

SOLWEZI

T O D A Y

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FQM Enterprise nickel concentrator fires up

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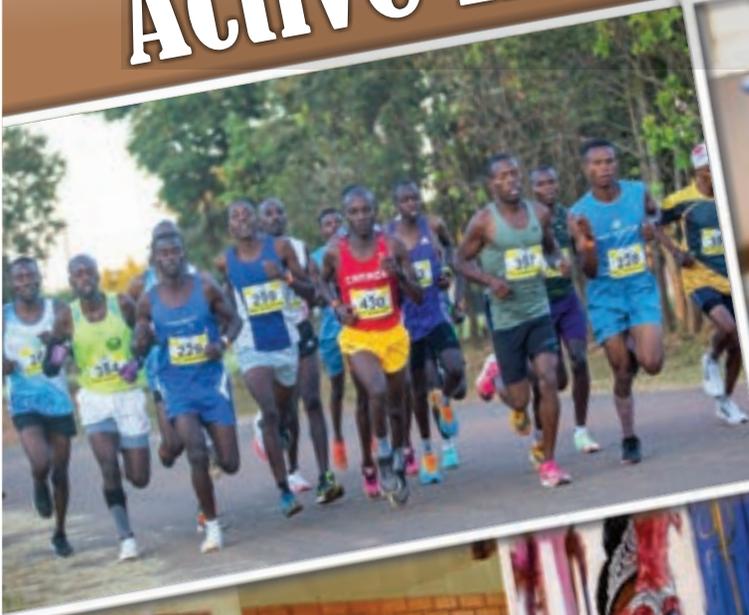
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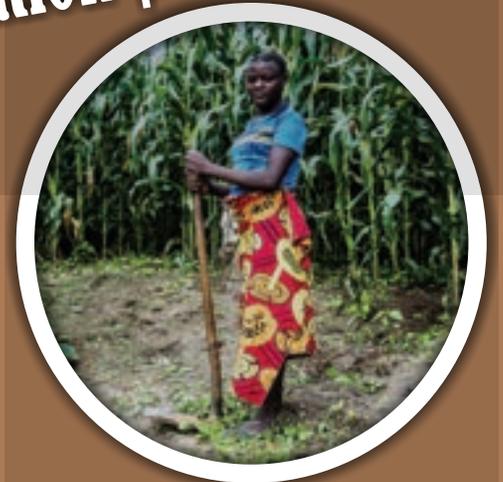
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Promises in the nickel concentrator

At the end of the day, the ordinary hope of average Zambians is that all foreign investment programmes injected into their landscape will bear tangible results in their household economics.

This is the thinking of the communities in the vicinity of all mining sites and around other investment zones in the country, and it is the reasoning with which Kalumbila residents welcomed the commissioning of the nickel mine concentrator in North-Western Province earlier this year.

The firing of the concentrator is the first vital step towards bringing to life a promise of economic change which was announced with a ground-breaking ceremony in July 2022 when the Enterprise Nickel Mine was launched. FQM pledged to expand its Kansanshi operations in Solwezi, the S3 project for \$1.25 billion, and to spend the final \$100m instalment on its \$250m nickel project in Kalumbila District.

In December 2022, the US, Zambia and the Democratic Republic

of Congo signed a Memorandum of Understanding on electric vehicle (EV) batteries which are built on nickel. The MOU focuses on 'US Support for the Development of a Value Chain in the Electric Vehicle Battery Sector' and several internal issues in the US, such as the availability of funds, will determine how soon that agreement can materialize. Nonetheless, given the resolute position of FQM, the Enterprise project is bound to make Zambia the largest nickel producer in Africa.

Just as it was during the days of the state-run mining conglomerate Zambia Consolidated Copper Mines (ZCCM), it is expected that in this era, many soon-to-be-employed citizens will be upskilled by the exposure to nickel production and EV manufacturing. The direct impact of such human resource development ultimately spills over into the refinement of the informal sector, and into living conditions of families that depend on the breadwinners.

