



## Lubambe Copper Mine Rescue Team wins first African medal at USA international competition

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## FQM Trident awakens forgotten national park

**West Lunga National Park in North-Western Province is not on the list of well-marketed tourist attractions in Zambia, perhaps on account of the depopulation of wildlife by poachers over many years.**

With its many rapids, picturesque waterfalls, limestone caves, underground rivers, hot springs, the Kabompo Gorge, a sunken lake and notably the source of the Zambezi River, the 11,754 square kilometre park ought to be a big hit among tourists local and international.

Established in the 1940s to protect the yellow-backed duiker, the park also boasts of rare bird species that should appeal to birdwatchers. But today, hunting and fishing by local communities is all that takes place there.

It is to this forgotten and rather lonely stretch that FQM Trident Ltd has turned its attention, restocking animals at the request of the Department of National Parks and Wildlife.

The company, through its Wildlife Management Team of Trident Foundation Ltd (TFL), has conducted a capture and restocking operation for the Park.

This is of significance in that it brings to life a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed in 2014 with Department of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPW). Though some wildlife species remain within the West Lunga ecosystem, the intervention of the Trident Foundation Ltd therefore ensures the protection of core breeding stocks vital to wildlife recovery in the long run.

As the West Lunga ecosystem consists of forests, floodplains and rivers, it supports the hydrological, geophysical and micro climate functions of the entire region. This is why FQM Trident Ltd should not only be lauded but emulated for catalysing environmental preservation through its unprecedented wildlife restocking programme.



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# Kwacha appreciation sparks price drops

BY DERRICK SILIMINA

The continued appreciation of the Kwacha against foreign convertible currencies has sparked price reductions on various goods and services.

**S**hoprite, one of the largest chain stores in the country, has cut the prices off more than 800 items while the Road Transport and Safety Agency (RTSA) has reduced bus fares effective September 8 following the downward adjustment of fuel prices.

Confirming the development, Shoprite Country General Manager Charles Bota says the chain store has reduced prices of over 800 commodities as a pass-

**Confirming the development, Shoprite Country General Manager Charles Bota says the chain store has reduced prices of over 800 commodities as a pass-through effect of the Kwacha gains.**

through effect of the Kwacha gains.

At the Shoprite outlet on Cairo Road, the price of a loaf of bread for instance has been reduced from K18.99 to K11.99. Other notable essentials that have been reduced drastically following the continuous appreciation of the Kwacha include mealie-meal, cooking oil and sugar among others.

“Welcome move; let other stores follow suit because as consumers we have been





really been exploited for too long with unnecessary price hikes,” says George Zimba, a Lusaka resident.

And RTSA has reduced bus fares effective September 8, on the backdrop of the downward adjustment of fuel prices.

RTSA Head of Public Relations Fredrick Mubanga said long distance bus fares have been reduced by two per cent while the fares for the Lusaka local and other towns routes including inter-mine-peri-urban on the Copperbelt, have been slashed by K1.

“The Lusaka peri-urban routes’ fares have also been reduced by one Kwacha while Copperbelt local and other towns have remained the same,” Mubanga stated.

ERB Board Vice-Chairman James Banda told the media recently that the reduction in pump prices was due to trends in the global petroleum prices and the exchange rate in the month of August.

“The Energy Regulation Board (ERB) has adjusted the pump prices of petroleum products downwards by K1.65/litre for petrol, K1.75/litre for diesel and K1.72/litre for Kerosene for the month of September,” Banda affirmed.

With the continued downward adjustment of the pump prices of petroleum products, various service providers are responding favourably to the public call that prices must fall without fail.

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**“We want everyone to benefit from this gaining of the kwacha and have competitive prices of basic essential commodities, so we call upon all distributors and manufacturing, especially our local manufacturers, to let them also pass on the benefit. I am sure in one way or another they are getting raw materials at affordable prices because the dollar has stabilised,” ZACA Executive Secretary Juba Sakala says.**

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## HIGHER FLOW

Bank of Zambia (BoZ) Governor Dr Denny Kalyalya has attributed the recent appreciation of the Kwacha to a higher inflow of foreign exchange from the mines alongside external demand for energy during the month of June.

According to the BoZ website, as at September 9, 2022, the Kwacha was buying at K15.49 and selling at K15.54, against the US dollar.

For this reason, the Zambia Consumer Association (ZACA) now challenges local distributors and manufacturers to reduce prices following the gains recorded in the Kwacha.

“We want everyone to benefit from this gaining of the kwacha and have competitive prices of basic essential commodities, so we call upon all distributors and manufacturing, especially our local manufacturers, to let them also pass on the benefit. I am sure in one way or another they are getting raw materials at affordable prices because the dollar has stabilised,” ZACA Executive Secretary Juba Sakala says.

Sakala says the association hopes that other businesses could also pass on the benefits of the stabilization of the currency to consumers.

## DECREASED

The Zambia Statistics Agency (ZamStats) recently announced that in line with the Consumer Price Index (CPI), the annual inflation for August 2022 decreased to 9.8 per cent from 9.9 per cent recorded in July 2022.

ZamStats Interim Statistician General Mulenga Musepa attributed the slowdown in annual inflation to price movements in food items.

“The index for the Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages main group increased by 11.3 per cent between August 2021 and August 2022. This was lower than 31.6 per cent in the same month of 2021 as well as the 12.0 per cent recorded in July 2022,” Musepa said.

For this reason, the Energy Regulation Board (ERB) has reduced the prices of petroleum products by K1.65/litre for petrol, K1.75/litre for diesel and K1.72/litre for Kerosene for the month of September.



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# Income tax collections exceed target

BY STUART LISULO

GOVERNMENT exceeded its income tax collection target in the period January–August, 2022 as the Zambia Revenue Authority (ZRA) collected a total of K35.3 billion against a target of K30.3 billion.



**A**ccording to a Treasury Brief on the 2022 national budget performance, income tax collection for the period under review amounted to K35.3 billion against a target of K30.3 billion, partly buoyed by mining and Pay As You Earn (PAYE) tax collections.

Mining tax amounted to K11.2 billion which was above the target of K8.8 billion, while PAYE collection amounted K12 billion against the target of K11.6 billion, representing a positive variance of K3.2 billion.

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**Other high performing collections included company tax, which amounted to K17.5 billion against a target of K12.7 billion, while non-mining tax collections amounted to K6.3 billion against the target of K4 billion.**

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“Income tax collection for the period January to August, 2022, amounted to K35.3 billion against the target of K30.3 billion and was above target by 16.7 per cent. The positive performance was mainly driven by high company tax collections on account of payments made by both mining and non-mining companies. The increased payments compliance under PAYE also contributed to the positive performance.”

Mining tax amounted to K11.2 billion and was above the target of K8.8 billion, which was attributed to higher declarations by major mining companies in the sector paying their final tax provisional payment for the year.

PAYE collection amounted to K12 billion against the target of K11.6 billion, representing a positive variance of 3.2 per cent. The good performance arose from increased payment compliance by Government and other institutions. “Collections under this tax type will be boosted by Governments’ recruitment of teachers and health workers, some of whom have already been added to the payroll.”

Other high performing collections included company tax, which amounted to K17.5 billion against a target of K12.7 billion, while non-mining tax collections amounted to K6.3 billion against the target of K4 billion.

And on debt servicing, interest payments amounted to K21.1 billion and were below target by 24.3 per cent due to the ongoing debt standstill on external debt.

Domestic interest amounted to K20.7 billion, while external interest stood at K 468.7 million.

Team Lubambe preparing to display their skills during the competition.



# Lubambe Copper Mine Rescue Team wins first African medal at USA international competition

**Congratulations to the Lubambe Mine Rescue Team for winning a silver medal in the team skills category at the International Mine Rescue Competition that took place in West Virginia, USA, from 10th to 17th September 2022.**

**“We** are extremely proud of our team. It is not easy competing in an international competition with some of the best teams in the world and getting such a result.”, Ikayi Mushingwe,

Lubambe Director – External Relations.

“The team did great! This is a remarkable achievement for a team that has only been in existence for 5 years and the win makes Zambia the first African country to win a medal at that Compe-

tition”, Daniel Chihili, Lubambe General Manager Support Services.

Rescue teams play a critical role world over by providing immediate response in emergency situations. They locate, rescue and recover miners that find themselves in dangerous and precarious situations.

At the Competition, the Lubambe team was able to showcase critical skills required - God forbid - in the event of an emergency. They were also able to learn from others and were exposed to state-of-the-art facilities, enhanced and sharpened their capabilities.





