

SOLWEZI

T O D A Y

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MTN Business solutions get 'business done better'

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MINING COPPER TO GROW ZAMBIA TOGETHER AND EMPOWERING OUR COMMUNITIES

- Agriculture
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First Quantum Minerals' Trident Limited, formerly trading as Kalumbila Minerals Limited (KML), achieved its highest copper production in 2022, with an outturn of 242,000 metric tonnes produced by end of the year. This amounted to 9000 tonnes more than in the year 2021.



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FQM's Kansanshi Mining Plc has donated 87,000 exercise books to the Ministry of Education in the Solwezi District of North-Western Province.



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Lighting up future prospects for Zambian economy...

Finally, the US\$26.5 million financing facility for rural energy projects has been unveiled, almost five years after Government signed an agreement with the International Development Association (IDA) of the World Bank.

It is of notable interest that at a time when Zambia is grappling with energy shortfalls which have led to widespread load-shedding, the private sector is now offered access to financing under the Electricity Services Access Project (Esap) Off-Grid Loan Facility.

The Rural Electrification Authority (REA), in a three-way collaboration with the Development Bank of Zambia (DBZ) and the Zambia National Commercial Bank (Zanaco), developed the facility which should positively impact electricity supply in rural areas.

The development is significant given that electrification data demonstrates that in Zambia 44.52 per cent of the population had access to electricity in 2020; marking a 1.52 per cent increase from 43 per cent in 2019, and a 2.68 per cent increase from 2018 levels. REA aims to increase coverage to 51 per cent by 2030.

In July 2021, REA and the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership (REEEP) announced they had signed a Memorandum of Understanding to jointly leverage the Edison data platform which was originally developed to collect and analyze data for the Power Africa Beyond the Grid Fund for Zambia and to monitor and support electrification efforts with advanced data collection and analysis on behalf of the REA. The MoU was about enhancing access to modern, clean energy for rural and underserved Zambians.

Created by an Act of Parliament in 2003, the REA has a mandate to provide electricity infrastructure to all rural areas using appropriate technologies, thereby enhancing living standards and productivity. REA has become the focal point for initiatives related to capital subsidy support, solar, mini-grid and hydro projects which will enable new and existing energy service providers to reach thousands of new customers in rural and peri-urban areas.

It is time such agreements and Memoranda of Understanding started yielding tangible results and lighting up future prospects for all sectors of the economy.



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Under pressure Kwacha hits K19 per dollar

BY STUART LISULO

The Kwacha has continued to depreciate against major currency convertibles and has hit the K19 per dollar psychological barrier for the first time since July 2021.



According to financial market data, the local currency has continued incurring losses against the US dollar and dropped to trade at around K19.03 per dollar level by end of January.

First National Bank Zambia stated in its Daily Market Update, the local currency depreciated amid sustained heightened demand for dollars by corporate entities. “With international event risk still low in relation to the US dollar, the kwacha has managed to remain range-bound against the greenback, lightly easing from an opening mid-level of K19.02 to close at K19.04. We continue to see corporates coming to the market to offload some FX, which has not provided much respite to the local unit as

But progress has stalled on reaching a deal with bilateral creditors, who range from China, Western private lenders and other sovereign governments, among others, a development that has broadly been cited as a key factor in maintaining pressure on the kwacha.

demand continues to outstrip supply,” the bank stated. FNB further explained that the kwacha had remained under pressure throughout January, as demand for foreign currency by importers persisted. “Market activity remains skewed towards the demand side as importers continue to make purchases to meet foreign currency obligations against a backdrop of low FX supply. In yesterday’s (January 17) session, the local unit continued to ease against the US dollar, while demand in the burgeoning pipeline remains unabated.”

Heightened demand for dollars by importers usually emanates from the energy and agricultural sectors for petroleum products, fertilizer and other agro-inputs, which sustains pressure on the local currency.

The local unit ended 2022 on a weak note, breaching the K18 per dollar mark psychological barrier for the first time since the first quarter of last year.

Zambia’s main source of foreign exchange derives largely from mining companies, who offload dollars in the local financial market to help ease pressure on the local currency to meet local statutory obligations.

The country is still locked in negotiations with multiple creditors relating to debt restructuring, with delays to conclude a deal.

But progress has stalled on reaching a deal with bilateral creditors, who range from China, Western private lenders and other sovereign governments, among others, a development that has broadly been cited as a key factor in maintaining pressure on the kwacha.

Energy projects win \$26m funding

...AS 2018 ZAMBIA-WORLD BANK AGREEMENT UNFOLDS

BY JOHN CHOLA

Government has unveiled a US\$26.5 million private sector access agreement under the Electricity Services Access Project (ESAP) Off-Grid Loan Facility.



Energy Minister Peter Kapala is captured conversing with ZANACO MD Mrs Mukwandi Chibesakunda. Picture by Thomas Nsama ZANIS.

Minister of Energy Peter Kapala said during the unveiling of the facility that the U\$26.5 million loan financing agreement was signed between the Government and the International Development Association (IDA) of the World Bank in 2018. Kapala noted that Government had identified a lack of private-sector participation in resolving the energy crisis in Zambia as a major impediment to its efforts.

To address the electricity challenge, the Rural Electrification Authority (REA), in collaboration with the Development Bank of Zambia (DBZ) and the Zambia National Commercial Bank (Zanaco), had developed the Off-Grid Loan Facility programme. The programme aims to support private sector-led electrification of rural communities through mini-grids and stand-alone solar systems which will provide financing for private sector entities to enhance rural

energy access. "This is a significant step towards addressing one of the key barriers to increasing access to electricity in rural areas," Kapala explained.

Kapala who bemoaned the difficulties of obtaining financing for electricity projects, especially on the local financial market said the credit facility offered access to funding which would transform the off-grid electricity space. He urged the private sector to utilize the facility

which had been set up to address challenges of access to finance in the electricity sector.

DEDICATED

In the initial phase, approximately \$2.5 million has been dedicated to the facility under the DBZ-Zanaco collaboration.

The minister hoped that private sector participation in the off-grid space would be unlocked to improve the provision of sustainable electricity services. The facility is being led and implemented by REA with DBZ as the apex lender financial intermediary and Zanaco as a participating bank.

Zanaco would provide the interface with the private sector to increase electricity access in rural areas in Zambia. Zanaco Chief Executive Officer Mukwandi Chibesakunda noted that with rural access to electricity currently standing at only 8.1 per cent, economic growth could be undermined. "Therefore, this launch of the Electricity Services Access Project (ESAP) will assist in unlocking opportunities for our communities. We, at Zanaco, are honoured that through this off-grid loan facility, we will, together with our partners, support private sector-led electrification financing of renewable energy mini-grids as well as stand-alone solar systems. As Zanaco, we are committed to supporting the government of Zambia's target to electrify 1, 217 rural growth centres by 2030," Chibesakunda said. She explained that to access the financing, businesses would have to be current participants in solar system importation, wholesale, distribution and retail. Businesses should be involved in offering solar home systems and pico-solar products, as well as the productive use of associated equipment.

"Businesses also have to be an end user of solar equipment for productive use, be an integrated pay-as-you-go solutions provider, or be a mini-grid developer," added Chibesakunda.

INNOVATIONS

DBZ Acting Managing Director Maybin Muyawala said the ESAP facility was one of the many innovations the Bank had embarked on to develop and provide financial solutions to social, economic and environmental problems. "The overall objective of the project is to increase electricity access in targeted ru-



The bank would be involved in expanding sustainable climate-smart agriculture, scaling-up finance for forest protection, and building resilience to climate change, among others.

ral areas in Zambia. The role of the Bank will be to manage a US\$ 2.5 million line of credit for off-grid renewable energy projects to the private sector which will be accessed through ZANACO.

This country is active with business opportunities in the renewable energy sub-sector hence, there is need to unlock further investment in the renewable energy sector and we have the duty to ensure that this pilot project is a success," said Muyawala.

DBZ would provide additional support to both the private and public sector entities to enhance access to loans, equity and guarantees. The newly-announced combination of financing solutions was what the private sector needed to compete and succeed in the market.

Muyawala said DBZ, working with its various partners, would continue to prioritize investment projects aimed at transforming energy generation and increasing access to renewable energy sources.

The bank would be involved in expanding sustainable climate-smart agriculture, scaling-up finance for forest protection, and building resilience to climate change, among others.

DBZ was motivated by a desire to significantly contribute towards low-carbon and climate-resilient growth and development in Zambia.



Batoka power project to cost \$5bn

BY STUART LISULO

The Batoka Hydroelectric Power Energy Project is now expected to cost an estimated US \$5 billion, new analysis shows.



The 2,400-megawatt Batoka Gorge Hydro Electric Scheme (BGHES) is being constructed by the Zambezi River Authority (ZRA).

ZRA is an organization equitably owned by the governments of Zambia and Zimbabwe, to develop, operate, monitor and maintain hydropower projects along the Zambezi River shared by the two southern African countries.

During the BGHES investors' conference held in Livingstone on March 30 and 31, 2017, African Development Bank (AfDB) Vice-President for Power, Energy, Climate and Green Growth Sector Complex, Amadou Hott reaffirmed the Banks' support for the project and its role as the lead financier.

Hott had said that the target for the New Deal for universal access to energy by 2025 required the implementation of transformative regional projects such as Batoka.

Following the end of the 2022-2023 festive season, ZESCO Limited announced increased load-shedding hours of 12 per day in response to the rapidly declining water levels at Kariba Dam.

However, the project stalled due to the Coronavirus pandemic that severely disrupted global supply chains.

And according to RMB Africa Research, the ground-breaking project is now estimated to cost at least US \$5 billion following protracted delays in commencing its long-awaited construction.

"The African Development Bank (AfDB) has been approached by Zambia and Zimbabwe to help finance the construc-

tion of the 2,400-megawatt Batoka Gorge Hydroelectric Power project. The development, on the border between the two countries along the Zambezi River, has faced multiple delays caused by challenges such as the coronavirus pandemic and rising project costs. The project is now estimated to cost up to US \$5bn," RMB stated in the latest edition of Africa Markets Insider, an analysis of market-moving trends across the continent.

"Batoka is seen as a key energy project for southern Africa, which is facing an energy crisis. Water levels at the Kariba Dam plunged to their lowest in more than three decades earlier this month (January). That has caused an increase in power cuts for the two countries, which rely on the reservoir's hydro-power plants for the bulk of their electricity. Prolonged power outages are set to weigh on economic activity and potentially detract from growth prospects."

The governments of Zambia and Zimbabwe appointed the AfDB as Lead Coordinator for the project to be implemented in partnership with other development partners.

