

MONTHLY BUSINESS NEWS MAGAZINE

SOLWEZI

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Lobito: Corridor to global export market

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After a long absence from the Africa Cup of Nations, the Zambia National Soccer team on June 17, 2023, qualified for the 2024 African soccer showpiece following a 3-0 victory over Ivory Coast.



Lobito: Corridor to global export market **PAGE 14**



A corridor for the African continent

For the first time, Zambia will in the near-future route exports and imports through the 1300-kilometre Lobito Corridor which is planned to streak from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) through Zambia into Angola.

The Lobito port city on the Atlantic offers an alternative sea route to export markets for Zambia which has traditionally used Tanzania, Mozambique, Namibia and South Africa; and the DRC, which has depended on the Kinshasa port to the west.

Statistics from the US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) indicate that DRC exports account for 68 per cent of GDP while imports account for 78 per cent. Despite various economic challenges, the mineral-rich DRC can generate up to 100,000 megawatts of power, making it potentially Africa's largest power exporter. The Grand Inga Dam is already being constructed at US\$80 billion, to produce 40,000 MW and cover 60 per cent of the national 65.7 million population by 2025.

Statistics from oec.world show that Zambia, present population 20.5 million, was in 2021 the world's biggest exporter of raw copper (US\$6.33 bn). Top exports included refined copper (\$2.97bn), gold (\$814m), precious stones

(\$280m), electricity (\$176m), and electricity (\$176m) which went mostly to Switzerland, China, Singapore, DRC and the United Arab Emirates. Imports have included petroleum oils, medicaments, mineral or chemical fertilizers with nitrogen, and urea.

World Bank 2022 data shows that Angola, with a population of 33.08 million, has a GDP valued at US\$210bn with DRC standing at US\$58.06bn and Zambia US\$29.78bn. Angola's main export is crude oil (more than 90 per cent of total exports) and diamonds, coffee, sisal and fish. China takes more than 40 per cent of all exports, followed by the USA, India, France, Taiwan, South Africa and Canada.

We recall that the 923-metre Kazungula Road and Rail Bridge was launched in May of 2021, potentially boosting North-South Corridor trade, and concretizing the Trans-African Highway on the Cape-to-Cairo route.

Enter the Lobito Corridor: these game-changing projects will yield vital spill-overs to enhance the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCTA) which was activated on May 30, 2019. This is the way forward for the continent.



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New maize price a boost for farmers

BY SOLWEZI TODAY WRITER

Government is optimistic that the new maize purchase price will boost production and grow small-scale farmers to semi-commercial and commercial levels in North-Western Province where the Food Reserve Agency (FRA) runs 117 satellite depots.



Provincial Minister for North-Western Province, Robert Lihefu, receiving a bottle of pure honey from Brighton Mulonga, the Executive Director for Mutanda Agro Products Barn Limited at the Barrick Lumwana stand during the provincial show in Solwezi.

Provincial Minister Robert Lihefu has assured farmers that payments would soon commence, adding that arrangements to purchase soya beans were also under way. The Minister said this when he officiated at the 60th North-Western Agricultural and Commercial Show at Mitukutuku Show Grounds in Solwezi on July 8. The event took off under the theme Inclusive Economic Transformation.

Food Reserve Agency (FRA) Board Chairperson Kelvin Hambwezya announced the new buying price of K280 per 50kg of maize from farmers at a media briefing in Lusaka on May 17. Lihefu said Government support of agricultural activities in the province had resulted in FRA expecting to purchase 40,000 metric tonnes of maize. The Agency has so far purchased

close to 1000 metric tonnes of white maize, "This year's farming season will be one of a kind in that Government is determined to deliver farm inputs to our farmers early, and the Government will once again support 67,973 beneficiaries in the province for 2023/2024 farming season under the Farmer Input Support Programme." He said the distributors would place fertilizers in all the districts of the province, which farmers could then redeem electronically. The government had arranged for the distributors to deliver close to 100 metric tonnes of D-Compound fertilizer in Solwezi and Kalumbila districts, and this delivery exercise has been ongoing.

FARM BLOCK

The Minister referred to the farm block development programme which in-

cludes the farm block located in Mushindamo District, covering an area of 1000 hectares. "The programme seeks to develop and commercialize agricultural land as well as to avail land for large-scale agribusiness investment," he said.

The Ministry of Agriculture and other stakeholders are currently conducting a land audit of the farm block to establish the current status of land availability. The government would soon commence the rehabilitation of 62 agricultural camp houses in the province at the cost of K5,540,000. Further to this, Government was procuring motorbikes and agricultural extension kits to enhance the provision of extension and advisory services.

FISH FARMERS

The state had supported 268 fish farmers through the Citizens Economic Empowerment Commission (CEEC), and 16 fish hatcheries had been established to increase the supply of fingerlings. Two aquaculture parks are being set up in Mushindamo and Kasempa Districts to enhance fish production.

The Ministry of Small and Medium Enterprises through the Citizens' Economic Empowerment Commission is currently offering Busulu Loans for youth and women to boost their small businesses which will add value to the National Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

Agricultural and Commercial Show Society Chairperson Marjorie Dauchi appealed to Government to support the infrastructure development of the unfinished showgrounds. The completion of the structures would promote economic transformation and allow farmers supported by the constituency development fund (CDF) access market linkages through good roads. "North-Western Province is endowed with a lot of potential resources which we can actually tap inclusively for the acquisition of an agricultural transformation that will create the attainment of economic prosperity," Dauchi said.

Dauchi's team of combined district show societies of North-Western Province is geared to attend this year's National Agricultural and Commercial Show set for August 2-7, 2023 under the theme, Inclusive Economic Transformation at the Showgrounds Vet Clinic in Lusaka.



Zambia-China trade grows to \$6 billion

BY STUART LISULO

TRADE volumes between Zambia and China increased to a cumulative total of US \$6.73 billion in 2022, resulting in an over 30 per cent increment from 2021, according to the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC).

Zambian importers now have access to more than 35,000 reliable suppliers in China through the ICBC.

Speaking during the recent China Day Economic Forum, Industrial and Commercial Bank of China Africa Representative Office, Liu Haonan, said that trade volumes between Zambia and China had increased year-on-year by 30.2 per cent.

The Standard Bank Group and the ICBC entered into a strategic partnership 15 years ago on the understanding and

The partnership between the ICBC, the world's biggest bank, and Standard Bank, Africa's biggest bank, had enabled the provision of China-Africa financial services for Standard Bank clients.

acknowledgement of the importance of China as a global economic player and in particular, Africa.

The partnership between the ICBC, the world's biggest bank, and Standard Bank, Africa's biggest bank, had enabled the provision of China-Africa financial services for Standard Bank clients.

Stanbic Bank Zambia, a subsidiary of the Standard Bank Group, recently launched the Zam-China Trade Connect—the Bank's state-of-the art facility established to finance cross-border trade between China and Zambia, previously known as the Africa China Trade Solution (ACTS).

As part of this service offering, the Bank has dedicated Chinese desks that are manned by Chinese-speaking staff to navigate the language barrier that exists between the two markets and provide a seamless trade finance solutions



service.

“Zambia is the first country in southern Africa to establish diplomatic relations with China. The traditional friendship between the two countries is profound, and the bilateral friendly and cooperative relations continue to develop. The Zambian market has broad prospects, and China-Zambia economic and trade interactions are frequent.

“According to Chinese Customs’ statistics, from January to December 2022, the total bilateral trade volume between the two countries reached US \$6.73 billion, a year-on-year increase of 30.2 per cent. Among them, China exported US \$980 million and imported US \$5.75 billion, a year-on-year increase of 25.5 per cent and 31.0 per cent respectively. ICBC and Standard Bank financial services will continue to deepen strategic cooperation and actively explore new opportunities, trends, and dynamics around

China-Africa economic cooperation,”

Liu said at the Golden Peacock Hotel in Lusaka, “In May last year, President Xi Jinping pointed out in the call with President Hichilema that it is necessary to strengthen strategic communication and policy mutual-understanding, fully implement the “Nine Projects” launched in the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC), deepen mutually beneficial cooperation in various fields, and promote more Zambian products, especially high-quality agricultural products, to enter the Chinese market.”

And speaking at the same event, Stanbic Head Corporate and Investment Banking, Helen Lubamba, said Stanbic was well-positioned to support further growth and bilateral trade between Zambia and China.

“As Stanbic Bank Zambia, we have positioned ourselves to support the Chinese business sector with suitable financial services. We have tailor-made products for our Chinese clients that cover personal, enterprise, commercial and corporate banking needs. We do provide Chinese Yuan accounts for transactions as well as online banking services. We also provide Cash-in-Transit services, as well as an electronic cash management platform called i-Collect that will enable our clients to reconcile cash collections online.”

“To realize the potential available in the Africa China Trade Corridor, we introduced the Zam-China Trade Connect where we have partnered with a reputable supply chain agent known as ‘Guamao.’ We are now able to connect Zambian companies wishing to import from China to reputable suppliers in China, online, which eliminates travel costs and language barriers for companies importing from China.”

“On deal advisory services, we have deep expertise in key sectors of the economy. We are excited to advise that our partner, ICBC, has provided Guarantees, fee collections and Cash in-Transit for construction projects such as the Kafue Gorge Lower Hydro-power Station, the Water Treatment Project and the Simon Mwansa Kapwepwe Airport in Ndola, to mention but a few.

“To realize the potential available in the Africa China Trade Corridor, we introduced the Zam-China Trade Connect where we have partnered with a reputable supply chain agent known as ‘Guamao.’ We are now able to connect Zambian companies wishing to import from China to reputable suppliers in China, online, which eliminates travel costs and language barriers for companies importing from China.”

In May, this year, Stanbic launched the Zam-China Trade Connect, the Bank’s state-of-the art facility established to finance cross-border trade between China and Zambia.

The market-leading solution, rebranded from the previous Africa-China Trade Solutions (ACTS), now enables Zambian businesses to import goods from China without the need to physically travel or incur additional and unnecessary costs, saving money.

Zambian importers now have access to over 35,000 reliable suppliers in China through the ICBC and the Zhejiang International Trading Supply Chain Company, also known as ‘Guomao’, to assist importers in executing seamless trade with China.

Data compiled by the Zambia Statistics Agency (ZamStats) shows that while Zambia’s biggest bilateral trading partner in Africa is South Africa, constituting 22.7 per cent of the country’s total share of imports, China remains Zambia’s largest trading partner outside the continent, responsible for around 15.1 per cent of the import bill. This translated to around K3 billion in February, this year, alone.

In March, this year, data also showed that Asia was the main source of Zambia’s imports accounting for 53.8 per cent. And within this grouping, China was the main source of imports accounting for 28.1 per cent.

Restructuring the debt has set a solid foundation

BY JOHN CHOLA

Between 2023 and 2026 Zambia will service interest to creditors at a minimal rate as compared to the arrangement before debt restructuring.



