



Inde Credit uplifts 450 enterprises with K1bn credits

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Kyafukuma Secondary School in Kansanshi now has a new ablution block for pupils and staff, and a solar-powered water supply system worth K1.2 million.





Without question, Inde Credit has since inception in 2016 stayed on course with an eagle's eye on small and medium enterprises (SMEs), lately swooping down on micro-enterprises across sectors.

Grassroots-level industries struggle with peculiar difficulties including scarce access to financing. In conventional banking practice, such enterprises do not meet the grade because of lacking requisite balance sheets, let alone collateral, to merit positive consideration. Most of the time, those seeking financial assistance are not financially literate, which tends to aggravate their situation.

In reaching out to hundreds of SMEs, Inde Credit evinces not only organizational ability and managerial skill in its pursuit of better fortunes for its clients, but the passion to see them rise and excel.

On the flip-side, it always takes a considerable measure of discipline for loanees to work at their targets and meet their obligations with the lending institutions. Admittedly, over the years not all loanees have serviced their commitments with various institutions, thus complicating matters not only for themselves but many other aspiring entrepreneurs who would seek financing. For Inde to have covered considerably immense ground so far would indicate the availability of viable repayment mechanisms and a measure of flexibility in its relationship with the SMEs.

Institutions flying in the same airspace as Inde, which in ciChewa means Yes, will need to learn a thing or two about how this organization has realized consistency and is now able to expand its portfolio to reach small players in new sectors, such as agriculture. It is pleasant and refreshing to see lenders like Inde make dreams come true for enterprises that tend to start out weak and vulnerable.



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Advertising:
adverts@solwezitoday.com
Editorial:
info@solwezitoday.com

Livingstone Office
Queens Park, John Hunt Way,
PO Box 60689
Tel: +260 966 710 736.

Lusaka Office
Suite 3, plot 1728/M, Main Street, Ibex
Hill | Lusaka, Zambia
Tel: +260 777 108 870

Ndola Office
Ndola address
Suite 7, Zamox Flats
Lewanika Road, Ndola
Telephone: +260 212 611 776
Fax: +260 212 612 218
Mobile: +260 977 820 888

Solwezi Office
C/o The Royal Solwezi Hotel,
Plot 447 Old Chingola Road, Solwezi, ZAMBIA
Telephone: 0218 821 620
Fax: +260 218 821 966
Mobile: +260 977 820 888

Inflation will hit 13 Per Cent — FNB

BY STUART LISULO

First National Bank (FNB) Zambia Limited projects that the country's annual rate of inflation will hit 13.9 per cent by the end of this year because of upside risks of the kwacha's depreciation against major currency convertibles.



According to an FNB Zambia Daily Market Update, the country's annual rate of inflation is likely to continue rising to eventually settle at around 13.9 per cent by December this year, induced by the continued currency depreciation and reduced food supply.

Zambia's inflation increased to 9.6 per cent in February, this year, the highest in two months, mainly attributed to an increase in prices of selected non-food items.

Zambia Statistics Agency (ZamStats) data shows that while the annual food inflation remained stagnant at 11.6 per cent, the annual non-food inflation for

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.

February 2023, increased to 6.9 per cent from 6.5 per cent in January 2023, mainly triggered by price increases of non-food items such as fuels and lubricants, among others.

"Headline inflation in Zambia rose to a two-month high in February, coming in at 9.6 per cent year-on-year from 9.4 per cent in January. On a month-on-month basis, consumer prices climbed 1.9 per cent in February. The quicker pace of price growth in the economy was driven by non-food inflation, which rose to 6.9 per cent from 6.4 per cent in January, while food inflation was unchanged at 11.6 per cent.

"Importantly, we believe, the latest data points to a turning point for inflation, which has been fairly flat around the 9 per cent level since June 2022. We expect the uptick in inflation to continue to rise as base effects taper and key risks—such as currency depreciation, hike in tariffs and reduced food supply materialise in the coming months. Our base view is for inflation to peak at 13.9 per cent in December 2023," stated FNB.

The national average prices of food items such as mealie-meal have skyrocketed since the turn of the New Year, with a 25 kg breakfast bag now fetching around K196.84 compared to K156.57 12 months prior.

Non-food items, such as fuel have equally soared, with petrol prices averaging K27.15 per litre by the end of February, up from K19.77 one year earlier.

Banks hike interest rates

BY STUART LISULO

Commercial Banks have increased their interest rates on all loan facilities due to anticipated higher inflation.



Dr. Denny H. Kalyalya - Governor of the Bank of Zambia

During the first sitting of the year, the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the central bank increased the MPR by 25 basis points from 9 per cent to 9.25 per cent, citing a heightened inflationary outlook for this year.

According to the BoZ, inflation is projected to increase and remain above the 6-8 per cent target range. This stands in sharp contrast to the earlier projection made last November that inflation would return to the target range in the first quarter of 2024.

Reacting to the policy decision, various banks issued notices to customers, advising them of the corresponding increments on their loan facilities, effective March 1, 2023.

First National Bank (FNB) Zambia Limited, Stanbic, UBA, Zanaco Plc and Indo-Zambia Bank were among the country's leading financial institutions surveyed, who alerted their clients of the upward adjustment in either their loan repayments or tenors.

Reacting to the policy decision, various banks issued notices to customers, advising them of the corresponding increments on their loan facilities, effective March 1, 2023.

"...Subsequently, we hereby notify all our esteemed customers that all Kwacha Variable Interest Rates that are linked to the BoZ MPR will be adjusted upwards by 25 basis points (0.25%), effective February 24, 2023. This adjustment will either result in an increased loan tenor or increased monthly instalment," read one FNB notice.

Zanaco Plc, who announced another record-breaking Profit After Tax (PAT) of K1.35 billion last year, announced their

interest rate hike would also take effect March 1.

"Following the BoZ's MPC statement announcing the increase in the MPR to 9.25 per cent, customers are hereby advised that the interest rate on Kwacha credit facilities linked to the MPR will increase by 0.25 per cent, effective March 1, 2023. Customers will have the option of either extending the loan tenors or increasing their monthly instalments. Please contact your nearest branch or call 5000 to advise your preferred option by February 28, 2023, failure to which the bank will proceed to extend the tenors of your loan facilities," Zanaco stated.

Stanbic Bank on the other hand cautioned their customers that the institution would proceed to hike the monthly repayment amount on loans if no contact was made within the notice period.

"Interest rates for local currency (ZMW) loans and advances that are linked to the MPR will be adjusted upwards by 25 basis points from 9.0% to 9.25%, effective March 1, 2023. The increase in MPR will affect loan repayments through an increase in loan tenure or an increase in monthly repayment instalments.

"We, therefore, encourage you to take advantage of the notice period between now and the stated effective date to contact the Bank and advise your preferred option, failure to which the Bank will proceed to increase your monthly repayment instalments," stated Stanbic.

According to the BoZ data, the average lending rates on loan facilities had broadly remained unchanged at around 25 per cent since June, last year.

With the incremental hike in the benchmark policy rate, however, this is set to increase, as liquidity challenges are likely to persist on the back of both a higher MPR and raised minimum Statutory Reserve Ratio (SRR) to 11.5 per cent, up from 9 per cent.

ZANACO offers low-interest loans to SMEs

BY JOHN CHOLA

ZANACO has launched a new product, SME Pa Eazy, which will enable small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to readily borrow up to K1 million in low-interest loans.



Small and Medium Enterprises Minister Elias Mubanga during the launch of the SME Pa Eazy

ZANACO Chief Executive Officer Mukwandi Chibesakunda says the bank has initially set aside K50 million for loans to SMEs across the country.

Small and Medium Enterprises Minister Elias Mubanga has applauded ZANACO for taking lead among commercial banks to respond to President Hakainde Hichilema's call to support economic growth through SMEs.

Mubanga was delighted that the facility comes with training and technical assistance of entrepreneurs.

In a launch presentation to SMEs, government officials and several key stakeholders, Head of Business Banking Austin Chijikwa announced that ZANACO had lowered interest rates for all small business.

"We are offering a reduced interest rate of 18 per cent on short-term business

loans; this covers facilities such as invoice discounting, order finance and short-term loans of up to 18 months," Chijikwa said.

SMEs customers could now borrow up to K1 million depending on their capacity to repay. The bank's primary target was businesses with turnover of between K0.2 million and K5 million.

"We have relaxed our lending requirements; small ticket loans below K250,000 will not require audited financials unless they are already available. We have also increased flexibility on collateral requirements depending on the amount borrowed—women-led business can enjoy up to zero collateral contribution under our Zee Women's Banking," revealed Chijikwa.

ZANACO was now reliving its mandate of Making Banking Easy for Zambian Small Business as was its role since establishment.

"ZANACO was established by the government in 1969 with the objectives of meeting the credit needs of indigenous Zambians who had difficulty accessing loans from the existing banks at the time and of taking banking closer to the people. Although the environment has changed a lot since then, our commitment to growing our people, our communities remain unwavering. They say history repeats itself and so again we have been called to rise to the challenge of building a better narrative for SMEs in Zambia.

"The following customers are encouraged to apply; women-led SMEs, SMEs with Constituency Development Fund (CDF) contracts, SMEs in the renewable energy sector, SMEs in the mining value chain, SMEs in the agriculture value chain."

No two businesses are exactly alike, Chijikwa noted. "Tell us about your business to help us provide the right solution for you.

"An online form is available at our website for you to tell us about your business and financing need. Our relationship team will get back to you for a consultation. You can also call your relationship manager directly or email us at smebanking@zanaco.co.zm," he explained.

ZANACO is re-engineering its processes to reduce turn-around time and improve the customer experience.

ZANACO, the number one commercial bank for two years running, is simplifying credit application documentation to make it easier for customers and speed up credit decision-making.

ZANACO has established a dedicated SME Banking unit while investing in training for both its staff and customers to provide business financial literacy and management, and best practices for managing SME customers.