“The experience was very good, mind-opening and learning. There has been so much advancement in terms of assessment tools, equipment and techniques. The two days given for orientation to the team before the actual competition enabled them to familiarise themselves with the simulation environment and the equipment to be used in the competition. The exposure to renowned experts in the area of mine rescue gave the team further training. The team got to interact with the judges (trainers and simulation tests setters) before and after the competition, giving the team the much-needed confidence and appreciation. The fact that the team



Lubambe Copper Mine's rescue skills second place trophy.

competed among the best and managed to get an award is really encouraging for them and gives confidence to the company that we have an adequate prepared team of rescuers on-site”, Daniel Chihili, General Manager, Support Services.

In the mining sector, safety is not an option – it's a must, and at Lubambe Copper Mine Ltd, we take this seriously. Pantu Tulasakamana – Because we care.

“The exposure to world-class facilities with judges drawn from all over the world added a higher dimension to the standards that our rescue team has to subscribe to now. Their performance and achievements are a reflection of the company's visionary and supportive management as well as the commitment and focus of the mine rescue team mem-

bers”, Team Trainer, Jack Rowlands.

“Actually, we've done Zambia and the rest of Africa proud as the first country to win anything at that competition. I would like to thank Lubambe Management for allowing us to participate. It was a great experience to be among the high-class and most experienced teams in the world. We also learnt a lot in terms of equipment and technology. It

was awesome”, Frank Banda, Team Manager.

“It was an amazing experience for the team. Thank you to my team for working well together and good coordination. We are grateful to Lubambe management for all the support”, Kenny Sakayoyo, Team Captain.





Team Lubambe displaying their knowledge of how to handle crisis' on state of the art facilities.



Judges paying close attention to Team Lubambe's activity.

### About the Competition:

Twenty-two (22) teams participated in the international competition from the following countries: Canada, Zambia, Australia, India, USA, Columbia, Finland, and Poland.

The Zambian teams were from Lubambe Copper Mine Ltd, Mopani Copper

Mines, and Konkola Copper Mines.

The Lubambe Mine Rescue Team earned the qualification to compete after emerging as national winner in the 2021 National Rescue Competition.

The 22 teams were tested in six simulations at the state-of-the-art academy ranging from first aid, firefighting,

high-angle rope rescue, rescue team skills, theory examination and rescue team scenario.

Out of the seven prizes given out at the end of the competition, the USA won 3, Canada got 2, whilst Zambia and India each got one. The Lubambe team came out second, after the United States of America, who were first in the rescue team category.

The team skills category involved assessment in the rescue techniques and ventilation measurements/calculations, recovery and lifting of trapped persons/material under heavy loads using veta bags, gas and ventilation measurements.

Other activities included a relay done immediately after the rescue scenario simulation while wearing the BG4 sets, a time-based relay starting with the lifting of loads (two 25kgs), laying and folding of fire hoses, pushing of a piece of timber with a 14-pound hammer, and cutting a log as the last act. Lubambe emerged as the best team with the best time in the event, clocking 27 minutes.





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President Hakainde Hichilema examining different gemstones at the FQM stand.

# FQM innovates, takes first and third place at Lusaka show

First Quantum Minerals (FQM) exhibits took first and third place at the 94th Agricultural and Commercial Show in Lusaka.

BY MWIZA NZILA

**F**QM scooped first position as Best Exhibit in the Commercial Hall and third position under Best Environmental Awareness Exhibit.

FQM's subsidiary companies Kansanshi Mining PLC and FQM Trident Ltd convinced the judges with a display of mining operations, environmental management, and CSR initiatives supporting communities around Solwezi and Kalumbila districts.

During the presentation of the trophy and certificates to FQM Trident General Manager Junior Keyser, Public Relations Specialist Mirriam Harmon said the awards indicated FQM's commitment to unlocking Zambia's mining potential.

The awards also demonstrated FQM best practices in the management of the

environment of the host communities. Harmon thanked Management for enabling the showcasing of FQM's innovation through technology.

This year's Agricultural and Commercial Show was themed Innovation through Technology.



FQM Trident Public Relations Specialist Mirriam Harmon hands over trophy to FQM Trident General Manager Junior Keyser.





# FISP delays endangering food production – ZNFU

BY STUART LISULO

**THE Zambia National Farmers' Union (ZNFU) warns that delays in finalizing the procurement processes for the 2022 Farmer Input Support Programme (FISP) fertilizers could devastate crop productivity in the forthcoming farming season.**

**Z**NFU President Jervis Zimba has further appealed to President Hakainde Hichilema to appoint an inter-ministerial committee to iron out delays in fertilizer delivery which would prove disastrous given the imminent rainy season.

“In our view, the current FISP mess will require the intervention of the Head of

State, Mr Hakainde Hichilema, to instill hope and certainty in the minds of farmers as the twists and turns playing out in the public domain make it difficult to discern the facts.

“We say so because every day that passes is edging us closer to the farming season. There is no more time to waste. We appeal to President Hichilema to set up

an Inter-Ministerial Committee to handle the issue of the 2022 FISP fertilizer and seed availability, harness united efforts and coordinate timely delivery.”

Farmers were concerned with the reported delays in finalizing the procurement processes for the 2022 FISP fertilizers.

“Most small-scale farmers depend on FISP for farming inputs, hence this development is a blow and could spell doom on a sector that is still grappling with the climate change after effects following prolonged dry spells experienced last season,” Zimba cautioned.

As rains were just around the corner in some parts of the country, any further lack of clear direction on fertilizer availability would harm production and productivity.

“This will lead to diminishing income opportunities, food insecurity and stagnation in the poverty trap for most farmers. What is even more worrying is that even for locally produced seed, the uncertainty is the same as on fertilizer which is imported.”

He appealed to Government to speed up the process of procuring the 2022 FISP fertilizer and seed to avert avoidable crop failure.

“We would like to appeal to Government to step up and realize that the consequences will be catastrophic for



**“This will lead to diminishing income opportunities, food insecurity and stagnation in the poverty trap for most farmers. What is even more worrying is that even for locally produced seed, the uncertainty is the same as on fertilizer which is imported.”**

farmers. It is imperative to ensure that farmers have access to seed and fertilizer timely because what is unfolding will result in these inputs being distributed during the rainy season. Of what use will that be?”

Zimba lamented that farmers could have avoided being in this predicament had an earlier-agreed road map on procuring fertilizer been implemented.

“This state-of-affairs could have been avoided if the roadmap agreed in April was adhered to because back then, the recommendation by the private sector was that the processes be concluded by June, 2022. We cannot understand the ongoing inertia and farmers are asking! What is the alternative? We urge the Minister of Agriculture to address the farmers on the fertilizer procurement developments.”

Government plans to phase out FISP by the end of December, this year, and replace it with an electronic agro-input system; the Comprehensive Agriculture Support Programme (CASP) beginning in the 2023/2024 farming season.

This was one of the structural benchmarks for Zambia to access the International Monetary Fund US \$1.3 billion Extended Credit Facility (ECF).

Government has set aside around K9.1 billion towards FISP next year, almost doubling this year’s K5.3 billion in the 2022 national budget.





# 'Invest in research to develop agro sector'

BY STUART LISULO

DEVELOPMENT specialist Dr Frank Kayula has called on Government to prioritize agricultural research and development as a critical area that deserves budgetary allocation to help achieve targeted outcomes.

In an interview in Lusaka, Dr Kayula, who is Executive Director of the National Association for Smallholder Farmers (NASFA), lamented that budgetary allocations for research and development remained non-existent, yet Zambia's agriculture sector still has enormous challenges that needed evidence-based solutions to unlock economic development.

Zambia's agriculture sector had omitted a strong research-centred approach on addressing the existing gaps within the various value-chains of crop production.

Ministry of Finance (MoF) data reveals that investment in extension services to support in the livestock sector has been negligible in recent years.

The budgetary allocation to develop this critical area has been non-existent, yet various outbreaks of swine fever, among other livestock diseases, demonstrates the need to allocate more public funding to invest in extension services, training and research to tackle the problem and provide solutions.

Notably, the 2023 national budget is the first budget that has an allocation of K790 million set aside for extension ser-

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## **The EU-backed inception workshop was organized to formulate research project questions on legume-based agro-ecological intensification of maize and cassava cropping systems in sub-Saharan Africa.**

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vices in the next fiscal year.

On the crop production side, budgetary resource allocation towards the Farmer Input Support Programme (FISP) has grown exponentially over the years, with heavy expenditure on maize production.

