



## 1000 Run for their lives in Kansanshi Marathon



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## CONTENTS



### PG 6 – North-West power consumers repel new tariffs

North-Western Province electricity consumers have appealed to the Energy Regulations Board (ERB) to intervene in the matter of increased tariffs.



### PG 12 – 2000 unionised judiciary employees grab NAPSA lump sum

The Judicial and Allied Workers Union of Zambia (JAWUZ) says at least 2000 unionised civil servants within the Judiciary have collected their pre-retirement lump sum benefits from the National Pension Scheme Authority (NAPSA).



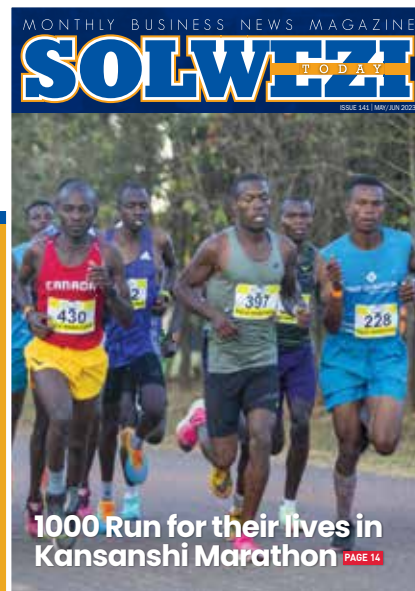
### PG 24 – Kisasa, Kalumbila get police posts

FQM Trident Foundation Limited has handed over the Kisasa and Kalumbila town police posts to Government.



### PG 38 – UN laments increased global difficulties

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) celebrated 30 years of World Press Freedom Day and the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights with a caution about increasing global difficulties.







## 1000 cheers for Kansanshi Mining's sports vision...

**When 1000 marathoners from around Africa ran 42km across Solwezi in North-Western Province in June this year, spurred on by the largest-ever prize money in Zambia's athletics history, it was a wonder for residents to behold.**

While such mammoth sports are usually beamed on television from overseas, Kansanshi Mining Plc pulled off an inaugural marathon in collaboration with various other corporate entities. FQM Kansanshi certainly outperformed themselves in rounding up that many runners who made an unforgettable public statement about maintaining personal health.

The run echoed an earlier event steered by the mining company through the Kansanshi Sports Foundation, where a regional cross-country cycling tussle brought together older and experienced mountain bikers from other countries alongside learners. They huffed and puffed their way at Trident College in late February with the younger ones' resilience astonishing spectators.

Only in November last year, the mining company roped more than 90 children into a one-day junior golf tourney at the Kansanshi golf course. With four competitor categories, the event also drew children from an orphanage sponsored by the mining company.

Trident College was the venue of an Open Chess Tournament where hundreds of competitors in September 2022 strove to out-think one another under the watchful eye of provincial sport and other government officials. The participants made matters doubly interesting, as they ranged from five to more than 60 years of age.

Without any doubt, sport in Solwezi District is cruising and mindsets are changing, courtesy of Kansanshi Mining Plc which has become the most consistent corporate sports sponsor in the country for at least two years now.



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# K280 maize price excites farmers

BY STUART LISULO

The Food Reserve Agency's (FRA) maize price of K280 per 50 kg bag will spur farmers to produce more maize in the forthcoming planting season.

**H**owever, the Zambia National Farmers' Union (ZNFU) wants Government to allow soya bean farmers to export their crop since the FRA will not make purchases.

Reacting to the FRA's announced maize purchase price of K280, the Zambia National Farmers' Union (ZNFU) President Jervis Zimba hailed the price as a major incentive for farmers to plant more maize.

Zambia's maize harvest totalled 2.7 million metric tonnes this year from 3.6 million tonnes posted last year, representing a 25.2 per cent decline.

This year's FRA maize purchase price was the highest on record so far following the K162 per 50 kg bag price announced last year.

"The Zambia National Farmers' Union is elated by the announced 'FRA price' for maize at ZMK280 per 50kg bag as this signals the beginning of progression towards cost-reflective pricing for maize

in this country. This will incentivize farmers to return to producing maize for national food security and exports. Price is a key factor when farmers are determining which commodity to venture in producing.

"Over the years, we have seen more and more farmers abandoning maize production for the simple reason that the price incentive was just non-existent as it became impossible to recover the investment put in maize. To Government,

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**"Another key factor to bear in mind is that the crop marketing window is relatively short, and as such, we urge Government to make timely decisions on exports and send the right policy signals to players in the market."**

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we say well done on this one. With the right signals, the future looks positive for maize so long as cost-reflective prices are sustained," Zimba said in a statement.

ZNFU was confident that the maize pricing by FRA would be sustained and reverse the declining production curve of the last three years. "We are encouraged and believe that it is feasible to realize the dream of being a breadbasket of the region."

Zimba, however, expressed disappointment that soya beans would not be part of the FRA strategic reserves following the Agency's decision not to buy the cash crop this marketing season.

"On the downside, the Union is disappointed that soya beans will not be part of the FRA strategic reserves this marketing season when farmers in far-flung areas have embraced crop diversification and the season promises a record crop of soya beans.

"Here, we propose that government allows regulated exports of soya beans immediately. The ZNFU would like to see a situation where all the soya beans value chain players are sustained in business and not short-changing the farmer. What good will it be to abandon soya bean farmers at crop marketing, having oriented them to growing soya beans as an alternative crop which is also good for the soils in crop rotation? This development should be re-visited," advised Zimba.

ZNFU invited Government to a constructive consultative meeting on the soya beans value chain to agree on pragmatic solutions.

"It is a fact South Africa has a huge soya beans crop implying that the demand in the region for value-added products will be subdued. This suggests we should also look at exports of the bean itself if the prices are to be salvaged. The fact that our soya beans are non-GMO will give Zambia an edge in niche markets, which traditionally pay premiums on non-GMO commodities.

"Another key factor to bear in mind is that the crop marketing window is relatively short, and as such, we urge Government to make timely decisions on exports and send the right policy signals to players in the market."



# North-West power consumers repel new tariffs

BY SOLWEZI TODAY WRITER

North-Western Province electricity consumers have appealed to the Energy Regulations Board (ERB) to intervene in the matter of increased tariffs.



ERB Board Chairperson Reynolds Bowa

**T**he ERB recently held a public hearing in Kalumbila to inform energy consumers and stakeholders of a North-Western Energy Corporation Limited (NWECC) application to revise electricity tariffs for the period 2023 to 2027.

The hearing which was held on Thursday, May 18, 2023, at Lighthouse Christian Church in the Lumwana area of Kalumbila District discussed an NWECC application to revise electricity tariffs and a proposal to charge for new standard connections.

Consumers and stakeholders came from Lumwana and Kalumbila mining townships in Kalumbila District and Kabitaka in Solwezi District. The invited consum-

**The issues raised by the electricity consumer representatives included the utility's ineffective services, office closure at weekends and during public holidays, expensive units (compared to ZESCO ones), and the delay in digital migration which was hindering customers from buying units by phone.**

ers collectively objected to the application and appealed to the ERB Board to disallow the NWECC from increasing electricity tariffs for five years and take into account the rural position of their low-income households.

Initially, the ERB received an application from the Zambia Electricity Supply Corporation (ZESCO) to adjust the electricity tariffs for its retail customers for the period 2023 to 2027. ZESCO proposed changes to the current tariff structure for residential, commercial, social, and maximum-demand customers. The corporation also considered consumer submissions and Government policy to strike a balance on viability and affordability amid Government aspirations. NWECC management similarly applied for a revision of its tariff structure due to the changing cost of power purchases from ZESCO in light of its newly-approved residential tariffs and the need to expand its network and grow its customer base.

The issues raised by the electricity consumer representatives included the utility's ineffective services, office closure at weekends and during public holidays, expensive units (compared to ZESCO ones), and the delay in digital migration which was hindering customers from buying units by phone.

"The consumers who purchase power from ZESCO are much better than us who purchase it directly from North-Western Energy Corporation. We are buying it at a much higher price and the metering system needs investigation as power depreciates faster than supply from ZESCO," Aaron Nswana of Kabitaka in Solwezi submitted.

NWECC Director Andrew Kamanga promised improved customer relations and service delivery alongside setting up an electronic platform for electricity vending and buying via mobile phone.

He disclosed that his company had embarked on a digital migration project by firstly setting up a fully-fledged IT department and a 24-hour call centre to address challenges that customers might face at any given time. Kamanga complained that the newly-approved ZESCO tariffs had caused a challenge to his company as he expected a new monthly bill whereas at the time NWECC had not made adjustments to its costs.



NWEC Director Andrew Kamanga

“Our appeal to the ERB Board is that whatever tariff is applicable to us should hold until you decide so that there is an alignment between the cost and the revenue so that we don’t have any mismatch. Otherwise, if you are going to make a decision in two or three months’ time, ZESCO will be charging us at the new rates and we will not be recovering the same from our customers and we are likely to run into that situation,” Kamanga said. He advised the government to critically analyze and come up with a deliberate policy of making a justification for whether Northwestern Province was a rural or a developing area to ascertain whether the catchment areas of Kalumbila, Lumwana and Kabitaka falls under a subsidized electricity consumption block in Zambia. “If we look at the activities holistically, the economics will tell you we are spending more from buying the power and we are collecting less in terms of revenue. We will continue incurring the losses hoping that one day we will be able to cover that element,” he said. Kamanga further advised the government to establish a business model that hinges its framework on a multi-facility Economic Zone, an introduction of tax incentives and other selected types of taxes which are specific to the location of his company’s clientele to stimulate the growth and demand.