Inde Credit uplifts 450 enterprises with K1bn credits

BY SOLWEZI TODAY REPORTER

Without doubt, the future of Zambia's economy rests on small and medium enterprises (SMEs). According to the International Trade Centre survey of 2018, SMEs in Zambia represent 70 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP), 88 per cent of employment and contribute 97 per cent of all businesses in the economy. Many economic watchers believe this contribution could increase if only the start-ups and existent enterprises had ready access to capital financing. But this narrative is fast changing as more lending institutions enter the market to support SMEs. One such institution is Inde Credit, which recently celebrated a milestone—disbursing more than K1 billion to support local SMEs since it was established in 2016. SALIM HENRY reports...

More than 450 SMEs have benefited through the facility, resulting in more than 3000 jobs, and to mark the development, Inde Credit invited Zambian entrepreneurs and SMEs to the Game Rangers International Wildlife Discovery Centre in Lusaka to network and showcase their businesses.

They gathered to share their success stories under the banner Made in Zambia—A celebration of Zambian SMEs and Entrepreneurship.

Minister of Small and Medium Enterprise Development Elias Mubanga as Guest of Honour at applauded Inde Credit's support towards the development of SMEs.

"It is good to see a financial institution truly supporting SME growth. This is exactly the kind of commitment we need to accelerate economic development and create more jobs for our citizens," he said.

The minister also delivered a special

message from President Hakainde Hichilema: "We are delighted by the Made in Zambia event and join the Minister of SME Development in congratulating Inde Credit on the amazing achievement of disbursing K1 billion to Zambian SMEs since 2016. We appreciate the efforts to promote Zambian entrepreneurs and encourage continued support of local businesses."

Inde Credit Chief Executive Officer Peter Bwalya said the company's vision was to support 5000 SMEs by the year 2025.



(L-R) Niels Bojsen - board member Inde Credit, Peter Bwalya CEO and Executive Director Inde Credit, Small and Medium Enterprise Development Minister Elias Mubanga, Michael Kroupnik Board Chairman Indecredit, Nicolas Megels Commercial Director Inde Credit.



Small and Medium Enterprise Development Minister Elias Mubanga commending INDE credits effort to accelerate economic development through commitment to SMEs.



Inde Credit Zambia Commercial Director Nicolas Megels emphasising INDE credits' commitment to enabling growth of SMEs and micro-enterprises through access to finances.

"We are on our way to doing that and we are very positive about the future of our economy," he said, citing Government's enabling policies.

VISION

Inde Credit had stuck to its vision from the outset of breaking the barriers to financing for SMEs.

"When Inde Credit was launched in 2016, it was with a clear vision of providing financing where it was most needed. Access to finance is a major obstacle for SMEs, even though they make up the vast majority of Zambian businesses and are a major contributor to our GDP."

"When Inde Credit was launched in 2016, it was with a clear vision of providing financing where it was most needed. Access to finance is a major obstacle for SMEs, even though they make up the vast majority of Zambian businesses and are a major contributor to our GDP."

Bwalya said he was almost drawn to tears when he heard about one woman who had grown her chicken business from 100 birds to 500 after getting a loan from Inde Credit.

"I was left with feelings of hope and drive to empower even more small-scale businesses," he said.

Inde co-founder and Board Chairman of Inde Credit Michael Kroupnik observed that the company's focus was consistent six years down the line.

"Our founding mission at Inde Credit is to make Zambian businesses work. While our company has grown over the years, our team remains focused on the same goal—empowering the small business economy and improving our customers' financial lives. We want to do more than just carry out financial transactions," he said.

MICRO-ENTERPRISES

Head of Operations Nicolas Megelas unfolded the company's move to not just serve SMEs, but also micro-enterprises.

"As part of our commitment to be a business enabler, we are now working to reach micro businesses as well through our partnership with Farm Depot. Our agri-loans are even more accessible, with little to no collateral needed for small- and medium-scale farmers," he said.

The company also offered preferential rates for women and youths.

At the event, stories were shared about how access to finance is a key constraint to SME growth and often a hopeless obstacle for entrepreneurs.

One of the success stories was that of Chawezi Daka, who obtained credit from Inde to grow her business.

"I turned to Inde Credit last year because I was receiving orders that I had trouble fulfilling. When looking for financing I was either turned down or faced with fees that were too high. After getting financing from Inde, I was able to hire the people needed and buy the necessary equipment to take my business to the next level. In six months, I have grown from two to five corporate clients," she said.

Bo'Jangles:

Jazzing it up with tasty cuisine

BY DERRICK SILIMINA

Ten minutes eastwards of Lusaka's city centre is a fine, fresh and unique culinary hub in Longacres.

Since its first outlet opened at Ndola's Kafubu Mall in 2016, Bo'Jangles has offered its clientele a refreshing and thrilling dining adventure steered by hospitality veterans.

During the recent launch of Bo 'Jangles, Minister of Commerce, Trade and Industry Chipoka Mulenga said Government was keen to promote a private sector-driven economy which in turn promoted the agenda of job creation.

"We can work hard, but there comes a time when we relax and have a good time in a decent place. And this is a decent place that we have added to several good facilities not only in Lusaka but Zambia as a whole. So, to the management of this facility, Bo'Jangles, I say congratulations!"

DESTINATION

Bo 'Jangles Restaurant in Lusaka is finally here to tantalize and tickle our taste buds. So, set the scene, taste the food and sample the jazz! It's time to think of food as a destination!

The seating and décor feature high-quality materials carefully selected and procured from around the world to create a stellar ambience.

The exceptional and dynamic team, part of the larger corporate group 'Lamba Zambia' consists of renowned and acclaimed chefs, sommeliers and outstanding front-of-house directors from different parts of the world; representing the diversity and rich culture of service that all constitute the DNA of Bo 'Jangles Lusaka.

We are Lusaka's premier destination for novelty and excellent delivery. What's more is that you don't have to wait for dinner to enjoy the menu: Bo'Jangles' commitment to serving impeccable food unfolds at 0700hrs daily!

CONCLUSION

With our Taste the Jazz motto, Bo'Jangles plans to invite jazz artists from Malawi, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, and South Africa to come to play with local jazz artists. A three-month musical programme event is already underway and is takes off Thursday and Sunday nights.

The restaurant has employed nearly 170 local support staff, and is here to stay. We aspire to open new outlets in other towns.



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LuSE censures Madison Financial Services for breach

BY STUART LISULO

A Lusaka Securities Exchange investigation has fined and censured Madison Financial Services Plc (MFS) on finding the organisation guilty of having breached several listing rules.



According to a notice issued by the LuSE Secretariat, MFS was found guilty of having breached several listing rules, which included, but were not limited to failure to prepare financial statements in compliance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS).

“The LuSE conducted an investigation into suspected breaches of the LuSE Listings Rules by MFS.”

The Listing Committee, after considering all the relevant submissions from the Company, found that the Company was in breach of the following:

i) Breach of Section 8.62 of the Listings Rules for failure to prepare the Financial Statements in compliance with IFRS.

The particular breach relates to the Inadequate Disclosure of the Management Services Agreement between MFS and Lawrence Sikutwa Associates (LSA) and the Inadequate Disclosure of the Madison General Insurance Limited (MGen)

Guarantee to Chakaka Village Limited in the Annual Financial Statements as a Related Party Transaction,” the LuSE disclosed.

ii) Breach of Section 7.A.17 for lack of disclosure of the Madison General Insurance Limited (MGen) Guarantee to Chakaka Village Limited in the Prospectus;

iii) Breach of Section 3.4 for failure to publish a cautionary announcement in relation to the default on the Madison General Insurance Limited (MGen)

“The LuSE conducted an investigation into suspected breaches of the LuSE Listings Rules by MFS.”

Guarantee to Chakaka Village Limited;

“iv) Breach of Section 3.19 of the Listings Rules for failure to publish and distribute the 2019, 2020, and 2021 Annual Financial Statements in accordance with the timelines provided for in Section 3.

“The Listing Committee having found MFS in breach of the aforementioned imposed a private censure for breaches of all the foregoing sanctions and imposed a fine on the Company.”



'Increased CDF enhancing community projects'

BY JOHN CHOLA

President Hakainde Hichilema's Government is progressively enhancing equity, equality and social justice in local communities through the increased Constituency Development Fund (CDF).

The President said as of December 2022, all 156 constituencies across the country had received their respective K25.7 million allocations in full. At present, 3,256 community projects have been approved for implementation through CDF in all constituencies.

This was said during his outlining of the progress that had been made in the application of the national values and principles to the second session of the thirteenth National Assembly on Friday, February 24, 2023.

President Hichilema said the 3,256 community projects include the construction and rehabilitation of public infrastructure such as clinics, classrooms and police posts.

"A total of 11,422 vulnerable pupils in boarding secondary schools, in 130 constituencies, were provided with boarding bursaries to enable them to continue with their education. A further, 29,916 youths from vulnerable families in 145 constituencies, accessed skills development bursaries," President Hichilema said.

The Head of State also reported that in response to wider concerns about the administration of the CDF, the government had taken measures to improve efficiency and effectiveness, thus the approval of projects had been decentralised to the provincial administration. Guidelines on procurement had also been streamlined.

"Government-issued Zambia Public Pro-

Noting that corruption stifles development, President Hichilema warned that in his fight against corruption, there would be no sacred cows.

curement Authority (ZPPA) Circular No. 1 of 2023. The circular places all CDF procurements under reservation schemes in line with the ZPPA Act No. 20 of 2020. This, therefore, entails that citizens who reside in respective constituencies will be given priority and preference in the procurement of all CDF projects," the President said.

ACCESS

To ensure equitable access to social services, the government was making progress in increasing access to electricity, water supply and sanitation across the country, especially in rural areas.