All things being equal, the economy as a whole should enjoy a new lease of life at the end of the day.



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Solwezi Today July/Aug 2023

Airtel Zambia goes 5G

BY JOHN CHOLA

Airtel Networks Zambia Plc has launched its 5G network.



Customers can now enjoy ultra-fast real-time connectivity for activities like multiplayer online gaming, live streaming, content uploads and downloads, as well as ultra-reliable wireless home Internet.

Businesses that rely heavily on data for web-based applications and virtual meetings will experience greater connectivity.

In 2022 Airtel Zambia bought spectrum for US\$51 million from Zambia Information Communication Technology Authority (ZICTA) to facilitate this upgrade.

Speaking at the launch held at Intercontinental Hotel, Airtel Africa Regional Director Apoorva Mehrotra emphasized the company's dedication to enabling seamless connectivity.

"Today marks a significant milestone as we proudly introduce our 5G network, a state-of-the-art infrastructure that provides data speeds up to 10 times faster than 4G, incredibly low latency, and the ability to seamlessly connect billions of devices.

"Airtel 5G will revolutionize various sectors, such as smart cities, education,

healthcare, agri-tech, transport systems, entertainment, and more, shaping the future of Zambia's landscape. We are deeply privileged to also have the opportunity to contribute to the realization of Government's vision for the private sector to invest, innovate and thereafter provide incentives to the customers," Mehrotra said.

Minister of Technology and Science Felix Mutati was happy to witness the launch as it was important for the country and the economy.

"The roll out of this technology is in line with our desire to move on the path of an efficient digital economy as a country. This development brought to us by Airtel has indeed brought better digital experience to Zambia as I know that they will continue to invest and improve customer experience.

"I am happy to see Airtel continuously developing technologies by riding on my 3 'I' ambition; namely; innovation, investment and incentives for the industry. Not so long ago, I launched the Airtel Money-Umoyo funeral cover policy and the Airtel HD (high definition) calls service last month. I want to commend you for the bold and brave investment you have made to enable Zambians to be as

equipped as they can be for a future full of fortunes."

At the launch, the Minister was able to 'interview' himself through the use of hologram technology which is a three-dimensional projection which can be seen without using any special equipment such as cameras or glasses.

The 5G network rollout is part of Airtel Zambia's comprehensive infrastructure growth plan, which aims to enhance seamless connectivity for all its products to support Zambia's 8th National Development Plan for digital innovation and inclusivity.

ZICTA Director-General Choolwe Nalubamba said he was happy that Airtel had continued to move with the technological evolution, urging the company not to relent in the journey of innovation.

"As regulator of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) in the country, issues of technology innovation and ICT development are at the heart of ZICTA'S core mandate, as we seek to ensure that the ICT sector continues to spur a digital revolution for the economic development of Zambia," Nalubamba said.

Minister of Information and Media Chushi Kasanda recalled that over the years, Airtel had not only grown in scale but had also built capacity in countless individuals, empowering them with skills to perform at their best.

"Further, the work environment fostered by Airtel and its core values have played a pivotal role as a turning ground in shaping the careers and lives of many people across our great nation."

Airtel Managing Director Manu Sood said: "Our 5G launch positions Airtel at the forefront of a technological revolution that exemplifies our dedication to progress, innovation, and empowering our people. The benefits that will transform businesses and industries will create opportunities to further unlock Zambia's potential. Together, we are building a future where connectivity knows no bounds, innovation knows no limits, and Zambia stands tall as a digital powerhouse."



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Java Foods Limited founder and Managing Director Monica Musonda (left) and one of her employees shows off the eeZee Noodles at their stand during the 95th Agricultural Show.



Java Foods opening new noodles factory

BY JOHN CHOLA

Java Foods Limited won second prize in the Best Women Enterprise Exhibit at the 95th Agricultural and Commercial Show in Lusaka as it unveiled its US\$6.5 million investment in a new noodle manufacturing plant.

Founder and Managing Director Monica Musonda has told Solwezi Today Magazine that her vision and dedication had paid off and Zambians were able to enjoy consistently high-quality instant noodles at good value.