“Today to expect that the customers in Kabitaka, Kalumbila and Lumwana are going to pay exactly what ZESCO is paid I think we have to think twice about the scale and the size of the operation,” he

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**“We expect to have a decision in this matter by the end of this month, so the period of misalignment will not be unduly extended, and we will take account of the fact that regardless of how quickly we decide in this matter now, there is already an existing misalignment and we will take steps to address it,” he said.**

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noted. He proposed that the Government should consider partnering with his company NWEC so that it is part of the story of ensuring that the province is developed to a level where within the near future it becomes what the Copperbelt is today.

ERB Board Chairperson, Reynolds Bowa, thanked Kabitaka, Lumwana and Kalumbila residents for their attendance and important submissions and appreciated their level of dedication to the Northwestern Energy Corporation (NWEC) which has been their service provider for 13 years. He disclosed that the Energy Regulation Board (ERB) in February 2023 received an application from NWEC for a variation of its electricity tariffs covering a multi-year period

from 2023 to 2027 and additionally, the utility also made an application requesting approval of its proposed connection charges for new standard connections.

“in its application, NWEC has cited among other factors the need to align their tariff structure to the change in the cost of power purchases from the Zambia Electricity Supply Corporation (ZESCO) in line with the newly approved ZESCO residential tariffs and the need to expand its network and grow its customer base,” he said. Bowa was optimistic that by convening a public hearing on that day, the utility and consumers could interact and engage in various aspects of the electricity supply for the residents of Lumwana, Kabitaka and Kalumbila.

He advised the public hearing attendees, most of who were retail domestic consumers, to be patient and expect to get the results of their submissions on the topic at the month end.

“We expect to have a decision in this matter by the end of this month, so the period of misalignment will not be unduly extended, and we will take account of the fact that regardless of how quickly we decide in this matter now, there is already an existing misalignment and we will take steps to address it,” he said.

The Board has classified the energy consumption on ZESCO’s electricity tariffs into four categories namely the R1 to R4 for residential customers and C1 to C4 for commercial customers while S1 to S4 will cover social customers. The first customer category covers low-income households that consume 100 units or less per month. Under this category, the approved tariffs are lower than the current tariffs and would provide relief to this customer category. The second category covers customers who consume up to 300 units monthly. The third category is for customers who consume up to 500 units monthly, the fourth category is for customers who consume more than 500 units per month and are considered to be significant consumers that can pay for the power consumed at the cost-reflective tariffs.

The public hearing was also attended by the acting District Commissioner for Kalumbila, Mr Frank Siatwinda who represented the Government of Zambia, and ZESCO and Rural Electrification Authority (REA) representatives among others.



# TotalEnergies transforms Makole School



Northwestern Provincial Education Officer Jennipher Banda gives a solar lamp to a Grade seven pupil and looking on is TotalEnergies Managing Director Caroline Royer.

BY JOHN MUBAMBE

**Makole Community School in Solwezi is experiencing a transformation since TotalEnergies Zambia recently revamped facilities at the cost of K250,000.**

**T**he organization handed to the Provincial Education Office 30 desks, a renovated 20-toilet ablution block, five repainted classrooms, office furniture, a computer, and 70 solar lamps for Grade 7 pupils.

TotalEnergies Zambia Managing Director Caroline Royer told Provincial North-Western Education Officer Jennipher Banda that her company empathized with the children of Mushitala and Saviye townships and other surrounding areas who depended on the school. "As TotalEnergies we decided

that the best way is to give back to the community that we operate in. Society holds that a neighbour's child is also your child. We, therefore, decided to uplift the infrastructure standard of Makole Community School," said Royer.

TotalEnergies was aware that some children were orphans while many others had parents with little or no income, "As TotalEnergies, our CSR action programme recognizes the importance of investing in education, health, sport and recreation, environmental stewardship, infrastructure development and young people," she said.

Jacques Kruger, Head Mining Business at TotalEnergies observed that the school needed more classrooms and more desks. The 70 solar lamps from the company's Solar Sunshine collection were donated to examination class pupils to help them study at home, considering that most residences were yet to be connected to the national power grid.

Provincial Education Officer Banda praised the organization's commitment to the sustainable development of the planet and the well-being of people in the community. She saluted the organization for supporting sports, health,





Makole School Headteacher Doreen Shimishi (left), TotalEnergies Managing Director Caroline Royer (centre) and Northwestern Provincial Education Officer Jennipher Banda happily display the computer donated to the school.



Parents celebrate during the handover ceremony.



TotalEnergies Managing Director Caroline Royer plants a tree at Makole School after the handover ceremony.

education, and cultural heritage. “The resolution to take this step into their CSR activity and change the lives of the learners at Makole and give them a sense of belonging is an example of what the corporate world everywhere should represent,” she said.

The school was founded by Kilela Balanda women’s group to cater for orphans, vulnerable, widows and the less privileged. Sponsored by the World Bank through an organization called CRAIDS, the school was officially commissioned by Dr. O Nyanini on August 21, 2004, with three volunteer teachers.

Head Teacher Doreen Shimishi the District Education Board Secretary (DEBS) deployed three Government teachers in 2006. The school had 140 learners in Grade One to Seven with 25 desks in 2009, and between 2011 and 2017 the

enrolment increased from 210 to 400 learners. In 2018 the number of pupils increased to 452 learners. “At this stage, the school solicited help from former President Edgar Chagwa Lungu to connect tap water for the school, from Northwestern Water Supply and Sewerage Company Limited which was connected in April 2018,” she explained. Shimishi remembered that in 2020, TotalEnergies Zambia celebrated 70 years in Zambia with all teachers and pupils at her school, and donated various school learning materials and Covid-19 protective equipment.

Solwezi District Education Board Secretary (DEBS) Jonathan Kayuka expressed his appreciation to TotalEnergies for partnering with the school through a chosen engagement in sanitation, which was a problematic area in the district.

Grade Six pupil Florence Mwango expressed the excitement of all 718 pupils at the new desks which would solve the problem of the shortages in the school’s five classrooms, “Our classrooms will now be looking clean with new desks and walls that are newly painted. We are now happy to stop using pit latrines which were always dirty and about to collapse,” she proudly said.

Pastor Moonga Mazuba, one of the parents, was thrilled for her children’s school to receive a donation which had added value to the provision of quality, equitable and inclusive education. She thanked TotalEnergies for its support through the works executed in record time and with great finesse.

Pastor Mazuba urged her fellow parents and teachers to teach children to prudently use the donated facilities and equipment to improve learning, hygiene and sanitation at the school.

The energy company also donated and planted some trees within the school premises as a contribution to the school’s eco-education programme. Pupils learn to reduce deforestation which arises from economic activity and infrastructural development.

TotalEnergies considers tree-planting in schools as a handy addition to the curriculum for younger learners since trees are ideal for creating a natural teaching environment, and can be used as a free learning resource in school.

TotalEnergies Zambia Limited, a subsidiary of TotalEnergies has expanded its marketing network to 65 service stations throughout the country.



Swiss Arabian Zambia Country Director Ashutosh Shamar unveils latest perfume brand during the 1st anniversary commemoration held at the Swiss Arabian outlet located at the East Park mall in Lusaka

# Swiss Arabian Zambia: First jubilee of premium fragrances

BY DERRICK SILIMINA

Swiss Arabian Zambia, a perfume giant from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) which is renowned for its wide range of luxuriously unique fragrances, has commemorated its first anniversary in the country.

**S**wiss Arabian Zambia Country Director Ashutosh Shamar says its first-ever perfume showroom in Southern Africa has achieved an important milestone as being one of the only brand stores in Zambia, pioneering a movement for more brand stores to set up shop in the country.

“We are glad to see this awesome support during the first anniversary of our brand. It’s been one year now and the support we’ve got from the Zambian

public and the way they have perceived the Swiss Arabian brand from Dubai is great and the journey has been an amazing experience,” Shamar has said in an exclusive interview during the commemoration held at the brand’s outlet located at the East Park mall in Lusaka on Saturday.

Shamar expresses optimism that the first-ever perfume store brand in southern Africa has had an overwhelming response from its inception on the Zambian market.

He discloses that following an overwhelming acceptance of its products, Swiss Arabia will launch another outlet this month at Lewanika Mall in Lusaka.

“The acceptance of the brand and our products is so good that we will launch our second store at Lewanika Mall in the second week of this month. We also hope that if we get another good location, we look forward to opening another store in the Copperbelt province,” Shamar states.





Clients through the Swiss Arabian store during the 1st anniversary commemoration event held at its outlet at the East Park mall in Lusaka



Shamar hints that from its wide range of fruity, floral, musky fragrances that speak of the exquisite freshness and sweet marmalade that melts away seamlessly to reveal a fresh uplifting bouquet. The perfume brand has also unveiled four latest fragrances to cater for clients who love evening parties as well as those that treasure strong fragrances.

Asked what makes the Swiss Arabian products unique, the Country Director is upbeat that manufacturers' stringent quality is adhered to and that all products have high oil concentration, enriching the fragrances with more longevity.



Shamar further highlighted the need to revolutionize people's views of the perfume industry as a whole, adding that their products are affordable to fit every pocket.

"Our products are manufactured in Dubai by a company that has been in existence since 1974 and we do extensive research to come up with our unique fragrances. Our products are also affordable as the price range starts from K450 to K3000 with a longevity of four to five hours respectively," Shamar adds.

Meanwhile, one of the fanatics of Swiss Arabian brands has eulogized the local outlet's extravagant display of all the best



floral perfumes on the market, "I love Jamila which is a concentrated perfume oil for women from Swiss Arabian perfumes. When summer beckons, Jamila answers with a fragrance as lovely as the season itself," Carolyn Chew notes.

Clara Chama, another Lusaka resident who dashed to witness Swiss Arabian Perfumes' first anniversary at the East Park mall outlet, expressed joy that she managed to grab her favourite fragrance at a 35 per cent off discount, "I love wearing Zahra from Swiss Arabia Zambia. With the onset of winter and as the nights become cooler, each precious droplet of Zahra encapsulates the breath-taking beauty of nature."