He reiterated that Government had through the 2023 national budget allocated K750 million towards rural electrification programmes. In addition, K156 million had been set aside from the CDF to expedite rural electrification, "We are pleased to report that, as at December 2022, a total of 56,341 rural electrification connections were made against the target of 39,992. To enhance access to water and sanitation, Government, in 2022, constructed 1,416 boreholes,

equipped with hand pumps. During the same period, 1,226 boreholes were rehabilitated and 206 piped water schemes were set up across the country," the President said.

WATER AND SANITATION

In 2023 and beyond, President Hichilema emphasised, CDF will prioritise the construction and rehabilitation of piped water and sanitation schemes for communities and public institutions, such as schools, health centres, markets and bus stations.

Noting that corruption stifles development, President Hichilema warned that in his fight against corruption, there would be no sacred cows.

The President urged every Zambian to uphold integrity and denounce any form of corrupt practices.

"Our citizens deserve efficient and effective services from public institutions. It is for this reason that we have dedicated this year to getting rid of all forms of rigidities that stand in the way of progress in service delivery."

Money laundering and terrorism financing were emerging crimes presenting a risk to Zambia's national security and development efforts.

It is in this regard, the President said Government had developed the National Anti-Money Laundering and Countering Terrorism and Proliferation Financing Policy, to curb such crimes.



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We remain committed to the continuous improvement of our approach to responsible mining by ensuring that each aspect of our operation meets the increasing environmental performance standards.



FQM Trident Limited

Lukwesa Burak chairs Masomo Education Foundation

BY STUART LISULO

Lukwesa Burak, one of Zambia's media exports to the world, is the new Chair of the Masomo Education Foundation Advisory Committee - an organisation that finances the education of extraordinary young Zambians selected through a merit-based application process.



Lukwesa Burak

Born in Ndola, Zambia, Burak moved to England with her family at age eight. She is a graduate of the University of Sussex, the Neuchâtel University in Switzerland and holds a Master of Science degree from the University of Leicester. Burak has previously worked for Al Jazeera English, Sky News, and South Africa's eNCA.

Burak, a noted broadcaster currently working for the BBC and with a deep knowledge of global affairs, is a staunch proponent of education to improve the lives of young people around the world.

Masomo scholars are enrolled in programmes ranging from medicine and pharmacy to engineering and actuarial sciences. Most of the scholars study at the University of Zambia and the Copperbelt University.

Her vast experience and expertise will no doubt will help guide the work of the Foundation.

In the announcement made in February, the Foundation said it was confident that the addition of Burak to its Advisory Committee would grow the capacity of the organization to empower young people, especially in Zambia.

Following her appointment, Burak gave some insight into her journey and her thoughts on her new position, "My start in life in no way pointed to a path of further education and my profession today. I had people enter my life who gave me a shot at what was unobtainable - and I took it. I believe in giving back in any small way I can. And I will. This is a great honour."

The Masomo Education Foundation (www.masomoeducation.org) is a Canadian-based charity riding with a mission: "To help achieve Zambian economic and social development by providing scholarships for post-secondary education to deserving young women and men in Zambia."

An independent committee of accomplished Canadian professionals normally sifts through applications to identify the best candidates based on objective criteria. Masomo scholars are enrolled in programmes ranging from medicine and pharmacy to engineering and actuarial sciences. Most of the scholars study at the University of Zambia and the Copperbelt University.

N'cwala: Elevating enterprise 40 years on...

BY DERRICK SILIMINA

About 560 kilometres from the capital Lusaka, Chipata town was crawling with local and international tourists who had come to witness one of the country's top traditional ceremonies, the N'cwala.



Paramount Chief Mpezeni IV making a grand entry

This time the theme was 40 Years of Love, Peace and Unity, commemorating the ascendancy to the throne by Paramount Mpezeni IV with traditional rulers from across the country, and from Malawi and Mozambique, in attendance.

As traditional leaders and residents of Chipata town in Eastern Province celebrated in pomp and splendour the annual ceremony to mark the first harvests of the season, it was for local small and medium enterprises (SMEs) a rare opportunity to carve a fortune out of the three-day event.

For Aaron Gondwe, it was that time of the year again to make cool cash for his taxi business especially that booking rates doubled during the N'cwala period.

"N'cwala is a platform for us to display our quality services to our valued clients, no wonder why our lodge is al-

ready fully booked and we have been so busy as the response from clients has been overwhelming especially during the N'cwala ceremony and business is on point," Eastern Comfort Lodges Supervisor Rachael Banda told Solwezi Today.

HOSPITALITY

Banda is optimistic that the future of the hospitality industry in the district is bright and Comfort Lodges which had widely spread its footprint in the district now planned to expand to Petauke District. During N'cwala, hospitality business in Chipata was always at its peak as tourists from across the globe trekked to the border town to have a glimpse of the lively traditional showpiece as well as to sample the local cuisine.

However, ahead of the N'cwala traditional ceremony, Chipata District is usually hit by a critical shortage of accommodation, forcing people to seek lodging in nearby towns of Katete, Petauke and Mwami, and even in neighbouring Malawi.

A check at Chipata's Royal Orbit lodge located right next to SGC filling station on the Great East Road found an executive room pegged at K3,500 each and the standard room K2,500 for the N'cwala weekend. The rates are inevitably revised downwards immediately after the N'cwala ceremony.

TAXI

For Aaron Gondwe, it was that time of the year again to make cool cash for his taxi business especially that booking rates doubled during the N'cwala period.

"I anticipate a profit margin of not less than K20,000 as my five cars get busy



Ngoni warriors

during the event ferrying clients prior, during and after the event,” said Gondwe, a taxi operator who operates from within Chipata’s central business district.

Gondwe disclosed how the traditional ceremony had been a game-changer, transforming his transport business to the extend he now planned to establish a car hire company this year.

TRADERS

Just like transporters, hoteliers and lodge operators take advantage of the event and boost their sales, traders of various goods and services are not left behind as they too jump on the bandwagon of tough-tested entrepreneurs to cash-in from the once-off annual event.

“I anticipate more sales for my artwork before the end of the event. This festival has always remained a pillar of our industry considering that most of our buyers are tourists who come to attend N’cwala,” said Martin Jere who specializes in artefacts such as sculptures.

For this reason, the Eastern Province Chamber of Commerce and Industry (EPCCI) has over the years positioned itself for business opportunities that come with the ceremony.

“It being a social, cultural and tourism event means that even those who are involved in tourism, hospitality, catering and transport-related businesses at least

The ceremony is commemorated by the Ngoni people based in Zambia, Mozambique, Malawi and South Africa. The Ngoni people are believed to be descendants of the Zulu people of South Africa who settled in modern day Zambia, Malawi and Mozambique after fleeing from Shaka Zulu’s mfecane wars.

derive some benefits out of the N’cwala ceremony. Therefore, from the cultural and economic point of view, this year’s event was a success,” Chamber President Thomas Mtonga said in a telephone interview.

As a cultural heritage, N’cwala festival had continued to contribute to the growth of the tourism and hospitality industry in the province.

Mtonga noted that as the profile of the traditional ceremony grows, it brings out corresponding corporate interest in

sponsorships as it has become inevitable for the corporate world to get on board and compete for attention by adopting aspects as sponsors.

For instance, Seedco has long been associated with the N’cwala as a key sponsor for many years due to its business interests in the Eastern Province where it has a huge footprint. However, it is not the size of sponsorship but spirit behind the contribution to the successful staging of the event which matters.

Some cultural pundits are of the view that commercialization of traditional ceremonies is the way to go as it will boost the local economies via demand for accommodation and sale of artefacts.

Further foreign exchange generation was assured through tourists visiting historical sites.

CLIMAX

As the main event reached its climax on the final day, Paramount Chief Mpezeni IV left his abode at Laweni to lead hundreds of impis to Mtenguleni, the venue for the festivities. Thousands of onlookers were mesmerised by footstomping Ngoni warriors clad in animal skins amidst songs of jubilation.

The ceremony culminated when one of the Ngoni warriors speared a black bull to death, upon which another slits its throat and collects the blood for the paramount chief to drink, a signal that people should now start eating the produce from their fields.

This year’s N’cwala has been described as special since Paramount Chief Mpezeni IV has clocked 40 years on the throne and 40 years since the resumption of the ceremony.

The ceremony is commemorated by the Ngoni people based in Zambia, Mozambique, Malawi and South Africa. The Ngoni people are believed to be descendants of the Zulu people of South Africa who settled in modern day Zambia, Malawi and Mozambique after fleeing from Shaka Zulu’s mfecane wars.

“This ceremony helps us keep the tradition of our forefathers alive and helps the new generation know where they came from,” said Monica Mbewe, a Ngoni based in Lusaka.

Enter Subilo Energy's Lithium-Ion marvel...

BY DERRICK SILIMINA

Subilo Energy, a Zambian firm, has launched its lithium-ion batteries and electric vehicle charge stations.

After several years of research and development, the company has unveiled its flagship product, the first of its kind in Zambia.

“Our hope is that this will help accelerate the adoption of electric cars in Zambia. Our Lithium-Ion batteries have a wide use range. This includes their use on both On-grid/back up and off-grid solar systems,” Subilo Energy Chief Executive Officer Greg Chama said recently during the launch of the product.

Having deployed the latest technology in their batteries to ensure high performance and durability, the company designs and assembles lithium-ion batteries which come in three versions.

The smallest size is a 12v 100ah followed by a midsize 12v 150ah and a 12v 200ah, the biggest. Apart from EVs, the batteries can also be used on electric bikes and electric scooters.

Chama further disclosed that the company would install the charge stations for the public in designated places within Lusaka and across major highways in Zambia. The same stations would also be available for use in homes or office

blocks and government offices.

LIFESPAN

Subilo Energy's batteries have a lifespan of at least 15 years compared to conventional batteries, a home-grown solution which will be a game-changer in both the mining and transport sectors.

Chama further hinted that the batteries also had a high-energy density which enabled them a longer runtime/range. Additionally, they were also lightweight, weighing close to 40 per cent less than other types—gel, AGM and lead acid batteries.