Dr Kayula observed that the 2023 budget shows that Government has set aside around K9.1 billion towards FISP, almost doubling this year's K5.3 billion.

"Look at how we have been grappling to improve the agriculture sector since Independence? Fifty-eight years have

passed and we are still hovering around the same thing: smallholder farmers have remained smallholder farmers. FISP and FRA have gotten disproportionately higher than research, which we are talking about now," said Dr Kayula on the side lines of an EU-funded legumes inception workshop in Lusaka recently.

"This (research initiative) did not need money from the European community for this university from Ireland (Galway University) to come all the way to Zambia to do this. We are in a relationship with UNZA to do this; why don't we put a research fund, put more money there? Then, as we give UNZA, they'll do some of these things..."

The EU-backed inception workshop was organized to formulate research project questions on legume-based agro-ecological intensification of maize and cassava cropping systems in sub-Saharan Africa.

The LEG4DEV research project, its abbreviation, aims to promote upscaling of smallholder maize and cassava cropping systems that are legume-based.

Local collaborating partners included research institutions, farmers and private sector seed companies.



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FQM Group Safety Manager Ken Nicol

# FQM Trident challenges workforce to THINK

BY SOLWEZI TODAY WRITER

FQM Trident Limited has launched a programme called My Reason to THINK (MRTT) to promote personal safety consciousness in the workplace and away from work.



Mine Safety Edutainment

**D**uring the launch, FQM Group Safety Manager Ken Nicol said the mining giant's safety record in all its operations in Zambia has continued to improve as FQM desired to achieve zero-fatalities.

"Our safety record over the last six years has continued to improve and our aim is zero-fatalities. The 'My Reason to THINK Campaign' is meant to enhance the safety of our employees both on and offsite. As FQM we believe that we all have a role to play in safety and we should all be accountable not only for our own safety but also the safety of our colleagues at work."

Nicol said the campaign gave workers a personal reason to be safe at work, to look after themselves and their colleagues, so that everyone could enjoy the things in life that they had worked for.

**Keyser said the Think Safety campaign had made significant inroads into the operations of FQM workplaces by empowering the workforce with knowledge to take responsibility of their surroundings all the time.**

FQM Trident General Manager Junior Keyser said it should not take procedures and rules for one to do the right thing at the work place. FQM wanted to see its workers become part of the success story in Zambia, which could only

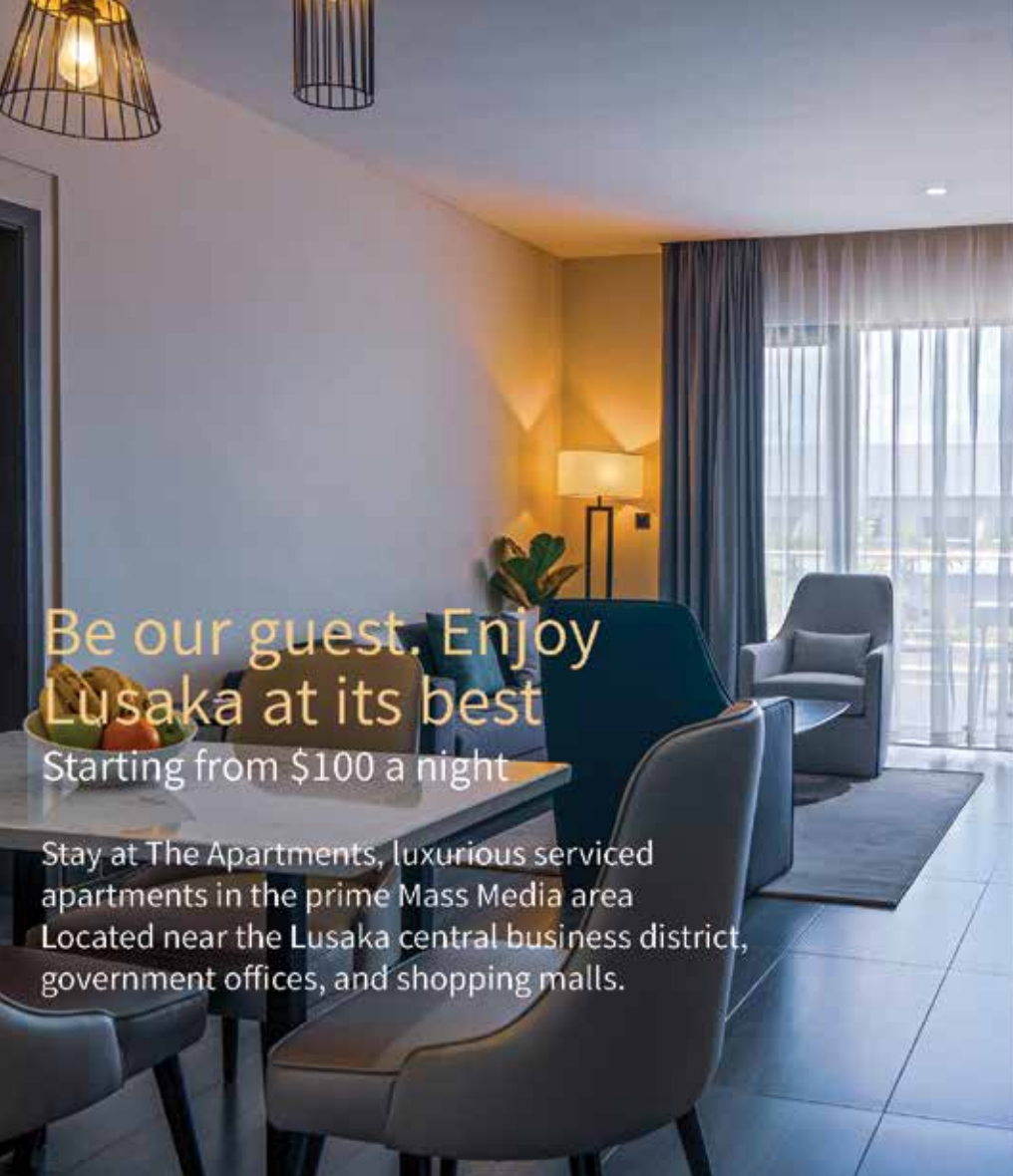
be achieved by adhering to safety standards both on and offsite.

"Safety must come naturally to people and should not only be observed at places of work. Sometimes it is difficult to overcome our cultural norms around our society but with safety, it is important that it is done at all times. It must be in our hearts and in our minds," he said.

Keyser said the Think Safety campaign had made significant inroads into the operations of FQM workplaces by empowering the workforce with knowledge to take responsibility of their surroundings all the time.

On August 12, Kansanshi Mining Plc launched My Reason To THINK at the Copper House as a reliable safety programme which would spur employees and contractors alike on the Kansanshi site to individually work safely.





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# US\$50m financing targets Zambian enterprises

BY JOHN CHOLA

A US\$50 million facility signed between Zambia National Commercial Bank (Zanaco) Plc and British International Investment (BII), formerly CDC, will benefit micro, small and medium-scale enterprises (MSMEs) across sectors.



Minister of Finance and National Planning Situmbeko Musokotwane (top left), British Minister of State for Development Vicky Ford (top right), Zanaco Chief Executive Officer Mukwandi Chibesakunda (bottom left) and BII Chief Executive Officer.

**T**he financing facility was signed by Zanaco Chief Executive Officer Mukwandi Chibesakunda and BII Chief Executive Officer Nick O'Donohoe, and witnessed by Zambia's Minister of Finance Dr Situmbeko Musokotwane and British Minister of State for Development Vicky Ford.

Zanaco has described the ceremony, held on the side-lines of the just-ended World Bank-International Monetary Fund (IMF) Annual General Meetings in Washington DC, as a key milestone in unlocking the potential of MSMEs and accelerating efforts to develop a private-sector led economy.

The disbursement of funds will start before the end of this year.

Speaking during the ceremony, Dr Mu-

**Ford said Zambia had made remarkable achievements in the recent past as witnessed by the economic stabilization and the green economy being undertaken.**

sokotwane said Zambia was witnessing a transition that had attracted new investments.

"The development coincides perfectly with what Government desires to see in as far as development is concerned. Our priority now as we get out of debt stress

is to push in as much investment as possible so that we can create jobs and opportunities for young people."

Dr Musokotwane said Zambia, like many other African countries, had a young population and this had put pressure on the country to ensure that jobs were created and livelihoods improved.