# 2000 unionised judiciary employees grab NAPSA lump sum

BY STUART LISULO

The Judicial and Allied Workers Union of Zambia (JAWUZ) says at least 2000 unionised civil servants within the Judiciary have collected their pre-retirement lump sum benefits from the National Pension Scheme Authority (NAPSA).



**O**n April 17, 2023, President Hakainde Hichilema signed into law the National Pension Scheme Amendment Bill 2023, which allows for the partial withdrawal of 20 per cent of accumulated pensions.

As of May 2023, NAPSA had paid out K6.5 billion to more than 260,000 members. The government has set aside a total of around K11 billion to pay 600,000 eligible members.

NAPSA members contributing to the Scheme for at least five years or made 60 contributions are eligible to withdraw 20 per cent of their pre-retirement pension benefits.

JAWUZ President Peter Mwale has hailed the development as having been received “very well” by workers.

In an exclusive interview with Solwezi Today, Mwale says that out of the total 4000 unionised employees in the Judi-

ciary, at least 2000 registered members contributing funds to the Scheme have benefited.

“All along, we have been crying that the NAPSA Act should be amended because when some people retired, they never accessed their partial payments with NAPSA after they accrued benefits! So, to us, this amended NAPSA Act has been received very well across the country, there is jubilation across the country, and that is what we wanted. We’ve got 4000 plus unionised employees, and out of those, the Judiciary has got more than 2000 unionised employees with NAPSA. So, more than 2000 accessed the partial withdrawal.

“We have been wanting this money because we used to see NAPSA abuse our money; building malls, properties and when you wanted to access your money, we had a challenge. So, to us, this is remarkable, and we will live to remember this Government to have done that. And I am speaking on behalf of all workers that are with NAPSA. Trust me, we are very happy!”

Mwale recalls that JAWUZ had been advocating for pension reforms since 2012, with the partial withdrawal as one of the top agenda items.

“As I speak to you now, you will find that the majority of civil servants are with NAPSA. So, the problem we had with the pension system under NAPSA was that there was no lump sum payment; with PSPF (Public Service Pension Fund), there was no problem; the system there was okay. So, we started advocating the amendment of the NAPSA Act as far back as 2012.”

The long queues that had characterised NASA claim offices had started dwindling by press time, with a noticeable reduction in the number of members applying for partial withdrawals.



# State impressed by Kansanshi environment initiatives

BY CLINTON MASUMBA

North-Western Province Permanent Secretary Col. Grandson Katambi (Rtd) on World Environment Day extolled Kansanshi Mining Plc for taking the lead in protecting the environment through its various initiatives.



Kansanshi Mining PLC Environmental Manager Arnold Malambo hands over receptacles to North Western Province PS Col. Grandson Katambi (Rtd) while Solwezi Mayor Remmy Kalepa looks on.

**C**ol. Katambi said this in Solwezi during the provincial commemoration event on June 5, 2023 under the theme: Beat Plastic Pollution.

The Provincial Permanent Secretary adored Kansanshi for supporting different initiatives aimed at uplifting the living standards of the people.

Col. Katambi indicated that besides being a mining company, Kansanshi has gone out of its way to engage in different activities that are aimed at supporting Government in bettering the lives of citizens.

“Kansanshi, besides being a mining entity, you have gone out of your way

to support communities, we as a Government are grateful for your always leading the way. It is these partnerships that will help transform this country. We must all realize that Government alone cannot do all this by itself but needs support from partners like Kansanshi,” he stated.

Col. Katambi said Kansanshi Mine continue to partner with Government because of their passion to support communities in which they operate.

KMP Environmental Manager Arnold Malambo handed over 60 waste bins into the Solwezi Municipal Council as a way of supporting waste management initiatives.

Malambo, said the best way to manage plastic pollution is to avoid its generation before thinking of recycling and reduction.

## ALUMINIUM

KMP is implementing best practices aimed at avoiding use plastic bottles in work places that are being replaced by aluminium bottles.

Some of the practices include the recycling of over 600 tonnes of waste chemical bags in producing PVC ceilings boards and polypropylene bags by recycling companies.

Other measures include reduced annual consumption from over 3.1 million plastic bottles (252,737 monthly) as of 2016 to virtually zero, (804 monthly, as of 2022) by providing employees with reusable aluminium bottles which they use to fill up water from the taps.

Water is treated on site and supplied to various workstations through the water reticulation system. This accounts for 99.7 per cent reduction in plastics. Water testing is carried out weekly by the North-Western Water Supply and Sanitation Company (NWWSSC), a NWASCO licensed company.

And Solwezi Mayor Remmy Kalepa implored the Council to take a lead and ensure waste bins are put in place to ensure proper management of waste which he said had become a nuisance.

Kalepa stated that the aspiration of management at the council, is to see a clean Solwezi, indicating that the state of town was not desirable hence the need for concerted efforts to bring sanity in the district.

He said the environmental challenges in Solwezi are both human-induced and natural.

Kansanshi Mining Plc co-sponsored the Inter-School debates in line with this year's World Environment Day theme.

Mushitala, Kyapatala, Kimale and Kimakolwe Secondary School pupils competed in the debate, Kimale pupils outshining their counterparts and walking away with prizes which included school books and school bags. Kansanshi also helped with other logistics to the tune of \$3000.

# 1000 Run for their lives in Kansanshi Marathon

BY DERRICK SILIMINA

The inaugural Kansanshi Marathon attracted 1000 runners from Kenya, South Africa, and Zimbabwe who filled the 42 km route of Solwezi in North-Western Province.



Kansanshi Marathon participants gathered at the starting line

**K**ansanshi Mining Plc Sports Coordinator Ryan Ellis is elated with the “ground-breaking” success of the event which offered K577,000, the largest prize purse in Zambian athletics history, “I am incredibly happy because my vision to have a marathon in Solwezi has come to pass. The sport inspires people to change their lifestyles, to eat well and to get fit by training. When you have a marathon of 42 kilometres gives one motivation to strive for an improvement in general health and a reduction of non-communicable diseases.”

The run was organized by the company in partnership with the business community.

“It was a huge effort to put it all together and thanks to a lot of sponsors who came on board and the biggest sponsor

by far was Kansanshi Mine. The prize money that we had was the biggest prize purse in Zambian athletics history and part of my vision was to put money in the pockets of runners so that they can invest in themselves and continue to improve as runners and that was a big success,” Ellis states.

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**“We are geared to push harder and invest more and have more initiatives in the sport of running in Solwezi which is a sport that anyone can access,”**  
**Ellis says.**

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## DOUBLE

The mining giant has already started preparing for 2024 and anticipates double the number of runners who participated in this year’s marathon.

Asked what the first-ever international marathon meant to FQM in its quest to support various sporting disciplines, Ellis said, “My firsthand experience since I work in the Corporate Social Responsibility Department at Kansanshi Mine is that we have a team that figures out what are the best things we can do for the society. This is just another example of FQM going an extra mile in investing in sports development and I am very proud to have been part of FQM doing that.”

Ellis has since described the inaugural Kansanshi marathon event as a





From Left to Right Chief Kapijimpanga, Kansanshi Mining PLC General Manager Antony Mukutuma, Prosper Mutwira winner of the 42.2 KM marathon and ZAAA President Elias Mpondela during the award giving ceremony

## Pictorial highlights from the marathon



ground-breaking success in sports and social responsibility in Zambia.

“We are geared to push harder and invest more and have more initiatives in the sport of running in Solwezi which is a sport that anyone can access,” Ellis says.

In a separate interview, one of the participants, Sharonne Watt, shared the benefits of having taken part in the first-ever Kansanshi marathon, “It was a positive outcome and everybody was a winner and benefitted for health, for fitness, and for fun. Thanks to the entire team that made it a success and I think moving forward, we got to do this more and that’s a sure way to keep fit, healthy, to interact and be motivated,” Watt enthuses.



### ZIMBABWEAN

During the action-packed marathon, Zimbabwean Prosper Mutwira won the 42.2km full marathon in a time of 02:25:43, taking home Zambia’s largest-ever running prize of K42,000. In the ladies’ race, Kenya’s Rhonex Jelimo Kogo took the win in a time of 02:37:44 and equal cash prize.

Zambia’s best runner in the 42.2km race, Edward Mwale fought to third position, and earned K14,000 with a time of 02:27:16. He came behind Zimbabwe’s Lyno Muchena who finished second in a time of 02:25:59.

In the half marathon, Kenya’s Cosmas Kipkoech Mutal ran a time of 01:05:20 to take the K21,000 first prize, while



countrymate Abigail Jerop finished first among the women and pocketed the same amount.

Zambian athletes came out winners in the 10 and 5km races which were dominated by Zambian athletes.

Kansanshi Mining Plc General Manager, Anthony Mukutuma, who was among the runners in the 5km race announced that the Kansanshi Marathon would be an annual event aimed at promoting the health of citizens.

During the event, Chief Kapijimpanga, applauded Kansanshi and its partners for sponsoring the event, which he said would expose young people to international events.





2022-2023 **TREE PLANTING SEASON**

# PLANT A TREE - SAVE THE EARTH

Kansanshi Mining Plc leading the way in planting 18,000 trees this season



**FIRST QUANTUM**  
MINERALS



**PEOPLE  
FIRST**

**BOLDER. SMARTER. DRIVEN. TOGETHER**





# 'Yes, Zambia needs gemstone value-addition'

BY JOHN CHOLA

**Grizzly Mining Group endorses Government's call on gemstone sector investors to elevate the country by establishing value-addition industries.**

**G**rizzly Group Chief Executive Officer Abdul Ba says the call by Government was progressive and made at a positive time when the Hakainde Hichilema administration placed premium emphasis on catalyst policies for the mining sector.