Realising that the batteries would be used in different environments, Subilo made the battery casing tough with the ability to resist corrosiveness and heat. This promised to meet the energy storage needs of individuals, corporates, farmers, mobile network operators, mines and contractors among others.

Zambia enjoys the advantage of hosting colossal deposits of copper, of which cobalt is a by-product and a key component of lithium-ion batteries used to power electric automobiles.

CONSUMER INTEREST

Since the main driver of demand for lithium-ion batteries is growing consumer interest in electric cars, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) predicts that some 23 million electric vehicles will be sold over the coming decade.

A June 2020 UN report on the battery-manufacturing boom said, “The market for rechargeable car batteries, currently estimated at \$7 billion, is forecast to rise to \$58 billion by 2024.”

The report further highlighted that while two-thirds of all cobalt was produced in the DRC, much cobalt refining happened elsewhere — in Belgium, China, Finland, Norway and Zambia.

Economists say ramping up investment in cobalt production would boost Zambia's mining and manufacturing sectors and provide an incentive for the manufacture of lithium-ion batteries in Africa by shortening supply lines between cobalt refineries and battery-making plants.

The latest research by Benchmark Mineral Intelligence says that global demand for cobalt has tripled since 2011 in the battery sector alone and further predicts that demand for cobalt will reach 190,000 metric tons by 2026—a more than fourfold increase over 2017 levels.

In response to environmental restrictions on fossil-fuel-burning cars and the future dwindling of fossil fuel supplies, advocates of EVs are optimistic about a paradigm shift in the transport sector.

Global carmakers such as Toyota expect half of their global sales to be from electric vehicles by 2025.



'Electric car batteries call for increased investments in mining'

BY STUART LISULO

The rising global demand for electric car batteries calls for increased investment in the mining sector, Stanbic Bank Zambia has observed.



Speaking during the 2023 African Mining Indaba in Cape Town recently, Stanbic Chief Executive Officer Mwindwa Siakalima observed that Zambia remained in pole position to attract investment into the mining sector.

He said that as the world focused on reducing carbon emissions, copper was now being touted as the “new gold,” alongside other metals such as cobalt, nickel and manganese, which are key metals in the production of electric vehicle batteries.

“There is need to take the opportunities emerging from the rising battery demand to power electric cars, and Zambia and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) can play a significant role in the supply of these base metals needed in the production of electric vehicle bat-

teries,” Siakalima said in a statement.

In addition to the focus on the orange metals, he added that demand for clean power will increase due to population growth, while demand for charging ports for the anticipated electric vehicles was also projected to grow.

“...And so, the investment opportunities are looking up in mining, and this is coupled with stability in the economic policies and the democracy, which is one of the best in Africa. As the biggest bank in Africa, with an enviable footprint in 20 countries, we understand Africa.

“We are well-poised to provide proven financial advisory services to investors and clients alike having financed over US \$2 billion to the mining sector over the years. This makes us the undisputed and ‘go-to-bank’ in providing in-depth

expertise that cuts across geographies in Africa,” said Siakalima.

He also said that this year’s Mining Indaba theme spoke to the importance of global supply chains.

“The importance of business linkages in the mining value chain cannot be over-emphasized as it serves the important segment of businesses that are made up of big and medium-scale entrepreneurs and contractors providing services to the mines.

“We not only specialize in providing capital financing to the mines; we also provide solutions for the supply chain in the form of trade and asset finance solutions. We are happy to be present at such a platform that brings together the right conversations in mining on the African continent,” said Siakalima.

The Investing in African Mining Indaba (Mining Indaba) forum was dedicated solely to the successful capitalization and development of mining interests in Africa.

After succeeding for more than 27 years, the Mining Indaba has provided participants with a unique and widening perspective of the African mining industry, bringing together visionaries and innovators across the entire value chain.

This year’s theme was: Unlocking African Mining Investment: Stability, Security and Supply.

Stanbic was among the sponsors of the 2023 African Mining Indaba, which ran from February 6-9, 2023, in Cape Town, South Africa.



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FQM Rehabilitates, Donates Hostels To Solwezi School of Nursing

BY KAUSA MBASELA

First Quantum Minerals recently handed over hostels renovated at the cost of more than K800,000 to the Solwezi College of Nursing and Midwifery with Government calling for emergency, prevention and rapid response activities to be included in the training curriculum.



R-L North Western Province Permanent Secretary Col. Gladson Katambi, Provincial Health Director Washingwa Tambatamba and Trident Community Services Manager Joseph Ngwira during the hand over ceremony.

FQM renovated the hostels at a total cost of K876,000 and donated 56 bunker beds and 112 mattresses.

Trident Community Services Manager Joseph Ngwira did the handover ceremony to North-Western Province Permanent Secretary Col. Gladson Katambi in presence of Professor Roma Chilengi, Zambia National Public Health Institute (ZNPHI) Director-General who is also Advisor to the President for COVID-19, Provincial Health Director Washingwa Tambatamba and Solwezi General Hospital Medical Superintendent Dr Kitanda Sondashi.

Trident Foundation, which was currently sponsoring 19 students at the 1,134-capacity institution, hoped to increase the number to 30 by June this year. This was with special focus on the girl-child.

Ngwira revealed that this was done in line with the EDGE programme (educat-

ing and developing girls for empowerment) aimed at supporting and enhancing girls' education and empowerment, particularly among less privileged ones from communities surrounding FQM-Trident operations. The focus was on building capacity and increasing access to education and training opportunities.

"You cannot support education minus supporting health. We value this and take it as a good opportunity for Government to appreciate this kind of collaboration. This donation signifies what we get when we work together through collaboration in the community."

He implored Government to properly package collaborative projects with the private sector so that they are cross-cutting in terms of beneficiaries from the communities.

Ngwira further urged members of the community to take advantage of op-

portunities as the mine provides the economic engine that needed to be optimized in order to spur sustainable national development.

And Col. Katambi thanked the mine for the gesture as the training institute was in dire need of infrastructure development in order to be properly functional at full capacity.

GRAPPLING

"The college is still grappling with challenges of inadequate infrastructure such as lecture theatres, student hostels and classrooms, office space for lecturers, clinical instructors and library to accommodate 25 per cent of the student population.

"Kindly note that the college has a total of 1,134 students who cannot be adequately accommodated with the current infrastructure the institution has. This is why the institution has greatly appreciated the efforts made by the Trident Foundation Limited in renovating the School of Midwifery student hostels."

The permanent secretary said Government was committed to supporting the health sector to ensure the availability of a well-trained, competent and equitably distributed health workforce.

He said this had been demonstrated by the investments made in the recruitment of new staff while strengthening nursing and midwifery education and practice; and embracing strategic partnerships with the community, local and international stakeholders.



Second year student Faith Kanenga giving a vote of thanks

Professor Roma Chilengi, Zambia National Public Health Institute (ZNPHI) Director-General and also Advisor to the President for COVID-19, who thanked FQM for walking the talk in augmenting Government efforts to uplift the standard of life for Zambians in the company's catchment areas and beyond.

"It is heartwarming to see such a gesture. This opportunity comes at great cost and amid competition for limited resources. Government has focused on partnerships with the private sector, looking at holding hands with the likes of FQM in order to better the lives of our people in communities and drive the development agenda of the country.

"Facilities such as this must be seen as a national investment to help service delivery in the health sector. The creation of an environment conducive for learning, as a result of the rehabilitation of the facility, should help students study well and optimize this privilege they have," he said.

FRONTLINE

Dr Chilengi acknowledged the role nurses and other frontline health workers played in emergency, prevention and rapid response activities which resulted from the frontline field epidemiology training programmes.

He further called for the inclusion of such programmes in the in-house training of nurses and mid-wives in order to prepare graduates to mitigate emergencies as well as routine curative service delivery.

Provincial Health Director, Washingwa Tambatamba was elated that FQM decided to extend a helping hand to refurbish the hostels at the training institute.

"We are really happy that Trident Foun-

dation chose to renovate this midwifery hostel for our students. Having colleges that train midwifery is important in ensuring the provision of maternal and child health services in the province," she said.

Dr Tambatamba disclosed that "the province has five colleges of nursing with only two offering midwifery. This will beef up the number of locally trained midwives where there is a critical shortage of this specialization."

With Solwezi General Hospital the only one in the province operating as a both a second and third level hospital, the need for qualified nurses and midwives was great.

"While it is desirable to have graduating students go to other parts of the country for work, we prefer to absorb most of them so that there are more locally-trained professionals right here in this province where they are critically needed," she said.

GUARANTEE

The Provincial Health Director stressed that authorities were set to guarantee quality health-care service provision as evidenced by recruitment of 11,000 health workers last year, something central government intended to continue doing. That is why interventions such as the renovation of the hostels by Trident Foundation were greatly appreciated.

This was echoed by Solwezi General Hospital Medical Superintendent Dr Kitanda Sondashi who extolled the work by the Foundation, urging other private sector players to emulate Trident and Kansanshi foundations for their work.

"Do not relent in helping to improve standards in the health sector as this will result in better performance by those in-

involved. I call on others to follow suit as you continue with your Corporate Social Responsibility initiatives," he urged.

And giving a vote of thanks, second-year student Faith Kamenga thanked the company for the scholarship programme, urging the mine to continue extending it to more girls in the local communities to enhance their chances of contributing to the workforce in the health sector.

INTERVENTIONS

From inception to date, Trident Foundation has conducted visible interventions that have enhanced the quality of education and skills development in its area of operation. In 2021, it requested a partnership with Solwezi College of Nursing for the girls' education and empowerment. The Foundation asked to be given between 10 and 30 slots for girls to be trained at the school annually.

Solwezi College of Nursing And Midwifery was commissioned in 1988 with a vision to provide quality nursing education. The institution was accorded the status of registered nursing provider by the Nursing and Midwifery Council of Zambia in July 2013, and in 2015 allowed to train registered nursing e-learning students.

In 2017 the midwifery in-service programme was introduced while the direct midwifery programme commenced in July 2018.