"We have a good history with the former CDC and some of its investments still remain the jewels in the Zambian economy. I want to urge you to do more. The climate is being improved and this is the time to invest," he said.

Ford said Zambia had made remarkable achievements in the recent past as witnessed by the economic stabilization and the green economy being undertaken.

"The Zambian Government has been renegotiating its debt and also planning for the future. This facility is about the future because it is unlocking the potential of MSMEs who are the back-bone of the economy," Ford said.

Chibesakunda said the facility would form a foundation for the growth of MSMEs in Zambia.

"This is a privilege for Zanaco to be the first institution to sign such a facility with the BII, and we believe this will set the right conditions for the growth of the Zambian economy. Economies grow when MSMEs grow as they create employment. This facility will focus on women-led MSMEs and MSMEs with a climate agenda because that is where the future lies," she said.

And O'Donohoe said the organization remained committed to supporting Zambia's growth trajectory as evidenced by the facility with Zanaco.

"We committed to President Hakainde Hichilema when he told us that 'now was the time' to invest in Zambia when we met at the COP26 in Glasgow last year," O'Donohoe said.

The BII was formed as the Colonial Development Corporation (CDC) by the Overseas Resources Development Act 1948. The CDC was in later years renamed the Commonwealth Development Corporation.





# Zanaco operating income hits K1.9bn

BY STUART LISULO

ZANACO Plc has reported higher operating income of K1.9 billion in the six-month period ending June 30, 2022.

In its unaudited financial results for the half-year period ending June 30, 2022, the group announced that operating income had soared to nearly K2 billion on the back of increased income from investment securities, which rose by 28 per cent.

Zanaco Company Secretary Kaluba G. Kaulung'ombe-Inampasa stated in results released recently that the group recorded profit after tax of K345 million this half-year period compared to around K392.8 million in the corresponding period last year.

"The Group has continued on a strong financial trajectory with a 11 per cent increase in total operating income from K1,752 million recorded in the prior year to K1,953 million. This performance has been fuelled by the growth in investment securities income from K741 million to K950 million, representing a 28 per cent increase year-on-year, coupled with the positive growth in fees and

**Zanaco Company Secretary Kaluba G. Kaulung'ombe-Inampasa stated in results released recently that the group recorded profit after tax of K345 million this half-year period compared to around K392.8 million in the corresponding period last year.**

commission income of 21 per cent (K57 million) year-on-year."

The performance in the year had been anchored on a resilient balance sheet with a year-on-year growth in total assets of 13 per cent (K3,229 million). The growth was significantly driven by the increase in investment securities, which grew by 53 per cent from K6,952 million

in the prior year to K10,608 million as at close of June, 2022.

And the group also recorded increased customer deposits of nearly K23 billion during the period under review.

"Customer deposits recorded a 28 per cent growth from K17,901 million to K22,935 million supporting the Group's strategic intent of maintaining strong funding and liquidity base for strategic growth and to meet regulatory requirements at all times," stated Zanaco.

The institution said it was adequately capitalized and retained a strong capital ratio of 17.1 per cent as at June 30, 2022, after a dividend pay-out of K364 million.

According to the group's condensed consolidated statement of financial position, investments in Government securities accumulated to K10.6 billion as at end-June, 2022, up from K6.9 billion in the corresponding period last year.



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# Less debt spending, lower mineral royalty tax

BY STUART LISULO

**GOVERNMENT** has reduced its budgetary allocation towards debt repayments and similarly lowered mineral royalty tax (MRT) in the 2023 fiscal year.

**T**he debt reduction allocation is down to K48.7 billion, from K78.6 billion that was allocated in the 2022 budget. The mineral royalty tax adjustment entails that price ranges across all tonnages have been adjusted, with the corresponding applicable tax rates marginally reduced, and the lowest marginal rate slashed to 4.0 per cent from 5.5 per cent.

The Zambia Chamber of Mines has welcomed Government's changes to the mineral royalty tax (MRT) regime as progressive measures that will stimulate more growth in the mining sector.

In August, 2022, Zambia secured an International Monetary Fund (IMF) Extended Credit Facility (ECF) of US \$1.3 billion after the Fund was convinced that the Zambian Government would address the country's mounting sovereign debt and return it towards a path of sustainability.

Government is engaging all creditors to conclude a debt restructuring process that will lead to debt sustainability.

This would free up more of the country's financial resources and enable the reallocation of funds towards other critical areas such as health care and education.

Announcing the 2023 national budget in Parliament recently, Finance Minister Dr Situmbeko Musokotwane said that the budgetary allocation towards total debt repayments (domestic and external) had significantly reduced to K48.7 billion next year compared to K78.6 billion this year.

"...Given the extent of the debt problem, its resolution required engagement with the creditors to restructure the debt so that it becomes affordable to service," Dr. Musokotwane said.

Expenditure on total debt repayments in 2023 would only account for an estimated 29.1 per cent of the total available K167.3 billion budget, a significant improvement from 45 per cent allocated in this year's K173 billion budget.

This effectively means that Government's IMF-backed economic programme will make available additional resources for expenditure on other critical economic sectors.

For instance, next year's national budget introduces new key initiatives that are being funded for the first time in the country's history.

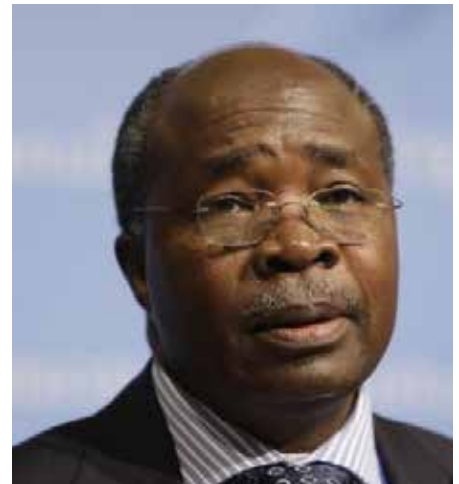
In the agriculture sector, there is a budgetary provision of K789.5 million for extension services to advance training, skills development and services in the livestock subsector, among others.

An unprecedented K426.6 million has been set aside exclusively for irrigation and farm block development, while the budgetary allocation for SMEs has increased to K397.4 million from the K350 million allocated this year.

Government's health care allocation has jumped to K17.4 billion next year compared to K13.9 billion this year, while education will see funding jump to K23.2 billion from the K18.1 billion allocated in this year's budget.

And the Chamber hailed Government's proposed changes to the MRT regime, as an "encouraging move" towards the re-establishment of Zambia as a key mining investment destination.

According to the Minister's 2023 budget speech, Government intends to restructure the MRT regime with respect to copper in that the tax will now apply on the incremental value in each adjusted price band as opposed to the aggregate



Dr Situmbeko Musokotwane

value when the price crosses the respective price threshold.

For example, in the current MRT regime, copper sold at a price range of less than US \$4,500 per tonne was taxed at a rate of 5.5 per cent.

But in the proposed changes expected to take effect from January 1, 2023, the price ranges across all tonnages have been adjusted, with the corresponding applicable tax rates marginally reduced, with the lowest marginal rate slashed to 4.0 per cent from 5.5 per cent.

"The budget announcement shows that Government clearly understands what investors need to commit to Zambia. Taken together, the budget measures are likely to be viewed as an encouraging move, although we will know more once the details have been fully analysed and the attendant legislation is finally passed", said Chamber CEO, Sokwani Chilemba, in a press release.

"We have long identified the royalties' regime as a stumbling block for investment into Zambia. Not only are our rates higher than any of our competitors, but the regime operated in a way that deterred miners from producing at higher prices, which was ultimately harmful for everyone. We are pleased to see Government follow through on its promise to reform some of these impediments to growth.

However, Government is expected to lose around K2.8 billion in revenue losses from the proposed changes to the MRT regime should lawmakers approve next year's budget.

# FQM cruising with global switch to electric vehicles

BY DERRICK SILIMINA

**Zambia is well-positioned to become a strategic producer of nickel needed by global markets, especially in the emergent electric vehicles era.**

**D**esigned to produce about 30,000 tonnes of nickel per year, FQM's Enterprise project will position Zambia as a top 10 producer of nickel in the world, and the foremost producer of the metal on the African continent.

First Quantum Minerals (FQM) Chief Executive Officer Tristan Pascal has observed that there is a direct link between mining of critical energy metals and a better future for the globe, and also a better future for Zambia.