The Batoka Scheme is in line with the objectives of AfDB's New Deal on Energy for Africa.

Since 2017, the AfDB was implementing the "New Deal on Energy for Africa" to light up and power Africa towards universal access to energy by 2025.

The institution planned on investing US \$12 billion in the power sector over five years and aimed to leverage US \$45-50 billion from the private sector.

Following the end of the 2022-2023 festive season, ZESCO Limited announced increased load-shedding hours of 12 per day in response to the rapidly declining water levels at Kariba Dam.

At the start of the New Year pressure on the national power utility intensified to address severe power shortages across the country, with mounting calls to cut electricity exports to neighbouring countries to deal with the deficit.

But as of end-January, 2023, ZESCO has maintained power exports through the Southern African Power Pool (SAPP) to satisfy ongoing contractual agreements.

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Load-shedding: The elephant in the room

BY DERRICK SILIMINA

Enock Gondwe tries to smile as he holds his welding machine, yearning to conclude his work before electricity shuts down.

But his sense of urgency does not entirely erase the pain in his eyes, considering frequent power cuts that are affecting his artisanal business which depends solely on power from Zesco, Zambia's major power utility company. Zesco recently rolled-out a load-shedding schedule which lasted from six to 12 hours at a stretch.

Gondwe, 30, is a school drop-out who over the years struggled against all odds to establish himself and earn a living. He operates on Alick Nkata Road in Lusaka's Kalingalinga Compound, at a ragtag roadside known for its ingenious small-scale metal fabricators.

"My business depends on a constant power supply, and it's sad that power comes on at five for just two hours and then goes out again. I depend on this

work to help sustain my family's livelihood," Gondwe moans.

Charles Sakala, a 40-year-old barber of the nearby Mtendere Township, narrates how he was forced to close his electricity-driven joint as there were no customers at night when power was scheduled to switch on.

UNSUSTAINABLE

At first glance, hydropower seems natural for Zambia which is reputed to host up to 30 per cent of Africa's water sources. Though the country has hydropower generating stations at various rivers other than the traditional Zambezi and Kafue, this clean and renewable fuel source seems unsustainable.

Hydropower diminishes when chronic drought lowers water levels to a point

where power production is severely curtailed. The Kariba water level has been decreasing steadily because of droughts and low in-flows from the Zambezi River and its tributaries.

Droughts in recent years have forced electricity shortages of up to nearly one-third of Zambia's total installed hydroelectric capacity of 2,380 megawatts.

In 2019, water levels in the Kariba Dam plunged to their lowest since 1996, falling to 10 per cent of usable storage.

Late last year, the level of usable water in the Kariba, tapped by both Zambia and Zimbabwe, stood at 2.68 per cent, according to the Zambezi River Authority (ZRA), which manages water supply for the two countries. ZRA is responsible for the allocation of water used by Zimbabwe's Kariba South and Zambia's Kariba North power stations.

To avoid a complete shutdown of the two power stations, ZRA recently ordered Zimbabwe to cut generation down to a maximum of 300 megawatts and Zam-

bia to a maximum of 800 megawatts.

“We anticipate that this will translate into a load management regime starting on the 15th of December, 2022 of up to six hours daily,” Energy Minister Peter Kapala recently noted.

According to the US Agency for International Development (USAID), Zambia draws 85 per cent of its power from hydro projects. When water levels in hydroelectric dams recede considerably, the power utility cuts power to customers—sometimes for 20 hours per day. This has hit the economy hard across all sectors, including metal fabricators, hair salons, butchery shops and almost every other small and medium entrepreneur.

But business owners are demanding for a faster solution to the on-going electricity woes as Thomas Mulenga, owner of a butchery in Lusaka’s sprawling Soweto market, sees the impact immediately in his refrigerators. “My meat products go bad every time the power is shut down.”

HEAT

In the heat of the load-shedding, salvos were fired from all sectors of the economy and from all political camps, accusing President Hakainde Hichilema and his Government of preferring to cripple indigenous businesses so as to please other countries where Zambia was exporting power.

Apparently the Head of State noticed the hostilities that were flaring over the load-shedding, and he called for an energy conference. During an end-of-year press conference at State House late last December, the President said Zambia could not abruptly stop exports of electricity to other countries because of contractual obligations.

To ease the power crisis, Government affirmed that ZESCO had reached an advanced stage in making arrangements for importation of power from Mozambique. There was an outstanding debt left by the Patriotic Front government, owed to that country for electricity imported during power shortages then.

Government thus announced the release of \$24 million to ZESCO to meet that debt which had to be paid before further power imports were agreed to by the supplier.

The Head of State affirmed that the projects shall be undertaken in a phased manner, which would commence immediately, starting with the phased installation of 500 megawatts. Once completed, the projects would result in an additional 2000 megawatts of electricity in the country in the next few years.

EXPECTED

About 200 MW of power is expected to be imported for a limited period to mitigate the shortage in available power caused by reduced generation at Kariba North Bank Hydropower Station thereby significantly reducing load shedding hours.

Speaking during a media briefing, Kapala said the duration of power cuts had been reviewed and revised downwards from eight hours to four hours at a time. He added that there had been an improvement in the flow of water into the major hydropower reservoirs, which increased power generation at Kariba.

“I am delighted to announce that this improvement in the water inflows has resulted in increased power generation at Kariba North Bank Power Station, Kafue Gorge Power Station, Kafue Gorge Lower Power station, Itezhi-Tezhi Power Station and Victoria Falls Power Station. With this improvement, total electricity generation has now increased by 305 megawatts, bringing the total national generation to 2,215 megawatts. This increased generation is against the current power demand of 2,380 megawatts resulting in a reduced power deficit from 470 megawatts to 165 megawatts,” he said.

UNDER-INVESTMENT

Chronic under-investment in hydro projects has aggravated difficulties, such that even when enough rain falls, pow-

er supply cannot keep up with demand from the mining, manufacturing and agriculture industries.

In the short term, rate-payers facing a combination of rolling blackouts and higher prices of goods and services are upset.

“My business is down due to lack of electricity,” says Lucy Mambwe, 32, operator of a hair salon at Lusaka’s town centre market. “Government should invest in [other] renewable energies instead of always depending on the Kariba Dam for power generation, year in and year out.”

REDUCE

For this reason, as droughts cause chronic and prolonged blackouts, Zambia is looking to reduce its dependence on hydropower by developing other renewable fuel sources, such as solar and wind. These fuel sources are as clean as hydropower and can help reduce Zambia’s dependence on rainfall for its electricity.

Government has since signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and a landmark Joint Development Agreement (JDA) between Zambia and the United Arab Emirates, aimed at facilitating massive investment in renewable energy in the country.

“This MoU and JDA will see ZESCO partner with MASDAR, a key investment funding entity of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), to form a joint venture in developing and deploying large scale solar projects across the country, estimated at US\$2 billion,” President Hakainde Hichilema confirmed after his recent trip to the UAE where he went to attend the Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week (ADSW).

The Head of State affirmed that the projects shall be undertaken in a phased manner, which would commence immediately, starting with the phased installation of 500 megawatts. Once completed, the projects would result in an additional 2000 megawatts of electricity in the country in the next few years.

“The historical significance of this project is that, in the last 58 years of our independence, the country only developed 3,500 megawatts of electricity. This remarkable investment shall bring in the much-needed 2000 megawatts, within a shorter period of time.”

(L-R) MTN Business General Manager Mildred Chica, MTN CEO Bart Hofker, Minister of Science and Technology Felix Mutati and MTN General Manager Corporate Services Pamela Pio.



MTN Business solutions get 'business done better'

BY MARTIN MUSUNKA JR

MTN Business has announced Business Done Better, a campaign just launched to make the ICT leader a formidable ally of minor and major corporate houses.

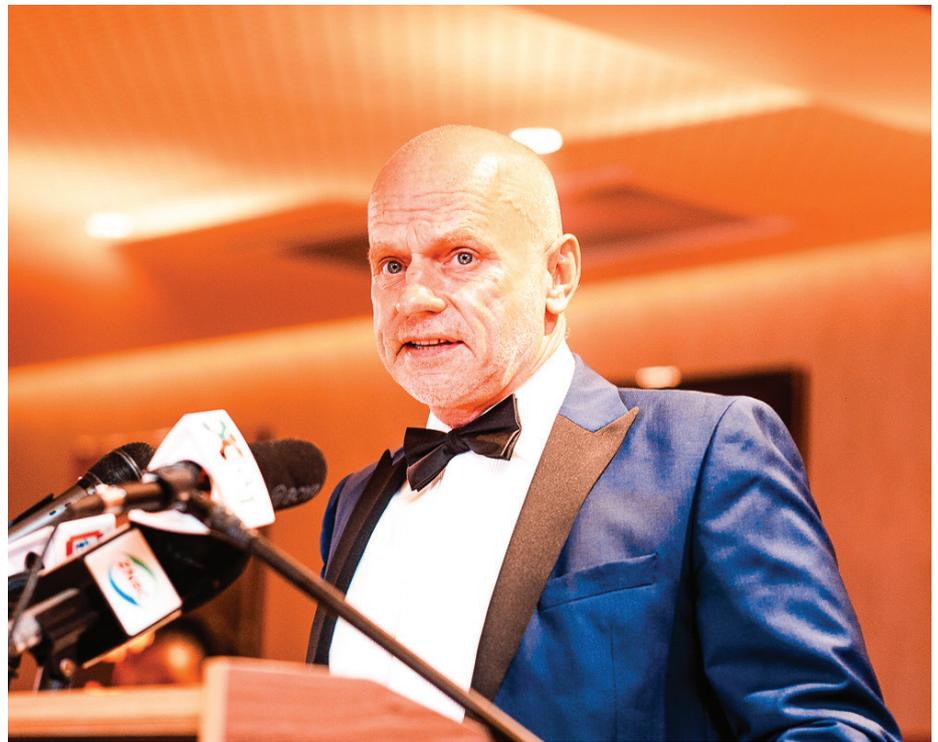
MTN Chief Executive Officer Bart Hofker says the entity is reaching out to small, medium and big businesses, multinational corporations and organizations operating in the public sector by offering the resources to make them contemporary, connected and digital.

The resources include connectivity and converge ICT, such as managed network services, cloud services, unified communications, security solutions, and the Internet of Things

Additionally, MTN has said that it fully supports small- and medium-sized

businesses (SMEs) which account for 97 percent of all businesses, 70 percent of Zambia's GDP, and 88 percent of all jobs. As such MTN Business aims to give SMEs the tools they need to increase productivity, employment, and income.