Beyond the work done through its Trident and Kansanshi Foundations on this project, FQM has been involved in the construction of five new schools.

The mine has further built 17 classrooms at four existing schools, 18 staff houses with five in progress, fabrication and donated almost 10,000 desks to various schools within its catchment area.

Further, the mine has supported the education of differently-abled children alongside girl-children through programmes such as EDGE among others.

In 2021 the Levy Mwanawasa Medical University approved the affiliation and accreditation of the School's Bachelor of Science in Nursing, Midwifery and Public Health Nursing in 2021 as a provincial hub.

FQM Trident donates district health office, ambulance

BY KAUSA MBASELA

FQM Trident Limited recently handed over a district health office for Manyama with an ambulance for Kalumbila all valued at more than K2 million.



North-Western Province Permanent Secretary Col. Gladson Katambi and FQM Trident Ltd General Manager Junior Keyser shake hands as a gesture of the fruitful relationship between the mining company and government.

More than K1 million was contributed by the mine in the construction of the facility, with other contributors accounting for close to K400,000 to help complete the structure which has 13 offices, one conference room, a store room and a registry.

The ambulance was secured at the cost of K780,000 and comprehensively insured.

The cost of labour was negotiated through the District Health Manage-

“You may wonder why we supported the construction of a District Health Office outside our catchment area. We understand our mandate boundary and respect the fact that provision of public services and infrastructure is Government mandate.”

ment Team (DHMT), ensuring that the project was not realized at commercial rates.

Company General Manager Junior Keyser said the facilities would enhance health care provision in Manyama catchment area.

“You may wonder why we supported the construction of a District Health Office outside our catchment area. We understand our mandate boundary and respect the fact that provision of public services and infrastructure is Government mandate. However, this project is motivated by a need that was presented by the District Health Management Team and the justification was that the office shall support the entire district,” he observed.

FQM Trident worked with other companies and members of the community in the construction of the district health administrative office.

Keyser explained that from inception of FQM Trident’s activities in the district, the mine had worked closely with the DHMT in supporting health care system enhancement, health infrastructure, water, hygiene and sanitation and, epidemic and pandemic preparedness and response.

“Through collaboration and as part of our corporate social investment, we have been supporting malaria management by providing logistics for spraying houses within our catchment area every year since 2011. This is another successful programme that is jointly implemented with the District Health Management Team,” he revealed.



FQM Trident Management led by General Manager Junior Keyser pose for a picture with North-Western Permanent Secretary Col. Gladson Katambi, Government Officials and Traditional Leaders in front of the donated District Health office.

At the time of the request, the DHMT was renting a room at a guest house and the tenancy agreement was expiring that same month.

The initiative fell under FQM Trident's corporate social commitment to support communities in areas of business interest, which supports agriculture, education, wildlife conservation, local business development and the recently introduced behaviour change campaign programmes such as Gender Based Violence Campaign and civic awareness.

The company supported the initiative because of public benefit and enhancement of health care services in the district and the catchment area.

APPRECIATION

North-Western Province Permanent Secretary Col. Gladson Katambi expressed Government appreciation for the services the mine continues to render to the province through various programmes and projects.

As the province was grappling with many health challenges, such collaborative gestures went a long way in helping Government achieve the attainment of Sustainable Development Goal Number Three, that of ensuring healthy lives and promoting wellbeing at all ages—is essential for sustainable development.

“Government is committed to improving the health of its citizens that is why

Constituency Development Fund (CDF) has been increased to more than K28 million from just over K25 million with a call for every constituency to buy an ambulance. This emphasizes the importance Government places on ensuring that people have quality health care services delivered close to home.

“President Hakainde Hichilema has directed that every health centre should have electricity, running water and, functional maternity ward. This is grassroots development that will spur national development in the long run and must not only be supported but protected by all stakeholders especially the locals who are the targeted beneficiaries.”

District Commissioner Brenda Sankisa expressed gratitude that the mine had offered a helping hand to aid Government efforts to improve service delivery in the health sector by donating an ambulance. Government wanted every constituency to acquire an ambulance.

Trident Foundation Manager Joseph Ngwira disclosed that the ambulance, purchased last year, was requested for by the community in 2017. The previous ambulance, donated by a different organization was not properly maintained.

“Management considers all the community's needs and requests that fall under the corporate social investment scope. The donation of the ambulance

is a goodwill gesture which should be used for the intended purpose—health-care service delivery.”

AMBULANCE

Ngwira reveals that the Nissan Patrol ambulance was purchased for K780,000 and had been comprehensively insured.

In his vote of thanks, Kalumbila District Health Director Dr Itulawami Isonga thanked FQM, through the Trident Foundation for the continued support towards quality health services delivery in the district.

Noting that Kalumbila district was vast with 56 health facilities that are distantly apart with the furthest being 158km away from the District Health Office Dr Isonga noted that the situation had posed serious challenges in supervision and operation of ambulance services.

Sub-Chief Mbambu, representing Senior Chief Musele, noted that it had been difficult for patients to access quality health care services because of the long distances to some of the health posts. That difficulty would be mitigated by the availability of an ambulance in some areas.

“The nearest ambulances were either from Solwezi or Chingola. This elevates our standard and improves chances of quick access to health services for a lot of the people within the district.”

FQM Trident builds schools, classrooms, houses in Kalumbila

BY SOLWEZI REPORTER

From its inception, FQM Trident Ltd has provided support to the community through its special purpose vehicle for corporate social investment, Trident Foundation Limited (TFL).



FQM Trident Community Affairs Manager Joseph Ngwira explains the features of the exercise books to Kalumbila District Educational Board Secretary Mr. Thompson Lungu (insert)

Through collaboration with mandated government institutions and other stakeholders, TFL continues to support activities aimed at building local capacity in agriculture, education, local business development, health and wildlife management.

TFL has undertaken progressive interventions that have enhanced the quality of education and skills development. These include the construction of five new schools and 17 classrooms at four existing schools, 18 staff houses with five more houses under currently under construction.

Additionally, 9,569 desks have been fabricated and donated to various schools within the Mine's catchment area. Apart from providing 678 scholarships for students from primary school to tertiary education, TFL supports differently abled children to access quality education, through collaboration with special-



ized institutions. The company also supports skills training for school leavers and youths through customized training in livelihood activities.

Recently, TFL handed over a three-classroom block, a poultry house, 22,000 primary school exercise books and 1,930 textbooks to the Ministry of General Education in Kalumbila District. The Mine also handed over sports kits for football, netball and volleyball. The total value of this particular donation is K1, 272, 000.

During a hand over ceremony at Kalumbila North Primary School, FQM Trident Community Affairs Manager Joseph Ngwira said TFL will endeavour to work closely with the Ministry of General Education to improve educational standards especially in the areas where the Mine operates.

Mr. Ngwira added that TFL has initiated a deliberate programme targeting girl-child education called Educating and Developing Girls for Empowerment

Kalumbila District Commissioner Mrs. Brenda Sankisa expressed gratitude to FQM Trident for working in tandem with Government's policy on free education by improving and expanding learning facilities which will cater for more children in accessing quality education.

(EDGE). By way of this initiative, 30 nursing students from the local community are being sponsored at Solwezi Nursing School and assistance to end period poverty is rendered to girls in primary schools by supplying them with sanitary pads.

"We would never have achieved these milestones in promoting quality ed-

ucation without collaboration and input from the community and the technical guidance from District Educational Board Secretary's office. As TFL, we remain committed to providing sustainable support to the development of communities in areas where the Mine has business interests", Mr. Ngwira.

During the same event, Kalumbila District Commissioner Mrs. Brenda Sankisa expressed gratitude to FQM Trident for working in tandem with Government's policy on free education by improving and expanding learning facilities which will cater for more children in accessing quality education.

Ministry of Education North Western Provincial Education Officer Mrs. Jennifer Banda added that the Ministry is happy about the good will partnership it enjoys with TFL in improving school infrastructure, education material, system support and other skills development initiatives.

FQM Trident bags 4 CSR awards



Minister of Green Economy and Environment, Hon. Collins Nzovu (Second left) hands over one of the CSR awards to FQM Trident Public Relations Specialist Mirriam Harmon.



FQM Staff pose with the awards received during the CSR awards. From right to left: Soyapi Mapulanga- Manager for FQM HR support hub, Mirriam Harmon- Public Relations Specialist, Kafula Mutale Kutontankanya- Lead-Local Business Development and Muma Chashi- Agriculture Support Lead

Trident Foundation Limited (TFL) scooped four awards at this year's fourth CSR and Responsible Business Awards ceremony held in Lusaka organized by CSR Network Zambia. The awards were for the Corporate Social Investment (CSI) activities undertaken by TFL on behalf of FQM Trident Ltd.

AWARD NO.1

- Best Community Social Impact award for Agriculture and Food Security

AWARD NO. 2

- CSR Excellence award in Early Childhood Learning

AWARD NO. 3

- CSR Excellence award in Education Infrastructure Support

AWARD NO. 4

- Best Community Social Impact award for Women Empowerment in startup tools



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Kasempa leprosarium lands K100,000 Women's Day goodies

BY SOLWEZI TODAY WRITER

Kikonkomene Leprosy Centre in Kasempa recently received K100,000 worth of groceries and foodstuffs from Grizzly Copper Mines Limited.



Grizzly Copper Mines Limited General Manager Mrs Barbara Kafwilo

The donation was made on Wednesday March 8 to celebrate this year's Women's Day with patients at the leprosarium.

Speaking during the donation at Kikonkomene, Grizzly Copper Mines General Manager Barbara Kafwilo said her team visited the centre to show solidarity to the elderly folk who needed care and love. The assorted items were meant to ease some of their challenges.

The items donated by Grizzly Company included blankets, chitenge materials, cooking oils, salt, sugar, bath soap, detergents, different types of dry fish, soya chunks, eggs and soft drinks. Others were naturally cholesterol-free foods, mealie-meal, mineral water and items contained in unopened carton boxes.