"We understand that the further development of Zambia's potential to supply critical energy metals such as nickel and copper must be achieved in the most responsible manner. This is the requirement of mining in the 21st century; that projects are delivered in an environmentally responsible manner and through long lasting partnerships. This Enterprise project is part of our response to that call," Pascal said recently during the ground-breaking ceremony of the mining giant's Enterprise Nickel Project in Kalumbila District.

It is therefore envisaged that the Enterprise nickel mine will cement Zambia's role as a key producer of the metals of the future and stimulate further investment in the mining sector.

"At First Quantum we are proud of the contribution mining provides to development of people, production of critical energy metals and through participation in our communities. We look forward to building sustainable relationships that will enhance a positive investment profile and unlock the potential that lies within these borders for the benefit of the Zambian people," Pascal said.

Africa currently produces neither electric vehicles nor batteries. South Africa, a country that boasts assembly plants

for Japanese, US, Chinese and European automakers, is the only country in the region under consideration for investment in electric car assembly plants.

According to the International Energy Agency (IEA), electric car sales powered through 2021 and have remained strong so far in 2022.

But ensuring future growth will demand greater efforts to diversify battery manufacturing and critical mineral supplies to reduce the risks of bottlenecks and price rises.

As the demand for electric vehicles continues to accelerate, automobile experts say each of these new plug-in hybrid electric vehicles has a battery which currently requires an average of 40 kilograms of nickel per vehicle.

## SALES FORECAST

The IEA has further projected that as global consumers are warming up to EVs whose sales forecast is expected to jump to over 23 million units in 2030, up from an estimated 1.2 million units in 2017. Naturally, a similar growth is anticipated for rechargeable batteries, with the cathode market – the positive electrode of the lithium-ion battery – forecast to reach \$58 billion in 2024, up from an estimated \$7 billion in 2018.

Zambia and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) have since inked an MoU which will usher the two nations into significant production and refining of cobalt for electric vehicle batteries to establish a value chain in electric battery production and clean energy.

"Our focus is job creation for the people of our two countries through economic diversification, job and wealth creation for the economic and social transformation of our citizens," said President

Hakainde Hichilema when he officiated at the signing ceremony of the Zambia – DRC Battery Council cooperation agreement in Lusaka with his DRC counterpart President Felix Tshisekedi.

## RENEWABLE

FQM believes that 100 per cent of the electricity for Enterprise, and also that for Kansanshi and Sentinel, can be provided by renewable sources.

"This is why, through our third party partners including ZESCO, we plan to help deliver 430 MW of wind and solar power generation projects in Zambia over the next few years. Across First Quantum, and including the Enterprise mine, we shall continue to meet the high environmental, sustainability, and governance standards that support the mining industry, as these remain key deliverables for us," Pascal noted.

In line with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal Seven (SDG7), which aims to ensure "access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all," energy experts believe that diversifying and expanding the country's energy mix enables the creation of jobs and the development of small and medium enterprises both locally and in the region.

Ministry of Energy Principle Energy Officer Brian Mainza has emphasised that sustainable energy is essential, especially looking at the SDG7 goal where by 2030 everyone should have universal access to clean and affordable energy.

"We need to harness all the energy sources that we have, especially renewable energy sources because energy is the driver of economic activity in the country, whether industrial or agriculture among others."



Kansanshi Mining Plc Commercial Manager Murray McDonald handing over a certificate to one of the graduates during certificate award ceremony.



# 450 entrepreneurs gain business skills

BY DERRICK SILIMINA

**First Quantum Minerals (FQM) has trained 450 micro, small and medium entrepreneurs with business skills in Solwezi District of North-Western Province.**

**S**ince 2010, Kansanshi Mining Plc, a subsidiary of FQM in conjunction with Fortune World Investment Limited (FWIL), has trained 3,500 entrepreneurs with business skills and practices.

FQM has spent more than US\$100,000 per year in support of business training workshops and related field and mentorship visits that went with the programme.

Speaking when he officiated at the business development graduation gala of the MSMEs held at Solwezi's Aaso lodge on Thursday, Kansanshi Mining Plc Commercial Manager Murray McDonald said the business development programme was very important to Kansanshi for the social development of Solwezi and the province as a whole.

"As Kansanshi, we recognize that we cannot benefit everybody directly as copper does not regenerate since it is a declining resource. As a company we employ just over 7000 employees and approximately 1,700 registered companies in our books.

"Hence there is no way near to be able to benefit everybody in the district individually, but we are committed to doing our CSR projects, and in particular the one we are celebrating today," McDonald said.

"We would like to thank our business partners in this venture, the Fortune World and the North-West Chamber for the good work they continue to do in delivering this training to you and the small business community," he said.

McDonald paid tribute to FWIL for being flexible and adaptable in their efforts to deliver the business workshops as they have delivered in both English and kiKaonde such that the workshops have evolved from the classrooms to radio-waves, Facebook, and YouTube in the face of Covid-19 outbreak.

Speaking at the same event FWIL Chairman Andrew Kafuta disclosed that the training programme was designed to achieve a number of objectives, which included: imparting knowledge and skills for enterprise development, facilitating employment creation, enhancing

business sustainability beyond the life of the sponsoring mine, and beyond the lives of the business founders, and facilitate business formalization.

The North-Western Chamber of Commerce and Industry (NWCCI) was delighted to be associated with business development workshops which award certificate of attendance ceremony for micro, small and medium enterprises.

"As the North-Western Chamber Of Commerce and Industry—we are very grateful to Kansanshi Mining Plc for working with us to capacity build entrepreneurs who are in the micro, small and medium enterprise category.

"We are proud to be part of the initiators of the training programme which started in June 2010 when we identified the need to groom micro enterprises with business skills and practices through training programmes being sponsored by KMP through its CSR programme, as a way of raising formal businesses that would graduate into bigger and viable business entities in the future," Chamber President Mukumbi Kafuta said.

Kafuta who is also FWIL Managing Director stated that his firm had keen interest in the development of businesses through knowledge impartation via training, not only because knowledge is power, but also because the small businesses contribute a larger share of the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

"We would like to urge other corporate institutions to emulate Kansanshi Mining Plc and join hands by building on the skills acquired. This can be done by setting up revolving funds to provide business loans or grants, input support programmes for farmers and specialized skills development programmes in agriculture, carpentry, metal fabrication and others to enhance capacities among micro entrepreneurs," he said.

In a vote of thanks, one of the graduates, Alice Katambo expressed joy for graduating with a certificate and said the added knowledge would reinforce her skills to grow her business.

"The knowledge that I was given, I had to start my own business and that is a school; thanks to KMP and FWIL for improving people's livelihoods in Solwezi District," said Katambo, a teacher by profession.



FQM Trident Lead for Wildlife and Forestry, Doc. David Squarre leads a team of wildlife officers in the capture and release of animals from FQM Trident Mine sanctuary



# FQM Trident Donates Animals To West Lunga

BY SOLWEZI TODAY REPORTER

**FQM Trident Ltd is restocking animals at West Lunga National Park in North-Western Province at the request of the Department of National Parks and Wildlife.**

**T**he company has through its Wildlife Management Team of Trident Foundation Ltd (TFL) conducted a capture and restocking operation for the Park.

Through TFL and following the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in 2014 with Department of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPW), FQM is a private management partner of the

Department of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPW) in Zambia.

The MoU was for the protection and rehabilitation of the West Lunga Management Area whose animal population had been depleted due to massive poaching.

Speaking during the release of the first consignment of the animals into the

West Lunga National Park, FQM Trident Programme Lead for Wildlife and Forestry Management Dr David Squarre said the initiative by the mining firm to promote wildlife conservation was a unique one.

“The idea is to form within this area a wildlife economy and a community that is aware of the importance of conserving wildlife. We are actually demonstrating





Wildlife Officers taking an Impala for loading after capture.

that apart from the mining activities, the mining company can support wildlife conservation by bringing together two opposite extreme players. This is a clear demonstration and I think it is the first of its kind where we are actually bringing in two players, that is the mining and wildlife conservation,” Dr Squarre said.

He said supporting wildlife conservation would help local communities optimize the social and economic benefits realized from the mining and ecosystem services from wildlife.

“The decision was actually to bring in

**The MoU was for the protection and rehabilitation of the West Lunga Management Area whose animal population had been depleted due to massive poaching.**

animals here so that we can restock the national park as a request from the Department of National Parks and Wildlife. What FQM would like to see in future is that this national park becomes sustainable and supported by the community to demonstrate as an example of what public private partnership would bring,” he said.

Dr Squarre said FQM Trident had incorporated the West Lunga National Park as part of its corporate social responsibility and was providing technical support to the law enforcement officers such as provision of equipment, uniforms, food





Captured animals being released in the West Lunga National Park.

rations and fuel among others.