Dr Situmbeko Musokotwane

Finance and Planning Minister Dr Situmbeko Musokotwane has explained that after 2026 Zambia will only be required to repay the principal amounts at minimal rates over a longer period.

“After debt restructuring, Zambia will now be paying US\$75 million per year towards debt servicing as opposed to US\$600 million per year; meaning the country will retain US\$525 million dollars to support education, health and national wide development through the constituency development fund,” said Dr Musokotwane.

Zambia has recently become the first country among indebted nations to secure debt restructuring.

“Every country that applied for debt restructuring will be learning from us how to go about it in a quicker and more feasible way. Debt restructuring was only made possible by Zambia after a demonstration of its fiscal discipline in money usage by the New Dawn Government,” Dr Musokotwane says.

The minister adds that to avoid careless borrowing in the future, Parliament will now enact a law on government borrowing so that all terms and conditions are made public and approved by the House.

Asked why Zambia is borrowing a further US\$188 million from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) when this money can easily be raised locally, Dr

Musokotwane explains that at this stage trying to raise US\$188 million domestically would mean taxing Zambians heavily as the economy was not yet strong to raise more monies through taxes more than what is raised currently.

“This move will result in the killing of the private business sector if it was to be undertaken. Zambia is still borrowing from IMF and World Bank at low-interest rates as compared to other sources available on the market. This money too will be paid under flexible interest rates and principles similar to those negotiated under the debt restructuring,” he says.

The citizenry will soon be informed of measures Government will put in place to begin growing the economy before beginning to pay the principal amounts in 2026.

Dr Musokotwane assures of increased support towards education, health sectors and constituency projects in all parts of Zambia.

INSTALMENT

PwC Zambia Country Senior Partner Andrew Chibuye said the July 13 announcement by the IMF that it had concluded its first review of Zambia’s US\$1.3 billion Extended Credit Facility meant that the next instalment of SDR139.88 million (about US\$189 million) could now be disbursed. “This will bring the total disbursement to US\$374 million. Fifty per cent will be for budget support with the balance used to augment the country’s reserves. The statement from the IMF that Zambia had complied with “quantitative performance criteria” and met the “nine structural benchmarks” set. Zambia has subjected itself to an independent party who will scrutinize its performance; herein lies the accountability that creditors required in order to provide support,” states Chibuye.

Centre for Trade Policy and Development (CTPD) Executive Director Isaac Mwaipopo observes that the development is long overdue as the delay in reaching a consensus on how to restructure Zambia’s debt was beginning to erode positive gains in the economy.

Mwaipopo said the delay was further creating uncertainty on potential investment opportunities.



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Zambia needs debt cancellation

BY JOHN CHOLA

Zambia's external private and government lenders should cancel two-thirds of the debt to make it sustainable.

The Debt Justice, formerly Jubilee Debt Campaign which is a UK charity working to end poverty, and the Zambian Civil Society Debt Alliance (CSDA) have made the appeal.

Tim Jones, Head of Policy at Debt Justice says Zambia's private creditors such as BlackRock now need to urgently agree on significant debt cancellation.

"Private loans were lent at high interest rates, and have been trading at low prices, so piecemeal debt relief will still leave lenders making large profits. Instead of standing by and watching private lenders profit at the expense of the Zambian people, the UK Government could pass legislation to make private lenders take part in debt relief."

Debt Justice estimates that Zambia's largest bondholder, BlackRock, could make 110 per cent profit for itself and its clients if paid in full.

Zambia owes US\$4.5 billion to Western private creditors: US\$3 billion of foreign currency bonds, the largest-known holder of which is BlackRock; and a further US\$1.5 billion as direct loans to Western private creditors such as Israel Discount Bank (US\$362 million), Investec (US\$351 million) and Standard Chartered (US\$268 million).

Further, Zambia owes US\$1.4 billion

to Chinese commercial lenders, US\$2.8 billion to Chinese bilateral lenders and US\$1.1 billion to other governments (the largest being India US\$300 million, UK US\$240 million and South Africa US\$157 million).

The average interest rate on the Western private loans is 7 per cent, compared to 5.2 per cent on the Chinese commercial loans, 3.9 per cent on the Chinese bilateral loans and 1.6 per cent on the other government bilateral loans.

Zambia owes a further US\$4 billion to multilateral institutions, which is not factored into the debt restructuring.

And the Zambia Civil Society Debt Alliance has observed since January 2023 a new wave of price increases of food and other essential commodities largely due to the stagnation in Zambia's debt restructuring negotiations under the G20 Common Framework.

Alliance Chairperson Fr. Alex Muyebe says debt has also contributed to the instability of the Zambian currency and that its overhang continues eroding market and investor confidence.

"Reduced direct foreign investment reduces the country's forex earnings. For a country that is a net importer like Zambia, high demand for forex to import commodities adds pressure to the country's reserves and leads to the

devaluation of the local currency. This has been evident as the Zambian kwacha has been depreciating against major currencies. Ultimately it is the Zambian people who are bearing the brunt of debt and who will bear consequences," Fr. Muyebe said.



Debt restructuring deal will boost investor confidence

BY STUART LISULO

Multiple stakeholders across civil society have hailed the Government's negotiations with sovereign bilateral creditors that led to the successful restructuring of Zambia's public external debt.

On Friday, June 23, 2023, Zambia clinched a deal to restructure US \$6.3 billion in sovereign debts owed to the country's Official Creditors under the G20 Common Framework.

The agreement calls for Zambia's public debt to be rescheduled over more than 20 years, with a three-year moratorium during which only interest payments will be due.

Zambia's public sector creditors' agreement to reschedule US \$6.3 billion, including US \$1.3 billion in arrears, paves the way for the country to receive another US \$188 million tranche of funds from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), part of the US \$1.3 billion Extended Credit Facility (ECF) secured from the Fund last year.

Commenting on the landmark achievement, Zambia Chambers of Commerce and Industry (ZACCI) President, Dr Chabuka Kawesha, welcomed the development as ultimately leading to increased investor confidence in the local economy.

"ZACCI believes the reported development will trigger increased local and foreign investor confidence and positive sentiments in Zambia's economic roadmap. We may see an actualization and a reboot of a private sector-driven economy. An agreement on a comprehensive debt treatment with Official Creditors under the G20 Common Framework is a significant step towards restoring Zambia's long-term debt sustainability. Under the agreed terms, the Official Creditors will provide a



Dr Chabuka Kawesha

"ZACCI believes the reported development will trigger increased local and foreign investor confidence and positive sentiments in Zambia's economic roadmap. We may see an actualization and a reboot of a private sector-driven economy."

debt treatment contingent on Zambia's debt-carrying capacity at the end of the Fund-supported programme," Dr Kawesha said in a statement.

ZACCI said there was growing confidence that the remaining steps would no doubt be addressed to the expecta-

tions of the Government and the local investing stakeholders. "This will also trigger the right notes for increased investment and actualization of real sustainable industrialization. In the wake of this positive development concerning the debt treatment, ZACCI calls upon the civil service and regulatory agencies, with a matter of urgency, to implement amendments or removal mechanisms of regulation or regulatory hurdles that are slowing an economic boom, investment in Research and Development (R&D) as well as rebooting Industrialization in Zambia."

Zambia Chamber of Mines President, Dr Godwin Beene, stated that the debt restructuring deal opened doors to further progress in availing the Treasury more room to apply resources to the restoration of broad economic growth to spur tangible development at all levels.

Echoing the sentiments, financial economist, Bright Chizonde, predicted that next year's budget was likely to have more resources for increased social sector spending, particularly in the health and education sectors.

"This means Zambia is on course to implement the IMF-supported programme. Zambia will enjoy greater positive sentiments and investor confidence. With the now assured coming of the 2nd US \$188 million, Government will have an improved fiscal position. If this money is used for budget support, we are likely to have more employment of teachers or medical professionals or increased Constituency Development Fund (CDF) allocations in the 2024 national budget," said Chizonde in a statement.



Climate finance bumps rock Paris Summit

BY DERRICK SILIMINA

Last June, world leaders met in Paris, France at the Summit for a New Global Financial Pact.

The summit aimed at building a “new consensus” to meet global poverty, climate and nature targets, and brought out Africa’s displeasure over delayed promises of financial support from the developed north.

While African leaders were hopeful that the summit would not only realise meaningful commitments and approaches to climate finance, and would also set the tone for negotiations at COP28 later this year, leaders such as Denis Sassou-Nguesso of Congo-Brazzaville, Mohamed Bazoum of Niger and Cyril Ramaphosa of South Africa were unamused.

Argus News reported that Sassou-Nguesso said the \$100 billion in annual financing promised by rich countries “never reached us.” He further said the annual UN Cop climate conferences had become little more than a talking shop.

UNDER FIRE

Developed countries came under fire after missing a goal set in 2009 to provide \$100bn a year in climate financing to developing countries by 2020. And although the goal could be achieved this year, the funding provided so far under

French President Emmanuel Macron had gathered world leaders, ministers, the World Bank and the IMF, and the finance sector in Paris to discuss global finance reforms and address the challenges of developing and emerging countries.

the pledge had focused on mitigation in relatively high-emitting countries.

“I think today, we are at a crossroads. We must take decisions,” Sassou-Nguesso told the New Global Financing Pact summit in Paris.

French President Emmanuel Macron had gathered world leaders, ministers, the World Bank and the IMF, and the finance sector in Paris to discuss global finance reforms and address the challenges of developing and emerging countries.

“We can all agree that climate change has had devastating effects on economies, and on the populations of developing countries, particularly in Africa,” Sassou-Nguesso said. But, “between [Cop 15 in] Copenhagen in 2009 and [Cop 27] in Sharm el-Sheikh last year, I’m not sure that anything significant has really taken place.”



PROGRAMMES

Despite their struggles, the Congolese president said many sub-Saharan African countries had engaged in climate mitigation programmes. In the Congo River basin, for example, efforts were underway to preserve the forests which amount to 10 per cent of the world's biodiversity.

To that effect, Sassou-Nguesso said a summit was due in Brazzaville later this year focusing on preserving the world's three major forest basins—the Amazon basin, the Borneo Mekong basin and the Congo River basin—which he said could form the basis for “a new environmental alliance.”

He urged north hemisphere countries to participate in the creation of a structured market that would pay a fair price for the services rendered to humanity through that environmental preservation effort; and told private and finan-



French President Emmanuel Macron had gathered world leaders, ministers, the World Bank and the IMF, and the finance sector in Paris to discuss global finance reforms and address the challenges of developing and emerging countries.

cial sectors in particular to help finance efforts to combat climate-related mitigation and adaptation in lower-income countries.

Separately, he announced the establishment of a “blue fund” by the six countries of the Congo River basin—Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, the Republic of Congo, the Central African Republic and the Democratic Republic of Congo—which would give member countries the opportunity to “develop green economies.”

BEGGARS

Ramaphosa argued that the Western nations should cease their treatment of African states as beggars. He deplored the reluctance of EU governments to extend Covid-19 vaccines to Africa at the onset of the pandemic, and heightened unwillingness to enable Africa to manufacture vaccines. “Africa should never be seen as a continent that needs generosity. We are not beggars, treat us as equals,” the South African head of state said.