The Lufwanyama-based mining company brought together vulnerable people

from Bulanda, Muselepete, Kikonkomene and other areas of Kasempa to witness the provision of basic needs for lepers, blind and handicapped residents of the centre.

In observing the theme of the Women's Day, Digital Technology and Innovation for Gender Equality, Kafwilo described it as an important reminder of how much work was left to be done in the fight for gender equality.

"Grizzly Copper Mines Limited stands ready to assist our women to realize the theme of gender equality in technology and innovation through employment provision, education and sponsorships, and many other programmes that the company has developed," she said.

Kasempa Council Chairperson Brian Kakonkanya was happy that Grizzly Copper Mines management had opted to celebrate the Women's Day by donating at a time the residents of the leprosarium were in dire need.

Kakonkanya noted that the donation to the leprosy centre, which was popularly known as Bulanda Centre (Home of Poor People), was not a mistake because it was a life-changer to the recipients.

He was happy that Grizzly had demonstrated its support for the women at the leprosy centre by educating them on issues such as discrimination against women, poverty, illiteracy, early marriage and gender-based violence.

Kakonkanya further lobbied for Grizzly to consider complete the health centre and renovate 20 dilapidated houses at the leprosarium.



Grizzly Group scoops 2023 CSR award

BY JOHN CHOLA

Grizzly Group of Companies won the Excellence Award in Health Clinic Support at the Fourth Zambia Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and Responsible Business Awards held in Lusaka on February 17, 2023.

The recognition and award at Mulungushi International Conference Centre follows the Group's consistent support programmes towards various health facilities, especially around the Copperbelt Province.

It was noted that in its area of operation, the Group has consistently provided an ambulance during referrals to hospitals, and provided medicine and sunk boreholes to supply clean water to health facilities. The Group has further put up incinerators for the safe disposal of clinical waste.

Grizzly Group Head of HR and Corporate Affairs Davy Phiri and his colleague Edwin Mbimbi were at hand to receive the award on behalf of the company.

Phiri remarked that Grizzly Group gives first place to employees and residents around the area in which the company operates, hence its premium CSR programmes.

"Out of the 40 plus award categories we probably fit in most of them because of the aggressive nature of our CSR programmes. However, this particular CSR excellence award in health-clinic support programmes is crucial as we believe that a healthy nation is a wealthy nation. We are proud to be recognized at this prestigious annual event as this too will be a motivator to investors in the company as well as staff who work tirelessly to produce and enable the company to care for the community," said Phiri.

The Group would continue contributing to healthy citizens, to fight against poverty and to enhance food security.

"It is our company policy to interact with



Grizzly Group Head of HR and Corporate Affairs Davy Phiri (R) with his colleague Edwin Mbimbi

Phiri remarked that Grizzly Group gives first place to employees and residents around the area in which the company operates, hence its premium CSR programmes.

hosting communities and provide necessary intervention where possible in our quest to better the living standards of the local people. Awards like this one speaks for us as to how the communities and other stakeholders appreciate our active role in making a dent on numerous challenges people face," Phiri said.

Grizzly Group remained motivated to continue partnering with the Government of Zambia in all areas that make it possible to uplift the living standards of the people. Minister of Green Economy and Environment Collins Nzovu who graced the Awards event noted that Grizzly Group of Companies and other awarded firms had shown that they understood the importance of balancing

their financial performance with their social and environmental responsibilities.

"They have invested in their communities, empowered their employees, and implemented sustainable practices to reduce their impact on the environment," noted Nzovu.

Minister Nzovu further noted that in recent years, there had been a growing movement towards CSR regulation, with governments around the world introducing laws and guidelines to encourage businesses to adopt responsible practices.

"For example, some countries require companies to report on their social and environmental impacts, while others have introduced tax incentives or funding programmes for sustainable investments, and this is something that we can also emulate to create a conducive environment for businesses through policy formulation," said Nzovu.

Companies like Grizzly Group had set a positive example for others to follow as they had demonstrated that it was possible to achieve business success while contributing to the well-being of society.

"As Government, we are ready to work with you to identify key issues, develop policies and regulations, and monitor and evaluate the impact of these policies over time."

Nzovu invited other businesses and non-profit organizations in the country to emulate Grizzly Group and join the government in addressing economic challenges faced by Zambians. "Take advantage of the enabling environment and opportunities that Government had created."

Kansanshi Mine awards bussing services to four local contractors

BY MANSA MAMBWE

Four Zambian companies will now provide bussing services to Kansanshi Mining Plc.



Employees boarding on the buses

Contracts Manager Pamela Chola has explained that in the past 16 years, bussing services have been provided by a single contractor.

Chola says management has been prompted to engage four contractors after the contract for the previous company came to an end, “And as per company procedure, it was time for us to float out the tender out there, and through that four companies were selected and awarded the contract.” The four companies are Zambian-owned.

She mentions that the move is also in line with Zambian labour law on the provision of transport or paying of transport allowances to employees.

The arrangement divides Solwezi town into four zones and each will be

served by one contractor. “The pick-up points at the boom gate station are clearly marked by zone.” Chola anticipates that with the awarding of the contracts, more jobs will be created for the local people. She is optimistic that the four contractors will live up

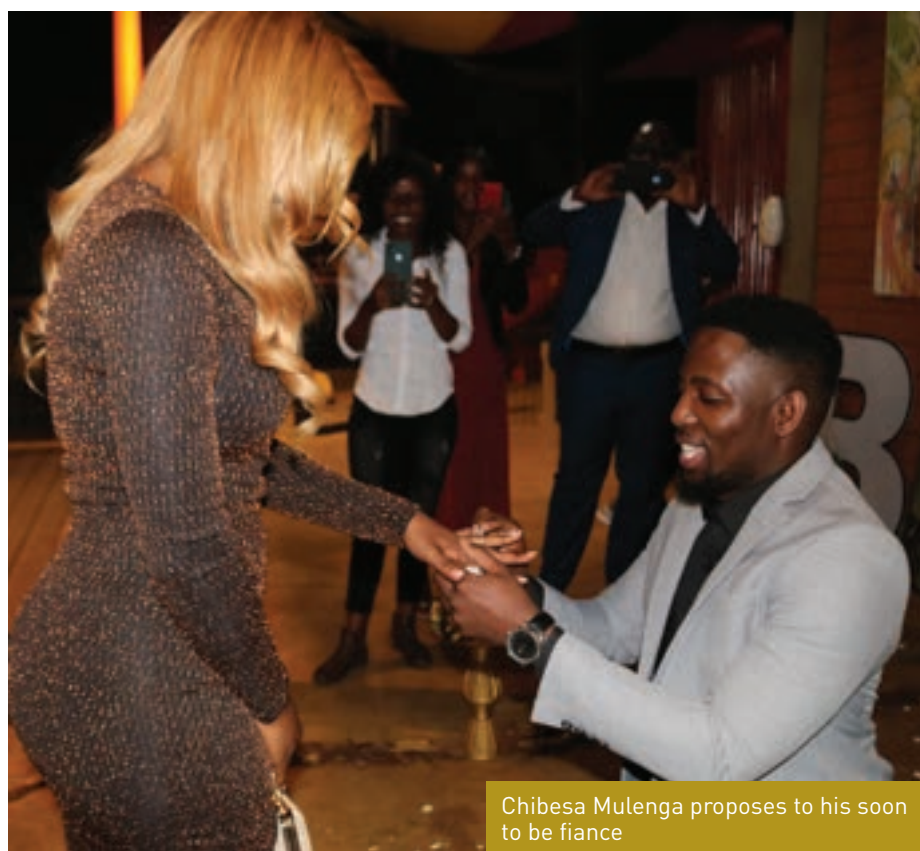
to the expectations of the mining firm as the change is intended to provide employees with more efficient transport to and from work. She reveals that going forward, more contracts both small and large will be awarded to local companies.



Kansanshi Mining Plc Contracts Manager Pamela Chola

'My Reason to THINK' inspires mine employee to start family

"It will always come to mind every time I am working that I have to go back home and take good care of my family, so that gives me 'the reason to THINK,'" says Chibesa Mulenga, a senior metallurgist at FQM's Kansanshi Mine site in Solwezi.



ees as well as their families," said FQM Group Safety Manager Ken Nicol during the launch of the programme.

And in early September, Mulenga in company of the Safety Manager for Kansanshi Mine Plc Teza Kasengele decided to engage his long time fiancée Estelle Mwase, an event which took place at the Kansanshi Golf Estate.

Mulenga says because of the step he has taken to start a family, he has every reason to THINK, in line with the recently launched safety programme. Because of the importance he has attached to taking care of his family, he has every reason to ensure that his safety and wellbeing are upheld at all times.

"There has to be a reason why I have to go home in good health, especially that we are working in a mine environment where there are a lot of risks and hazards which give you a reason to THINK safety at all times."

Kasengele encouraged Mulenga and his fiancée during the engagement to remain faithful to each other as they start their family.

"And because of the step you have taken to start a family, that gives the more reason to THINK. THINK safety because you have a family to look after just like the objective of the programme states," said Kasengele.

He said in every mining operation, there is what is called Safety Operation Procedure (SOP) which is a stage by stage in safety measure, adding, "This also applies at household level, and that's the step you have taken today."

He says the launch of the 'My Reason to THINK' (MRTT) at the mine site is timely and will make every employee take safety precautions seriously.

In its quest to promote a safe and health working environment and lifestyle of its employees, FQM launched the MRTT on all its sites namely; FQM Trident limited in Kalumbila, Kansanshi Mine Plc in Solwezi including the Ndola and country offices.

The programme is in line with FQM culture which values the safety and health of employees and aims to reduce risk of work related injuries.

And in early September, Mulenga in company of the Safety Manager for Kansanshi Mine Plc Teza Kasengele decided to engage his long time fiancée Estelle Mwase, an event which took place at the Kansanshi Golf Estate.