Ba responded to a call by Minister of Mines and Minerals Development Paul Kabuswe who implored investors to take advantage of the goodwill and policies of the United Party for National Development (UPND) Government to consider establishing gemstone value-addition companies in the country.

Kabuswe said Zambia had not attained its full potential in mineral exploitation hence the New Dawn Government embarking on a new mining policy to optimize mineral potentials and maxi-

mize benefits.

"We no longer want to be talking potential, this country is wealthy and the wealth is in the ground, so we want to see how best we can get the wealth out of the ground. The challenge I wish to raise however is to investors in the gemstone sector and beyond to go a step further by setting up mineral processing companies—lapidaries that should add value to the raw material," appealed Kabuswe.

Ba has described the Grizzly Mining's emeralds auction as successful as buyers responded positively. "When we auction locally and buyers respond as positively as they have done now, it's a plus and a success to us because we didn't incur any cost on freight to places like India or Dubai. The bidders have flown in and will have to airlift



Buyers examining the emeralds at the auction

these minerals themselves thereby not only saving us a lot of freight costs but also bringing in foreign exchange," Ba said.

He added that Zambia could not fully develop its gemstone industry without adding value to the raw material through the opening up of lapidaries to boost the stone industry to a higher level on par with that of India. "We only encourage the introduction of more incentives to encourage the establishment of lapidaries that should support the growth of the value addition industry," Ba reiterated.

The April auction concluded successfully with companies like NV Jewellery House, K Sunil Narnoli, DTA Jewels, and Avyukta Gems featuring among those that won the majority of the 64 bidding lots.



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# Barrick copper to hit 200,000 tonnes

BY STUART LISULO

Barrick Gold Corporation says its total copper production across all three of its mining assets remains on track to produce a maximum of 213,000 tonnes this year despite a low outturn in the first quarter.

In the company's first-quarter results released in May, Barrick Gold stated that copper production remained on track to produce a maximum of 470 million pounds of copper, translating to around 213,188 metric tonnes.

On the other end of the scale, the company says the estimated minimum copper production is an output of around 420 million pounds or around 190,508 tonnes.

This year's forecast comes in the wake of reduced copper output of only 88 million pounds produced in the first quarter of this year, translating to around 39,916 tonnes, down from 96 million pounds (43,544 tonnes) produced in the final quarter of 2022, and compared to 101 million pounds (45,812 tonnes) in the first quarter of last year.

Commenting on the 2023 first quarter results, Barrick Gold President and Chief Executive, Mark Bristow, said production, while lower than Q4 2022, was on plan, and free cash flow had still increased, demonstrating the value of Barrick's Tier One asset portfolio.

A Tier One copper asset is an asset with a reserve potential of greater than five million tonnes of contained copper and C1 cash costs per pound over the mine life that are in the lower half of the industry cost curve.

Company data shows that a stronger second-half-year (H2 2023) copper production performance is anticipated following the commissioning of fleet equipment at Lumwana to improve mining productivity and throughput.

Barrick's 2022 copper output increased

to 199,580 metric tonnes from 188,240 tonnes recorded in 2021, mainly boosted by Lumwana's strong growth throughout the year.

The North-Western Province-based copper mine produced 121,109 tonnes last year, up from 109,769 tonnes in 2021, maintaining its lead among all three of Barrick's copper-producing assets, globally Zaldívar and Jabal Sayid.

Company data also shows that the Lumwana copper mineral resource base grew by 89 per cent, net of depletion, relative to 2021.

This follows the completion of the preliminary economic assessment on the Super Pit expansion that demonstrates strong potential for a Tier One Copper Asset.



# The Copperbelt Caminex re-ignites.

BY JOHN CHOLA

The Copperbelt Agriculture, Mining Industrial Networking Enterprise (CAMINEX) finally reignited and took place from 30th May to 1st June 2023 at the Kitwe Showgrounds under the theme: Copperbelt: Re-ignite. Rebuild. Renew.

**T**he Copperbelt Agricultural and Commercial Show Society Board Chairman, London Mwafulilwa has since described this year's exhibition success following an overwhelming support from key partner players in the economy, exhibitors and visitors.

Mwafulilwa explained that the Show could not be held in the last three years (2020, 2021 and 2022) due to the devastating impact of Covid-19 which had its heavy toll on the lives of millions of people in Zambia and around the globe.

The Covid-19 pandemic also had a huge toll on the global economy and the effects still continue to be felt today.

"Many businesses were affected and continue to be affected even after the various measures taken to curb the pandemic. The pandemic has left a dark shadow on the business outlook and it is for this reason that the organisers of CAMINEX 2023 decided to restart the Show by providing a platform to stimulate business in the Agricultural, Mining, Industrial, and service sectors in and around the Copperbelt," Mwafulilwa said.

This year, the Show organisers brought together the various sectors in the region in order to Re-ignite. Rebuild. Renew the Copperbelt's business growth and confidence.

"The theme to Re-ignite meant to Accept the effects of the last three years and re-ignite confidence that together we can create the spark required in our economy, Rebuild to Go above and beyond the pre-Covid-19 economic levels so that we come out stronger and rebuild our economy to levels higher than before the pandemic and Renew to Taking the responsibility to commit and renew our efforts to work efficiently together in order to develop an economy that stands the test of time," Mwafulilwa explained.

He added that visitors to the 2023 show benefited from the extensive pool of knowledge available to them from the large number of technical experts on



## Highlights from the CAMINEX Show in Kitwe



the exhibition stands and through the free-to-attend seminars which ran on the side lines of the exhibition.

“The seminars had presentations on infrastructure development. Commerce, Trade and Industry gurus led the business partnership growth forum and economic diversification fora for the Copperbelt. The visitors to the show, in addition to the informative speaker presentations, saw a broad showcase of exhibitions. These included machinery, equipment and consumables as well as had insight into new innovations, technologies, services and solutions,” stated Mwafuililwa.

Mwafuililwa said the CAMINEX 2023 organisers had over many years of existence built, very strong linkages and bonds with the various players in the industry.

We were delighted, said Mwafuililwa, to have the support of the government and the industrial sector including the Zambia Chamber of Mines; the Kitwe and District Chamber of Commerce and Industry; the Ministry of Mines and Min-



erals Development; the Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock, the Ministry of Small and Medium Enterprises Development, the Department of Trade & Industry of South Africa and; the Zambia Association of Manufacturers.

CAMINEX 2023 is organised by the Copperbelt Agriculture and Commercial Show Society (CACSS).

CACSS is a non-profit making, non-governmental organisation based in Zambia and charged with the responsibility of organising the Copperbelt's annual show.

For 67 years CACSS has built a reputation for its ability to provide an annual exhibition platform that has recorded success in showcasing products and services available in the Country and the Region.

And one of the participating companies, Cfa Motors Zambia Limited, shared: “the CAMINEX 2023 Copperbelt trade expo ended today with great tidings. Yes, we are excited to share that Cfa Motors Zambia Limited has been awarded the best exhibitor in the Motor Vehicle Category and further awarded 3rd best stand design, conformity to the theme and interpretation, staff uniformity and availability among all exhibitors.

Cfa Management and staff extend gratitude to the organizers of this year's expo and looking forward to showcasing our products and innovations next year. Congratulations to all who took part in this expo, for we are all winners.”

Meanwhile, it was a triple win for the National Pensions Scheme Authority (NAPSA) at the Show as it was declared the Best Overall Winner by the CAMINEX.

NAPSA had demonstrated how it is pooling resources through contributions from the formal and informal sectors and growing these contributions through strategic investments in areas such as road infrastructure, energy, mining, real estate, government securities, fixed term deposits, public and private equity among others.

This enables the Authority to pay benefits to its members when they fall due, including the popular 20 per cent partial withdrawal where the Authority has now paid out over K6.3 billion to over 245,000 members as of 31st May 2023.

NAPSA says it has over 22,500 members on monthly pension payroll who get a pension for life.

“Over 45 per cent of these pensioners are given an-uplift for them to access a minimum pension. This is made possible by the Authorities diversified investments. For the Informal Sector, the Authority is giving in addition to the traditional benefits short term benefits such as access to credit, weather index insurance, maternity benefits. All these are helping to re-ignite, rebuild, and renew the members lives as well as the economy,” the Authority said after the Show. This year's exhibition was officially opened by President Hakainde Hichilema who was represented by the Minister of Agriculture Mr. Mutolo Phiri.



# FQM promoting home-grown nutrition

BY DERRICK SILIMINA

First Quantum Minerals (FQM) has launched a community programme to improve health and wellness through indigenous natural foods in rural Solwezi and Kalumbila communities.



Mothers conduct a cooking demonstration during FQM's nutrition outreach programme.

**T**he health initiative, Butuntulu Bwa Nyaunda which refers to 'community health and wellness,' is a community development programme addressing health concerns in townships in and around the mine's catchment areas.

FQM Health and Wellness Nurse Peter Kandiye explained this during a nutrition outreach programme held at Kanzala Rural Health Centre in Senior Chief Musele's Chiefdom.

"During this activity, we have gathered women and they have brought a variety of locally available foodstuffs and

we have a qualified nutritionist in our midst who will help to blend foodstuffs such as groundnuts, sweet potatoes, soya beans, vegetables, pumpkins, and bananas among others in diverse ways and be able to produce a meal that is nutritious," Kandiye stated.

He stressed that when these foods are prepared appropriately, members of the communities would avoid malnourishment, being underweight, and short stature in children.

Kandiye further highlighted that in addition to the nutrition initiative, FQM is also working in partnership with the

Ministry of Health through the district and provincial offices as well as local health facilities to help treat various diseases affecting communities.

"As FQM, our Health Department operates from Solwezi and Kalumbila by treating various diseases through diagnosis, dispensing drugs and counselling among others. So, during our outreach programmes we are able to provide various healthcare services at once to most far-flung areas that can't be easily reached thereby taking quality healthcare to families," he said.