Bazoum underscored the need for a capital increase at the World Bank, and

the building of “an ingenious toolbox in which funding will have to be better shared. Considering that a pledge made by powerful nations in 2009 to the tune of \$100 billion would be delivered annually to finance climate action in developing nations.

As the conference laid the groundwork for an overhaul of the international financial architecture established by the West, Ugandan climate change campaigner Vanessa Nakate slammed the fossil fuel industry for “making empty promises to developing countries.” She also accused “extremely rich” countries of increasing their wealth at the expense of climate reforms.

“Please, do not tell us that we have to accept toxic air and barren fields and poisoned water so that we can have development,” Nakate charged.

“For us as a global community, we need to mobilise resources but these resources must help grow the economies of the least developed countries, very important because by doing that we are creating capacity in those economies to mitigate against climate change and obviously poverty reduction,” President Hakainde Hichilema said.

Priority should not just be focused on mobilising resources, but on investing resources in a way that grew economies, created jobs, added value, and lowered the cost of capital.

Noting that Third World countries relied heavily on diminishing energy resources, such as charcoal, for their survival, Hichilema said such dependence eventually contributed to food insecurity due to alternating weather patterns.

LOBITO: CORRIDOR TO GLOBAL EXPORT MARKET



BY DERRICK SILIMINA

According to the Southern African Research and Documentation Centre (SARDC), the 1300-kilometre Lobito Corridor covers four provinces in Angola (Huambo, Benguela, Bié and Moxico); four provinces in the DRC (Katanga, Tanganyika, Lomami and Lualaba); as well as two provinces in Zambia (Copperbelt and North-Western).

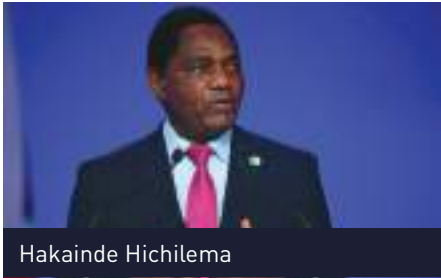
Lobito is an Atlantic port city in western Angola, known for its long and unique natural harbour. It has important railway terminals and connections to road networks on the continent. It serves 40 per cent of Angola's population and provides an alternative sea route to export markets for Zambia and the DRC, major mineral producers.

Designated as an alternative strategic outlet for Zambia, Angola and the Democratic Republic of Congo, the recently-launched Lobito Corridor has been hailed as a gateway to the global market.

The Atlantic port of Lobito along with the Benguela railroad makes up the Lobito Corridor which is more than 1300 kilo-

metres deep into the African continent and is the quickest export route for minerals and other goods from Zambia, Angola, the DRC and beyond.

In this context, three member states of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) recently signed the Lobito Corridor Transit Transport Facilitation



Hakainde Hichilema

Agency (LCTTFA) Agreement following negotiations that began in 2013. This Agreement amplifies a recent regional development that opened up the North-South Corridor.

On Monday, May 10 in 2021, the \$259.3m Kazungula Bridge Project was officially commissioned by the presidents of Botswana and Zambia. The 923-metre road and rail bridge was lauded as a major contributor to economic integration in the southern Africa region, set to support trade and transport along the North-South Corridor, and indeed the Trans-African Highway on the Cape-to-Cairo route.

The Lobito Corridor in this light adds further impetus to the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCTA) which was founded on March 21, 2018 and activated on May 30, 2019.

SECRETARIAT

The signatories Angola, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Zambia have agreed to fund the establishment of a secretariat with institutional organs to facilitate infrastructure development on the corridor. The secretariat would ensure that such developments support the present and future needs of users, as well as reduce costs of passenger and cargo transport.

A concession to a consortium of three companies who would operate, manage and maintain the Lobito Corridor for 30 years marks a significant step in enhancing trade and investment opportunities within the region.

“As part of our ambitious economic transformation agenda, which involves increased investment, we recognize the need for additional alternatives to seaports. The Lobito Corridor, therefore, offers us not only the shortest route to the sea but also serves as a vital logistics facilitator for our imports and exports. By leveraging this corridor, we gain a preferential advantage over other available options,” President Hakainde Hichilema



Joao Manuel Lourenço

said during the launch of the Lobito port and the rail line in Angola that will be operated under a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV).

In the presence of Angolan President Joao Manuel Lourenço and DRC President Félix Antoine Tshisekedi, the Zambian Head of State noted that the rail transportation of imports and exports through Jimbe border in the North-Western Province would alleviate the pressure on routes such as the Solwezi-Chingola road, thereby minimizing damage and associated maintenance costs.

REHABILITATE

President Tshisekedi reiterated DRC's commitment to rehabilitate the 400 kilometres railway line from Kolwezi to Katanga to enhance the effectiveness of the Lobito Corridor. He observed that the presence of strategic minerals placed his country at the centre of trade and investment activity.

President Lourenço described the Lobito Corridor as a game-changer for the three countries, as it would create employment for young people and offer many business opportunities for small and medium-scale enterprises.

For this reason, the private sector in Zambia anticipates positives including increased private sector investments, job creation, and economic growth in the three countries.

“This is a very important corridor to open up as Zambia needs as many routes to the seas as possible in order for us to safeguard our import and export corridors since we are located in the middle of southern Africa. What we need to do now is to cultivate some economic interest between Zambia and the countries of South America, North America and Europe in order to make use of the Lobito Corridor,” Private Sector Development Association Chairperson Yusuf Dodia said in an exclusive interview.

In addition, following Zambia's recent



Félix Antoine Tshisekedi

interest to buy a stake in Angola's Lobito refinery in Benguela Province on the Atlantic coast, the Lobito Corridor is indeed strategic for the southern African country's plans to import fuel from its oil-producing neighbour Angola in the Government's push to lower pump prices and stem supply shocks.

Dodia is upbeat that oil from Angola is another added advantage of the Lobito route, hence the need to start working on strategies and mechanisms to optimize the value of the corridor to the Zambian economy.

“The private sector can then start looking at doing business with the companies in Angola and DRC because the corridor passes on the southern-western border of Congo, and that makes it easier to have access to Kinshasa. I think those are the opportunities for us to exploit,” Dodia stated.

Trade experts say the Lobito Corridor is the nerve centre of economic development for the three countries such that improved movement of people, goods, and services, along with reduced operating costs and travel times for transporters, would contribute significantly to these outcomes.

UNLOCK

Transport Minister Frank Tayali is optimistic that the LCTTFA Agreement will unlock vast business potential along the corridor through the participation of the private sector to create jobs and foster economic growth.

The African Development Bank is supporting the Lobito Corridor development project due to its significance in the regional and African integration agenda.

The AfDB provided a three-year US\$8.1 million grant towards capacity-building for trade facilitation and corridor coordination, technical assistance for value chain development and economic cluster development, and project management.

Zambia International Trade Fair Thrills King Mswati III

BY GIVEN CHIKEU

The 57th Zambia International Trade Fair (ZITF) in Ndola fair attracted 1,020 total exhibitors, including 17 from foreign countries.



President Hakainde Hichilema welcomes King Mswati III

The foreign exhibitors came from China, Dubai, Senegal, Kingdom of Eswatini, Botswana, South Africa, Zimbabwe, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Pakistan and others, exhibiting under the theme Simulating Economic Development Through Partnership, Trade and Investment.

ZCCM-IH was judged the Best Overall Exhibitor while Zambia National Service (ZNS) Scooped Second Best Overall

Exhibitor. Zambia National Service ZNS also scooped Best Theme Interpretation while the International Best Exhibitor Award went to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

In his address, Republican President Hakainde Hichilema told special guest King Mswati III of the Kingdom of Eswatini that Zambia and the Kingdom of Eswatini needed to deepen their bilateral relationship to create jobs and opportunities, especially for young pop-

ulations of both countries. "Trade Fairs in both countries will allow us to create employment for the two peoples. We need to network and promote partnerships." He emphasised that both countries should aim to improve the quality of locally-produced goods and services to increase the two countries' share in world exports.

President Hichilema disclosed that Zambia and the Kingdom of Eswatini had signed eight Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) in agriculture, defence and security tourism among others.

King Mswati III said events such as trade fairs only took place where there was peace and stability, presenting opportunities for the people. He further said the trade fair offered an invaluable platform for business networking and the exchange of ideas between agriculturists, industrialists, investors, small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and traders of goods and services from within Zambia, Africa and the rest of the world. He also congratulated President Hakainde Hichilema and the Zambian people on realising the achievement of restructuring of the national debt, saying the move would stabilise the economy for the betterment of all citizens. He called for deeper cooperation among African countries and ease of trade for the continent's economic advancement.

At the bilateral level, the volume of trade between the two countries hovered below US\$5.6 billion per year.

Copperbelt Province Minister Elisha Matambo said the ZITF was the biggest exhibition house in Zambia, hosting both local and foreign exhibitors from all sectors of the economy.

While ZITF Board Chairperson Dr Elizabeth Nkumbula portrayed the 2023 trade fair as par excellence, having exceeded all expectations, she called for improved infrastructure at the location.

Show goers at the Zambia stand at the China-Africa Economic and Trade Expo (CAETE) which was held in Changsha, China from 29th June to 2nd July 2023



Zambian SMEs seek shared future at CAETE

BY DERRICK SILIMINA

As Zambian entrepreneurs aspire to generate more trade and investment deals, their participation at the just-ended 3rd China-Africa Economic and Trade Expo (CAETE) is yielding fruit.

The International exposition took place in Changsha, China from June 29 to July 2 under the theme Common Development For A Shared Future, recording around 1,500 exhibitors, an increase of 70 per cent over the previous edition.

“The Chinese Expo is a good trade platform for us to showcase our various products such as handicrafts and malachite which are highly sought after on the Chinese market,” Tesho Enterprises Director Muyunda Nchimunya said in an exclusive interview.

Nkusuwila Enterprises showcased its honey products and gemstones to international showgoers. Company Chief Executive Officer Alias Simutenda is optimistic that his firm managed to generate trade and investment deals from the Chinese and other markets.

For this reason the Zambia Development Agency (ZDA) in collaboration with the Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry (MCTI) trade expo in a bid to tap into the market offered by China. It also provided an opportunity for Zambia to take advantage of the re-opening of the Chinese market which was closed for three years during the onslaught of the Covid-19 pandemic.

ZDA Manager Communications and Public Relations Kwali Mfuni said Zam-

bia used the opportunity for business networking; tackling emerging issues and provision for youth inclusivity in business.

Mfuni noted that the Zambian delegation included a contingent of about 15 Zambian businesses to help promote trade between the countries. “Sectors among the participating Zambian companies included food processing, gemstones, plant agrichem and energy,” she stated. Mfuni said the specific objectives for ZDA participation included showcasing Zambia’s products and services in China and other African countries, increasing Zambia’s exports to China and other African countries, enabling Zambian companies to network with their counterparts from Africa and China, and generating trade and investment deals beneficial to the country.