FQM Trident has donated 40 impala to the DNPW which were released into the West Lunga National Park in North-Western Province. The team also restocked the Ntambu Community Game Ranch with three male eland and six sable antelopes.

The animals were captured from the Trident Wildlife Sanctuary which is adjacent to the Mine, harbouring 13 animal species that were introduced for breeding purposes.

Dr Squarre said the mine, working to-

gether with DNPW had established adequate security around the 11,000 square metre-plus national park so that the an-

**The animals were captured from the Trident Wildlife Sanctuary which is adjacent to the Mine, harbouring 13 animal species that were introduced for breeding purposes.**

imals could multiply as part of the restoration programme for the West Lunga National Park to restore its ecological function.

And DNPW representative, Michael Phiri who is a wildlife police officer stationed at Jivundu Wildlife Camp, thanked FQM Trident for its support in terms of law enforcement at one of the biggest national parks in the country.

"The national park was depleted and we are very grateful to the mine for conceiving the idea of bringing in animals for restocking," Phiri said.



# Health standards up with k800,000 renovations

BY KAUSA MBASELA

First Quantum Minerals (FQM) has handed to Government the Kainamfumu Clinic, Muzabula Clinic and the District Health Office in Solwezi which it revamped at the cost of K887,000.

**T**he facilities will provide a wide range of clinical services including ante-natal, maternity, post-natal, under five clinic and outreach services.

The hand over to Government was conducted by Kansanshi Mining PLC Senior Corporate Social Responsibility Supervisor Victor Nsama and witnessed by Solwezi Mayor Remmy Kalepa, Dr Bright Siamuyanga representing District Health Director Dr Chipili Lengwe, and North-Western Province Clinical Care Specialist Dr Jonathan Nchengamwa.

Nsama explained that FQM had undertaken a range of community programmes through a venture called Butuntulu Bwa Nyaunda, which in kiKande means Community Wellness.

“The programme targets infrastructure, provision of quality equipment and outreach health services to respond to the challenges that have been posed by HIV, malaria and various non-communicable diseases. We have spent a total of K887, 000 on three sites.”

Nsama urged the community to adopt healthy lifestyle habits to prevent illnesses, and further appealed for the safekeeping of the infrastructure.

Dr Siamuyanga lauded Kansanshi Mining PLC for complementing Government efforts in taking health care close to the people.

“Kainamfumu has a population of around 2,400 people. While health care service delivery was previously difficult, I am glad that Kansanshi Mining PLC has brought these services closer to the people in line with President Hakainde Hichilema’s policy direction regarding

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**“I would like to thank First Quantum Minerals for this marvelous work. Besides Kainamfumu Clinic, FQM has also renovated Muzabula Clinic and completed the Solwezi District Health Office at a cost of K887, 000. This is part of the health system strengthening initiative by FQM called Butuntulu Bwa Nyaunda aimed at improving the quality of health services in the community.”**

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these services,” said Dr Siamuyunga.

Dr Nchengamwa was delighted that the communities were involved in the entire process.

“It is gratifying to see that the community was involved from inception to getting to where we are here now. They are keenly interested to see even more developments. And because of that kind of environment, we are seeing that a partner like FQM has come to support the Government of the day to help to improve the livelihood of these communities.”

Dr Nchengamwa called on Solwezi Mayor Kalepa who was Guest of Honour to convey gratitude to the President for the policy direction that every health centre must have a delivery wing, running water and operate on a 24-hour basis.



The Mayor of Solwezi Mr Remmy Kalepa (Middle) North Western Provincial Health Clinical Services Specialist Dr Jonathan Nchengamwa (R) and Kansanshi Senior CSR Supervisor Mr Victor Nsana (L) during the hand over.

Mayor Kalepa thanked the mining company for the gesture which was pertinent in ensuring quality healthy service delivery.

“As Solwezi Municipal Council and Solwezi District Health Office, we are very delighted to receive the renovated facilities on behalf of the people of Solwezi and in particular those from Kainamfumu, and Muzabula community.

“I would like to thank First Quantum Minerals for this marvelous work. Besides Kainamfumu Clinic, FQM has also renovated Muzabula Clinic and completed the Solwezi District Health Office at a cost of K887, 000. This is part of the health system strengthening initiative by FQM called Butuntulu Bwa Nyaunda aimed at improving the quality of health services in the community.”

Kifubwa Ward Councillor Alice Lubasi saluted FQM for its continued support, stressing that without a healthy community and workforce, production levels would drop.

Lubasi further called on the community members to safeguard the improved infrastructure as that would guarantee continued access to health services.

She recalled that people walked at least five kilometres to access health service, which was dangerous especially for pregnant mothers and children.

# Dry Weighbridge Clinic Gets Borehole

BY DERRICK SILIMINA

A public health centre in Solwezi that has been without water for 10 years is now assured of a constant supply following the handing over of a borehole by the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Management at Kansanshi Mining Plc.



Solwezi District Commissioner Tikki Mulofwa (R) with Kansanshi Mining Plc Manager for Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), Bruce Lewis hands-over the water reticulation facility funded by Kansanshi mining Plc

**T**he clinic, located at Solwezi's weighbridge area, now has a borehole equipped with an electricity operated submersive pump, a 5000 litre PVC water tank, a tank stand, a filter and security fence to service 18,000 persons in its catchment area.

Officiating at the hand-over ceremony on Wednesday, Solwezi District Commissioner Tikki Mulofwa said the water reticulation facility funded by Kansanshi Mining Plc resonated well with the UN Sustainable Development Goal number six aimed at allowing all people access to clean water.

"The mining company wants to ensure that not only its employees and their families benefit from the positive economic impact of mining, but communities around the mines too by improving their quality of life," Mulofwa said.

The newly handed over water reticulation facility.



Mulofwa hailed the mining giant as a true stakeholder supplementing what the Government is doing to improve the lives of the community.

In the 18 years of the mine's operations in the area, it has trained more than 40,000 households in conservation farming, directly supporting farmers

with inputs, trained 18,300 households in green charcoal making and trained 430 teachers in quality education delivery while promoting early childhood education among others.

"The strides made by Kansanshi Mine are a clear testimony of the good relationship the mine has with Government," Mulofwa said.

Speaking at the same event, Kansanshi Mining Plc Manager for Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Bruce Lewis was delighted to hand-over the water facility that would elevate the quality of life in the community.

"We believe it's going to make a huge difference to people around here as it has been really difficult to run a clinic with buckets of water or even no water. I am quite convinced that this is going to make a very real difference to the lives of staff and patients here," Lewis said.

The Solwezi district health management team has since commended the mining giant for coming to their aid as the weighbridge clinic had long experienced water challenges.

Solwezi District Health Director Lengwe Chipili observed that the water challenges even affected operations of the new maternity ward.

"Through the community and the support of FQM, we are now witnessing this handover ceremony of the facility that will go a long way to supply our clinic with safe water. This facility is going to help improve the quality of work we provide because water is life and wherever there is water, there is proper hygiene," Dr Lengwe said.

Kimale area Ward Councillor Adrian Nkolomba praised Kansanshi Mine, a subsidiary of FQM, for having ploughed back into the community that was in dire need of water reticulation for years.

Nkolomba urged residents and operators of the facility to take good care of it in light of the financial cost.





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Mr David Phiri Head HR \_ Corporate Affairs Manager Grizzly Mining hands over some of the assorted sports equipment to the Lufwanyama District DEBS Mrs Patricia Mwamba.



# Schoolchildren receive K500,000 sports items

BY KAUSA MBASELA

**Grizzly Mining Ltd has donated assorted sports items worth K500,000 to Grizzly Community Primary School in Lufwanyama District on the Copperbelt.**

**T**he school has 520 pupils, 300 of whom are girls and 220 boys. Of those, 90 are early graders, 50 of whom are girls while 40 are boys. The school has 18 teachers and seven double stream classrooms.

Speaking at the event on Thursday September 22, 2022, Company Head Human Resources and Corporate Affairs Manager Davy Phiri said the Grizzly Mining recognized the important role sports plays in enhancing the welfare of com-

munities.

“Today we are handing over assorted sports items to our community school. They are valued at ZMW500,000. This is in recognition of the role that sports





plays in the development of a child and can be used as effective tool to further develop not only communities but the country at large,” he said.

The donation would help keep the pupils busy both in class and on the field of play, away from vices like drugs and alcohol, teenage pregnancies and early marriages. Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programmes were a critical part of the company’s objectives.