Kandiye noted that in the Kanzala catch-





Kalumbila District Health Nutritionist Wilson Hachianzala coaches local mothers during a nutrition outreach programme.



Children jiggle their taste buds with a nutritious organic meal at Kanzala rural health centre.

ment area alone, more than 3,600 residents have benefited from FQM's health outreach programmes such as malaria prevention, screening and treatment through laboratory and sensitization services.

He added that the mining firm is also engaged in the delivery of school health services.

"We are also supporting the Ministry of Education by providing health services in educational facilities such as providing health education, reinforcing the prevention of teenage pregnancies, and advocating the girl-child's return to school in the event that they fall pregnant," he said.

Speaking during the same event, Kalumbila District Health Nutritionist Wilson Hachianzala said there was a need to embrace locally-grown foodstuffs because they usually have all the nutrients required for a person in the community

to have a healthy diet.

Hachianzala noted that since the inception of the nutrition demo outreach, more than 40 health posts in the district had benefited albeit the onset of Covid-19 which slowed down the programme.

"We proceeded in doing this programme in all facilities in Kalumbila.

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**He stressed that when these foods are prepared appropriately, members of the communities would avoid malnourishment, being underweight, and short stature in children.**

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We are looking at making local porridge from soya beans, groundnuts and maize among others by roasting the three ingredients and thereafter pounding them into a meal that can be used to cook porridge for children as well as adults with deteriorating health conditions," Hachianzala said during a demonstration.

He stated that nutritional value came from locally-grown foodstuffs as opposed to processed and preserved foods, which was the way to nutritional security.

In a moving vote of thanks, Margaret Masamwisha, one of the local mothers, hailed FQM for a well-thought-out nutrition initiative that would uplift the well-being of many children in the community.

"We have really learnt a lot of healthy recipes that we never thought could contribute to our children's and families' healthy diets through our home-grown foodstuffs. Thank you FQM for extending not only this awesome nutrition gesture but other medical services through your Health and Wellness Department."



(L-R) FQM Trident General Manager Junior Keyser, North Western Province Minister Robert Lihefu, Minister of Home Affairs and Internal Security Jack Mwiimbu, FQM Zambia Country Manager Dr. Godwin Beene at the commissioning of the police posts.



# Kisasa, Kalumbila get police posts

BY MARTIN MUSUNKA JR

FQM Trident Foundation Limited has handed over the Kisasa and Kalumbila town police posts to Government.

**T**he official commissioning ceremony was attended by Minister of Home Affairs and Internal Security, Jack Mwiimbu, Zambia Police Inspector-General Graphel Musamba and North-Western Province Minister Robert Lihefu.

Mwiimbu expressed gratitude to FQM for their commitment to community safety, particularly for the vulnerable demographic in Zambia. He also pledged

**Dr. Beene said FQM aspired to establish a long-term, mutually beneficial partnership with the community, built on transparency, respect, and mutual confidence.**

additional support by providing a Land Cruiser for the police service.

“We have noticed that people are coming from other parts of the country alongside foreign nationals, and they are involved in illegal mining operations. This gives them the potential to turn into organized crime gangs. If left unchecked it has the potential to cause the same problems that our neighboring countries are facing.”





Mwiimbu emphasized Government's continued support for the business community in the province and acknowledged the unrivalled corporate social investment made by FQM in the communities of operation.

Speaking on behalf of FQM Trident, General Manager Junior Keyser highlighted the rise in criminal activities, including diesel theft, cable crime, and equipment tampering, which prompted the mining



Minister of Home Affairs and Internal Security Jack Mwiimbu welcomed to Kalumbila District by Commissioner of Police- Administration Auxensio Kwezekani Daka.



Home Affairs Minister Jack Mwiimbu (centre front) flanked by traditional rulers at the new Kisasa Police Post. Behind them are North-Western Province Minister Robert Lihefu alongside FQM representatives, Government, police and municipality officials with representatives of various traditional establishments.

company to take action in collaboration with the Kalumbila district community.

FQM Country Manager Dr Godwin Beene stressed the importance of involving local communities and other stakeholders in the business conducted in the province. He thanked the traditional leadership for providing the land for the construction of the police posts.

Dr. Beene said FQM aspired to establish a long-term, mutually beneficial partnership with the community, built on transparency, respect, and mutual confidence.

Inspector-General Musamba praised the collaboration between FQM Trident and Government, which would ensure effective and efficient service delivery to the people of Zambia.

He commended FQM for unwavering support, describing the company as an "all-weather friend."

Sub-chief Mwanaute of Kisasa community in Senior Chief Musele's Chiefdom also expressed satisfaction with the mining company's achievements and urged the Government to continue the work begun by FQM Trident.



Fisheries and Livestock Minister Makozo Chikote (r) flanked by his counterpart Health Minister Sylvia Masebo arrive at the 2023 ZIPEX held at Lusaka's Martin Richenhagen Future Farm.



# Poultry expo connects industry players

BY DERRICK SILIMINA

Chicken meat is big business in Africa, yet most of it is imported due to a lack of suitable breeding technologies among poultry farmers.

**S**outh Africa is the top exporter of poultry meat on the continent—which has been a thorn in the side of local producers who boast of the capacity to flood the market.

From a wide range of birds including indigenous and commercial breeds, poultry is currently the main meat consumed in Zambia, totalling an estimated 50 per cent of the total consumption in the country.

In this context, the poultry sector provides direct and indirect employment to more than 500,000 citizens, with 320,000 in permanent jobs, according to the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock.



For this reason, Zambia's first-ever International Poultry Exposition (ZIPEX) was recently held in Lusaka in a bid to provide a platform for players to network and generate leads, and potentially close sales as well as build future long-term relationships.

"These private sector initiatives show Zambians' amazing ability to create and innovate, and as Government, we are here to support such initiatives that seek to display Zambia's opportunities in this industry," Fisheries and Livestock Minister Makozo Chikote said recently when he officiated at the 2023 ZIPEX held at Lusaka's Martin Richenhagen Future Farm in Chongwe.

### CONNECTING

The poultry Expo which attracted all types of poultry farmers, breeders, processors, traders and distributors among other captains of the industry was held under the theme, Connecting and Advancing Poultry Business Knowledge.

The three-day event also attracted participants from the greater poultry value chain, which includes equipment suppliers, feed suppliers, allied technical experts, private and public institutions, and exhibitors from the region and Africa as a whole.

Chikote noted that the theme of the event was appropriate because the poultry industry in Zambia was growing rapidly and is a significant contributor to agricultural economic activity in the country.

"As such business knowledge must be disseminated to ensure poultry farming is successful and continues to grow to meet the food security needs of Zambia and the African region as a whole.

"It was necessary to create a platform that brings together all stakeholders in the poultry sector, from here and elsewhere, a special appointment because it reflects not only the enormous potential of this industry but also the strength of Zambian and foreign poultry organizations."

### BRIDGE

The Minister said the inaugural theme of the 2023 Poultry Expo was a bridge across hatcheries crafts, stem providers, food producers, importers and dis-

**"We look small, but we are the second biggest supplier of poultry products in southern Africa including the 26 COMESA countries. This is a remarkable milestone and with Government's support, we can address some of the bottlenecks such as import duty on poultry equipment hindering sufficiency and sustainability of the industry," Chanda noted.**

tributors of inputs, broiler and breeders, slaughter chain promoters, millers, meat processors, pharmaceuticals, research laboratories, and equipment suppliers among others get to see the vitality of Zambia's poultry basin.

Certainly, the first edition of ZIPEX provides Zambia with a unique opportunity to present the latest technologies and innovations in the poultry sub-sector.

Interestingly, since Chongwe constituency is home to many poultry industry leaders such as Ross breeders and Hybrid companies, area Member of Parliament Sylvia Masebo commended the organizer for the great initiative.

"We hope many more players will join us in the future not only in poultry but in other sectors that are critical to the growth of our economy and I hope we will all put into practice the knowledge we will gather from this event," said Masebo who is also Health Minister.

Main organizer DSG Media Managing Editor Daimone Siulapwa said on the sidelines of the Expo that the main aim of the event was to connect the poultry farmers to manufacturers and service providers as well as sellers of poultry products.

"As today marks the birth of the Zambian International Poultry Expo (ZIPEX) and we are very confident that it will contribute to the growth of the poultry industry in Zambia by creating a

much-needed link among the various players," Siulapwa stated.

Poultry Association of Zambia President Dominic Chanda said ZIPEX was an eye-opener that would create synergies and supply chain relationships to enable the future growth of the poultry industry in the country.

### SELF-SUFFICIENCY

Chanda bubbled with confidence that the poultry sector was now a force to reckon with as it has reached a self-sufficiency level with the capacity to meet both local and international requirements.

"We look small, but we are the second biggest supplier of poultry products in southern Africa including the 26 COMESA countries. This is a remarkable milestone and with Government's support, we can address some of the bottlenecks such as import duty on poultry equipment hindering sufficiency and sustainability of the industry," Chanda noted.

"As a poultry farmer, I am thrilled to come and attend this first-ever event as it is a wealth of knowledge on various state-of-the-art poultry equipment being showcased here," said Morgan Chama, a Chongwe-based poultry farmer.





# Zambia Sugar profits swell to K510m

BY STUART LISULO

**Zambia Sugar Plc has posted a profit after tax of more than K510 million in the half-year period ending February 28, 2023.**

**A**nnouncing financial results for the six-month period, Company Secretary Harriet Kapekele-Katongo said the profit after tax grew to around K510.9 million during the period under review from K439.5 million during the corresponding period last year.

Strong export sales volumes increased revenues and grew profitability.