The Zambian delegation had an opportunity to interact with participants such as Chinese and African dignitaries, diplomats, representatives of international organizations, financial institutions, business associations, chambers of commerce, media, entrepreneurs, experts, and scholars.

Among other African exhibitors is NUCAFE, Uganda’s national association of coffee farmers, which produces, processes and exports coffee directly to buyers

and consumers without any intermediaries. NUCAFE CEO Joseph Nkandu, who attended the event for the second time, promoted the association’s coffee products at the booth in person. His trick was to let air in a package of coffee and squeeze it in front of potential buyers to lure them with the fragrance of roasted coffee beans. “CAETE is very important in that it has improved the visibility of our brands,” Nkandu said.

South Africa’s Standard Bank joined the expo with a group of its clients, which exhibited various products ranging from wines to fruits and nuts.

Ellen Ho, Standard Bank’s staff for Africa-China banking said the bank organized its banking clients to display their products and services at the expo to broaden sales channels.

“The market of South Africa is not big enough. By attending the expo, we wish to bring our clients more business opportunities from China, which is the largest trading partner of Africa and South Africa,” Ho said.

As one of the leading economic and trade cooperation platforms under the framework of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation, the bi-annual event has provided a premier stage for African commodities and services to widen their access to the Chinese market.

Stanbic goes Pan-African, personal and private

BY STUART LISULO

Stanbic Bank has announced the relaunch of its Private Banking offering, to provide Personal and Private Banking Clients (PPB) a new personalised and enhanced banking experience.

In a statement in Lusaka, Stanbic Head Branding and Marketing Eric Ngondo announced that the service proposition has combined a full range of banking products and services, including transactional banking, savings and investment accounts, foreign exchange services, and online and mobile banking platforms.

Ngondo said the Bank, with exclusive investment opportunities, custom-made lending solutions, and premium lifestyle benefits, aimed to create a unique and tailored experience for each client and reinforce its value proposition “You Shape Your World, We Shape Your Banking Experience.”

“Our revamped Private Banking offering is designed to empower our pan-African clients through an enhanced understanding of our clients’ unique needs and aspirations, which we can then utilize to provide the personalised financial solutions they require to achieve their goals,” Ngondo stated.

CONVENIENT BANKING

Speaking following an exclusive presentation of the Offshore Banking service offering in Lusaka recently, Standard Bank Offshore Manager, Sheryl Netshituni, explained that the benefits of the platinum account offered convenient banking to parents of school-going children based in the UK, “The advantage that we have is that we have joint accounts - it’s 100 per cent in the parents’ name, for example, and 100 per cent in the child’s name. What that

means is that, let’s say, should there be a death and the parent passes away; that account doesn’t get frozen, it doesn’t go into a deceased estate process, we don’t wait for a will or anything to come out because it’s a joint account.»

“The benefit of that is that parents have the comfort of knowing that ‘should anything happen to me, my child still has access to use the funds in the offshore account and even in the offshore investment.’ The investment options we have are joint as well. We have a lot of clients who save up for their child’s school fees or their child wants to do a degree, this is a great offering for them,” Netshituni told journalists.

“If a client is already a Stanbic client, they can go ahead and contact their banker, and their banker will put them in touch with me, and then, I will contact the client and take them through the process. They can also find us on the website and Google: ‘Standard Bank International’ where they can put in their details and we will contact them within 48 hours. In the past couple of years, there has been a lot of growth, which is why we are here. We have seen a lot of expatriates here in Zambia and clients who are looking to diversify.”

The presentation covered a range of topics, including insights into the bank’s Offshore Solutions service offering.

Offshore Banking is part of the Private Banking proposition that has been relaunched to the Zambian market.

ADVISORY

Under the Private Banking proposition, Stanbic Bank offers wealth creation and investment advisory services to enable clients to grow their wealth.

The Bank’s Offshore Banking, investment and fiduciary services give customers access to on-demand offshore banking services from Standard Bank in the Isle of Man, UK.

The services allow customers to diversify their portfolio while delivering on their international banking and investment needs.

The relaunch is also marked by Stanbic Private Banking’s ambitious vision to become the best private banking service of its kind in Africa.

SHAPING

Stanbic’s Head of Personal and Private Banking, Mulenga Silwamba, added that the bank’s campaign was focused on shaping clients’ banking experience.

“Our goal with this new campaign is to not only reinforce our position in Zambia as the ‘market leading’ Bank offering premium services and experiences for our clients but also a Bank that shapes our clients’ banking experience, making it easier and more convenient,” said Silwamba in a statement.

“As of May 2023, the Consumer and High Net-Worth Department is now called Personal and Private Banking. With our name change at group-level, our main ambition is to become known as the largest Private Bank and largest provider of private banking services in Africa. We believe in the potential of the African market, and we are dedicated to providing world-class banking services with a focus on innovation and growth, thus ensuring we help guide the financial journey of our clients.”

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Mingomba deposit exploration accelerates

BY STUART LISULO

US-based company KoBold Metals has held a groundbreaking ceremony at its Mingomba Deposit exploration site located in Chililabombwe District.



U.S. Ambassador to Zambia, Michael Gonzales, (c) tours the drill site at KoBold Metal's Mingomba Copper Deposit on July 6, 2023.

The unveiling follows the company's recently announced \$150 million investment to acquire the controlling stake in the newly-created Mingomba mining license.

KoBold's investment closed last March, and there are now five drill rigs operating on-site at Mingomba, with company officials describing the results of the drilling campaign thus far as "highly encouraging."

The Silicon Valley-based company has embarked on an aggressive exploration programme of the Mingomba Deposit, which it hopes to subsequently develop into a world-class mine.

So far, KoBold's investment has resulted in the creation of over 200 jobs since mineral exploration commenced earlier this year.

The company uses Artificial Intelligence (A.I.) to discover critical minerals for the

electric vehicle and renewable energy revolution, including copper, among others.

During the groundbreaking ceremony at the site in Chililabombwe recently, KoBold Metals co-Founder and President Josh Goldman said that part of the company's goal was to find metals needed to "electrify the global economy."

"Our job at KoBold is to find the metals to electrify the world economy: copper, cobalt, nickel, and lithium. And to do that, at the scale required to avoid catastrophic climate change, we need to invent technology to accelerate discovery. We use Artificial Intelligence to help us find ore deposits that everyone had missed until now.

"Our geoscientists and technologists are working together to discover the deposits that will become the next generation of mines. We succeed at our business by hiring the best people and by inventing

breakthrough technology to make us more successful explorers," Goldman said.

He added that for the business to succeed, KoBold needed to invest in the countries that offered the best opportunities.

"And when we look at the whole world for places to invest, Zambia rises to the top. Zambia is a safe and peaceful place where we can hire exceptional people; where we can operate in ways that protect the environment and support local communities; and where the Government supports our investment with actions that are fair, transparent, and fast."

KoBold Metals Zambia Chief Executive Officer Mfikeyi Makayi, Zambia's first-ever female CEO to lead a mineral exploration company, said that KoBold's plan was to develop the mineral deposits to the highest standards.

"We are exploring the Mingomba deposit, and our plan is to explore it, define it, and develop it. We want to do every step in that process the right way, according to the highest standards. And we want to do every step faster than anyone else can. Right now, as we are gathered here, five diamond drilling rigs are drilling exploration holes into the Mingomba deposit.

"Because we have the right equipment and the right teams, those rigs are drilling 1,500 metres below the surface. And they are doing it fast. We drill almost 1000 meters a week," Makayi said.

"We will drill dozens of holes to understand the deposit. We will learn about how the ore is distributed deep underground and the structures that control its grade and thickness. We will learn about the properties of the ore to be mined and test the process for recovering metals from the ore."

And commenting on the scale of KoBold's investment at Mingomba, Presi-



President Hakainde Hichilema's Special Assistant for Economic and Development Affairs, Jito Kayumba, speaks during the official unveiling of the Mingomba Copper Deposit in Chililabombwe.



KoBold officials pose for a group photo at the drill site, together with U.S. Ambassador to Zambia, Michael Gonzales. (Photos: KoBold Metals Zambia)

dent Hakainde Hichilema's Special Assistant for Economic and Development Affairs Jito Kayumba hailed the project's use of A.I. in mineral exploration as an industry first.

"We are excited at the fact that this is the first time Artificial Intelligence (A.I.) is being deployed in the mining sector from an exploration standpoint. Essentially, it means that the level of efficiency in discoveries is elevated, and the manner in which the mine design in structured is also elevated so optimization is key," Kayumba said in response to a question on KoBold's technological innovation.

Reacting to the same question following a tour of the drilling site, United States Ambassador to Zambia, Michael Gonzales, said:

"I think this is world-class and cutting edge. This is using the latest technology, creativity and innovation that America has long been known for, and putting it to use in one of the foundations of the Zambian economy that this country has long been known for. What I am seeing in terms of KoBold's speed, transparency and commitment and communication with the community is world-class; it's exactly what the Zambian people deserve and should expect, and KoBold's delivering."

The Mingomba Deposit is named after a nearby stream and an indigenous spoonbill bird. It was formerly known as the Lubambe Extension Project.

Earlier exploration of the Mingomba Deposit defined a mineral resource of 247 million tonnes of ore with an aver-

age grade of 3.64 per cent copper (nine million tonnes contained copper).

Some regions of the orebody had grades of five per cent or more.

The average grade of global copper deposits under development was 0.39 per cent (meaning for every 1000 kilogrammes of rock mined, 3.9 kilogrammes will be copper).

Higher-grade deposits, like Mingomba, were considered more economically productive and environmentally sustainable, producing less waste than lower-grade deposits because less rock was extracted for each unit of metal produced.

The Mingomba Deposit could ultimately prove to be larger than currently estimated.

Exploration efforts had not yet determined where the mineral resource ended, leaving open the possibility of significantly expanding the mineral resource.

KoBold invested US \$150 million to acquire the majority stake in the Mingomba Deposit, which it operates through Mingomba Mining Limited, the new license holder.

The company has a majority interest alongside joint venture partners EMR Capital and ZCCM-IH.

KoBold acquired its majority stake in the Mingomba Deposit from the owners of the Lubambe Copper Mine, EMR Capital, and ZCCM-IH.

The shareholders of Lubambe Copper Mine Limited remain EMR Capital and ZCCM-IH.

The Mingomba Deposit lies on a new mining license held by Mingomba Mining Ltd, whose shareholders are KoBold, EMR Capital, and ZCCM-IH.

KoBold company officials stated they believed it would take at least eight years to develop the Mingomba Deposit into an operating mine and require significant additional investments.

The project is the most advanced among several in its exploration portfolio in Zambia.

Tristan Pascall visits FQM sites

BY SOLWEZI REPORTER

First Quantum Minerals Ltd (FQM) Group CEO Tristan Pascall led Board members on a tour of mining sites at Kansanshi Mining PLC and FQM Trident Minerals Limited.