“I would like to mention that we are constructing the Lumpuma Secondary



Pupil George Mwape delivering a vote of thanks during the hand over ceremony of assorted sports equipment by Grizzly Mining to the Grizzly Mine Community School.

School that will be handed over in the next few months’ time. We hope the school will not only benefit the people of Lumpuma chieftdom but help prepare a future human resource base for our great nation,” he said.

Phiri extolled President Hakainde Hichilema and his administration for the recruitment of more than 30,000 teachers which would ensure qualitative learning among children as a result of increased presence of trained teaching staff.

And receiving the donation on behalf of Grizzly Mine Community School, Deputy Head teacher Reuben Mubika thanked the company for the gesture as it would encourage children to participate in sporting activities while staying away from illegal small-scale mining and other vices.

Mubika recalceld since inception of the school in 2002, Grizzly Mining has been an all-weather partner that helped with many financial and material support programmes including the first-ever graduation ceremony last year.

And speaking on behalf of the District Education Board Secretary (DEBS), Education Standards Officer (ESO) Special Education Patricia Mwaba thanked Grizzly Mine for its continued support to the education sector.

She noted that the company’s help extended to other schools including Lumpuma Primary School where it has constructed a four-classroom block.

Chief Lumpuma’s representative, Lucas Nsofwa said the traditional leadership was pleased that Grizzly Mining was not in the area only to make profits, but improve the lives of the people in the area.

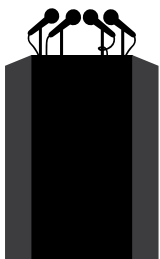
Parents Teachers Association (PTA) Chairperson Joseph Kabwe was elated that Grizzly Mining saw it fit to make a hefty donation to help children improve their sports skills.

In his vote of thanks, pupil George Mwape praised Grizzly Mining for placing a high priority on the plight of the children.

“On behalf of my school, I would like to express gratitude to Grizzly Mining for the various sports items they have donated to us. This (donation) will improve sports activities in our school, district as well as the nation. Your gesture will not only help our school but the Government through promotion of co-curriculum activities in schools. Your company is the only one in the area that is rendering such support to schools like ours. It is for that reason that we would like to thank and urge you to continue doing the same.”

Grizzly Mining Limited is engaged in the processing, grading, marketing and supply of emeralds.

The company is located in Zambia on the Copperbelt Province and in Lufwanyama District, and was formed as part of the Grizzly Group of Companies, which was incorporated in 1997.



## HICKS SIKAZWE ON THE PLATFORM



# Africa must invest in agriculture, stop food imports

One of the aspects brought out about by the Russian invasion of neighbouring Ukraine, is that Africa is among the world regions affected by the fighting.

How? One many ask.

**T**he Ukraine is one of the world's producers of grain. Until the war erupted many of us did not know that many places in Africa depend on wheat and other cereals from that far, maybe an unlikely region. In fact according to the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) at least 40 per cent global wheat consumption comes from Russia and Ukraine. Africa is a prominent beneficiary.



As a tool of war, Russia has blocked ports that allow cereal exports to Africa and the rest of the world. This, the former USSR knows, will affect The Ukraine economically and maybe the former Kremlin state will surrender.

But the main point of discussion here is not the merits and demerits of the fighting between the two countries, but rather that after so many years of Independence, Africa with an immensity of resources can continue to depend on wheat and other cereals from The Ukraine and even Russia.

In fact according the United Nations, if the war continues or Russia does not lift the grain blockade, Africa is one of the places affected and hunger and anguish may follow.

Since the announcement that even Africa depends on a lot of grain from The Ukraine not a single head of state from the continent has challenged the statement. How sad this kind of truth can be.

Otherwise African leaders and their people should be embarrassed that in this time and age the continent should spend foreign exchange and other resources to bring wheat and other cereals from as far as The Ukraine and Russia instead of the continent producing its own.

### NOT INVESTED

The revelation simply means that Africa has not invested in agriculture as the continent ought to have done. Many countries in the world may have difficulties, but the majority are self-reliant in



food production and supply. They grow enough for local consumption and export.

For example, here in Zambia, we import rice from Thailand and Vietnam—countries with no land for agriculture to talk about when compared to this country. While we import Thai or Vietcong rice, very little has been done to develop the country's demonstrated rice-growing capacities in Mongu, Mpulungu, Chama, Nakonde, the Copperbelt Province and other areas.

In fact at one point there was no market where to sell rice from Mongu, qualitative as the cereal is. Farmers from there were stuck with tonnes of the commodity that they were compelled to sell it cheaply to any one who cared. The problem of lack of market for Mongu rice dates back to the UNIP days.

However, in recent years, rice from Mongu, Nakonde and Chama has become popular. But even with the abundance of the three brands Zambia's shops are still crammed with Thai rice and others from countries elsewhere.

This problem is not prevalent in Zambia alone: visit any neighbouring country you are likely find shops stocked with grain and other foods from the Far East, including China, yet they can be grown locally.

Not a longtime ago Zimbabwe was a food basket in the SADC region. The country supplied food stuffs to all neighbouring countries. Maize and other cereals from there were a common sight. Even now the country produces cornflakes for export here in Zambia and other African countries.

It is quite clear that Zimbabwe does produce rice too. What about South Africa, Kenya, Egypt, Morocco, Malawi and others—why is their rice not flooding African shops, yet we have to wait for it from The Ukraine and Russia?

There is clearly something wrong with Africa and its affairs. For example Kenya, Tanzania and Malawi produce quantities of tea sufficient to flood African shops, but despite that feat, Africa still imports tea from India, Ceylon, or Brazil. When will the continent get weaned off this dependency?

In fact, many countries in the continent

including South Africa, Rwanda and others produce so much tea that to be fair the continent would not need any tea imports, and should by now have depended on indigenous brands.

### DIVIDED BY IDEOLOGIES

Rather than enhance synergies and promote products from the continent Africa has allowed itself to get divided by ideologies and politics from outside. As a result, an impression has been created that goods from Europe, the Far East or Asia are of superior quality than those produced locally. This flawed thinking has destroyed our motivation and helped decimate our economies.

For example, Nigeria and Angola produce enough crude oil to supply entire continent without any country having to depend on supplies from the Middle East or elsewhere. But instead there is a propagated narrative about Angolan crude which Zambia should have been ferrying into the country even on bicycles. But that has not worked.

Instead, during UNIP days Zambia had to construct a pipeline from Dar-es-Salaam to Zambia to bring crude oil imported from outside Africa and loaded into the line to Zambia. Granted, Angola had been at war for as long as 25 years, but it is also true that the country has been at peace long enough for a pipeline or other conventional ways to have been worked out by now to import oil from there to Zambia.

Nigeria and Angola are not the only countries with oil reserves in Africa, there are others too. All the continent needed to do was that the oil producing countries come together and form the African version of OPEC to begin supplying oil within the continent before any exports are made.

### WAKE-UP CALL

However, all is not lost the Ukraine cereal example is a wake call for the continent. Measures are needed for Africa to begin pulling resources together in all sectors for use within the continent. We have been tied for too long to outsiders that our political independence is now meaningless.

Some African countries are manufacturing vehicles and other items, which ventures must be strengthened to hive

off dependency the so-called developed world. The just-created Africa Trade Area will have a lot to do not only to improve Africa's economies, but change the perception and the mind-set of many people. It is time to have faith and above all to promote Africa's products.

Surely the continent should not be threatened with hunger simply because wheat and other cereals will not get here from The Ukraine or Russia.

There is so much and enough wheat in Africa, to the extent that Zambia attained self-sufficiency by 2010. What is needed is to pull resources and mop up the cereal for the benefit of the African market.

After all, wheat can grow anywhere and everywhere in Africa. What the continent needs is heavy investment in agriculture—that is all what The Ukraine and Russia has done.

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# Mwewa: Hustling upwards in business

BY DERRICK SILIMINA

Ireen Mwewa is a true definition of a business hustler coming from humble beginnings to an entrepreneur with one purpose: to succeed.

**M**wewa, 33, is a marketeer from Solwezi's Kimakolwe area in North-Western Province who sells agricultural produce including tomatoes, onion, fish, and cooking oil.

"I started my business in 2014 with an initial capital of only K100 with which I ordered groundnuts and tomato for resale after I realized the high demand of the items in my community. After my capital grew to K600, I got encouraged to work even harder," Mwewa says.

With this business, youthful Mwewa has been able to educate her children, and clothe and feed the family with ease.