“Total revenue for the six-month period to February 28 2023 grew by 5 per cent to K2.35 billion largely driven by strong domestic and export sales performance. Improvement in export proceeds was attributable to the depreciation of the kwacha during the period December 2022 to February 2023.

“Sales to the export market increased by 16 per cent due to the availability of stocks following the slowdown in domestic demand. Compared to the same period the previous year, domestic sales volume was negatively impacted by the influx of illegal imports.

“Headline earnings for the six-month period ended February 28 2023 increased to K510 million from K439 million for

the 6 months to February 29 2022. Earnings per share grew by 16 per cent from 138.8 ngwee per share to 161.4 ngwee per share.”

Cane supply for the period under review increased by 18 per cent compared to the previous period due to an improvement in cane yields for the estate and out-growers, mainly attributable to better climatic conditions experienced during the summer growing months and availability of power for irrigation.

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**“The company expects to face challenges in the second half of the year due to economic uncertainties in the local economy, fluctuations in exchange rates and rising costs of commodities all of which will put pressure on sales and costs.**

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The total cane supplied for the 2022/23 season was around 3.4 million tonnes compared to 3.2 million tons last season, according to company data.

“The increase in cane supply resulted in a corresponding 11 per cent increase in sugar production for the six-month period which was 15,200 tonnes higher than the comparative period last year. For the 2022/23 season 400,431 tonnes of sugar was produced compared to 390,206 tonnes in the 2021/22 season,” stated Katongo.

“The company expects to face challenges in the second half of the year due to economic uncertainties in the local economy, fluctuations in exchange rates and rising costs of commodities all of which will put pressure on sales and costs.

“Higher sugar production is expected for the 2023/24 season following good rainfall received and improved performance from the factory as a result of works undertaken during off-crop to improve plant reliability. Domestic sales are forecast to continue to grow in the coming months while the strong demand in the regional export market is expected to persist.”



# Absa, Airtel unveil digital funeral cover

BY JOHN CHOLA

Absa Life Zambia and Airtel Mobile Commerce Ltd (Airtel Money) have unveiled a digital funeral insurance cover.



Minister of Technology and Science Hon. Felix Mutati

**A**ccording to Airtel Zambia, Umoyo Funeral Cover which is powered by Inclusivity Solutions, is a unique offering that brings comprehensive service to all Airtel customers.

Families on the Airtel Money platform now have a package requiring a premium of K20 per month for cover worth K7,500 for the customer and spouse; and K1,875 per child up to a maximum of five.

Speaking at the launch at Radisson Blu Hotel in Lusaka, Minister of Technology and Science Felix Mutati said one of the key measurements of a growing economy is easy access to financial services for its population. "This Government has emphasized time and again how financial inclusion is a key strategic agenda and more recently we have seen significant digital uplift of financial services in the banking sector, where customers can now complete transactions on their mobile phones that previously required a series of approvals and steps

at a physical branch.

"Today, we are witnessing the expansion of such services to insurance, and with this product offering, customers will be able to acquire insurance from the comfort of their homes, offices and even while on the street by simply accessing the service on the Airtel money platform using USSD."

Absa Life Zambia Ltd Managing Director Collins Hamusonde said, "We are delighted to partner with Airtel Zambia to bring this innovative product to our market. This digital insurance launch speaks directly to key objectives that are driven by Government through various financial regulatory bodies. The product is affordably priced to meet the needs of the market with the aim of reaching out to as many Zambians as possible and helping reduce the burden of losing a loved one."

Airtel Money Country Director, Andrew Chuma said Airtel Money was dedicated to providing its customers with conven-

ient digital solutions for navigating life even in the most difficult moments.

The product can be purchased directly from Airtel customers' mobile phones by dialling \*115#.

"We believe that partnerships such as this one help deliver value for customers. The prospect of loss and profound grief can be overwhelming; therefore planning ahead of time can help in handling the financial burdens that come with such unfortunate circumstances. It is for this purpose that our partnership with Absa Life Zambia exists to provide a convenient and affordable funeral plan for our customers," Chuma said.

Inclusivity Solutions Head of Operations MSam Ndori also expressed his delight at the partnership and opportunity to anchor the technology behind the innovative digital solution, "We are thrilled to partner with Absa Life Zambia and Airtel Money to power the Umoyo Funeral Cover. Our award-winning digital insurance platform enables us to support the access of underserved customers, and we are excited to bring this innovative product to customers in Zambia," he said

Absa Life is a well-established long-term insurer fully licensed by the Pensions and Insurance Authority (PIA).

The firm ranks itself among the firmly positioned top financial services providers in the country.

Absa Life Zambia Ltd is part of Absa Group Limited, one of Africa's largest diversified financial services groups.

The Group has a presence in 12 African countries and representative offices in London and New York.



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# Manufacturer prods African leaders to support entrepreneurship

BY FELIX KATYETYE

African leaders should take conscious and deliberate steps towards supporting entrepreneurship development.

Speaking at the 2023 Mwanakazi Okongola Summit in Lusaka, Tonyi Senayah, the CEO and Founder of Horseman, a leather manufacturing company, noted that Africa had numerous opportunities for entrepreneurship, but not much has been made of them, especially by the youth.

Senayah noted the lack of sustainable policies and plans to create and support the exponential growth of businesses across the continent. He added that strong policies and programmes existed across the continent, they were often tied to the tenure of governments, leading to their discontinuation once the administration's term of office ends.

Senayah explained that this is one of the reasons why there were many unsuccessful and unsustainable youth-led businesses on the continent. "As part of the solutions to the challenges of entrepreneurship and the seeming lack of interest by the youth, technical and vocational education and training should be considered as an area of focus for governments," Senayah suggested.

That approach had the potential to considerably solve the unemployment crisis that the continent was facing and help build the failing economies.

Senayah implored African leaders to provide predictable oversight on matters such as taxation, which continually threatened the growth of micro, small and medium enterprises, MSMEs.

He further encouraged young people to remain relentless in growing their businesses which tend to traverse tough seasons, but tenacity would see them through.



Chief Executive Officer of Horseman Shoes Tonyi Senayah speaking at the 2023 Mwanakazi Okongola Summit

Other speakers in attendance at the 2023 Mwanakazi Okongola Summit included Sonny Zulu, the CEO of Standard Chartered Zambia; South African actress Gail Mabalane; business strategist Panji Kakube and Financial Coach Lyapa Mbewe.

Zulu urged young people to become trailblazers and emphasized the importance of hard work in fulfilling one's purpose.

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**"I encourage every participant here not to fear taking risks even as am urging them to create the need for recognition by distinguishing themselves in their respective fields."**

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He challenged the participants to embrace audacity in their aspirations, stressing that true impact can only be achieved by standing out from the crowd.

"I encourage every participant here not to fear taking risks even as am urging them to create the need for recognition by distinguishing themselves in their respective fields."

Mabalane, known for her appearances in popular Netflix series such as *Unseen* and *Blood and Water*, delivered a compelling speech on the importance of resilience. Mabalane drew from her personal experiences and emphasized that setbacks should not deter individuals from pursuing their goals in life.

She further stressed the need to seize every opportunity and extract value from each endeavour, even if the results differ from what was initially expected. Mabalane emphasized that having a clear direction was crucial for achieving ambitions.

Mbewe, who as a financial coach shared her expertise on prudent financial management and asset acquisition, cautioned young people against living lifestyles that would hinder their ability to invest and accumulate wealth.

She emphasized the significance of budgeting in fostering financial discipline and urged the audience to prioritize long-term financial stability over short-term gratification.

Mwanakazi Okongola Summit is an annual event that brings together accomplished individuals from various fields to share their insights and experiences.

President Hakainde Hichilema (Left) takes over the chair of the regional economic bloc from his counterpart Fattah El-Sisi of Egypt during the recently held 22nd COMESA Summit in Lusaka



# COMESA to speed up intra-regional trade

BY DERRICK SILIMINA

COMESA member states have endorsed the need to promote intra-regional trade with the new Chairman, Zambian President Hakainde Hichilema offering to promote unrestrained trading activities and joint investments.

**S**peaking during the just-ended 22nd COMESA Summit which was held on Thursday in Lusaka, leaders of the regional economic bloc validated the need to prioritize issues for the region which include climate change, industrialization, value addition, peace and security.

President Hichilema who took over the chair from President Fattah El Sisi of Egypt said his priority is to promote the free flow of trade and joint investments by exploiting the immense opportunities within the region.

Hichilema observed that slowed growth

rates and food insecurity affected many parts of the region which he attributed to the effects of climate change, the Covid-19 pandemic, and political instability caused by conflict situations.

“We have a mammoth task ahead to take stock of where we are and define





President of the Republic of Malawi Lazarus McCarthy Chakwera (middle) with his Kenyan counterpart Dr William Samoei Ruto (Left) during the recently held 22nd COMESA Summit in Lusaka

### **President Lazarus Chakwera of Malawi in his maiden statement stressed the need for member states to move with speed on increasing productive capacities in agriculture, tourism, and mining.**

growth paths that are resilient to exogenous forces,” he said, noting that many of the countries in the region were saddled with a high debt burden, unemployment and economic stagnation.

“It is therefore incumbent upon ourselves to combine our resources to promote trade and investment that will support sustainable growth and create jobs,” the head of state added.

Outgoing chair, President El Sisi, appreciated the commitment of member states to full integration as witnessed by the steady focus maintained through his tenure.

Sisi highlighted ongoing programmes

such as digitization of customs clearances, removal of non-tariff barriers, support to small-scale traders and empowerment of vulnerable groups such as women, youth and disabled people.

“Notwithstanding the challenges that our countries have faced in the recent period, our integration agenda has remained on course,” Sisi said.

Industrialization remained at the core of the integration agenda and central to the diversification of regional economic growth.