Tristan Pascall posing with young graduates



Board members visit to Zambia

The tour kicked off in Kalumbila at FQM-Trident, where the entourage was given an in-depth glimpse into the heart of the operations. From the awe-inspiring Sentinel Copper Mine to the Enterprise Nickel Mine, the Board members witnessed firsthand the dedication and expertise that goes into FQM's mining endeavours.

They also visited departments focused on safety, mine maintenance and en-

vironmental sustainability. The Board members planted trees during their visit to the Enterprise Nickel Mine, a testament to FQM's determination to preserve the environment for future generations.

In Solwezi, the team explored Kansanshi Mining PLC, where Trident College and Kabitaka School stood as prime examples of FQM investments in education and the communities surrounding

its operations.

The delegation engaged with young talents from various departments, reflecting the FQM "People First" strategy.

Under Pascall's leadership, FQM continues to be a formidable force in the mining industry, maintaining a positive work environment that has underpinned its exponential success as a mining giant.

Eight Kansanshi first aid teams gear up

BY MWANSA MAMBWE

Competing under the theme 'Learn first aid, you never know when you need it,' eight Kansanshi Mine teams battled out in an inter-departmental first aid competition held ahead of the inter-mine first aid competition to be hosted by FQM Trident Ltd in Kalumbila District.

The event serves to sharpen skills for emergencies on the mine site and surrounding communities and produces the best team to represent the mine at the Inter-Mine First Aid competition to be held at FQM Trident in Kalumbila District on August 5, 2023.



First Aid team in action



Solwezi Mayor Remmy Kalepa and Kansanshi management team poses with winners of the First Aid competition



Four Solwezi schools land 300 desks

BY CLINTON MASUMBA

Four Schools in Solwezi District now have 300 refurbished desks, courtesy of Kansanshi Mining Plc. The four schools are Solwezi Urban, Kimiteto, Rodwell Mwepu and Kikombe Primary Schools.



Kansanshi Mining PLC Corporate Social Responsibility Manager Bruce Lewis cuts the ribbon alongside Senior Education Standards Frank Kayula and KMP Head of Education Dr. Sylvia Mwanza-Kabaghe during the handover of refurbished desks to Kikombe Primary School in Solwezi.

Kansanshi has also delivered 89 early childhood education tables and 712 chairs to strengthen the delivery of quality education in the district.

KMP Corporate Social Responsibility Manager Bruce Lewis handed the refurbished desks valued at K654,000 to Senior Education Standards Officer Frank Kayula.

Speaking during the symbolic hand-over at Kikombe Primary School, the company's Head of Education Dr Sylvia Mwanza-Kabaghe said Kansanshi had been working with the government to improve the quality of education in the district for more than ten years now.

The mine was aware of targets set by the government to ensure no child sits on the classroom floor, and as such the refurbishment of the desks was a contribution towards that goal.

Dr Mwanza-Kabaghe has continued to support the education sector through the training of teachers, and the donation of both text and exercise books to improve learner outcomes.

Kansanshi believed that education was the key that opened doors to not only success but future security as well, hence the mine's dedication to supporting the Government's goal.

Kayula, who represented Solwezi District Education Board Secretary (DEBS) Jonathan Kayuka, thanked Kansanshi Mining Plc for continuing to supplement government efforts to deliver quality education. He said the decision by the Government to introduce free education had come with its challenges such as the shortage of desks.



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Performance 2022

No. of books donated

1.9K

No. of girls supported through
EDGE program

250

No. of active scholarships
(Tertiary, Secondary & Primary)

250

No. of desks distributed in
catchment schools from start to
date

6.2K

Trident Foundation supports Education within the Mine catchment area with a total of 26 schools, through collaboration with the Ministry of Education. The support is in the following activities; Scholarships, School Infrastructure Support, Teaching and Learning Resources, Teacher Continuous Professional Development (CPD), Schools Standards Monitoring, Differently-Abled Children Sponsorship, Sensitization Campaigns, Parents and Teachers Associations (PTAs) School Governance and Girls' Development programs.

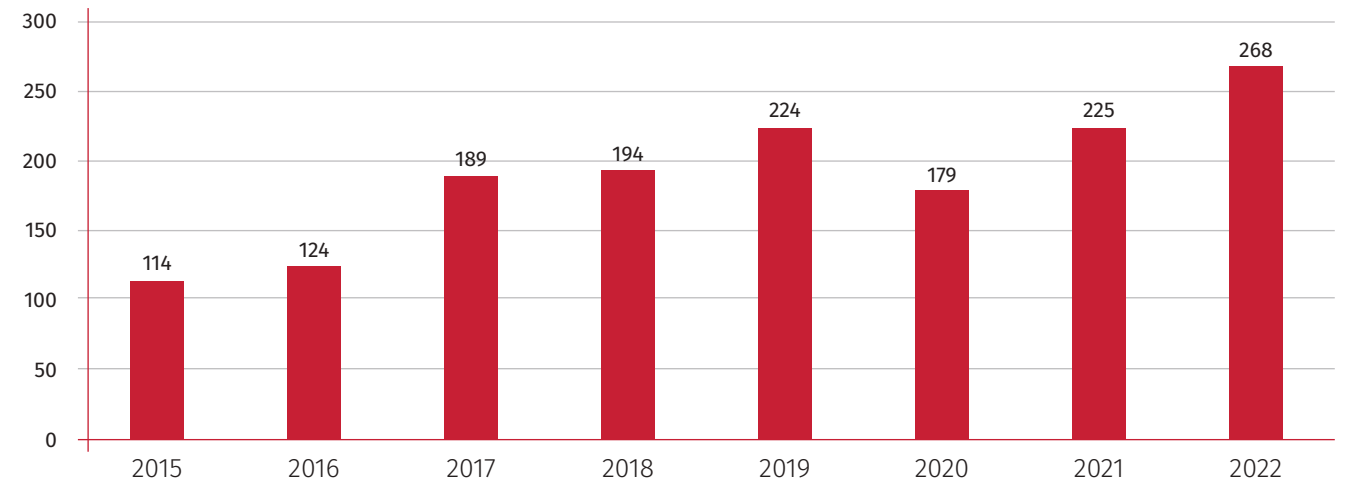
Key Highlights for 2022

- Launch of 'EDGE' (Educating and Developing Girls for Empowerment) in 2022. The program is aimed at supporting and enhancing girls' education and empowerment with focus on the less privileged girls from the host community. The program focuses on building capacities and accessing training opportunities that are critical for character development of a girl child.
- Facilitated the training of 260 PTA members from the 26 TFL catchment schools on School Governance. The platform was also used for sensitization on Civic Education and other governance issues.
- Supported the Ministry of Education through District Education Board Secretary (DEBs) in the facilitation of Literacy Assessment compilation and feedback for 22 TFL catchment primary schools, 45 lower primary school teachers from 21 schools participated. Quarterly assessments are done to ascertain the literacy levels of learners.
- Lastly, facilitated the application for Government of Zambia (GRZ) TEVETA bursaries for enrolment at Luan-shya Trades & Business College (LTBC) for over 500 places, under different technical skills programs (courses).

Scholarship Program

As Trident Foundation we know the bright future is in the young generation and by educating the children in our local community, we are assured that the community will have leaders that bring development and contribute to the welfare of their society. We are building leaders through our scholarships at all levels of education (Primary, Secondary and Tertiary). Since the beginning of this initiative in 2015, a total of 678 students have benefited from this program. The scholarships also extend to the differently-abled children, who we believe have the potential to contribute to the welfare of their communities as well. Currently, we are supporting 24 children with special disabilities in primary education and this support covers all tuitions fees, monthly stipends, clothing and medicals.

TFL SCHOLARSHIPS



Since our aim is to facilitate the development of responsible future leaders, we have a mentorship program that focuses on mindset change of the scholars so that they are more responsible and have the right attitude towards their work. As they integrate into their communities, this mentorship program ensures that the scholars have the desired leadership qualities, knowledge and informed contributions to various issues. Our support further extends to facilitating attachments into the Mine or any of the existing contractors. Additionally, we are committed to ensuring that all gaps are closed when it comes to child development and one initiative

we are implementing to support this is the engagement of scholars' parents and guardians to fully participate in the welfare of their child's learning. To ensure the sustainability of the scholarship program, we have developed a cost-sharing initiative, which enables parents to make a 30% contribution towards their child's education. These contributions are made either in-kind or through cash. So far the program has been very successful and there is a duty of care from parents. This cos-sharing mechanism has enhanced the mentorship of the children and instilled the right mindset for responsible young persons.

We need communication towers in North-West

BY JOHN MUBAMBE

Zambia Information and Communications Technology Authority (ZICTA) should install towers in remote areas in Zambezi, Mwinilunga, Kasempa and Mufumbwe.



North-Western Province Permanent Secretary Grandson Katambi.(left) and ZICTA Board Chairperson Mundia Muya (right) concluding on ICT issues outside the Provincial Administration and looking on at the centre is North-Western Acting Deputy Permanent Secretary Tradeson Tiki Mulofwa.

North-Western Permanent Secretary Grandson Katambi said this when ZICTA Board Chairman Professor Mundia Muya and his directors paid a courtesy call at his office during their July 13 and 14 familiarization tour of the province.

Katambi urged ZICTA to consider putting up communication towers for reliable linkages to areas such as Nyakuleng'a in Zambezi, Salujing'a in Mwinilunga, Kaminzekenzeke in Kasempa, Miluzhi area and Mushindamo Girls Secondary School in Mufumbwe.

Katambi commended ZICTA for the work it had started doing to improve communication in the province. "You have done a commendable job by gradually opening up far-flung areas of this province through the projects that you are bringing so that people around appreciate the upcoming societal transformation that can change their livelihoods.

Muya disclosed that ZICTA initiated the Programme Support for ICT to Persons with Disabilities in 2016 to help address the digital divide affecting people living with disabilities in the Country.

"We need an effective communication system in most rural districts of this province which has economic potential driven by the presence of the three huge copper mines that are contributing to the economic growth of the country," said Katambi.

Professor Muya explained that ZICTA had provided computers and printers to 34 schools, with fibre optic connec-

tivity to four training institutions, three of which catered for persons with disabilities in the province. "Going forward, we are planning to keep this support coming by donating 20 computers and a printer to each of the 10 schools listed for this year's donation in North-Western Province," Muya said.

Professor Muya disclosed that 105 communication towers were being procured countrywide, nine of which were earmarked for the province.

The Board undertook the familiarization tour to acquaint themselves with some of the programmes and projects ZICTA was implementing in the province. "We have a limited resource envelope, but we are doing everything that we can within our means to contribute to the digital revolution. Hopefully, as schools and communities will see the importance of this, maybe they can make applications for CDF funding to ensure that ICTs are deployed very widely in the province," the professor said.

Muya disclosed that ZICTA initiated the Programme Support for ICT to Persons with Disabilities in 2016 to help address the digital divide affecting people living with disabilities in the Country.

During the tour, ZICTA Board members visited Kabisapi Secondary School in Mushindamo District, St Mary's Special and Kikombe Day secondary schools in Solwezi District, and Kasempa Multi-Disability Boarding High School in Kasempa District.