This shows that MTN Business are not



MTN CEO Bart Hofker delivering his keynote speech.



MTN team pose for a photo after a successful brand campaign launch.

only being economically progressive but are also effectively advocating for corporate FairPlay and supporting economic growth.

Speaking during the launch, CEO Hofker revealed that part of his speech was generated by an artificial intelligence platform namely ChatGPBT which is a large language model that can generate human-like text, trained on a massive dataset of written works from the Internet.

The resources include connectivity and converge ICT, such as managed network services, cloud services, unified communications, security solutions, and the Internet of Things

This has demonstrated MTN Business' approach to not only putting new digital strategies into practice but to innovatively lead the way in digital innovation in Zambia.

Minister of Science and Technology Felix Mutati said, "The campaign is about getting the job done and in order to get the job done we need to build solid foundations and this is what MTN is telling us this evening."



Guests enjoying the live bands' music after the the successful launch of the 'Business Done Better' campaign.

Mutati recalled that “last year we gave the spectrum to enable MTN to bring 5G into the country and eliminated two million fraudulent SIM cards. That’s what we call getting things done.”

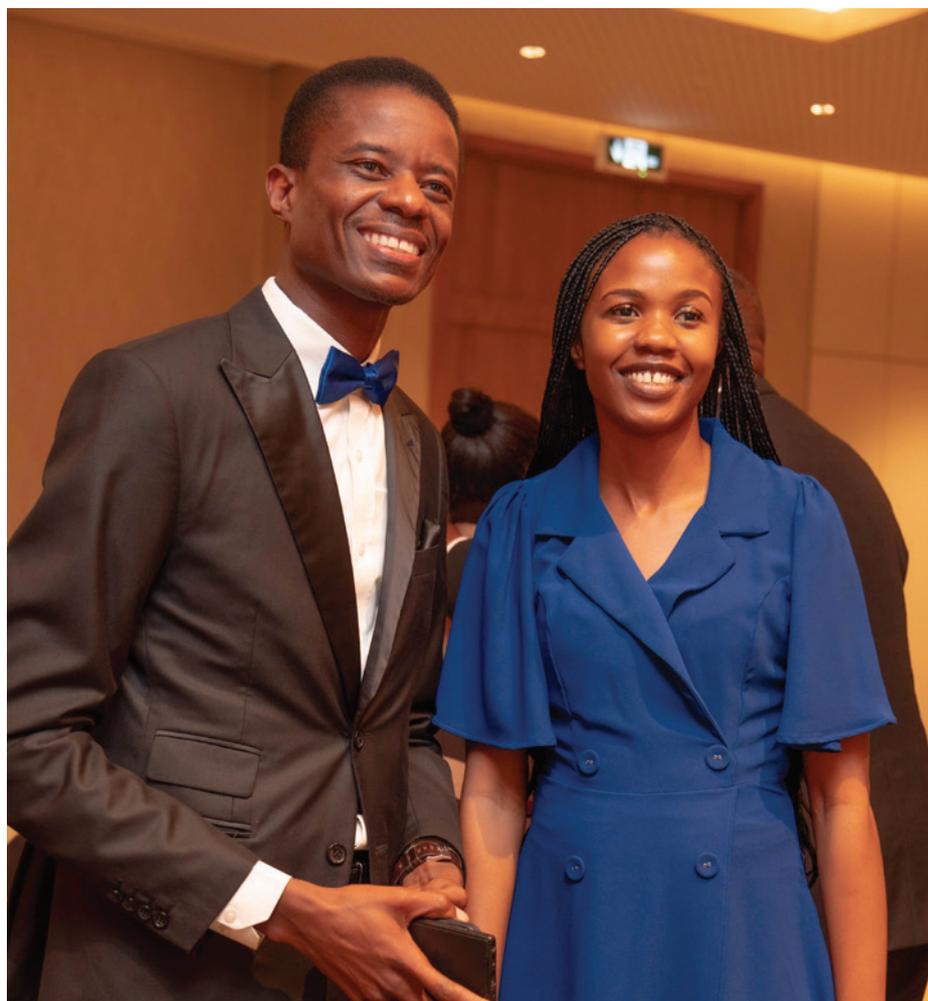
MTN Business General Manager Mildred Chica said, “The MTN Business brand refresh campaign is all about progress for our customers, the community and the nation at large...we are changing things from can’t to can.”

According to Chica, the goal was for MTN Business to establish itself as a top provider of value to businesses.

Hofker said MTN Business also has a crucial part to play in achieving the MTN Group’s Ambition 2025 which is ‘Leading Digital Solutions for Africa’s Progress.’

“One of the four strategic goals of Ambition 2025 is to build the biggest and most valuable platforms possible,” said Hofker in a previous press statement.

Through the provision of much-needed jobs, goods, and services, African businesses may make a significant contribution to resolving some of the continent’s most pressing problems.



CEO and Managing Director of Standered Chartered Zambia Sonny Zulu (left) poses for a photo.



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FQM Trident Limited

Ministry of Education PS Joel Kamoko and Airtel Zambia MD Manu Sood cut the ribbon to symbolize handover of the one by three classroom at Mwalubemba. Pictures by Airtel Zambia.



Free education demands increased classrooms

BY JOHN CHOLA

Government says with increased enrolments in schools across the country, infrastructure is needed to reduce overcrowding in schools.

The Ministry of Health has hence commended Airtel Zambia and Zambia Open Community Schools (ZOCS) for taking the lead in building more structures.

Minister of Education Douglas Siakalima said the New Dawn Government attached great importance to educating the Zambian child, and that commitment had been demonstrated through the implementation of the free education policy. Siakalima said this recently in a speech read for him by Education Permanent Secretary Joel Kamoko during the handover ceremony of a three-classroom block, ablution blocks, a water reticulation facility and a play park worth K1 million built by Airtel Zambia Ltd at Mwalubemba Community School in Chongwe District. The class-

“As Government, we are proud to be associated with partners such as Airtel and ZOCS. It remains our greatest desire to have more educated citizens that will contribute to the country’s development,” said Syakalima.

room block and ablution facility are additional fixtures to the school based in Chongwe rural where initially a chicken

run was also used as a classroom for the early education class.

Syakalima said good infrastructure was a prerequisite for quality education. “As Government, we are proud to be associated with partners such as Airtel and ZOCS. It remains our greatest desire to have more educated citizens that will contribute to the country’s development,” said Syakalima.

Airtel Managing Director Manu Sood said, “Our visit here started with us coming to donate desks for the old classroom block, and today we are here to witness a realization of a great partnership with not only the Zambia Open Community Schools and the Ministry of Education, but with the community itself.



PS Joel Kamono and Airtel MD Manu Sood with their respective staff members in front of the handed over classroom block. Picture by Airtel Zambia.



Ministry of Education PS Joel Kamoko (left), Airtel Zambia MD Manu Sood (centre), and ZOCs Board Chairman Victor Coy (right) confer during the school handover ceremony. Pictures by Airtel Zambia.

“Our ambition is to drive not only digital and financial inclusion but access to education for people and communities across Zambia through the provision of data and mobile services underpinned by our network expansion.”

Airtel had long been focused on improving education through its corporate social responsibility (CSR) activities, and by providing schools and other network services to rural areas, the organization believed such ventures would go a long way in making life easier for communities.

And ZOCs Board Chairperson Victor

As such, ZOCs was devoted to creating partnerships that would enable orphans and vulnerable children to access education through Community Schools. Koyi thanked Airtel Zambia for recognizing ZOCs as a partner in development.

Koyi said the organization was committed to complementing Government efforts to meet every Zambian child’s right to education.

As such, ZOCs was devoted to creating partnerships that would enable orphans and vulnerable children to access education through Community Schools. Koyi thanked Airtel Zambia for recognizing ZOCs as a partner in development.

Koyi also noted that with the introduction of the free education policy by the government, there was a greater need for business houses to hold hands with organizations such as ZOCs and support the government in its quest of ensuring all children in Zambia access quality education.

Koyi urged learners and the Mwalubemba community to safeguard the school and work hard and improve themselves academically.

Head Teacher Zachariah Munyenyembe said at inception by the Reformed Church of Zambia (RCZ) in 2010, the first classroom was a church building which housed 20 pupils. “The population of learners has swelled from 20 in 2012 to 990 in 2022 while classroom space has remained the same. On average, each classroom has a stagger-



Newly constructed toilet block.

ing 120 learners. This situation coupled with the shortage of teachers has greatly compromised the much-needed quality education delivery to our learners,” said Munyenyembe.

Apart from the shortage of classroom space, Mwalubemba Community School also had inadequate ablution facilities, teachers’ houses, and electricity and lacked security. “The challenges are not over. As a matter of urgency, the newly-built three-classroom block doesn’t have a single desk; we need to help to sort out this problem like yesterday. The school has not even one teacher’s house and indeed we are in need of more classroom blocks to accommodate junior secondary learners as they have to cover kilometres to just access secondary education,” Munyenyembe told the permanent secretary.

He appealed to Minister Siakalima through the permanent secretary to seriously consider during the next teacher recruitment the volunteer community teachers that had worked there for more than 10 years.

Kamoko committed to convening a meeting in January 2023 for key ministry departments and stakeholders to table the various challenges highlighted at the handover ceremony.



One of the classrooms which learners will be making use of.



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THE SMARTPHONE NETWORK

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US supports Zambia food security

BY STUART LISULO

Two food security experts visited Zambia in January to meet with Government officials and private sector representatives to discuss the regional food security crisis.

They discussed nutrition and how the US Government can partner with Zambians to confront these challenges.

United States Special Envoy for Global Food Security, Dr Cary Fowler, and USAID Global Food Crisis Coordinator and Acting Assistant to the Administrator for the Bureau of Resilience and Food Security, Dina Esposito, were in the country from January 15-18.

Special Envoy Fowler and Coordinator Esposito met with Vice-President Mutale Nalumango, Agriculture Minister Reuben Mtolo Phiri, and the Acting Minister of Green Economy and Environment to explore opportunities for the United States to further partner with the Zambian Government to increase and diversify agricultural production and trade in Zambia.



Assistant to the Administrator, USAID Bureau of Resilience and Food Security, Dina Esposito; U.S. Special Envoy for Global Food Security, Dr. Cary Fowler; Mission Director, USAID/Zambia, Peter Wiebler; US Ambassador to Zambia Michael C. Gonzales and Agriculture Minister Reuben Phiri, during the visit from the top U.S. officials at Mulungushi House recently.