In his maiden speech as a new member of the COMESA Authority of Heads of State and Government, President William Ruto of Kenya said the entire world was saddled with intertwined economic, geopolitical and climatic crises which had exerted an enormous adverse impact on the continent and COMESA region.

Ruto stated that the promotion of green

investment to power a zero-carbon global industrial order was a priority. Green investment was one area of unexplored opportunity for socioeconomic development incorporating ecologically sound and environmentally responsible practices.

“Through robust policy, we have taken positive measures to construct an investment climate that attracts high-quality global capital to our economy, and to promote a business environment that encourages value addition and secondary manufacturing,” Ruto said.

President Lazarus Chakwera of Malawi in his maiden statement stressed the need for member states to move with speed on increasing productive capacities in agriculture, tourism, and mining.

There was a need to liberalize and harmonize processes for facilitating the movement of goods and people across borders; developing and synchronizing infrastructural, transport, energy, digital, and financial among other systems to cut out inefficiencies and illegalities used to defraud COMESA member states.

The theme of this year’s Summit is Economic integration for a thriving COMESA, anchored on green investment, value addition and tourism which the Secretary-General of COMESA, Chileshe Kapwepwe described as timely after a period of turbulence caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, conflict in Europe and effects of climate change.



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# Bo'Jangles: Food Destination Par Excellence

BY SOW COMMUNICATIONS

**Where food imitates art — Bo'Jangles Restaurant in Lusaka is finally here to tantalize and tickle our taste buds. Set the scene and Taste the Jazz! It's time to think of food as a destination!**

**T**he seating arrangements and décor feature high-quality materials and artful presentation. Beautiful objects, which have been carefully selected and procured from around the world, set the scene for an upscaled experience and ambience for all guests.

## SAVOIR-FAIRE

The Bo'Jangles team encompasses truly remarkable professionals, their culinary craftsmanship, talent, passion, art, style, and creative flair can all be experienced with ease at this remarkable jazz-themed restaurant. Renowned and acclaimed chefs, sommeliers, and outstanding front-of-house directors from different parts of the world represent the diversity and rich culture of service that all form part of the DNA of Bo'Jangles Lusaka. The result is astoundingly fusional — Zambian-sourced and locally grown foods with world-class flair.

Their extraordinary skill, and attention to detail that is accompanied by their love for creating fine food, their savoir-faire, passion to serve, and dedica-

tion to excellence—a trademark of hospitality at its nest.

Bo'Jangles is Lusaka's premier destination for novelty, bold, flavourful cuisine, all matched by excellent delivery. What's more, you don't have to wait for dinner to enjoy the menu, Bo'Jangles' commitment to serving impeccable food begins at 7 am daily!

## PRIVATE DINING

Private dining seals the deal whether guests are organising a birthday lunch or a business lunch presentation. Our highly qualified staff works with each group to create a personalised, enjoyable, and memorable event.

We have trained our staff to go the extra mile to create an extraordinary experience for every one of their valued guests—from the warm greeting they receive on arrival to their last bite of dessert.

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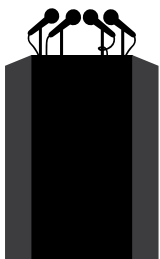
cially packaged for the privacy-minded guest. Whether you want to impress your new client or host a team-building event for your employees, corporate dining makes the perfect meeting place where impeccable and flavourful dining pairs well with corporate conversation.

With a sitting capacity of 40 to 60 persons in the corporate section, Bo'Jangles is your corporate dining destination of choice.

## VIP LOUNGE

If you love exclusivity, then this is the spot for you. The VIP section of Bo'Jangles is specially created to offer a private and exclusive experience. We also offer a more private experience in our VIP Lounge which has a capacity of 30 persons, and which can be expanded to your taste. Our Lounge offers a unique setting that ensures comfort, privacy, and glamour to our prestige customers. The Lounge has a private bar and three private waiters to cater to your needs, with your own door-minder to ensure your complete privacy.

Please note that the Lounge is available to customers on a pre-order basis and requires a minimum spend upfront. The minimum spend is redeemable but not refundable. Be sure to reserve with our marketing department for seamless, easy booking and coordination.



HICKS SIKAZWE ON THE PLATFORM



# Africa Freedom Day: Shaking off colonialism

In 1957, the West African nation of Ghana gained Independence, becoming the first African country south of the Sahara to shake off colonialism. The following year its leader comrade Kwame Nkrumah held the first Pan-African Conference of Independent States.



**T**he aim of the conference held on April 15, 1958, was to create a vehicle by which to agitate the speedy liberation struggle throughout the continent.

Then, there were only eight countries in Africa that had discarded colonial rule and seven of them, Ghana, Ethiopia, Sudan, Liberia, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia, attended the gathering. Also present were representatives from liberation movements; the National Liberation Front of Algeria, (NLFA), and the Union of Cameroonian Peoples (UCP).

The meeting became the genesis of a collective platform from which African countries could cooperate in the struggle against colonialism. As attested by

the website South Africa History Online (SAHO), this was the birth of Africa Freedom Day.

“To further encourage and forge a common goal of fighting against colonial rule, the conference called for the observance of Africa Freedom Day once a year, to mark the onward progress of the liberation movement and to symbolize the determination of the people of Africa to free themselves from foreign domination and exploitation.”

## REJECTION

The conference, the first Pan-African gathering to be held and bringing together various African countries, therefore, was an equivocal assertion of Afri-

ca’s rejection of colonial and imperialist denomination of the continent.

Again, from December 8-13, 1958, Nkrumah convened another gathering called the All-Africa People’s Conference (AAPC) in Ghana, attended by, among others, liberation movements, such as South Africa’s African, National Congress (ANC) including some independent and non-independent countries.

At the birth of the Organization of African Unity, OAU (forerunner to the African Union) on May 25, 1963, in the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa, May 25 D-Day was reconstituted to celebrate the African Freedom Day, which the continent has done for the last 60 years.

According to the site, from 1959 to 1963, African Liberation Day was celebrated in Ethiopia, South Africa, Ghana, and by African people in Britain China, the Soviet Union and the United States.

“As more African countries became independent, the need for an organization that would articulate aspirations of Africa’s people and their struggle arose. Consequently, on May 25, 1963, leaders of 32 African nations converged in Ethiopia and formed the organization of African Unity (OAU)”

After World War Two, SAHO notes, the process of decolonization of the African continent gathered momentum as Africans increasingly agitated for more political rights and Independence. While in some parts of the continent colonial powers reluctantly and grudgingly relinquished power, in other parts African



people launched protracted struggles against the recalcitrant colonial regimes.

Since 1963, many African nations including Zambia have gained Independence. In the further agitation of the freedom struggle, Nkrumah was joined by other pioneers such as Zambia's President Kenneth Kaunda, and Tanzania's leader Julius Nyerere.

Africa continues to observe this great day, not only to remember where the continent has come from but to also recognize individuals and groups for the roles they played in the freedom struggle.

#### YOKE

But the question that has troubled many people is that while much of the continent now is awash with independent countries, Africa is still held in an economic yoke. Economically, Africa remains tied to its former colonial masters.

Though today the continent is the largest source of raw materials, from minerals and gas to timber, Africa remains the most impoverished region with the majority of its populations cramped in an anvil of poverty.

There is no continent other than Africa where every disease that hits globally extent leaves unimaginable devastation. Former colonial masters continue to be responsible for some of the wars that have stagnated development in the continent of 1.2 billion people.

For example, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) is supposed to be one of the richest countries in the world in terms of mineral and other resources, but long years of destabilization have subjected its people to frequent flights away from gun-toting armies littering the vast country.

For years thousands of Congolese families have remained in refugee camps in neighbouring countries while others have decided to relocate to The Diaspora. There is no time and room for agriculture or any other activity for local people in the former Zaire, yet outside powerful nations continue to feast on the resources there.

The current civil war in Sudan, pitting

**There is no continent other than Africa where every disease that hits globally extent leaves unimaginable devastation. Former colonial masters continue to be responsible for some of the wars that have stagnated development in the continent of 1.2 billion people.**

two generals; one heading the army and another a police unit; is an example of foreign-aided conflicts that have deprived Sudanese people of a livelihood despite the country being one of the first countries to gain political Independence.

#### ONE-WAY FLOW

In Africa, so-called development is a one-way flow affair, and funds have to come from the rich North and their partner lending institutions that have squeezed loan-defaulting African countries to the last drop of blood.

Lending money to Africa is one thing as those proffering the cash have to dictate how the handouts should be spent. In short, 60 years after the birth of the Africa Freedom Day the continent remains economically dependent on the same people we ran away from years back.

The birth of Democracy in the 1990s has brought in very little hope as most of the new leaders who took over from liberation movement icons remain a disappointment. More emphasis seems to have been spent on politics than trying to turn around the continents' economic fortunes.

Bad governance and rigged elections remain a hallmark in a continent where more than 50 countries claim to be independent. Even after 1990, development has been slow in the continent. There is

no infrastructure to talk of. Rural populations in most parts of Africa remain marginalised.

#### RESPONSIBILITIES

In some cases, even in the so-called urban areas necessities such as clean drinking water and sanitation remain a pipe dream as the people charged with responsibilities to foster development are more worried about looking after their pockets and those of their kith and kin.

For this background alone, Africa still has a long way to go, which defeats the real reason for celebrating Africa Freedom Day in an atmosphere of hunger, destitution and ill-governance.

Hicks Sikazwe is the author of three books, ZAMBIA'S FALL BACK PRESIDENTS, A Curse for Fear of succession, WASTED YEARS, Decimated Industries, Abject Poverty, Sagging Economy, Is there Hope and VOTERS IN SHADOWS, an Inquiry into Zambia's 2021 election violence. He is also former Deputy Editor-in-Chief of Times of Zambia and now Communication and Media Consultant based in Ndola. Comments: 0966929611, 0955929611, 0974613941 or [hpsikazwe@gmail.com](mailto:hpsikazwe@gmail.com), [hpsikazwe@yahoo.com](mailto:hpsikazwe@yahoo.com)



Professor Linda Brito (m) converses with Information Minister Chushi Kasanda (r) while Information Permanent Secretary Kennedy Kalunga looks on. Pictures by Jean Mandela.