The Board also visited some communication facilities which included Kapijimpanga and Kanongo Primary School tower sites in Solwezi and Kasempa districts respectively.



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New North-West energy tariffs spare households

BY JOHN MUBAMBE

Energy Regulation Board (ERB) has rejected a proposal by the North-Western Energy Corporation (NWECC) to reduce the residential consumers' life-line tariff (R1) from 100 Kwh to 75 Kwh but approved an increase for certain commercial consumers.

The Board has further approved a proposal to streamline the Social Tariff Category to be strictly applicable to Government and community schools, Government hospitals and clinics, municipal street lighting and traffic lights, gazette places of worship, registered orphanages and registered old people's homes.

The four-tier structure consists of the first customer category which covers low-income households that consume 100 units or less per month, 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 and the fourth category is for customers who consume more than 500 units per month and can pay for the power consumed at the cost-reflective tariffs.

ERB Board Chairperson Reynolds Bowa said the Social Tariffs would result in a reduction in the cost of electricity, as K50.00 would yield 67.50 units as compared to 35.17 units under the current tariff structure.

The determination would be effective from July 1, 2023, after taking into account consumer submissions and Government policy, the NWECC financial performance over the preceding five years and revenue requirement to cover operations and maintenance costs and other allowable costs including a reasonable return on investment.

REJECTED

"The Board has rejected NWECC's proposal to reduce the life-line tariff (R1) from 100 Kwh to 75 Kwh for residential cus-

tomers as this would be detrimental to the low-income households that are currently struggling with the increasing cost of living," said Bowa.

The Board has abolished the monthly fixed charge on the Social Tariff while the tier structure for this customer category had been adjusted to align with the ZESCO-approved four-tier tariff structure for the social services category.

The ERB passed a decision on the grid connection charges and multi-year electricity charges by NWECC in line with the provisions of the Electricity Act and the Tariff Review Guidelines. The decision is a result of the applications made by NWECC to the ERB to revise its electricity tariffs and standard grid connection charges for the mining townships of Kabitaka, Kalumbila and Lumwana.

Bowa added that the Board had directed NWECC to maintain the current lifeline units at 100 Kwh and reduce the tariff from 47 Ngwee to 40 Ngwee/Kwh for consistency with the Government's aspiration to make electricity accessible to all Zambians.

REDUCED

He said the Board had further reduced tariff band R3 from K1.94/Kwh to K1.54/Kwh resulting in an increase in units for expenditure between K50.00 to K150.00 and K300.00 to K1,200.00 respectively for the reduction in the R1 and R3 Tariff Bands.

The Board had specifically got a provision for four categories of energy consumption in each customer class, with customer categories which include R1 to

R4 for residential customers and C1 to C4 for commercial customers while S1 to S4 covers social customers.

"For commercial customers of capacity up to 15 KVA, the Board has approved upward adjustment of the tariffs as proposed by NWECC and the approved adjustments will result in improved revenue for the utility whilst charging a reasonable tariff to commercial customers," Bowa said on Wednesday, June 21, 2023, at Lumwana that the applications were submitted in accordance with the Electricity Act, NO. 11 of 2019 and the Energy Regulation Act NO. 12 of 2019 which mandate ERB to determine, regulate and Review charges and tariffs in the energy sector.

The ERB held a public hearing on May 18, 2023, to engage the stakeholders and also addressed matters from the Board's 2020 tariff decision orders regarding the service delivery by NWECC.

APPROVED

On the Maximum Demand (MD) category, the Board has approved an NWECC proposal to set the upper threshold on the maximum demand tariff structure to 2000 KVA but customers with power requirements above 2000 KVA will be required to negotiate a power Supply Agreement (PSA) with NWECC.

The Chairperson announced that the Board has ordered the utility to expeditiously finalize the implementation of electronic (digital) electricity vending platforms to allow consumers to purchase electricity at any time, including after the operating hours for the service centres.

Bowa ordered that all customers who were affected by erroneous tax computation on the bills in 2017 must be compensated no later than December 31, 2023, and that NWECC should submit progress reports on the implementation of the compensation process within three months from the public meeting day.



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Zambia's failure to establish cultural arts industry

BY EDWARD KAMPESHI

From the outset, let me state with certainty that successive Zambian governments have failed to establish the cultural arts industry, leaving the country without a creative economy.

This is so despite donor entities pumping in colossal amounts in funding. On paper at least, the successive Zambian governments have nursed the arts and culture sector with the support of various multilateral and bilateral institutions such as in the following projects and programmes:

The CICIBA (Centre International des Civilisations) project supported by the European Union; the NORAD (Norwegian Government) initiative equivalent to 2 million Euros; the 2 million Euros Cultural Sector Support Programme (CSSP); and a programme to develop creative industries in Zambia under UNCTAD/UNESCO/ILO/ACP with financial support by the European Union which was supposed to run from 2008 to 2013. In August 2020, President Edgar Chagwa Lungu released K30 million through the Presidential Arts Empowerment Fund.

All these projects were superintended by the National Arts Council (NAC) of Zambia. However, the results of such considerable financial input were intangible given that the administratively and organizationally weak NAC, with an extremely poor membership base, was unable to profitably utilize such colossal amounts of money. As such the econom-

John Howkins developed the concept in 2001 to describe economic systems where value is based on novel imaginative qualities rather than the traditional resources of land, labour and capital.

ic impact of such donations on the creative trades of the various artists remains unnoticeable.

The question which should be asked is this: Why is it that despite all these efforts, there is absolutely no arts industry in Zambia?

Allow me to share with you my personal views based on my experience, training and practice as a professional artist and as a Government official who served in the arts and culture public and private sectors.

The Zambian Government operates on the principle of public policy direction, and you will notice that currently, the Arts and Culture Sector has been placed under the Ministry of Youth Sports and Arts. This begs the question: Under that umbrella, how fruitfully will the Arts and Culture Sector perform to respond to our nation's cultural needs, hopes and aspirations?

CREATIVE ECONOMY

Creative economy which incorporates the cultural arts industry is based on people's use of their creative imagination to increase the value of an idea. John Howkins developed the concept in 2001 to describe economic systems where value is based on novel imaginative qualities rather than the traditional resources of land, labour and capital.

The term 'creative industries' is limited to specific sectors; but the term 'creative economy' describes creativity throughout an entire economy.

Some observers take the view that creativity is the defining characteristic of developed 21st century economies, just as manufacturing typified 19th and early 20th centuries.

Definitions of a modern creative economy continue to evolve. When John Howkins popularized the term 'creative economy' in 2001, he applied the term to the arts, cultural goods and services, toys and games, and research and development. The most common models of the creative economy share many elements.

Howkins' creativity-based model includes all kinds of creativity, whether expressed in art or innovation. The narrower culture-based models concentrate on arts, design and media and are usually restricted to normative industries.

'Creative economy' increasingly refers to all economic activity that depends on a person's individual creativity for its economic value, whether the result has a cultural element or not. In this usage, the 'creative economy' occurs wherever individual creativity is the main source of value and the main cause of a transaction.

EXPLOITATION OF KNOWLEDGE

Thus 'creative industries' refers to a range of economic activities which are concerned with the generation or exploitation of knowledge and information. They may variously also be referred to as the cultural industries (especially in Europe (Hesmondhalgh 2002, p. 14) or the creative economy (Howkins 2001). Most recently they have been denominated as the Orange Economy in Latin America and the Caribbean (Buitrago & Duque 2013).

Howkins' creative economy comprises advertising, architecture, art, crafts, design, fashion, film, music, performing arts, publishing, R&D, software, toys and games, TV and radio, and video games.

The definition recognizes nine creative sectors, namely:

- Advertising and marketing;
- Architecture;
- Crafts;
- Design: product, graphic and fashion design;
- Film, TV productions, TV, video, radio and photography;
- IT, software and computer services;
- Publishing;
- Museums, galleries and libraries; and
- Music, performing and visual arts.

STRATEGIC FOCUS

The Ministry of Youth Sports and Arts operates under the strategic focus of Reducing Developmental Inequalities and Reducing Poverty and Vulnerability.

This strategic focus makes this Ministry a social sector benefactor; the more reason it gives out alms to the less privileged and vulnerable members of our nation. The negative impact of this position is seen in Zambia's mixed sports fortunes.

Do we wonder why it is that the Football Association of Zambia (FAZ) has lamentably struggled to run football in particular, and the ministry has equally failed to realize the full economic benefits from all other sporting activities?

This is because the Ministry operates as a social sector donor, unlike the South African Government whose sports policy direction is that sport is an economic activity.

ECONOMIC BENEFITS

If the UPND New Dawn Government maintains the current policy stance on the Arts and Culture as a social sector, we will not achieve sustainable economic benefits from all the creativity therein.

The Patriotic Front administration had placed Arts and Culture under the strategic focus of Economic Diversification and Job Creation, and the sector was for the first time seen as an economic sector. However the PF administration fell short of putting institutional and structural arrangements to implement the seemingly good Arts and Culture policy because of what I term as political expediency.

Do we wonder why it is that the Football Association of Zambia (FAZ) has lamentably struggled to run football in particular, and the ministry has equally failed to realize the full economic benefits from all other sporting activities?

diency at the expense of economic benefits.

In the government way of doing things, a line Ministry plays the role of policy formulation and monitoring and evaluation, while the provincial structure coordinates the district staff who are the implementation agency.

Some Government ministries are apparently more developed than others. Let's take the ministries of Education and Health. These ministries have institutional and structural arrangements in place, whereby the ministry headquarters are the policy formulators. At the provincial level, there are the coordinators of programmes to carry out evaluation and monitoring.

In the Ministry of Health at the district level, there are those who superintend the actual policy implementation in health, clinics, health posts and level one hospital centres. In the Ministry of Education, the same pattern is followed with their presence at community level; schools and colleges with professional inspections.

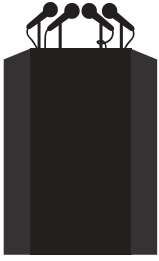
By comparison, at the Ministry of Tourism and Arts, there are no robust institutional or structural arrangements both at provincial and district levels; and there is no infrastructure and human resources presence at community level. How then do we create, develop and run a sustainable Art and Culture sector with these serious institutional lapses?

Can the Ministry of Youth Sports and Arts create the creative economy which incorporates the cultural arts industry? The answer is a definite No, because in its current format, the Ministry is merely a ministry but not a policy formulator. Additionally, the Ministry lacks institutional and structural arrangements at both provincial and district levels.

It is said that those who do not learn from history are bound to repeat the mistakes not only once, but many times without number.

Therefore, then, the UPND New Dawn Government must learn to get advice from the extremely few arts and culture professionals and experts in this field.

The author is a professional artist and arts tutor. Comments: kampeshie@gmail.com, 0963 980222.



HICKS SIKAZWE ON THE PLATFORM



Hope dawns for indigenous textile industry

After many years of obliterating Africa's textile industry, it appears the days of vending in secondhand clothes, commonly referred to as salaula, are slowly coming to an end.