Assistant to the Administrator, USAID Bureau of Resilience and Food Security, Dina Esposito; Lead out-grower farmer Sylvia Chinda of E village and follower farmer, Mrs. Kalima of E. Village, Chongwe. Back: U.S. Special Envoy for Global Food Security, Dr. Cary Fowler. (Photos: US Embassy, Lusaka).

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE GRADUATION CLASS OF 2022

TRIDENT COLLEGE

ENGAGE ENLIGHTEN EMPOWER



Once again, the Trident College A Level class of 2022 has exceeded all expectations, producing outstanding results which reflect the special nature of their year group.

It is vital to note that, despite the lingering spectre of COVID-19, 98% of the cohort passed every exam, and a record 84% of the results exceeded the significant benchmark of a C or higher symbol. Even more remarkably, 47% of this group achieved straight A or A* awards- fantastic news for the College and our students and just reward for their diligence and motivation to excel.

This is an exceptionally strong set of results which once again confirms Trident College's status among the top schools in southern Africa.



Name: MWANGO KAYAYI

Results: 3 A*s in Chemistry, Mathematics & Physics

Destination & Degree:

Cyprus International University or UNZA to pursue Mechanical Engineering

What have you enjoyed most about your time at Trident?

What I enjoyed most about Trident is the food and the feeling of community and brotherhood I formed with my comrades.

What would you like to be doing in ten years time?

I see myself not working as an engineer but owning my own private business.



Name: CHILOMBO KASWEKA

Results: 3 A*s in Biology, Chemistry & Mathematics

Destination & Degree:

Study Medicine at UNZA

What have you enjoyed most about your time at Trident?

Trident gave me a chance to discover my talents, develop interest in sports, culture and service, to meet people from different backgrounds with whom I created great relationships.

What would you like to be doing in ten years time?

I will be studying Orthopedic surgery having already obtained my degree in Medicine and having fun.



Name: TWALAINI MUTAMBO

Results: 3 A*s in Chemistry, Mathematics & Physics

Destination & Degree:

UK to study Computer Engineering

What have you enjoyed most about your time at Trident?

The work and play balance that Trident has. I enjoyed all the activities that got people together to interact and have fun.

What would you like to be doing in ten years time?

Developing new technologies at a large tech company.



Name: KUWUNDA ADRICK LUWAYA

Results: 2A*s & 2 As in Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics & Physics

Destination & Degree: UNZA to study Civil Engineering

What have you enjoyed most about your time at Trident?

What I enjoyed most at trident were the friendships I made over the years and all the moments we shared together both in class and in the boarding houses. I enjoyed the various camps we went on and all facilities provided to us such as the pool table and table tennis. And finally, I loved all my teachers.

What would you like to be doing in ten years time?

I hope to have gained enough experience working at a top company to start my own engineering/construction company.



Name: MBAWEME KANSEMBE

Results: 2A*s & 1A in Biology, Chemistry & Mathematics

Destination & Degree: UNZA or UK to study Medicine

What have you enjoyed most about your time at Trident?

I really enjoyed being exposed to the different lifestyles people lead spanning from cultural to behavioral differences, it helped me learn more about myself.

What would you like to be doing in ten years time?

Specializing in plastic surgery to make what's good even better.



Name: VITUMBIKO KABANDAMA

Results: 1A* & 3As in Chemistry, Biology, Mathematics & Physics

Destination & Degree: South Africa to study Actuarial Science

What have you enjoyed most about your time at Trident?

What I enjoyed about trident the most was the growth I experienced, socializing with friends and the different activities the school had.

What would you like to be doing in ten years time?

I hope to obtain a PhD in Actuarial Science and be rich.

Trident is committed to providing students with a broad, value-based education. To balance our outstanding academics, our co-curricular programme emphasizes the environment and leadership. Students have the opportunity to learn a broad range of sports, and also take part in outdoor education, Arts and cultural activities. Community Service is a key pillar of our Trident education.

For more information Call: +260 962 555 363 or Email: eunice.mbazima@trident-college.com, or visit our website www.trident-college.com.



Name: TAIZYA CLIFF SIKASOTE

Results: 1 A* & 2As in Mathematics, Chemistry & Physics
 Destination & Degree: University of Cape Town to study Mechanical Engineering

What have you enjoyed most about your time at Trident?

I participated in many activities which I didn't see myself doing. I had the freedom to express myself as well as make great friends and enjoyed some wonderful memories with them

What would you like to be doing in ten years time?

I would like to obtain a masters degree in Mechanical Engineering and become a full time member of the speed force.



Name: MWILA NYONDO

Results: 1 A* & 2As in Chemistry, Mathematics & Physics
 Destination & Degree: UNZA to study Civil Engineering

What have you enjoyed most about your time at Trident?

Being part of the Trident community taught me how to be more confident, I really enjoyed taking part in the various activities especially the Eisteddfod and cultural events as I learnt a lot. Further more I love the fact that the school helped me grow not only academically but spiritually and as an athlete.

What would you like to be doing in ten years time?

Hopefully start my second venture of studying Law and running my own business.



Name: BWALYA GEORGE MUSA-KANYA

Results: 2 A*s & 1 B in Business, Economics & Mathematics
 Destination & Degree: Loughborough University to study Business Analytics

What have you enjoyed most about your time at Trident?

The agglomeration of talent, how people could be so good at many things. So that is something I tried to mirror.

What would you like to be doing in ten years time?

Hopefully working at a major sports club.



Name: MUTALE MUSONDA

Results: 3 As in Chemistry, Mathematics & Physics
 Destination & Degree: University of Cape Town to study Mechanical Engineering.

What have you enjoyed most about your time at Trident?

Trident College gives you ability to mix work and leisure in order to make you a well rounded person

What would you like to be doing in ten years time?

Being a person who serves the people through my political aspirations



Name: ABEL MULONGA

Results: 1A*, 1A & 1B in Physics, Chemistry & Biology
 Destination & Degree: Electrical & Electronics Engineering at the UNZA.

What have you enjoyed most about your time at Trident?

While at Trident, I met a great and amazing team of supportive teachers that helped me develop in all aspects of my life. I enjoyed trying new things such as swimming and kayaking and sharpening my skills in Basketball. I met great friends and formed memories that I never thought I would.

What would you like to be doing in ten years time?

I see myself furthering my education in Electrical Engineering, working to solve the problems we're facing in the energy sector.



Name: RENEE SUSAN DU TOIT

Results: 1A*, 1A & 1B in Chemistry, Physics & Mathematics

Destination & Degree: Taking a gap year in South Africa.

What have you enjoyed most about your time at Trident?

What I enjoyed the most at Trident was the friendships made.

What would you like to be doing in ten years time?

I would like to be teaching in ten years time.



Name: TIONECHI KILEMBE

Results: 2As & 1B in Geography, Physics & Mathematics
 Destination & Degree: UNZA to study computer science

What have you enjoyed most about your time at Trident?

I really enjoyed the insistent culture of evolution and growth. I was never allowed to rest on my laurels and I am eternally grateful for that!

What would you like to be doing in ten years time?

Hopefully working on major triple A titles in the gaming industry.

Indicator	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number of candidates	21	41	30	31	33
Distinction Rate (A+)	16%	35%	44%	34%	47%
Band of Excellence (C+)	78%	76%	90%	79%	84%
Subject Pass Rate (E+)	98%	98%	100%	100%	98%

FQM Trident gives workers pay rise

BY DERRICK SILIMINA

FQM Trident Limited, a subsidiary of First Quantum Minerals, has awarded a seven per cent salary increment to unionised workers across the board effective January 1, 2023.



FQM Trident Acting General Manager Frederic Wouters (Left) shakes hands with NUMAW National Treasure Saul Simujika, looking on is FQM Trident Limited Human Resource Manager Brighton Mwiinga.

Education allowance, shift differential and remote allowance have also been revised upwards.

The mining giant recently signed a collective bargaining agreement with four unions, namely the National Union of Miners and Allied Workers (NUMAW), Mine Workers Union of Zambia (MUZ), Miners and Allied Workers Union (MAWU) and United Mine Workers Union of Zambia (UMUZ).

Speaking during the signing ceremony, FQM Trident Acting General Manager Frederic Wouters said the agreement symbolized the common goal that the employees get their deserved reward.

Speaking during the signing ceremony, FQM Trident Acting General Manager Frederic Wouters said the agreement symbolized the common goal that the employees get their deserved reward.

“This whole process exemplifies the maturity and trust of the relationship that the unions have created with management. As FQM Trident, we encourage an open-door policy for purposes of continuous improvement of the conditions



FQM Trident Management team and the members of the four unions pose for a picture after a successful collective bargaining agreement.

of services for our workforce. And this results in higher productivity.”

Wouters said the mining firm would pay basic salaries for all eligible employees covered by the agreement, salary arrears relating to the agreed salary increment and housing allowance.

The agreement also provides for a 13th cheque equivalent to one month’s basic salary in December, together with December salaries subject to statutory deductions such as tax and social security. The awards would be based on actual months served in a year.

“It is our belief that the seven per cent increase in basic salaries awarded to eligible unionized employees will significantly cushion their financial pressures. At FQM Trident, we believe in adding value to our employees in order to grow and remain productive.

“We support continuous skills development, by offering training and education. We ensure the safety of our employees by promoting the best safety practices, as well as proper care for the equipment used for production,” Wouters said.

He emphasized that the agreement was yet another milestone in the mining firm’s journey to improve the livelihoods of its employees as management appreciated the social and economic challenges they faced.

“Overall, we recognize and reward outstanding performance. We believe that



Representatives from the four unions, namely National Union of Miners and Allied Workers (NUMAW), Mine Workers Union of Zambia (MUZ), Miners and Allied Workers Union (MAWU) and United Mine Workers Union of Zambia (UMUZ) during the collective.

when our staff remain productive, we can be sure of the short-, medium- and long-term trickle down effects onto the national treasury, our communities and our employees.”