In 2019, Mwewa realized her potential to succeed in the world of entrepreneurship and hopped onto the Kansanshi Mining Plc-sponsored business training workshop to sharpen her trading capabilities.

According to her, the training helped her to grow the business by investing in a sewing machine which she currently uses to sew clothes such as dresses and skirts for sale.

"I bought the tailoring machine at K1,500 from proceeds of selling tomatoes. And since I do my tailoring activities from home, this venture is able to bring in a profit of K1000 per month," she says.

Besides being a trader and a marketeer, Mwewa also maintains a vegetable gar-



Ireen Mwewa displaying her produce.

**She affirms that the knowledge of business diversification, courtesy of the KMP business training which is facilitated by Fortune World Investments, has helped her to create various income streams such that her future plan is to open a boutique.**

den with assorted varieties such as rape and Chinese cabbage. Her expected returns from the garden amount to about K500 per month.

She affirms that the knowledge of business diversification, courtesy of the KML business training which is facilitated by Fortune World Investments, has helped her to create various income streams such that her future plan is to open a boutique.

"Thank you KMP for the vast knowledge imparted to me through the training which has made me a better business lady at financial management. I look forward to resumption of classroom workshops so that I continue with the business training."



# Musemvu: Patient gardening by the riverside



Roger Musemvu tending to his vegetable garden.

BY DERRICK SILIMINA

It is said that growing a business and growing a vegetable garden both require planning, dedication and patience.

**F**or Roger Musemvu, 43, his passion for vegetable gardening underscores a success story on his entrepreneurship journey.

In 2017, Musemvu realized the need to grow his agribusiness and the first step he took was to join the Kansanshi Mining Plc-sponsored business training workshop in a bid to deepen his knowledge and effectively run his enterprise.

By mid-2020, Musemvu's garden had tomatoes and cabbages on a one-lima piece of land in Solwezi's Kimale area of North-Western Province.

"By July 2020, I had already started harvesting and selling tomatoes and cabbages and my total sales came up to K23,000; thanks to the knowledge I acquired during the business training," he discloses.

Musemvu adds that on the other side of his farmland, he has managed to cultivate egg plants on a half-lima piece of land, which are now four-months-old. As harvesting has begun, he anticipates to

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**From the last time the Fortune World mentors (facilitators of the business training) paid Musemvu a visit, he has tremendously grown his business by expanding and diversifying his farming operations.**

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harvest six 25kg bags of eggplants commonly known locally as impwa.

With one bag of impwa currently selling at K180, Musemvu describes the gardening business as "very lucrative" as it has given him the ability to look after his family and educate all his six children.

Musemvu notes that irrigation at his garden is enabled by a water pump which utilizes water from Kifubwa River.

"From 2020, my business has grown as I

have invested in two other farmlands in the Zangamenu area where I have one lima of sugarcane. From this farm I expect about K8000 worth of sugarcane after harvest. I also have a fruit farm with a one-hectare orchard including oranges, lemons and tangerines with yields expected to begin in 2026," he says.

From the last time the Fortune World mentors (facilitators of the business training) paid Musemvu a visit, he has tremendously grown his business by expanding and diversifying his farming operations.

"I am utilizing knowledge I acquired from the business training in the area of time management in scheduling works at my three farms for simultaneous project management," he explains.

With his vision to further expand his farm hectareage for higher income generation, Musemvu pays glowing tribute to KMP for the training which has enabled him to continue with the training programme for others to benefit.

The Fortune World mentors who were led by Managing Director Mukumbi Kafuta advised Musemvu to register his business for greater market possibilities.





# Future stars mesmerise fans

BY DERRICK SILIMINA

The prestigious Junior Golf Tournament for the Junior Golf Academy held in Kalumbila District recently turned out to be enchanting with 60 infant golfers taking early steps towards possible professional careers.

**T**he boys and girls as young as five from some local schools including Trident Preparatory, Frontier Nkisu, and Sentinel Kalumbila schools kindled their hope to one day become professional golfers.

The nail biting fixture saw Junior Golf Academies' Gabriel Khumalo, Henry Pandawa and Tinovimba Muzinda emerge first, second and third overall winners respectively, and they walked away all smiles with a trophy, a medal and a school bag.

The second tourney was held in May this year and the debut championship was held last year.



A young golfer (Middle) pose for a photo with FQM Trident Ltd General Manager Junior Keyser (Left), Trident Foundation Manager Joseph Ngwira (right) and Trident Junior Academy coach Beza Daka (Further Right) during the award giving ceremony





As scores of Kalumbila residents swarmed the Trident Country Club to watch pupils in a third edition golf tourney, the FQM Trident Limited who are sponsors of the event are upbeat about a bright future for professional golf in Zambia.

“What we are teaching our children is consistency and also helping them to build the sense of faithfulness so that as they do this game, they know that they should not cheat, but do the right thing. We are also marking their minds to appreciate that to achieve anything in life, you need to spend time and effort,” Trident Foundation Manager Joseph Ngwira said during a prestigious Junior Golf Tournament for the Junior Golf Academy held recently at Kalumbila Golf Course.

Ngwira said it was evident that the mining giant sought to mould talent from among grassroots junior golfers in Kalumbila District as the sport played a vital role in helping young golfers achieve anything in life by appreciating time and effort.

The Trident Foundation Manager who was flanked by FQM Trident Ltd General Manager Junior Keyser noted that



Junior golfers during the prestigious Junior Golf Tournament.

**“We just need to improve more on the professional golf, and without harnessing the junior golf at grassroots level, you can’t have professional golfers. So, junior golf has to be improved by going round the country to sensitize people to take up golf as a career,” he said.**

the sensational tournament, the first of its kind in North-Western Province featured 60 young enthusiastic golfers.

Ngwira paid glowing tribute to the mining giant’s unwavering support for the golf academy and the sport in general.

“I wish to appreciate the General Manager who is here for the support. We would not be able to provide support that we give to the golf academy without top management allowing that, and also without them dedicating some resources to this kind of sport. We also appreciate the coaching staff and all supporters of this event,” Ngwira stated.

Trident Junior Academy Coach Beza Daka who spoke during the prize-giving ceremony implored the young golfers to

build their talents and take the sport as a professional career rather than taking it as leisure.

Daka noted that in developed countries, golf as a sport created various jobs which helped to provide livelihoods.

“We just need to improve more on the professional golf, and without harnessing the junior golf at grassroots level, you can’t have professional golfers. So, junior golf has to be improved by going round the country to sensitize people to take up golf as a career,” he said.

Beza urged the corporate world to emulate what FQM was doing to support junior golf tournaments in the province.

“We would like to see other corporate companies to get involved in other parts of the country like Kasama where I had played golf before, in Mansa and Chipata where all these places have golf clubs so that our children can learn and appreciate the sport if they are to take it seriously as a career,” he said.

Prudence Chisanga, a mother of two young golfers paid tribute to FQM Trident mine for giving such a rare opportunity to children to play golf and participate in a tournament as it has really improved their discipline levels and critical thinking.

“I really never thought children would ever play golf but thank you to the FQM Trident limited for giving us such an opportunity through Trident Foundation to be able to promote our children. They



Golf tournament participant ecstatic about his stellar progression on the golf course.



Parent Prudence Chisanga expressing her gratitude for the excellent execution of the golf tournament.

**In the Category A - 18 Holes slot, Abraham Mukoso carried the day and was followed by Chichetekelo Lushibashi in the second seat while Grace Nambeye grabbed the third position respectively and they smiled away with a sports bag, and school stationery.**

slot with Raymond Mwansa coming out third respectively. For Category C - 6 Holes, Bob Banda emerged the first, the second position went to Sean Brooks while Raphael Singogo grabbed the third slot.

In division D - 3 Holes, Job Matipa bagged the first slot while Blessings Mukaro and Woody Kalukango shared the second and third notch respectively.

really love the sport and it has improved their discipline levels and critical thinking. We are so grateful, it has been three years going and it's been amazing."

In the Category A - 18 Holes slot, Abraham Mukoso carried the day and was followed by Chichetekelo Lushibashi in

the second seat while Grace Nambeye grabbed the third position respectively and they smiled away with a sports bag, and school stationery.

The Category B - 9 Holes group saw Xolani Nhlane scooping the first position, while Mwiinga Mapande got the second

"Thank you organisers for your support because it's the only way to grow our talent among us young ones in our communities and country at large," Gabriel Khumalo said after the prize giving gala as he defended his first position scooped from the May edition of the golf tournament.





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