On June 1, African ministers adopted a protocol that will prevent trading in used clothing across the continent under the auspices of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)—some telling development in a continent where traders survive on dealing in discarded clothes.

According to the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), in East Africa alone

3.5 million people depend on salaula vending for their livelihood. In the entire Africa, only Rwanda has banned secondhand fabrics to develop and promote local textiles.

Kenya and Uganda have expressed sentiments about following the Rwandan example, but not moved an inch. Here at home, the Zambia Revenue Authority (ZRA) has revised tax on imported secondhand clothes to curb the trade.

DECIMATED

However, the advent of the salaula trade has decimated the cotton and textile industries to depressing levels.

Historically, the Central Province for example was a leading grower of cotton, to an extent that the UNIP Government set up a ginnery there. Thousands of farmers depended on cotton production. The reason was simple: there was a good market for the crop. Mulungushi Textiles in the provincial centre of Kabwe became a household name, at one point producing up to six million metres of the local chitenge cloth per year.

The brand inundated shops in Southern Africa and beyond. Not even the hugely popular Congolese fabrics threatened the material from Mulungushi.

At some point Ndola, provincial capital of the mining region of the Copperbelt, thrived on industries that included leading clothes manufacturers such as Swarp Spinning Mills, Colwyn Low and Bonar. Outside the friendly city, just about 25 kilometres away, Luanshya was host to one of Africa's best suit manufacturing outlets called Serioes International. The hub of the Copperbelt, Kitwe hosted Piper clothing and others.

Kafue Textiles in Lusaka Province and the Livingstone Textiles in Southern Province were superpowers in the clothes manufacturing league of Zambia.

With the advent of the salaula trade, the above-named firms and more others



went under. In fact second-hand items in Zambia have extended from clothes to tyres, vehicles and household items. In short, the doors of local manufacturing slammed shut.

In my book, *Wasted Years—Decimated Industries, Abject Poverty, Sagging Economy, Is There Hope?* I have indicated that secondhand clothes may be cheap but they have left an adverse effect on many economies as they have wiped out the manufacturing sector where they have been tolerated for a long time.

SKIN DISEASES

Further still, research has confirmed that salaula has been responsible for some skin diseases that have ravaged unsuspecting communities. In recent years, bras and underwear have been included on the contraband exported here. But really who takes over second-hand inner clothes even among the so-called poorest of the poor?

In Zambia, we are aware of how devastating salaula has been. Upon the advent of secondhand clothes since 1991, local companies began winding up. Today, it is difficult to point out where textile industries were located.

Salaula, cheap as it may be, wiped out everything and anything to do with indigenous cloth manufacturing.

With the above background, the AfCFTA protocol could lead to exterminating the flurry of used clothing which has swamped the continent. Salaula proponents argue that banning secondhand clothes may wipe out employment in the sector. If that ever happened, it would be a short-term effect because Africa will create more jobs through the revival of the textile industry.

Cotton growing will be boosted followed by immediate setting up of textile factories to manufacture garments and other products. The clothes from these industries will satisfy the local consumers and penetrate the export market.

OPPORTUNITIES

Government should immediately begin to take steps to tangibly support cotton farmers in Zambia, not only to boost their confidence, but to give them sustainable economic opportunities.

Land for cotton growing is abundant, but farmers will require inputs such as ploughs and if possible tractors for them to open up huge areas. Second, there will be need for a comprehensive, reliable and sustainable marketing system that will ensure that not a single farmer will be saddled with the crop once produced.

Third, steps should be taken to dust up former cloth manufacturing firms to take stock of what was left. But other

Further still, research has confirmed that salaula has been responsible for some skin diseases that have ravaged unsuspecting communities. In recent years, bras and underwear have been included on the contraband exported here. But really who takes over secondhand inner clothes even among the so-called poorest of the poor?

than buildings it would be doubtful that many of them would still have viable equipment. Government needs to entice investment in clothes manufacturing and insist that the companies coming in should partner with local entities.

Policy makers should also encourage Zambian entrepreneurs to venture into the decimated clothes manufacturing industry as a way to empower them.

In summary what Africa needs is to support the AfCFTA initiative to get rid of secondhand clothes and instead set up a robust manufacturing infrastructure for new clothes. With this move the continent will create the much-needed jobs, especially for the army of youths along the streets.

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 the *Times of Zambia* and now Communication and Media Consultant based in Ndola. Comments: 0966 929611, 0955 929611, 0974 613941 or hpsikazwe@gmail.com, hpsikazwe@yahoo.com



Lusaka welcomes Vedic chariots

BY MARTIN MUSUNKA JR

In the heart of Lusaka, Zambia, a unique event known as the Festival of Chariots has found fertile ground.



This celebration, deeply rooted in Vedic traditions, has thrived in Lusaka due to the city's rich diversity and its embracing of various cultures. The festival of chariots stands testament to Lusaka's inclusive spirit and serves as a vibrant symbol of unity amidst diversity.

As the city's diverse population comprises not only Zambians but also individuals from various nationalities who have made the capital their home, Lusaka's cultural tapestry is woven from a myriad of ethnicities, languages and traditions. This multicultural environment has created a welcoming space for festivals like festivals of chariots to take root and flourish.

VEDIC CULTURE

While Zambia predominantly follows Christian and indigenous religious traditions, the Hindu community has found a welcoming embrace within Lusaka's diverse fabric. The Chariots of Fire festival, with its colourful processions and devotional fervour, has gained recognition with participation from both the Hindu community and the broader Lusaka society.

This open-mindedness and acceptance have allowed the festival to become an integral part of Lusaka's cultural calendar. During an interview with Solwezi Today,

The International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) President J D Sharma (Jayagovind Dasa) mentions that the society does not believe in discrimination amongst races, nations and even non-humans.

"We are not this body. We are the spirit and soul. We are fortunate to have the human body in this life but we don't know what body we'll attain in the next life according to our actions in this life. If you are human and act like an animal, you will be an animal in the next life. Your actions determine your next life."

Asked to share future plans for the festival, Sharma discloses plans to build a larger temple to have more space and



provide more readings so that the community can improve their understanding of self. An example of this is how the ISKCON promotes vegetarianism which promotes the principle of mercy, with the understanding that eating animals shows no mercy.

Hindus believe that animals are no different from human beings; they are only different living beings.

CULTURAL EXCHANGE

The Festival of Chariots offers an opportunity for cultural exchange and understanding. It invites Lusaka's residents, irrespective of their religious backgrounds, to immerse themselves in the beauty and spirituality of Vedic traditions. Through the festival's rituals, music, and vibrant celebrations, participants gain insights into the customs and beliefs that enrich Lusaka's cultural landscape.

UNITY IN DIVERSITY

The festival exemplifies Lusaka's unity in diversity. Hindus and non-Hindus alike come together to witness and participate in the grand processions, symbolizing the collective appreciation for

cultural heritage and the celebration of shared values.

The festival fosters bonds of friendship and understanding, strengthening the social fabric of the city.

SOCIAL COHESION:

The festival serves as a catalyst for social cohesion and harmony within Lusaka. It brings together individuals from different backgrounds, fostering a sense

The festival exemplifies Lusaka's unity in diversity. Hindus and non-Hindus alike come together to witness and participate in the grand processions, symbolizing the collective appreciation for cultural heritage and the celebration of shared values.

of community and shared experience. The festival provides a platform for dialogue, mutual respect, and the forging of lasting friendships, thereby contributing to a more inclusive and harmonious society.

The Lusaka population's support for the Festival of Chariots plays a vital role in preserving and promoting Vedic cultural heritage. By recognizing and honouring the festival, the city contributes to the preservation of age-old traditions, encouraging the passing down of knowledge and values to future generations.

Lusaka's multicultural landscape, marked by its diversity and inclusive spirit, has provided the ideal environment for the Festival of Chariots to thrive.

This celebration of Vedic traditions has become a vibrant thread in the city's cultural tapestry, promoting unity, understanding, and social cohesion. The most recent festival of chariots was held on 24th June 2023 at the ISKON center where there was an astonishing 2000 people in attendance. The funding of the event is handled by the devotees and various people in the business community.



Chipolopolo celebrating a win

Zambia fires all guns at Cosafa, Afcon, FIFA games

BY MELODY MWALA

After a long absence from the Africa Cup of Nations, the Zambia National Soccer team on June 17, 2023, qualified for the 2024 African soccer showpiece following a 3-0 victory over Ivory Coast.

The game played at Ndola's Levy Mwanawasa Stadium on the Copperbelt saw Zambia lead through an own goal from Ivory Coast player, Serge Aurier.

This is the first time the 2012 AFCON Champions have qualified for the continental showpiece since 2015. In the match with the 2024 AFCON hosts, the pressure piled on the Ivorian defence by Zambia's Fashion Sakala forced Aurier to put a goal into his net before Patson Daka, a Leicester City forward doubled Zambia's lead in the 47th minute.

Chipolopolo tops Group H with 12 points from five matches followed by Ivory Coast with 10 points with Comoros standing third at six points, while Lesotho remains at the bottom with one point.

To put the icing on the cake, Croatia-based midfielder, Kings Kangwa sealed the day with the third goal from a rebound.

The match also saw China-based defender Stoppila Sunzu partnering well with Frankie Musonda to marshall the Zambian defence with confidence while goalkeeper Lawrence Mulenga also stably mastered the goalposts.

Chipolopolo tops Group H with 12 points from five matches followed by Ivory Coast with 10 points with Comoros standing third at six points, while Lesotho remains at the bottom with one point.

And the Zambia Women's National soccer team treated the country to impressive preparation for the 2023 Women's World Cup by beating Germany 3-2 in an epic of a preparatory match played in German on Friday, July 7, 2023.

Shepolopolo celebrating a win



GROUP C



Spain



Costa Rica



Zambia



Japan

The Copper Queens who are the World Cup debutants were a marvel to watch as the girls fine-tuned ahead of the 2023 edition of the competition to be held in Australia and New Zealand. Captain Barbra Banda's brace in the 50th and 112th minutes, and Rachel Kundananji's goal in the 54th, shocked the Germans who only responded through their captain Alexandra Popp in the 90th and 110th minutes respectively.

In the opening match of the friendlies, the Copper Queens suffered a 3-2 defeat at the hands of Ireland in a game played in Dublin on June 23, 2023. The Copper Queens had taken the lead in the 16th Minute through an own goal by the Irish Goalkeeper Courtney Brosnan which put them ahead going to the second half. The team could, however, not hold on to the lead when the girls eventually conceded three goals in the second half through substitute Amber Barrett who



Barbra Banda

scored a penalty in the 48th minute before Claire O'Riordan's goal in the 63rd minute. To put the icing on the cake, Barret was again on target in the 72nd minute after capitalizing on a short clearance from Zambian goalkeeper Hazel Nali. The Copper Queens only managed to score a consolation through Racheal Kundananji in the 79th minute via a well-articulated shot.