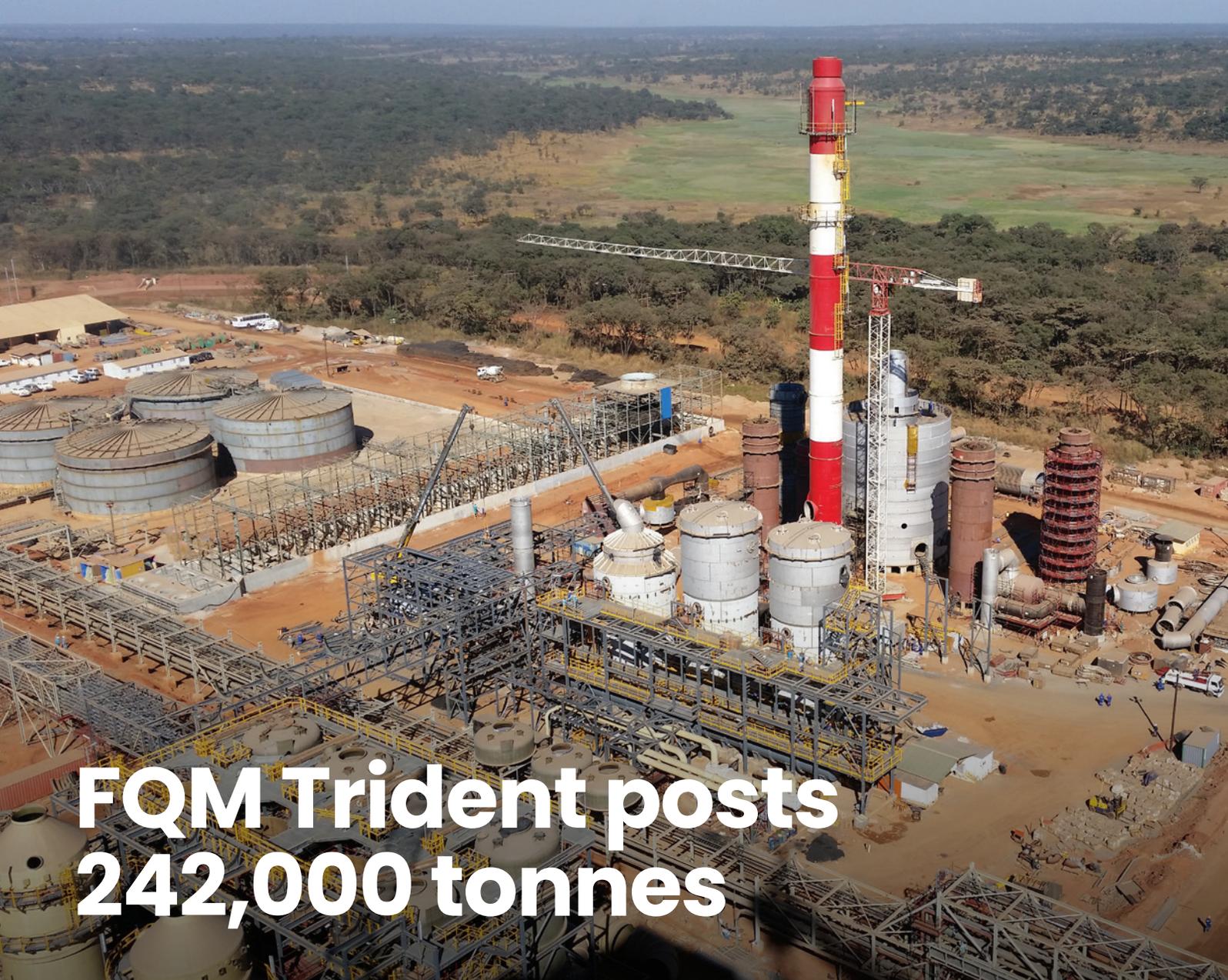
NUMAW National Treasurer Saul Simujika commended FQM Trident management for listening to the unions’ requests during the negotiations.

“We were able to reach a point where we had a win-win situation. We need a clear indication in terms of communication, where issues of productivity, issues of safety, are being discussed. What we want to see is a situation where we are moving at the same level,” Simujika said.

“We were able to reach a point where we had a win-win situation. We need a clear indication in terms of communication, where issues of productivity, issues of safety, are being discussed. What we want to see is a situation where we are moving at the same level,” Simujika said.

FQM Trident Limited Human Resource Manager Brighton Mwiinga added that the agreement demonstrated the mining firm’s commitment to continuous improvement in all its operations.

“We are alive to the hardships and the shocks the economic environment is placing on people generally. It goes to affect not only our workforce directly but the viability of the business, especially as we continue to expand our business operations as a company. The bargaining process is give-and-take. And through this process, we met somewhere as partners. Even as we do that, we continue to benchmark against the market trends to ensure we remain relevant.”



FQM Trident posts 242,000 tonnes

BY STUART LISULO

First Quantum Minerals' Trident Limited, formerly trading as Kalumbila Minerals Limited (KML), achieved its highest copper production in 2022, with an outturn of 242,000 metric tonnes produced by end of the year. This amounted to 9000 tonnes more than in the year 2021.

In a statement, the Canadian mining giant announced that copper production at its Kalumbila-based Sentinel Copper Mine jumped to 242,000 tonnes, boosted by strong throughput quarter-on-quarter.

"Sentinel achieved copper production of 242kt for the full year, 9kt higher than 2021, and record quarterly production of 73kt in Q4 2022, 13kt higher than Q4 2021 and 9kt higher than Q3 2022. Production was impacted in Q1 2022 by a delay to Stage 2 North-wall stripping due to wet underfoot conditions during an extended rainy season but has improved each quarter since then. Throughput has also been strong, achieving month-

The lower production reflects a combination of lower sulphide grades from narrow-veined regions, depleting oxide ore and restricted access to high-grade blocks due to an accumulation of water in the main pit in the second and third quarters of 2022.

ly and quarterly records in Q4 2022 and an annual record in 2022," the Company said in its preliminary results.

DROP

But its Solwezi-based Kansanshi Mining Plc saw its copper production marginally drop to 146,000 tonnes last year, down from 202,000 tonnes, induced mainly by lower grades and heavy accumulation of water at its main pit.

"Kansanshi copper production of 146kt for the full year was 56kt lower than 2021. The lower production reflects a combination of lower sulphide grades from narrow-veined regions, depleting



oxide ore and restricted access to high-grade blocks due to an accumulation of water in the main pit in the second and third quarters of 2022. Copper production in Q4 2022 was 35kt, a reduction of 17kt from Q4 2021, but 5kt higher than Q3 2022 as access to high-grade areas improved following successful dewatering of the pit,” the Company stated.

The two mining units contributed to FQM’s overall copper production of 776,000 tonnes, which, however, was lower than the 816,000 tonnes produced in 2021.

According to Ministry of Mines data exclusively availed to Solwezi Today, Trident Limited produced a mammoth 218,604.82 metric tonnes in the 11-month period ending November 30, 2022, contributing the highest total out of the 10 large-scale copper producers. This is marginally higher than the 210,443 tonnes produced during the



same 11-month period in 2021.

KML changed its trading name to ‘FQM Trident Limited’ last year — a name that incorporates the mining firm’s identity as a 100% FQM-owned company and is inclusive of all the Trident Project operations.

Since its inception, the company’s mining operations and project has incorporated three mining licences: Sentinel, Enterprise, and Intrepid, which collectively make up ‘The Trident Project.’

SECOND HIGHEST

Data reveals that FQM’s other subsidiary, Kansanshi Mining Plc, produced a total of 133,144.54 tonnes in the 11-month period ending November 30, last year, posting the second highest out of the 10 mining companies, ahead of Barrick Gold Lumwana’s 111,889.02 tonnes in third place.

Producing the fourth-highest copper outturn was NFC Africa Mining Plc, which posted 59,781.05 tonnes ahead of fifth-placed Konkola Copper Mines’ 50,821.64 tonnes.

On the lower end of the scale, Mopani Copper Mines Plc posted 38,730.87 tonnes, Lubambe 16,714.29 tonnes, Sino-Metals Leach Zambia Ltd 12,233.21 tonnes, and Chibuluma Mines 2,740.94 tonnes, placing them at 7th, 8th, 9th and 10th positions, respectively.

The 10 large-scale mining companies collectively contributed 691,509.54 metric tonnes in the 11-month period, placing the country’s total copper produc-

tion on course for an estimated 750,000 to 800,000 metric tonnes for 2022.

This would fall short of what the country’s large-scale miners produced in 2021 at around 880,000 metric tonnes.

The last time Zambia failed to produce more than 800,000 tonnes was in 2019 when the country’s mining companies collectively produced around 789,000 metric tonnes.



More investors interested in mining in Zambia

BY JOHN CHOLA

Minister of Finance and National Planning Situmbeko Musokotwane says Government will carry out serious due diligence when selecting an investor to takeover Mopani Copper Mine.



Dr Musokotwane assured that Government would uphold accountability and transparency to allow a fair and competitive investor selection process.

It was crucial for the State to be careful of who takes over MCM because mining had continued to lead in job creation and could provide other economic opportunities for the country.

According to First Secretary for Press and Public Relations at the Zambian High Commission to South Africa Tamara Nyirenda, Dr Musokotwane stated this in Cape Town during bilateral engagements on the side-lines of the on-going Africa Mining Indaba which attracted 9000 delegates, 500 investors, 530 mining companies and 48 government ministers from different countries.

The minister also noted that the Indaba had provided a vital platform for networking and investment opportunities, revealing that the number of companies willing to invest in Zambia was overwhelming.

As the mining sector remained top on the agenda in Government's quest to position Zambia as a mining hub, the UPND administration had taken policy



steps to ensure full economic benefits from the sector.

“Zambia has so many business opportunities for international investors as witnessed by many stakeholders enquiring about our country. Zambia has become a destination of choice for Foreign Direct Investments (FDIs) due to its political stability, a conducive business environment, and ease of doing



Mines and Minerals Minister Paul Kabuswe touring stands at the ongoing Mining Indaba in Cape Town South Africa.

The minister also noted that the Indaba had provided a vital platform for networking and investment opportunities, revealing that the number of companies willing to invest in Zambia was overwhelming.

business,” Dr Musokotwane said.

Mines Minister Paul Kabuswe said his ministry was engaging various investors to secure key partnerships towards accelerating economic development in the country.

Speaking when he toured stands at the exhibition centre in Cape Town, Kabuswe was happy that Zambia was

well-represented and had attracted many investors willing to collaborate in unlocking mining opportunities.

Kabuswe said Africa should stop wasting time holding conferences and talking about potential but actualize the potential into tangible results.

The minister also called for mutual respect by both investors with the money and countries with the minerals.

Government aims to increase copper production to three million metric tonnes in 10 years, which required up-graded production in various mines.

The Zambian delegation at the Indaba comprises officials from State House, the Ministry of Mines, Finance and National Planning, and the Ministry of Commerce, Trade, and Industry. Also represented were ZANACO, ZCCM-IH, Zambia Development Agency (ZDA) and the Zambia High Commission in South Africa.



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Zambia trawls in 350 investment ventures worth \$8 billion

BY DERRICK SILIMINA

The Zambia Development Agency (ZDA) registered more than 350 investment ventures amounting to \$8.59 billion in 2022.



ZDA acting director general Albert Halwampa.

