff humbling?

BY HUNTER FELT

The Brooklyn Nets began this season as many experts' favourites to reach the NBA finals from the Eastern Conference. Instead, they were swept by the Boston Celtics in the first-round of the playoffs.

All that's left now is to try to figure out what went wrong in Brooklyn.

THE JAMES HARDEN TRADE

The Nets began this season with a Big Three: a theoretically healthy Kevin Durant, a theoretically on-the-court Kyrie Irving and a one-time NBA MVP in James Harden, who was acquired the previous January in a trade with the Houston Rockets.

It was a high-risk move to bring these tal-

ented veterans together, given that they had all fallen out with their previous franchises.

To nobody's shock, the trio didn't last, and it was Harden who left. With their options limited in getting a potential impact All-Star in a Harden deal, they arranged a malcontent swap with the Philadelphia 76ers, which brought them back tremendously gifted, defence-first big man Ben Simmons.

The Nets' gamble was based upon the idea that Simmons was only holding out from playing because his relationship with the Sixers had disintegrated after

his infamous offensive collapse during last year's playoffs. As it turns out, it was more than that: Simmons's absence was due to both physical and mental health issues that ultimately prevented him from playing a single minute in Brooklyn this season.

Yes, in the long run, the Nets may have something in the Simmons acquisition. With that said, being forced to make the Harden deal and settling with this particular return hurt Brooklyn's chances of success this year.

KYRIE IRVING

The main reason Harden was fed up with his situation in Brooklyn? Well, it couldn't help that he was dealing with the endless circus that was Irving's battle with the City of New York.

It turns out that New York's Covid-19 restrictions meant that unvaccinated players couldn't play home games at Barclays Center, making it impossible for Irving to play in Brooklyn for much of the regular season. During many crucial games, Irving was a spectator.

Plenty of other players despite their personal beliefs would have simply gotten the vaccine, especially when it was hurting their team's chances of winning

a championship. After all, an engaged Irving is one of the most dangerous players in the entire league.

Irving, for his own reasons, refused to make any such sacrifice for his teammates.

If you're wondering if this could have been the reason that Harden eventually forced his way out of town, well that's the conventional wisdom, although there's never been on-the-record confirmation from Harden himself.

One man who does think the issue affected the season though is, well, Kyrie Irving. "I think [my vaccine status] became a distraction at times," said the point guard after Monday's loss to the Celtics. "And as you see we just had some drastic changes."

KEVIN DURANT WAS HURT

So the Nets were without Irving for many games, Harden was in Philadelphia and Simmons was on the bench. It was all up to Durant to help shoulder a large share of the team's burdens.

Unfortunately, Durant suffered an MCL injury on January 15 and was missing for over a month and a half (KD was not the only Nets player to miss time Joe Harris's season was ruined by an ankle injury).

When Durant returned, he was pressed into service to drag the Nets into a seventh-place finish that required them to win a play-in game just to make the playoffs. By the time the playoffs started, Durant was starting to feel the effects of the heavy minutes he was playing near the end of the regular season.

That's not a complete excuse for his early struggles against Boston especially since the Celtics were missing starting center Robert Williams for the first two games of the series but it couldn't have helped.

He managed 39 points, nine assists and seven rebounds in Game 4, but by that point he was running on empty.

STEVE NASH

The Nets have a habit of hiring mascots rather than head coaches: let's not forget that they brought in Jason Kidd just the season after he retired as a player.

So, it wasn't shocking that they handed



Hall of Famer Steve Nash the keys to the team in September 2020 even though he had never even been an NBA assistant coach before.

Nets players were supportive of Nash on Monday night after their season ended but at times during this sweep, Nash looked more like a babysitter than a coach. With his team down 2-0 and facing a crucial Game 3, Nash seemed allergic to calling timeouts and designing plays, hoping that his vets would stumble into the right course of action on their own. They mostly did not.

Upon Nash's hiring, Irving famously responded to the news with a blithe, "I don't really see us having a 'head' coach." Maybe not the most polite statement in the world, but Nash did little to prove his point guard wrong during this postseason.

THE BOSTON CELTICS

Still, it's hard to know what Nash could have done given how thoroughly the Celtics outplayed his team. While the dysfunction in Brooklyn has captured the headlines, Boston should have been favoured from the start.

After stumbling through the first half of the season with first-time head coach Ime Udoka still learning on the job after an impressive internship under Gregg Popovich at the San Antonio Spurs and Nash himself with the Nets, the team got healthy.

Udoka came into his own and the Celtics finally found their identity.

Jayson Tatum and Jaylen Brown learned to play with each other again. Upon be-

Upon Nash's hiring, Irving famously responded to the news with a blithe, "I don't really see us having a 'head' coach." Maybe not the most polite statement in the world, but Nash did little to prove his point guard wrong during this postseason.

ing elevated to the starting point guard position, Marcus Smart emerged as the NBA Defensive Player of the Year and the rest of his team weren't far behind.

The Celtics were the best defensive team in the league in the regular season's second half, and no slouches on the offensive end either.

Given the chance to tank in the final game of the season and avoid facing Durant and Irving in the first round of the playoffs, the Celtics played at full strength against a Memphis Grizzlies B-squad to grab the East's second seed.

They took on the challenge because they knew that they could beat the Nets on their own terms.

By betting on themselves, the Celtics not only avenged their loss to the Nets in last year's playoffs, but they may also have sent Brooklyn's entire organization back to the drawing board.



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