The second friendly match saw the Copper Queens battle to a 3-3 draw against Switzerland on June 30, 2023 - this after leading 3-1. Switzerland had taken an early lead in the eighth minute with a goal from Anna-Maria Crnogorce-

vic. However, Zambia's Grace Chanda equalised in the 13th, and Captain Barbra Banda scored the second goal in the 20th minute.

Zambia's third goal came from Racheal Kundananji in the 45th minute.

After the break, Switzerland came out bubbling with confidence, scoring their second goal in the 54th minute through Seraina Piubel, before Coumba Sow could score the 81st-minute equaliser.

At the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup, Zambia will face Spain, Japan, and Costa Rica in Group C.

Trident FC are FAZ Division One Champions

BY SOLWEZI TODAY WRITER

It was a brilliant conclusion to a high-flying football season when Trident Football Club were crowned FAZ Division One champions.



The club hosted an awards-giving ceremony at Trident Woodlands Estate in Kalumbila on June 4 to present medals to deserving players, members of the technical bench, administrators and fans in recognition of their contribution to the team's success.

Bebby Onka Musangala was named TFC's player of the season and Club President Mainza Mazuba was awarded the Patrons Award for his exemplary leadership. Graven Chitalu became the Top-Scorer of the season; Peter Musukuma Best Young Player and goalkeeper Ian 'Campos' Kabambanya received the Golden Glove Award for having kept 21 clean sheets (20 in the league and one in the cup game) in his 32 appearances.

Francis Mwansa was named Most Improved Player while head coach Israel Mwanza took the Coach's Award for guiding Trident football club to a national league triumph, ABSA Cup semi-final and super league promotion.

Club President Mainza Mazuba said as part of the preparations to win the national league, the club acquired 16 players from different local clubs to boost

the team's performance. Among the notable ones is midfielder Beby Onka Musangala who was voted ABSA Cup player of the tournament. Beby joined the team from AC Rangers of the Democratic Republic of Congo and mesmerised the crowd during the ABSA semi-finals at Kitwe's Arthur Davies Stadium.

Though Trident lost 1-0 to Maestro United Zambia Academy in the finals, Beby took the K15,000-worth Man of the Match Award. "The club maintained Coach Israel Mwanza as Head Coach and brought James Chunga as Team Manager. We also hired Mvula Manguson as Club CEO who has brought in very good ideas on management of the club. We can now all see the fruits of good human resources," Mazuba said.

The team also acquired John Mwenigani from Kansanshi and Peter Musukuma from Zesco United and is aiming to be established as a giant force in the country that can compete in the Super League and be able to transform more young people's lives through football.

When asked about the challenges faced by the team in the just-ended season, TFC CEO Manguson Mvula said the team

lacked good infrastructure as Kalumbila district and North-Western Province at large did not have a training facility meeting the minimum standards for the National League. Mvula said the team currently used a soccer field belonging to Sentinel Kalumbila School which is meant for children. He added that the team also lacked accommodation for high-profile players and employees, as there was a general shortage of accommodation in Kalumbila. "While we are grateful for the support we receive from FQM Trident; we also need more sponsorship in order to meet the standards set by other local clubs so that we are not disadvantaged in any way," Mvula said.

Head coach Israel Mwanza said in the 2022/2023 season, the team managed 18 wins, eight losses, and eight draws, amassing 62 points to emerge league champions for the first time in the history of the club.

"This is a first in North-Western Province and we are so proud of our boys. We hope for a better season ahead. We are happy that the team were crowned champions on home soil, which is wonderful," the coach said.

Touching on the club's prospects, Mazuba said the team hoped that the Government could partner with corporate entities to build a stadium which will further boost the team's performance and enable the club to make ticket sales for additional revenue. "This opportunity will also enable the club to hire out the facility for other events such as conferences and concerts. Meanwhile, the journey to be an elite club remains alive. We are aiming to win the Zambian league in the second year of our Super League campaign and also win the Absa Cup in the next season," Mazuba said.

Founded in 2015, TFC is determined to become a world-class football club, recognized as a beacon of excellence in football development, management and administration. Its mission is to continuously develop and manage quality football and position the club in major leagues both nationally and internationally.

TFC has maintained steady improvement and is now recognized as one of the best emergent clubs which is fast gaining more fans.

16 June 2023

Airtel 1st to introduce eSIM in Zambia

Airtel has introduced a groundbreaking service called “eSIM” in Zambia, becoming the first to offer this technology in the country. The “eSIM” is a digitally embedded SIM that allows customers to access services without a physical SIM card, simplifying their lives.

The introduction of the eSIM aligns with Airtel’s sustainability agenda, reducing the carbon footprint and promoting digital transformation. The Zambia Information Communication and Technology Authority (ZICTA) praised Airtel’s continuous efforts in technological advancements, ensuring Zambia remains on par with the world in terms of innovation.

The eSIM service is currently available exclusively on the Airtel network and can be obtained from Airtel Shops across the country, starting with locations in Lusaka, Kitwe, Ndola, Kabwe, Livingstone, and Chipata.



20 June 2023

EU offers Zambia €110m in social sector support



The European Union (EU) will provide €110 million in funding to support various programs in Zambia, focusing on health and education, green energy, and food security. European Commissioner for International Partnerships, Jutta Urpilainen and a delegation from the European Parliament visited Lusaka to launch these initiatives.

The EU’s Global Gateway program aims to strengthen sustainable connections with partner countries and will contribute €60 million in budget support to the Zambian government following economic reforms. The funding will improve the education and health sectors, addressing barriers to public health and enhanc-

ing pharmaceutical capabilities. Additionally, €30 million will go towards rehabilitating the Kariba Dam, an essential infrastructure for clean energy supply in Zambia and Zimbabwe. To respond to food security challenges and economic shocks, an extra €20 million will support smallholder farmers in Zambia.

The EU and Zambia also plan to establish a bilateral Strategic Partnership on sustainable Critical Raw Materials value chains through a Memorandum of Understanding. These efforts aim to enhance Zambia’s socio-economic development and strengthen the partnership between the EU and the country.

22 July 2023

Copper Queens World Cup first debut ends in 5-0 defeat

Zambia’s Copper Queens opened the World Cup on a losing note after being overwhelmed by former champions, Japan. The one sided game saw the Asian nation enjoy the lion’s share of play with a double from Hinata Miyazawa in the 43rd and 61st minutes putting them ahead. Fast running Mina Tanaka who had tormented the Copper Queens defence also managed to score in the 55th minute before Jun Edno added a fourth goal in the 71st minute. Adding salt on Zambia’s wound was a 99th minute penalty - the result of a foul on Japanese striker Rico Ueki which resulted in goalkeeper Catherine Musonda being sent off the pitch. Ueki easily converted from the spot.



25 July 2023

WWF, FNB team up to enhance green capital

The Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF) and First National Bank (FNB) Zambia have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to establish a strategic relationship aimed at accessing green capital to combat climate change and environmental degradation in Zambia.

The partnership aims to connect investors and lenders to enhance access to capital and attract a diversified pool of investors. WWF Zambia’s Country Director, Nachi-

lala Nkombo, stressed the urgency of tapping into existing and new sources of patient private green capital to accelerate transformation in the country.

The MoU focuses on various areas of cooperation, including estimating climate risks for better adaptation and mitigation measures, creating green instruments for businesses to access green capital, and providing support for sustainable businesses through FNB’s green finance capital.



1 June 2023

New lawsuit filed against Bxill Cosby

Bill Cosby is facing a fresh wave of lawsuits from women accusing him of sexual misconduct dating back decades. This comes on the heels of states passing laws extending the time frame for sexual abuse accusers to take legal action. Cosby's spokesperson, Andrew Wyatt, denies the allegations, lack of

evidence or facts to support them and that the legislation allowing the lawsuit violates Cosby's constitutional rights. Cosby was previously convicted in Pennsylvania in 2018 but had his conviction overturned in 2021.

45 bags containing human remains discovered in Mexico

In northern Mexico, authorities discovered 45 bags containing human remains in a gorge near Guadalajara. Officials are working to determine the number of bodies present. The search began as authorities were looking for seven missing young people, but it is yet to be determined if they are among the remains found. Jalisco, the state where the discovery was made, has the highest number of missing people in Mexico, with over 15,000 cases. This area has been heavily impacted by organised crime violence, with drug cartels often using secret dumping grounds to dispose of victims. Family members of the missing have often taken up search efforts themselves due to a lack of help from officials, forming volunteer search teams known as "colectivos."



Liberian warlord convicted in landmark case

Switzerland's Federal Criminal Court's appeals chamber in Bellinzona upheld Alieu Kosiah's war crimes conviction and 20-year prison sentence. For the first time in Swiss history, they also handed down a verdict of crimes against humanity, after prosecutors expanded the indictment during the appeal process. Kosiah was found guilty of war crimes, including rape, murder, and cannibalism, committed during Liberia's civil wars. He settled in Switzerland in 1998, was arrested in 2014, and had appealed the initial verdict. Post serving his sentence, the 48-year-old will be deported and barred from re-entering Switzerland for 10 years.

30 June 2023

Ramaphosa cleared in farm cash scandal

South Africa's corruption watchdog has cleared President Cyril Ramaphosa of allegations related to a farm cash scandal, one of the biggest scandals of his career. The scandal emerged when a former spy boss ac-

2 June 2023

US Senate passes debt ceiling bill

The Senate passed the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023 on Thursday, sending the legislation to suspend the debt ceiling and limit federal spending to President Biden's desk. The bipartisan vote of 63 to 36 acknowledged the imperfect but necessary deal negotiated by House Speaker Kevin McCarthy and the President to avoid a potentially disastrous U.S. government default. Before its final passage, the Senate voted on 11 amendments to the bill, all of which failed. Some senators who voted against the bill included four Democrats and an independent, while one Republican senator was absent.



22 June 2023

Titan Implosion

U.S. Coast Guard's Northeast Sector announced that debris belonging to the missing submersible, Titan, was found northeast of the bow of the Titanic. Contact with Titan, operated by American tourism and expeditions company OceanGate, had been lost while it was on an expedition to view the wreckage of the ill-fated ship on 18 June 2023. The submersible suffered a catastrophic implosion which killed all of its 5 occupants, including OceanGate co-founder and CEO Stockton Rush. The four other victims of the disaster were Pakistani-British businessman, Shahzada Dawood (48) and his son, Suleman (19), Hamish Harding (58), a British businessman and space tourist and Paul-Henri Nargeolet (77), a diver and former French Navy commander who had previously led over 30 expeditions to the Titanic's wreckage.

cused Ramaphosa of concealing the theft of about \$4 million in cash from his game farm in 2020. The ombudswoman's investigation found that Ramaphosa's handling of the case did not breach the constitution or executive ethics code. South African Police Service (SAPS) is conducting a separate investigation into the farm heist case, which involved accusations of money laundering and corruption. President Ramaphosa has consistently denied any wrongdoing and stated that the money stolen was payment for buffaloes bought by a Sudanese businessman.



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