This is a 157.96 per cent increase over the 255 ventures recorded in the same period in 2021 when the capital investment stood at USD 3.33 billion.

Speaking during a recent review of Zambia's business environment in 2022, ZDA Acting Director-General Albert Halwampa said the country's overall macroeconomic environment was marked by improved investor confidence.

"The key sectors included manufacturing; energy; mining; transport; construction and agriculture with the highest investment worth \$4 billion recorded in the construction sector," Halwampa said.

He noted that through the ZDA's Investment Promotion and Business Facilitation, 74,679 jobs were recorded from the 351 investment ventures registered as compared to 24,585 jobs recorded from the 255 investment ventures recorded in the same period of 2021.

Halwampa attributed the development to sound economic policies with the stabilization of the macroeconomic

fundamentals, implementation of fiscal measures and reaching the IMF Staff Level Agreement on an Extended Credit Facility arrangement with Zambia.

During the period under review, the Agency continued to implement various interventions that were aimed at enhancing the growth and competitiveness of businesses, promoting exports, and attracting investments in the key sectors of the economy.

He further disclosed that during the period under review, 184 investment ventures were monitored, recording \$4.40 billion and 19,528 jobs after the Agency undertook monitoring and evaluation as a way of ascertaining the level of project implementation.

In the Export Promotion and Export Development overview, Halwampa noted that total export earnings significantly increased to \$11.77 billion as compared to \$11.14 billion in the same period of 2021, representing an increase of 5.66 per cent.

He stated that after the 33.09 per cent increase of non-traditional exports from

\$2.7 billion in 2021 to \$3.6 billion in 2022, the Agency continued to enhance the competitiveness of exporters. This resulted in deals worth \$99.61 million, of which \$74.96 million were confirmed orders and \$24.65 million were leads.

"In 2022, a total of US\$1.45 billion NTEs were exported to DRC compared to US\$1.09 billion in 2021, representing an increase of 32 per cent. The exports to DRC represent 45 per cent of the total NTEs for 2022."

He further underscored that 5,523 businesses accessed Business Development Support (BDS) Services through ZDA's business development support which included access to market, finance, technology and training. This was an improvement compared to 4,079 supported in 2021, representing an increase of 35.40 per cent.

This led to 7,247 jobs were recorded in comparison to the same period of 2021 which recorded 6,334 jobs.

The Agency was optimistic that Government policy reforms on the ease of doing business would help to improve the competitiveness of the business environment necessary for investment attraction, retention and re-investment.

"The strategic focus by the Agency on domestic investment and progressive measures in the soon to be operationalized Investment, Trade and Business Development (ITBD) Act will lead to increased local investment. The Agency is further working to reduce the period for the issuance of Investment Licence to below ten days. In fact, I am happy to report to you that as of 2022, we cleared all the backlog complete applications and are starting on a clean page in 2023."

Kansanshi Mine planting trees

BY SOLWEZI TODAY WRITER

This year, Kansanshi Mining Plc will plant around 6000 trees on the nine hectares of land that are being restored after resettling 42 project-affected families that had encroached on the mine lease, southwest of Tailings Storage Facility (TSFI).



KMP Head of Departments and members of staff showing support to KMP General Manager, Anthony Mukutuma as he plants a tree.

Kansanshi has spent around \$ 500,000 in the resettlement of the settlers and has decided to enrich the land.

The tree-planting exercise is part of the FQM subsidiary company's efforts to safeguard the environment beyond its area of operation.

The mining firm will rehabilitate about 25 hectares of land disturbed by mining activities and will plant more than 17,000 trees of different species during

this season.

The idea is to integrate the area with the surrounding biophysical environment and improve its resilience to environmental threats.

KMP General Manager Anthony Mukutuma led members of staff in the tree-planting exercise under the theme Plant A Tree and Save The Earth. Mukutuma emphasized that mines should not only produce minerals but make a huge contribution towards the decarboni-

zation of the world by planting trees. "We can go a step further as mines by going round and planting trees. This will have a significant positive net impact in reducing risks associated with climate change."

Kansanshi Mining Plc Environmental Manager, Arnold Malambo, who disclosed that the mining firm would rehabilitate disturbed land and plant trees of different species, said land rehabilitation is part of the mine and the government's efforts to decarbonize the globe.



KMP Head of Departments and members of staff showing support to KMP General Manager, Anthony Mukutuma as he plants a tree.



“This is something that we do every rainy season. We carry out inventories and assessments of all mining-disturbed areas and then plan for rehabilitation. For instance, for the 2022, 2023 rainy season, we have planned to rehabilitate at least 25 hectares and plant over 17,000 trees of different species on the mine site,” he stated.

Malambo said there was a need for every citizen to take part in planting trees to mitigate the effects of climate change.



Kansanshi Mining PLC Hydromet Process Sylvester Mwape with the tree planted in his name.

Kansanshi Mining Plc Corporate Affairs Manager, Kyansenga Chitoshi, hands over a box containing a sample of exercise books to Solwezi DEBS, Jonathan Kayuka. Picture by Mwansa Mambwe.



Kansanshi Mine gives books to 34 Solwezi schools

BY SOLWEZI TODAY REPORTER

FQM's Kansanshi Mining Plc has donated 87,000 exercise books to the Ministry of Education in the Solwezi District of North-Western Province.

The mining company has increased by more than 10,000 the number of exercise books handed over last year.

Kansanshi Mining Plc (KMP) Corporate Affairs Manager Kyansenga Chitoshi said the mine was aware of the government's efforts to ensure more vulnerable children had access to education. The company was mindful that while education was free, other school requirements such as exercise books and

Kayuka said the donation of 87,000 exercise books to benefit 34 schools in the District relieved the pressure of buying exercise books, especially for those who could not afford them.

uniforms come at a considerable cost, "We understand the challenges, so this is our small way of saying we hope our children can start the year on a positive note with some new exercise books," she indicated.

Solwezi District Education Board Secretary Jonathan Kayuka has praised Kansanshi Mining Plc for its continued support of the Education Sector. He said while the government was implementing the free education policy, the pro-



Exercise books donated by Kansanshi Mining Plc.

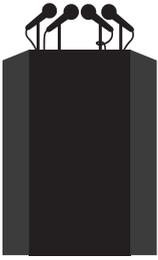


Kansanshi Mining Plc Corporate Affairs Manager, Kyansenga Chitoshi, with Solwezi DEBS, Jonathan Kayuka (Left) having a chat after receiving 87,000 the books. Picture by Mwansa Mambwe.

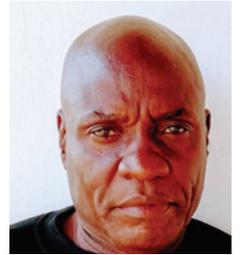
vision of all necessary materials such as exercise books, uniforms, and shoes among others, could not be achieved without support from Kansanshi Mining Plc.

Kayuka said the donation of 87,000 exercise books to benefit 34 schools in the District relieved the pressure of buying exercise books, especially for those who could not afford them. “This is a different form of support that the company is rendering the Ministry as it directly benefits the parents who will be relieved of the pressure to buy books for their children; more so, the vulnerable families whose children could have started attending school without books.”

Speaking on behalf of the parents of the children who were beneficiaries, Alex Mukuta expressed gratitude to Kansanshi Mining Plc for making the weight of purchasing school supplies lighter through the donation. “Kansanshi is here to cooperate with the community, to cooperate with the people that are found here where this mine is, and also the people that are around Kansanshi Mine. This burden that you have taken off our shoulders will really be felt because every term each parent was burdened with buying of books, pencils and other needs, which will no longer be the case.”



HICKS SIKAZWE ON THE PLATFORM



Political indecision propelling cholera devastations

'To prevent cholera, keep your surroundings clean and free from flies. Maintain good personal and environmental hygiene,' screamed a notice on the Ministry of Health's social media site.

It was then that I remembered that I had not washed my hands before touching the keyboard on my computer. I quickly went to wash them with soap and returned to my workstation.

Before I opened the computer, the dog barked, so off I went to the door and found a group of boys and girls carrying containers of varied sizes peering through the gate. They had come from the nearby high-density neighbourhood, Chifubu Township (Ndola) and asked if they could draw some water as they hadn't had any supply for three days and some had not bathed in that time. I allowed them in.

As they scrambled in and circled the garden tap, I noticed that most of them were swinging containers that were dirty or discoloured from years of being kept out in the open.

When I returned to my desktop to begin working on this column, I first strayed to the CNN site - the American cable network news. The first story hit me: More than 1000 people had died from cholera in Malawi in the last three months as the plague had surged in the central African country. Another 79, CNN reported, had been killed from the disease in Kenya.

The story was concerning because Zambia's Eastern province borders Malawi and villagers cross in and out, with some trekkers using unregulated tracks and entry points.

The Kenya outbreak could also not go unnoticed as the Eastern African country is a neighbour to Tanzania which shares borders with Zambia in Northern Province, and every day people traverse between the two countries.

UNSANITARY

According to the American news outlet the causes of the outbreak in both countries included unsanitary environments and drinking water from shallow wells.

Cholera outbreaks are not new to Zambia, especially since the return of democracy in 1991. Between 1990 and now the country has had some of the worst surges such that at one time

in Kitwe the situation was so bad that some casualties had to be buried in mass graves.

While cholera is a dangerous killer disease that wafts with speed, it is also easy to prevent or avoid unnecessary deaths, as the Ministry of Health notice attests in the opening paragraph of the column.

But if it is so easy to prevent, why is there so much institutional (government) and public negation towards measures meant to curb the outbreak and spread?

For instance, after the Malawi story broke out of more than a thousand people dying, what measures did the Zam-



bia Government take to ensure that the disease was contained?

IGNORED

It looks like everybody ignored the alarm. A few days later, cases were reported in several districts in Eastern Province, especially those areas close to the border.

By the time I was writing this column, cholera cases had been reported in Luapula Province. That is how fast cholera can spread.

Cholera emerges as a public health problem which needs individual and institutional participation to help curb its spread. Going by the incessant outbreaks the country has gone through, we appear to turn our backs on the much-needed measures that are key to preventing the outbreak and possible surge.

Cholera is as much a devastating killer disease as COVID-19, so the country needs to embark on similar resilience shown during the fight against the spread of the coronavirus outbreak.

The Ministry of health should never go to sleep. Officials must continuously and consistently ply the public with alerts, not only when there is an outbreak but even during honeymoon periods.

As someone who grew up on the mines in Bancroft, now Chililabombwe, and Chingola, I do not remember a single day of a cholera outbreak. The reason was simple.