"It is up to every employee in the company to make decisions that will promote not only their safety but also the safety of and wellbeing of their fellow employ-



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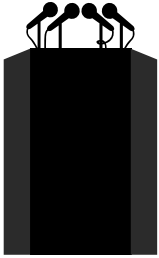
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HICKS SIKAZWE ON THE PLATFORM



Journalism and the anti-corruption fight

The mobile phone rang. It disturbed my reading of *Lord of the Flies* by William Golding, a novel I took as part of my Literature in English studies for my Cambridge School certificate in the mid-seventies.



STANDARD

In a brutally frank opening of my paper, I told the gathering; those of us who were reporters of yesterday are worried at the level that the standard of journalism in the country had fallen. This was despite that unlike in the past, most people in practice today are seemingly better educated, and quite a number are degree and diploma holders, compared to many colleagues of the sixties, seventies and the early part of the eighties.

Journalists, I pointed out were agents of the public good. They were the eyes and voices of the voiceless society. They needed to uphold the highest levels of integrity for them to report runaway corruption not only in Zambia but the continent and the rest of the world.

Corruption was evil, I railed. It had stagnated development in many countries, wiped out public resources and deprived the majority of health services, education, jobs and other social benefits. In extreme cases, corruption had brought down governments. Corruption proffers dishonesty or fraudulent conduct by those in power getting involved in crime. If journalists were going to be of any use to society they should never abet the scourge. This could only be achieved if they observed professional ethics altogether.

GIFTS

This included refusing gifts from news sources (people being interviewed, covered or reported on). Gifts which

It was a number I could not recognize. All the same, I answered: “Hello, morning.”

“Good morning sir, how are you? I am calling from the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC),” a lady’s polite voice ventured.

“Anti-Corruption Commission!” I exclaimed. “What have I not done, do you want to arrest me?”

“No sir,” another reply came. “We want your help. We have a seminar for media people, and we would like you to come and talk to the participants on media ethics.”

The ACC, Police or the Drug Enforce-

ment Commission (DEC) are rarely places you would expect calls from - even if you may have a friend or relative there. It is like being given a ride in a police vehicle. Those that see you perched at the back of a state Land Rover will be worried that you had a brush with the law.

My call from the ACC was of good tidings. The lady further explained that my name was recommended by someone from the Press Association of Zambia (PAZA). “Oh, ok madam I will be available.”

On the appointed date in January this year I went to Crossroads Hotel in Ndola where the five-day seminar was being held.

in journalism parlance are known as freebies come in many forms. It could be in monetary or material subventions including clothes, beer, soft drinks, and even houses and vehicles. I went further noting that it was wrong for a reporter to get a ride from a source or an accommodation offer from those being covered. For journalists to report corruption effectively they needed to avoid gifts, favours, free travel, special treatment or any form of privilege as these could compromise them.

Journalists would uphold the public good status if they avoided political involvement (being cadres). I had hit a raw nerve. The audience reacted. Most practitioners found themselves in compromised situations, they said, because conditions of service for media people in Zambia were mediocre. Salaries were poor while many of the media organisations in the country do not even provide transport.

I had an immediate reply: It was always important for everyone to tailor their suit according to the piece of cloth available. I went further, most journalists found themselves in depressing situations because they wanted to live in situations costing more than what they earned.

Poverty or low salaries were not an excuse to commit a crime such as stealing, which corruption was.

INTEGRITY

However, the American Society of Newspaper Editors in its professional code of conduct insists that integrity among journalists, independence fair play, impartiality, accuracy, truth and nothing else but the truth were a hallmark of good professional journalism. "Journalists must avoid impropriety and the appearance of impropriety as well as any conflict of interest or the appearance of conflict. They should neither accept anything nor pursue any activity that might compromise or be seen to compromise their integrity."

The association further says that journalism thrives on public trust among other values, "good faith with the reader, viewer, or listener is the foundation of good journalism. Every effort must be made to assure that the news content is accurate, free from bias and in context and that all sides are presented fair-

ly. "Editorials, analytical articles, and commentary should be held to the same standards of accuracy with respect to facts and news reports. Significant errors of fact, as well as errors of omission, should be corrected promptly and prominently."

SERIOUS PROBLEM

The same day, I was making the presentation there was a story filed from Johannesburg, South Africa by the Reuters News Agency expressing concern over corruption that ravaged Zambia at the tail end of the last government, a sign that corruption was not only prevalent in the country but was a serious problem. What role can the Zambian media play in the fight against corruption which by all purposes was endemic? I reminded the gathering that failure to report corruption or abetting it would mean journalists abdicating their role as public watchdogs. It means media men and women will have failed to inform, educate and above all perform their surveillance duty. But for their part investors in media should atone for the complaints by building capacity among workers in the organizations; improve professionalism by continuously training journalists. Attractive conditions of service coupled with reasonable salaries would be a welcome motivator.

When practitioners fail to report corruption they will have forfeited their Fourth Estate status and thus lose public trust, faith and integrity. All this will result in failure to hold the powerful to account, consequently destroying the national moral fabric. Failure to report will lead to the pillaging of public resources and eventually, there will be no development in Zambia.

Journalists should further uphold their professionalism by looking for corruption everywhere not only from within

Even in outlets of higher learning, some lecturers award students fake marks so that they pass as rewards for sexual favours.


the government. The powerful include business people, non-governmental organizations, church and other religious groups, and even individuals that seek to use corruption to sway the pendulum in their favour.

In educational institutions, for instance, there is a rise in examination paper leakages. Even in outlets of higher learning, some lecturers award students fake marks so that they pass as rewards for sexual favours. Unless journalists flush out all this, Zambia will not only become a haven for corruption but the country will produce fake engineers, doctors, nurses, teachers, journalists, and others who attain qualifications using the corruption route.

By the time my presentation was coming to an end, we all agreed that there was a lot needed to combat corruption in Zambia. But above all, this was a battle that should be fought by all citizens, as journalists remain a prime conduit for public exposure of wrongdoing.

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.





North Western Permanent Secretary Col. Gladson Katambi (l), Kansanshi Mining PLC Corporate Affairs Manager Kyansenga Chitoshi (m) during the donation of the ablution block

Kyafukuma School gets K1.2m ablution block, water system

BY CLINTON MASUMBA

Kyafukuma Secondary School in Kansanshi now has a new ablution block for pupils and staff, and a solar-powered water supply system worth K1.2 million.

Kansanshi Mining Plc handed over the ablution block consisting of five boys' toilets, five girls' toilets, a shower as well as two staff toilets for the 20 staff. Other facilities include a solar-powered water system with a 10,000-litre PVC water tank, a mud filter and a security wire fence all valued at K1,286,956.

Before this, the school whose population

is 319 pupils and 20 teachers relied on two toilets for pupils; one catering for 161 boys and another catering for 158 girls.

The ablution infrastructure and water reticulation system are a part of the mining company's social interventions as the mine considers access to safe, clean water a priority for communities.

The Government has commended Kansanshi Mining Plc for its continued support in supplementing its efforts through its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programmes. North-Western Province Permanent Secretary, Col. Grandson Katambi (Rtd), said the facilities would benefit the community at large hence the need to protect them as they had been constructed at a huge cost. He said Kansanshi Mining Plc had proved to be an all-weather partner through the support it continued to render to the government and communities.

"With an outbreak of cholera reported in parts of the country, we believe that



North Western Province Permanent Secretary Col. Gladson Katambi unveiling the placard for the ablution block



Kansanshi Mining Plc Corporate Affairs Manager Kyansenga Chitoshi delivering her speech

this support is part of interventions to control any possible outbreak of such waterborne diseases in this part of our community,” said Kansanshi Mining Plc Corporate Affairs Manager Kyansenga Chitoshi during the handover. Chitoshi said First Quantum Minerals had spent over US\$ 100 million on its sustainability and community development programmes to improve the health and the quality of life for its employees, their families and their immediate communities.

Solwezi Deputy Mayor, Alex Pupe, who represented Solwezi Mayor, Remmy Kalepa, said the support from Kansanshi Mining Plc had come in handy to address sanitation issues, especially with increased numbers of learners following the introduction of free education.

“I am aware that lack of water and facilities such as toilets has the potential to keep our children out of school hence the support from Kansanshi is highly appreciated. Government and the local authority cannot manage to do all this by itself but we are proud that we have a partner in Kansanshi Mining Plc,” he stated.

Chief Kapijimpanga, who was represented by Sub-Chief Mulenga, said pupils would have no excuse for keeping away from school on account lack of proper sanitary facilities. He thanked Kansanshi Mining Plc for always being available to support communities.



Kyafukuma Secondary School pupils giving a presentation at the handover ceremony.

Zambia Secures \$2 Million in Climate Adaptation Funding



The Global Environment Facility (GEF) is providing US\$2 million to implement a project developed by the Ministry of Water Development and Sanitation (MWDS) in Zambia, with the support of the Commonwealth Climate Finance Access Hub (CCFAH), to address water shortages caused by climate change. The project aims to set up a solar-powered water supply scheme that will provide access to safe water, improved sanitation, irrigation for farms, and water for livestock. The two-year project will benefit vulnerable communities in Nyimba and Lumezi Districts in Eastern Province and assess groundwater supplies in several rural areas while building sustainable groundwater management capacity. The project aligns with the Commonwealth Living Lands Charter's call to action on climate change, biodiversity loss, and land degradation.

NAPSA Amendment Excites Teachers



The National Pension Scheme (Amendment) Bill of 2023 has been approved by the Zambian government and is set to be introduced in Parliament, sparking excitement among teachers in the country. Currently, retired teachers are not granted lump-sum pension benefits by the National Pension Scheme Authority (NAPSA), which can result in financial difficulties after years of hard work. The proposed amendment to section 19 of the NAPSA Act would enable teachers to receive pre-retirement benefits after ten years of service, although the National Action for Quality Education in Zambia (NAQEZ) suggests that NAPSA members should be allowed to withdraw 50% of their contributions, rather than the proposed 20%. The passing of the bill would provide teachers with more retirement savings, which could increase their prospects after they leave their classrooms. Aaron Chansa, the Executive Director of NAQEZ, is confident that the National Assembly will approve the bill and that President Hakainde Hichilema will strengthen his relationship with Zambian teachers.