# UN laments increased global difficulties

BY JOHN CHOLA

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) celebrated 30 years of World Press Freedom Day and the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights with a caution about increasing global difficulties.

**U**NESCO Regional Director for Southern Africa, Professor Linda Brito, noted that the world is going through an increasing debt burden, unemployment, income inequality, ecological damage and greenhouse gas emissions.

Brito was speaking at the three-day Second Africa Media Convention (AMC) held from May 11-13 at Lusaka's Mulungushi International Conference Centre.

The event was attended by Zambia's Information Minister Chushi Kasanda and more than 200 delegates drawn from across the continent, with representatives from the African Union, European Union, and officials representing governments across Africa.

The African Media Convention brought together media experts, scholars, students, journalists, journalists' unions and associations, editors, the public and

private sectors, and cooperating partners from around the African continent and beyond.

The African Media Stakeholders' Convention reflected on the revolving trends impeding freedoms of expression and of the media, most significantly the persistent deterioration of these rights on the continent.

The 2nd AMC recognized those coun-





Some of the Journalists captured at the AMC during the official opening by Zambia's Minister of Information and Media.



Part of the audience at the AMC following processing.

tries and institutions that promoted freedom of expression as provided for in various African Union human rights instruments.

“We are also witnessing other challenges such as conflicts, increased corruption and illicit capital flight and a reduction of Freedom rights and shrinking civil space and an increase of voter apathy. Attacks on journalists and media workers are also on the increase, with almost nine out of ten cases going unpunished,” said Prof. Brito.

She lamented that when freedom of expression and media freedom were stifled; all other freedoms were at risk.

Brito stated that freedom of expression was a driver for all other human rights because the right to freedom of expression and the right to access information allowed people to seek, receive and impart information, ideas, concepts and beliefs across borders and cultures.

She maintained that freedom of expression, the free flow of information and press freedom were preconditions for the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals of Agenda 2030 and that without them, the world could not eliminate poverty and hunger, preserve

biodiversity and promote sustainable development or build transparent institutions.

Addressing the delegates on behalf of President Hakainde Hichilema, Minister of Information and Media Chushi Kasanda also noted that the continent continued to grapple with various challenges that included safety, threats from citizen journalism and many times, threats to press freedom. She however stated that in Zambia, the government had been consistent in its agenda to promote freedom of the media and freedom of expression. The government had also made progress towards enact-

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**The African Media Stakeholders' Convention reflected on the revolving trends impeding freedoms of expression and of the media, most significantly the persistent deterioration of these rights on the continent.**

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ing the Access to Information Bill into law. “As government, we believe that these and other reforms resonate well with this year’s World Press Freedom Day theme: “Shaping a Future of Rights: Freedom of Expression as a Driver of all Other Human Rights,” she said.

United Nations (UN) Resident Coordinator Beatrice Mutali said it was important for all governments, oversight bodies, laws, regulations and operating environments to enable freedom of opinion and expression and press freedom. “In this vein, we congratulate His Excellency President Hichilema on assenting to Penal Code Amendment Bill No. 25 which inter alia, repealed the offence of defamation of the President. We urge your government to expedite the enactment of an Access to Information law in Zambia. Media involvement will ensure ownership in addition to the law reflecting the unique context of the Zambian media environment,” Mutali said.

Access to Information laws enabled greater media freedom to report and offer checks and balances which were essential for a healthy democracy further. Related laws such as the Cyber Security and Cyber Crimes Act No. 2 of 2021 must uphold international human rights law and be applied impartially.

# PR body urges Africans to tell Africa's story

BY MARTIN MUSUNKA JR

The leading public relations practitioners' body in Africa has recognized the need for citizens to start telling the continent's own story to the world.



Yomi Badejo-Okusanya, APRA President (left), Chushi Kasanda, the Minister of information and media (centre), and Irene Chipili, ZIPRC President (right).

**T**he Africa Public Relations Association (APRA), with the support of Government and the Zambia Institute for Public Relations (ZIPRC), held an inaugural public relations conference in Lusaka at the Mulungushi International Conference Centre Kenneth Kaunda wing.

The theme of the conference was Creative Africa: Exploring the PR Potential of Africa as an Emerging Economic and Reputation Powerhouse.

APRA promotes the increase of indigenous knowledge and competence in light of the richness of African culture and the progress the continent is making on the global stage.

Because of the chronically negative narrative that has been published and

broadcast to the world, APRA President Yomi Badejo-Okusanya believes that the moment has come for Africa to take up the mantle of factual story-telling.

Standard Chartered Bank Chief Executive Officer Sonny Zulu provided a visual example of the narrative peddled worldwide through images of poverty and corruption which are routinely reported in mainstream international media.

He compared impoverished sections of the First World to the top level facilities, magnificent infrastructure, and opportunities that the African continent possesses, which the mainstream media never published.

Information and Media Minister Chushi Kasanda, speaking on behalf of Presi-

dent Hakainde Hichilema, was crowned Patron of Marketing by the APRA president in recognition of the President of Zambia's efforts to 'sell' Zambia to investors in the mineral-rich nation.

Irene Lungu-Chipili, President of the Zambia Institute of Public Relations, stated, "We understand the role public relations plays in expressing goodwill to all of our stakeholders. Now is the time to demonstrate relevance. The point of this is to demonstrate the role that we play in creativity."

She expressed her institute's gratitude to the Government and local sponsors for their invaluable assistance in ensuring the success of the event.

The Zambia Institute of Public Relations is now a statutory body under Act 11 of 2022, which will empower the governing body to introduce professionalism and structure to the public relations industry by licensing all individual and corporate public relations practitioners.

Lungu-Chipili praised Zambia's President for taking up the position of chief marketing officer of 'Zambia to the World,' also known locally as 'Zambia ku chalo.' This could also be seen in the president's nomination by other world leaders to meet with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy for peace negotiations.

The conference also included the prestigious SABRE Awards, which recognize and honour public relations campaigns with the best levels of strategic planning, creativity, and business outcomes.

Nicolas Pompigne-Mognard, the current Chairman and 100 per cent proprietor of APO Group, saw his organization scooping the most awards at the ceremony.





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3 May 2023

## US pledges \$760 million for HIV response

United States Ambassador to Zambia, Michael C. Gonzales announced that the U.S. plans to contribute \$761.5 million to Zambia's national HIV response over the next two years through the US President's Emergency

Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR). This pledge brings PEPFAR's total commitment to the Republic to over \$6.7 billion in the past two decades. Ambassador Gonzales shared this at the recently held Country Operations Plan (COP23) press briefing at Kenneth Kaunda International Conference Center in Lusaka. He also commented on the U.S. government's partnership with the Zambia government stating that it, '...has led to remarkable successes. Today, over 1.2 million Zambians receive HIV treatment, and the life expectancy of Zambians has improved from 48 years in 2003 to 68 years today. Zambia has seen a 50 percent reduction in new infections since 2010 and has exceeded UNAIDS targets in HIV treatment coverage and viral load suppression. These successes mean there are people alive, here today, who don't remember when HIV was the leading cause of death in Zambia. It is up to us, not to remind them of those days, but to prevent the return of those times by increasing equitable access to comprehensive HIV prevention and treatment services.'

4 May 2023

## Proud Boys found guilty

Four members of the far-right group Proud Boys, - including chairman Enrique Tarrio - were found guilty of seditious conspiracy by a jury in Washington, DC. The charges stem from their involvement in forcibly preventing the peaceful transfer of power from then-President Donald Trump to Joe Biden following the 2020 election. In addition to seditious conspiracy, the defendants were convicted of several other charges related to the breach of the US Capitol on January 6, 2021. Sentencing for Tarrio and fellow members Ethan Nordean, Zachary Rehl, and Joseph Biggs is expected to take place in July.



16 May 2023

## Paid verification starts for Facebook and Instagram in the UK

Facebook's parent company, Meta, has launched a paid verification service in the UK, similar to Twitter Blue. For £9.99 per month, Facebook and Instagram can secure a coveted blue tick. The service, already available in the US, Australia, and New Zealand, offers a verified badge that protects against impersonation and access to customer support. This move follows Elon Musk's introduction of Twitter Blue, which faced controversy when high-profile users lost their verification badges. Meta's decision to introduce a paid verification system reflects its efforts to diversify revenue streams beyond advertising.



18 May 2023

## Attack in northern Nigeria claims 80

A deadly attack by dozens of gunmen in the Mangu district of Plateau state, Nigeria, resulted in the deaths of 80 people, according to local authorities. The assailants, believed to be herdsmen, set houses on fire and carried out shootings across several villages during the attack. Police have arrested seven suspects in connection with the incident. The ongoing security crisis in Nigeria's north-west and central regions, fueled by conflicts between pastoralists and farmers over land and water resources, has hindered the country's development. The affected areas remain volatile, making it difficult for families to retrieve the bodies of victims.



9 June 2023

## Rwanda genocide suspect faces immigration and fraud charges in South Africa

South African prosecutors have increased the charges against Rwandan Fulgence Kayishema, an ex-police officer wanted for alleged participating in Rwanda's 1994 genocide. Kayishema, who had been on the run for two decades, was arrested in May under a false name in South Africa. He now faces 54 charges related to fraud and immigration offences, up from the initial five. The charges in South Africa accuse him of using a false identity to apply for asylum and refugee status. Kayishema is also expected to face extradition to Rwanda to stand trial for the genocide indictment. The case has been adjourned to allow for consultation with his defence team, and he may apply for bail on June 20.



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