HIGH STANDARDS

Mining companies insisted on maintaining very high standards of hygiene in all communities whether high- or low-cost dwellings.

For their part, the firms ensured that they supplied clean water throughout the year. They swept the roads and township streets, and garbage was collected every week. In such a scenario there was no room for the advent of flies and subsequently no cholera outbreaks.

Those older citizens will agree that in rural villages there never were any cases of cholera. Cleanliness predated the

very early colonial days when chiefs demanded that villagers swept surroundings, decorated their structures and appropriately disposed of dirt including faecal matter.

Every month chiefs would go around villages to check compliance and residents who ignored the rules were punished. Today commercialization, development, and lack of leadership have led to the abandonment of the above-mentioned culture that formed an important legacy in Zambia's society.

Recently the Ministry of Local Government attempted to remove vendors from the streets, but the department was frayed and the action was discontinued.

UNCONTROLLED

Zambia has allowed the emergence of uncontrolled vending especially after the dawn of democracy since 1990 were—see my book WASTED YEARS.

When MMD removed UNIP, Frederick Chiluba the new leader embraced street vending and went further to set up a vending office at Sate House presided over by a Deputy Minister.

Marketeers were happy. They ululated as they abandoned the traditional markets to fill up every space in corridors in town and city centres.

Subsequent governments that came after Chiluba maintained the vendors in streets and shop corridors, with claims that there was nowhere to take the traders especially that there were not enough jobs to go round. This was and remains a political lie—the vendors

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came from markets, many of which remain yawning today.

Fair enough, traders were allowed onto the streets and shop corridors but no one up to today has provided toilets where these people can go. The common behaviour is that many, especially at night, deposit faecal matter mainly in discarded Chibuku packs, which they throw anywhere. Alternatively they squat anywhere, even the same trading spaces, to quickly relieve themselves.

CLOGGED

The result is that what are supposed to be drainage systems are clogged with litter and human waste. When the rain season sets in the channels become breeding grounds for cholera and of course mosquitoes that cause malaria.

In short, Zambia has failed to deal with this issue, and deliberately so. The vendors can be removed from the streets back to the markets if there is any will at all.

Has anyone ever wondered how authorities have managed to keep away vendors from old and emerging shopping malls? How then have municipalities failed to clear the streets?

The country needs a pro-active approach if cholera is to be nipped in the bud. It is cheaper to prevent the disease and deaths than try to act when the disease runs rampant.

It is clear also whenever there is an outbreak the health system which is always depleted of drugs is put under strain. Whenever there is an outbreak, finances allocated to other areas of social service are diverted to tackle the outbreak.

Yet to avoid all this, all the country needs is to ensure that every one washes hands with soap regularly, keep surroundings clean and free from flies and above all hang on to personal and environmental hygiene.

Together willing Zambians can fight and defeat cholera.

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.

Mining industry stalwart Dr Goodwin Beene appointed FQM Country Manager



Mining industry stalwart Dr Godwin Beene has been appointed Country Manager of First Quantum Minerals in Zambia, taking over from General Kingsley Chinkuli, who will continue with the company on an advisory basis.

Previously working as Government Affairs Specialist at FQM, Dr Beene has helped forge the path to positive, steady relationships between the government and the mining industry, offering vital support to outgoing FQM Country Manager General Chinkuli, and ensuring that policies are aligned for a 'win-win' outcome.

Having served as Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Mines from January 2009 to November 2011, and currently serving as President of the Zambia Chamber of Mines, Dr Beene is well-equipped for the job at hand, bringing to the table both industry expertise and the necessary familiarity with government operations and structures. He believes that the mining industry, though oftentimes at the centre of controversy, is the lifeblood of the Zambian economy.

First Quantum launches 2023 Health Literacy Programme

First Quantum Minerals' Health and Wellness Department has launched the 2023 Health Literacy Programme for all FQM employees at its Kansanshi and FQM Trident Mine operations in Zambia

in order to improve the health and productivity of the employees.

The health literacy programme is aimed at raising awareness of the available health services at the mine sites and encouraging good health-seeking behaviour for disease prevention, early disease diagnosis and proper maintenance of chronic conditions.

Employees at both Solwezi and Kalumbila had an opportunity to visit the stands set up at their respective operations to appreciate the Health Services available. The stands were set up to give an opportunity to employees to learn about the wide range of physical

and mental health services, activities and support made available to them by the company.





Nigeria card to rival Visa, Mastercard

Nigeria's Central Bank has launched AfriGo, a domestic card scheme to provide customers more options than Mastercard and Visa. AfriGo is the result of a collaboration between the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) and Nigerian Inter-Bank Settlement Systems (NIBSS).

During the launch, Central Bank Governor Godwin Emefiele said, "The challenges that have limited the inclusion of Nigerians include the high cost of card services as a result of foreign exchange requirements of international card schemes and the fact that existing card products do not address local peculiarities of the Nigerian market."

IMF MD visits Zambia

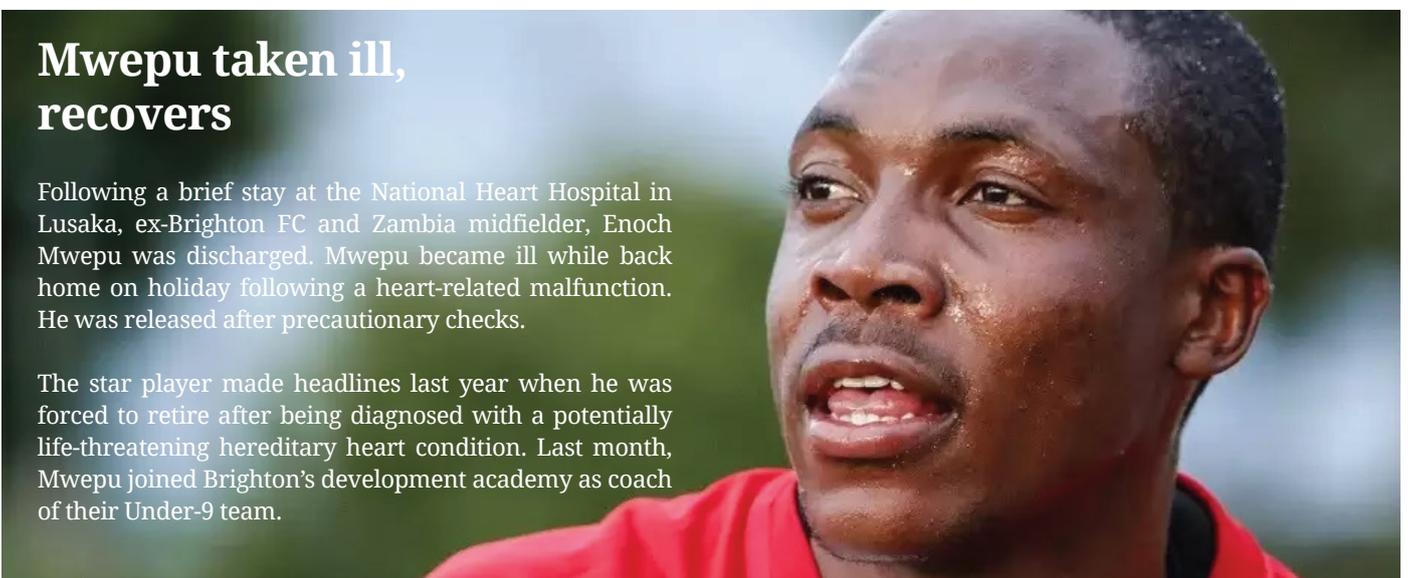
International Monetary Fund (IMF) Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva visited Zambia for the first time since her appointment as Managing Director in 2019. During her three-day trip, Gregorieva met with President Hakainde Hichilema and senior government officials for high-level debt restructuring talks. She also spent time talking to students at the University of Zambia and opening an IMF office in Lusaka. Zambia, which in 2020 became the first African nation to default on its sovereign debt, is in the process of restructuring a \$13 billion debt.



Mwepu taken ill, recovers

Following a brief stay at the National Heart Hospital in Lusaka, ex-Brighton FC and Zambia midfielder, Enoch Mwepu was discharged. Mwepu became ill while back home on holiday following a heart-related malfunction. He was released after precautionary checks.

The star player made headlines last year when he was forced to retire after being diagnosed with a potentially life-threatening hereditary heart condition. Last month, Mwepu joined Brighton's development academy as coach of their Under-9 team.

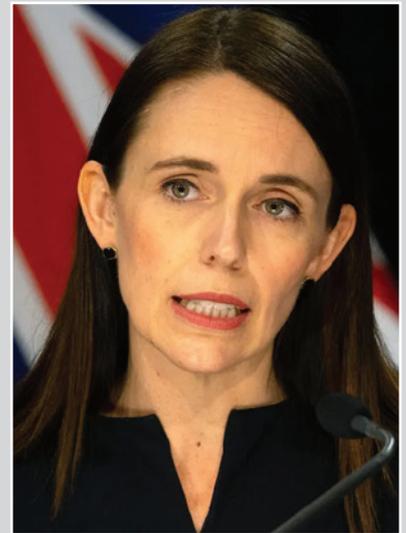


China re-opens borders



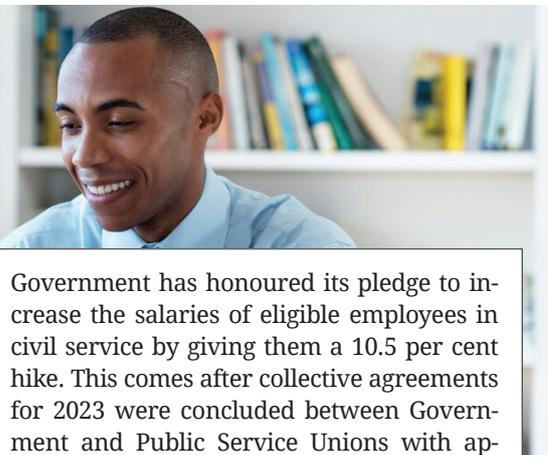
Three years after deciding to close its borders to international visitors, China finally ended its travel ban—part of its zero-COVID public health policy which aimed to curb the spread of the virus—and re-opened them. The lifting of the ban allowed for domestic and international travel to resume and many flocked into the country via land, air, and sea to have long-awaited reunions with their loved ones.

New Zealand Premier quits



New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern announced that she is stepping down after holding office since 2017. Speaking at her party's inaugural caucus meeting of 2023, Ardern said, "I'm leaving, because with such a privileged role comes responsibility—the responsibility to know when you are the right person to lead and also when you are not. I know what this job takes. And I know that I no longer have enough in the tank to do it justice. It's that simple."