US Payment Service Giant PayPal to lay-off 2,000



PayPal is set to cut around 2,000 jobs, 7% of its workforce, citing a challenging macroeconomic environment. The announcement follows similar moves by Alphabet, Amazon, and Microsoft to lay off thousands of staff. PayPal's CEO, Dan Schulman, said that the company must adapt to the changing world, customers, and competitive landscape. The decision was not expected to have an impact on the company's Q4 results, which will be announced on 3 February. Meanwhile, the parent company of Snapchat, Snap, warned that revenue could fall by up to 10% in the three months to the end of March.

Mass Shooting in South Africa Kills 4



A shooting in KwaMashu township, north of Durban in South Africa has resulted in four deaths and five injuries. It was reported that 20 armed suspects entered a hostel and opened fire on the victims. The police are investigating the incident. South Africa has one of the highest murder rates in the world, with approximately 20,000 people killed each year. This shooting follows another incident in late January where gunmen killed eight people and injured three others in a separate mass shooting at a birthday party in the Eastern Cape.

Deadliest Outbreak of Cholera Plagues Malawi



3, 2022. While cholera has been endemic in Malawi since 1998, seasonal outbreaks are typically reported during the rainy season,

but this outbreak has continued through the dry season. The high case fatality, wide geographical spread, and ongoing rainy season led the Malawi government to declare a public health emergency on December 5, 2022. The large geographic spread and high number of cases have stretched the capacity to respond to the outbreak, which is occurring amid a global surge in cholera outbreaks, constraining the availability of vaccines, tests, and treatments. Concerns are mounting that the outbreak will continue to worsen without strong interventions.



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Youthful Bridget crafts financial future

BY DERRICK SILIMINA

Since the breakthrough of the first mobile money services in Africa about a decade ago, new technologies such as agent banking (rather than branch-centred banking) have led to the creation of a mass market for accessible and sustainable financial services for low-income people. This shift in innovation has empowered small-scale entrepreneurs and lifted people in rural areas out of poverty by enhancing financial inclusion.



Bridget Kiliboyi

Bridget Kiliboyi is one among many youths in the bustling mining town of Solwezi District who are earning a living from the mobile money agency. “I started this business as an MTN mobile money agent in 2021 with a capital of K300. My business grew to K2000 and I have been able to pay for my children in school, including a Grade 10 pupil,” Kiliboyi says.

Kiliboyi, 33, who operates her booth at Solwezi’s Kazomba area reveals that the business, for which agents receive a commission, needs a lot of capital to meet the cash needs of customers. Despite her capital diminishing to K700, the business is well-suited for highly-populated areas and can be very lu-

crative. MTN takes out 30 per cent of the commission.

To enrich her business expedition, Kiliboyi who operates at a booth which she rents at K150 per month recently decided to enrol for the Kansanshi Mining Plc-sponsored business training in the 2021 February intake and has continued to attend the training via radio. “I am glad that the training has equipped me with knowledge in money management,” said Kiliboyi who prior to that sold second-hand clothes at Kitwe’s Chisokone Market before her business faltered due to financial indiscipline. “With knowledge acquired from the training, I now have the capacity to grow my capital and sustain my niche

through good customer care skills; another attribute I have learnt.”

Kiliboyi desires to increase her capital, and shift her mobile business to places like the Kandundu area. She further intends to buy groundnuts from Mufumbwe District and beans in Kyafukuma for resale as additional sources of income.

Kiliboyi ended the conversation by expressing her gratitude to the mining company saying, “Thank you KMP for thinking of people like us, as without the mining company, I would not have become anything. May you continue with the good work!”

Solwezi rising stars: Cyclists with great future

BY RYAN ELLIS

In this series, we'll look into the lives of promising young athletes coming out of Solwezi's schools and sports clubs: most of them with the help of Kansan-shi Sports Foundation. Each month we'll dive into a different sport, and identify a few rising stars who—with a few more years of dedicated hard work, coaching, and investment—might just go on to achieve international success, and do our home town proud.

This month, to kick the series off, we'll meet three cyclists who have broken the mould in three different ways, and who, in spite of their youth, have already shown flashes of brilliance.

Each year, as new sporting seasons get underway, one can quickly see who put in the work over the off-season, and who spent their break watching movies and indulging in holiday dinners.

In the first race of the Zambian mountain bike season, a regional cross-country race at Trident College in late February, three young riders stamped their authority on the racing field. Margaret Ngoma and Davies Kawemba each rode away from their competitors with (what looked like) ease, while Gift Puteho lined up against much older and more experienced riders, and punched way above his weight.

So, without further ado, let's meet these furious few.

MARGARET NGOMA: FOURTEEN AND FLYING

As Margaret Ngoma lined up in the combined senior ladies' race at that first round of racing this February, I wondered if her dominance from 2022 would continue. She was one of the youngest riders on the start line; at only 14, she was lining up against riders up to five years older than her.

All of them appeared to have done the work in the off-season. Muscles pressed tight against skin as they clipped their shoes into the pedals: eyes glared down



Margaret Leads the Way

the start straight. Margaret, I think, wondered, too. She looked a little nervous, eyes cast down at her feet as she took her place on the front row of the grid.

When the race began, in a clatter of shoes clipping into pedals, shifting gears, and a chaos of riders fighting for position, it took her all of ten seconds to find the front again. By the end of the first lap, she was over a minute ahead of second place. When she crossed the finish line, she'd doubled that lead.

At 14, Margaret has already overcome a number of barriers to become Kansan-shi Cycling's top female rider. She outran 40 other girls at Mushitala School to take one of the few spots offered by the team's scouts back in 2020. She then honed her skills over a year spent riding and racing on a heavy, unforgiving

buffalo bike. In 2022, she impressed her coaches, and earned the chance to race on one of the team's mountain bikes, while still training on a buffalo bike.

Today, Margaret has another set of challenges ahead. She dreams of a career in mountain biking, but the reality is that Solwezi sits thousands of kilometres from the nearest professional race.

Unlike young riders who grow up in Europe or South Africa, Margaret will have very few opportunities to line up against the world's best in the coming years. When those opportunities do come, she'll have to make each one count. This knowledge puts pressure on her young shoulders. What's another mountain, though, when you've already conquered a few?

GIFT PUTEHO: FILM STAR STILL SHINING

Gift Puteho had an eventful 2022. He featured alongside global mountain bike superstars in the film *Esperanto*. He travelled to the USA to attend the film opening, and then suffered a broken arm while cycling there. In the later months of the year, he repeatedly stayed up late to do midnight interviews for the European Outdoor Film Tour.

His face appeared live, on theatre screens in front of thousands of viewers, and in spite of his sleepiness he smiled and answered all the questions the interviewers could come up with.

Through all this, I worried that the fame and its rewards would go to Gift's head. I worried that he'd slip into the rut that



Gift Puteho in Action

many successful teenagers do: that of indulging in the benefits of their success, shunning hard work, and expecting the results to keep coming.

Like Margaret, it only took Gift a few moments to correct my concerns. Gift, too, lined up against riders much older than him at the first race of 2023. At 17, he races in the Junior Men's category, which is combined in most races with the elite category. He lined up against current national champions: the best riders in the country. He did not disappoint.

Nobody in Gift's age group could challenge him. Ernest Mazabuka, the elite national cross-country mountain bike champion, battled with Gift for three laps, before Gift managed to get away. At the end of the day, only Davies Kawemba crossed the line ahead of Gift.

It's hard to know what lies ahead for Gift. His name is now known across the mountain bike world, but this means nothing unless you can back it up with world-class performances. Doubtless, he is putting in the work. We sincerely hope that the South African Schools Cycling finals return to the calendar this year. This will be the perfect place for Gift to show his worth against Africa's best riders of his age.



Davies tops the podium

DAVIES KAWEMBA: ALWAYS UP AT THE FRONT

Although an elite national title still eludes him, Davies Kawemba has twice finished second in the national championships by only centimetres. He's a consistently powerful rider: always up at the front, no matter the terrain or conditions.

Like Margaret, Davies has had to overcome his share of obstacles to get to where he is.

Davies grew up in Solwezi. He was not identified by Kansanshi Cycling's talent scouts while at school, but rather found opportunities to ride with the team's cyclists on a bike he had borrowed. The condition of this borrowed bike was so bad that he had to take it down to a metal fabricator after each ride, to repair broken welds and cracks on the frame. When Davies did get a chance at riding a team bike, though, he immediately impressed. At the time of writing, he has been with Kansanshi Cycling for just under two years, and has already amassed an impressive racing CV, both in Zambia and in South Africa.

In the first race of 2023, Davies rode off the front of the field, built a gap of more than two minutes, and seemed to cruise

in to the finish. In mountain biking, it seems that nobody in Zambia can challenge him. The next chapter of his racing life will have to involve finding ways to race outside of Zambia, and take on the best riders on the continent.

The performances of the young riders mentioned above wouldn't be possible without the support of numerous highly-valued sponsors. Of course, Kansanshi Mining Plc. provides the backbone of this support, but the mining company does not do it alone. Titan Drilling continues to support Kansanshi Cycling after many years of doing so. For 2023, a new sponsor has joined this partnership. JV Chantete has pledged its support for the year, and has earned a place for its logo on the 2023 cycling kit.

About the Author

Ryan Ellis has worked with Kansanshi Cycling Team in various roles since 2017. Today, he is Kansanshi Mine's Sports Development Coordinator, and dedicates his time to kick-starting initiatives that will create opportunities for the young sportspeople of Solwezi.



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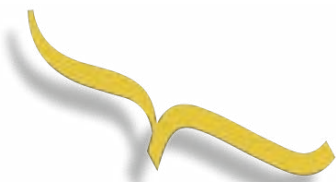


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