Civil servants in 10.5 percent increment



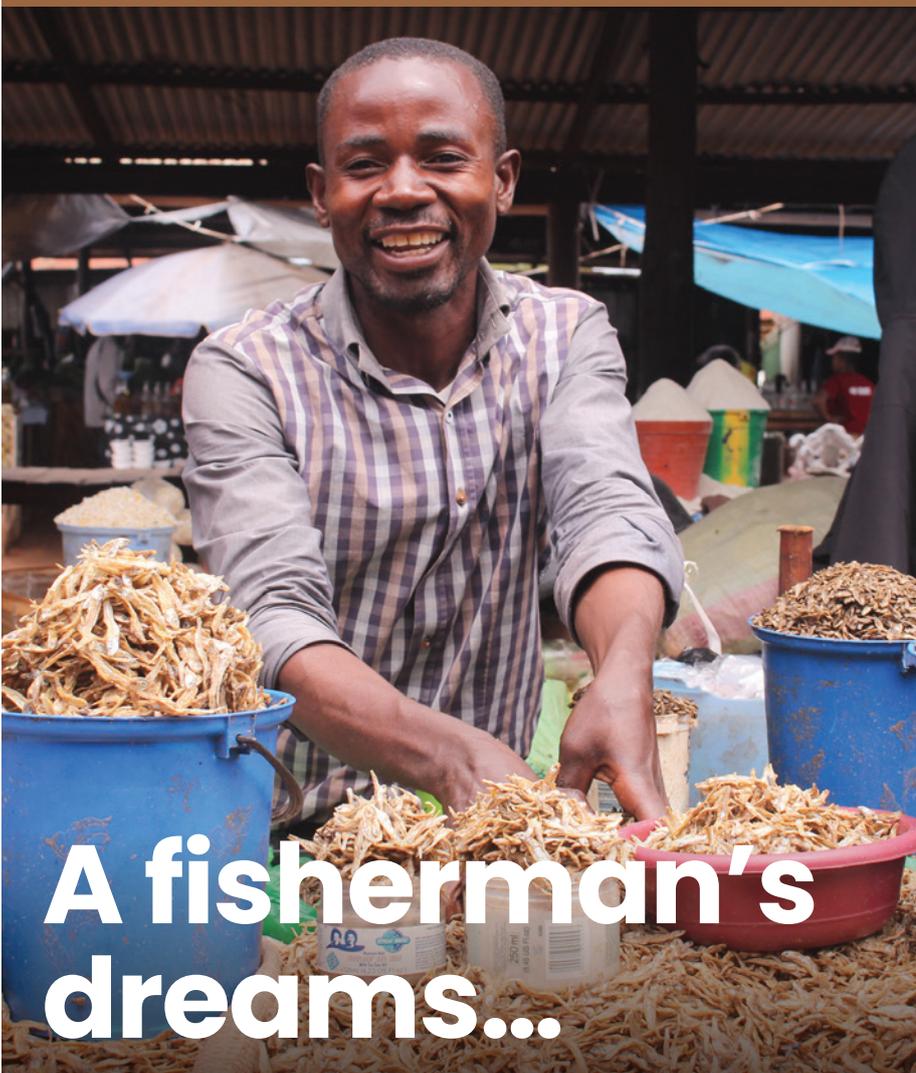
Government has honoured its pledge to increase the salaries of eligible employees in civil service by giving them a 10.5 per cent hike. This comes after collective agreements for 2023 were concluded between Government and Public Service Unions with approval given by the Emoluments Commission.

\$30 billion to boost food production in Africa

African Development Bank President Akinwumi Adesina has announced that development partners have committed \$30 billion in a five-year plan to increase food production capacity in African nations.



Simon Fikati, one of the Kapenta traders at Solwezi's Kyawama market.



A fisherman's dreams...

BY DERRICK SILIMINA

The increasing demand for sprat sardines, popularly known as “kapenta” in Zambia, has turned trade in the small fish into a lucrative business attracting small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to venture in.

This is so because the sector has a long value chain which starts from the fisher and proceeds to the processor, trader, retailer and finally the consumer.

In Solwezi District, Simon Fikati, 42, is one of the kapenta traders at Solwezi's Kyawama Market who are making cool cash by selling the fish which has for ages been a source of cheap protein to many households.

“I started the business eight years ago, and my start-up capital was K3000. With this business I have bought land, built a house and I am sponsoring my daughter who is pursuing a nursing course,” Fikati says.

He notes that his range of fish includes dry kapenta from Mpulungu in Luapula Province and from Siavonga in Southern Province. Fikati, who also sells cooking oil, describes the kapenta business as “very good” because it yields good profit.

From a 50kg bag of Siavonga kapenta that he purchases at K4,500, Fikati realizes a profit of K1000. Additionally, he orders a container of 20 litres of cooking oil at K650, records a profit of K70 and sells 40 litres per day.

He further affirms that cooking oil is another lucrative commodity in Solwezi because a 750mls bottle is sold at K27 and 2.5ltrs at K81.

“My monthly profit is about K5000 and as of now, my stock is now worth K10,000,” Fikati declared.

In his quest to acquire knowledge and grow his business successfully, Fikati got recruited for the business training programme in 2019 which is powered by the Kansanshi Mining Plc.

He acknowledged that the training has helped him a lot and he has now managed to grow the business, moving from being a tenant to being a house owner.

“My vision is to expand the business and diversify into real estate which I aim to accomplish by 2024.”

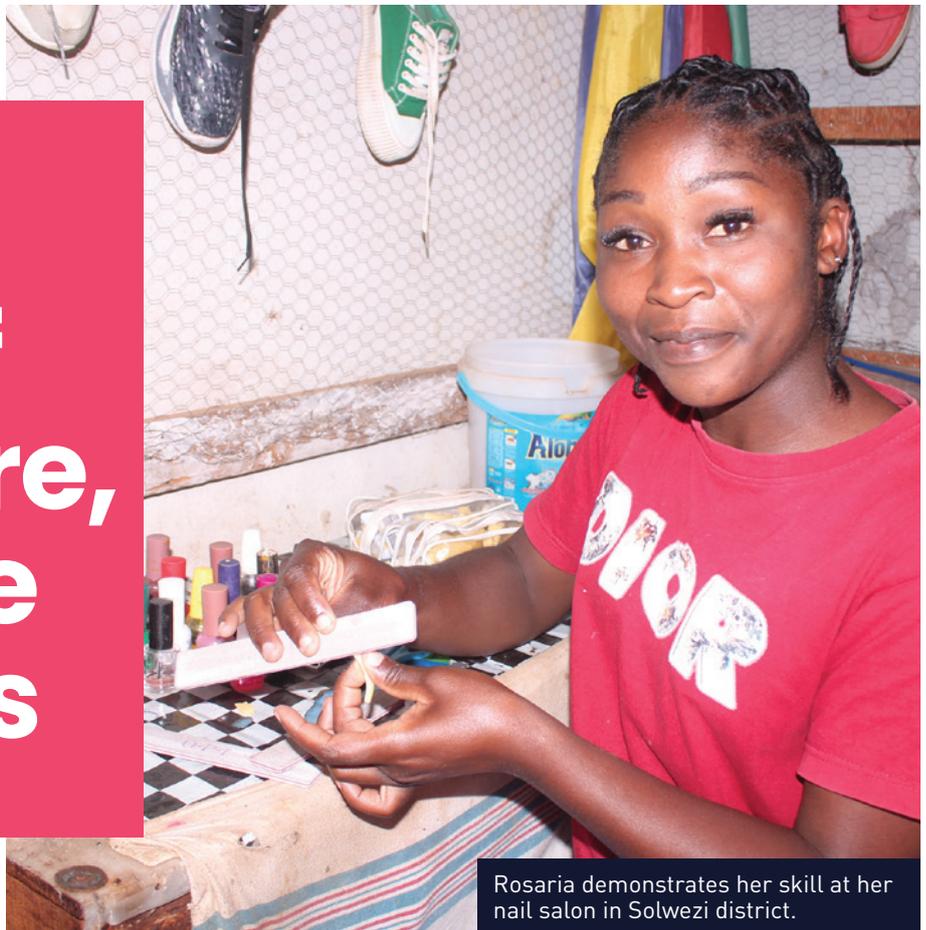
Fikati showers glowing tribute to Kansanshi Mining Plc whose training through Fortune World Investments has introduced him to records management through recording daily sales, profit and stock.

“If you gave me money, I would not do what I have done, but with knowledge, I have now managed to do a lot.”



A rosy vision of manicure, pedicure business

BY DERRICK SILIMINA



Rosaria demonstrates her skill at her nail salon in Solwezi district.

The manicure business is booming in Zambia with more technicians spending long hours each day buffing, scraping, painting, and polishing their clients' nails for a living.

According to latest statistics, global nail care products' market size was valued at over \$19 billion in 2021 and is expected to expand at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 5.2 per cent from 2022 to 2030.

For this reason Rosaria Chola, 30, from Solwezi's Kyawama Market is earning money by offering nail beautification services for women including manicures, pedicures, nail polish application, nail repair, and hand and foot treatments.

"I started the business at home in 2017 and later started operating in the market in 2022. Despite the high costs of artificial nails and glue, this service costs K100 to put nails on fingers and toes," Chola explains.

With a profit margin of about 50 per cent for her service, she describes the business as a good venture which is very profitable depending on the number of customers.

Since Chola intends to open a manicure and pedicure shop in town centre by the end of the year, FWL counselled her to maintain a case book to record all transactions.

Chola discloses that with an average number of customers of five per day, her total revenue per month is about K2000.

After realizing how lucrative the nail beautifying business was, Chola took to business training in January 2020 to hone her skills and completed all the 24 topics on offer.

"The training helped me with the ability to save money and to welcome customers. Identifying potential customers is

another skill I acquired from the training."

To increase the number of customers, Chola has continued learning different nail styles and designs from colleagues and from the Internet to keep up with modern trends.

Mentors from Fortune World Investment Limited who are the facilitators of the business training programme which is sponsored by Kansanshi Mining Plc advised her to buy a smartphone and open a Facebook page to further advertise her services.

Since Chola intends to open a manicure and pedicure shop in town centre by the end of the year, FWL counselled her to maintain a case book to record all transactions.

Chola said, "I thank KMP for the training which has helped me in business as without them, I would not know what to do. I urge them to continue helping others."



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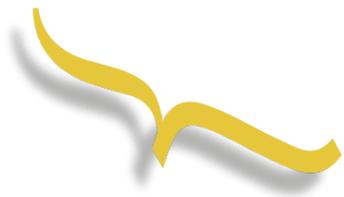
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