This was due to Java Foods' focus on quality and flavours, manufacturing excellence and skills transfer.

"...we would like to dedicate our win to all the Zambian women who are start-

ing a business and who are following their passions—don't doubt yourself. Your dreams are valid and you too shall succeed," says Musonda.

She assures that Java Foods will continue to work hard to bring Zambians the very best instant noodles made from 100 per cent locally sourced wheat in the company's internationally certified plant.

"We really have been focusing on a consumer who is pressed for time, who is

on a budget, so we create products for them. So far what we have seen over the years has been a slow and steady growth, but I think with the support of Zambians we feel that we have grown into a regional brand as the product is now found in Zimbabwe, Malawi, Botswana and lately going into Tanzania," explains Musonda.

The Java Foods Limited factory located in Lusaka's Chinika area will be out of capacity in the next 18 months, a situation that has led to the planned ex-



pansion estimated at US\$6.5 million. “We are grateful to the Ministry of Commerce Trade and Industry and the Lusaka South Multi-facility Economic Zone who we sat down with to birth the coming expansion. The expansion is not just for instant noodles but using the locally sourced wheat we are looking at manufacturing other products. The Lusaka MFEZ has allocated us just over five hectares which allows us to put in a very high-standard international plant,” says Musonda.

She further says the new plant at Lusaka MFEZ will allow her company to expand the range of manufactured products, thereby consolidating its current position as the only plant outside of South Africa making instant noodles.

Presently, Java Foods Limited has



Show goers who trooped to the 95th Agricultural Show could not resist to swing by Java Foods stand and grab their eeZee Noodles supplies. It was all smiles for them.



“What has really incentivized and motivated us is the real support from Zambians. eeZee Noodles is a testament that Zambians support Zambian products,” Mudonda explains.

about 100 employees with an additional 200 expected to be engaged at the new plant in the Lusaka MFEZ.

“What has really incentivized and motivated us is the real support from Zambians. eeZee Noodles is a testament that Zambians support Zambian products,” Mudonda explains.

She has described the Lusaka MFEZ as a great initiative that had brought many companies into one place, adding that the incentives for investing in the Zone were a boost to the manufacturing sector in the country.

“This year’s Agriculture Show Inclusive Economic Transformation is very important as you cannot change and grow Zambia without supporting local initiatives. We are raising our expansion capital through shareholders. We also speak to banks and as we grow bigger we also turn to internally raised cash. This is the inclusiveness we are talking about,” Musonda quips.

She notes that small companies borrowing from banks at 34 per cent continued to suffer stifled growth. She hopes that in future the cost of financing would come down.

Lusaka South Multi-facility Economic Zone attracts US\$ 1.5 billion investments

BY JOHN CHOLA

The Lusaka South Multi-facility Economic Zone (LSMFEZ) has recorded US\$ 1.5 billion in approved investments from 101 companies, potentially creating 32,000 jobs.

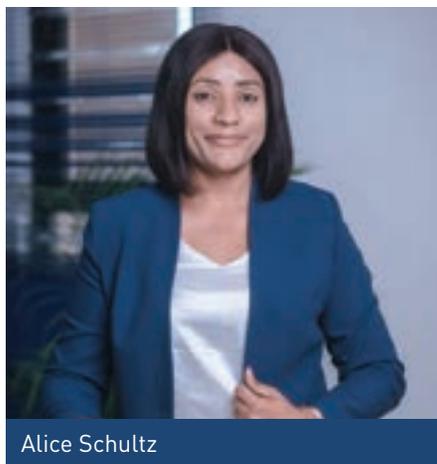
LSMFEZ has told Solwezi Today that the amount represents commitments by investors who have paid for the land, those who are already operational as well as those at the construction stage.

LSMFEZ Manager for Public Relations and Marketing Alice Schultz says out of the total of 101 offers made from inception, this year alone has seen about 16 land offers being approved. "From inception to date the Zone has attracted a total of US\$ 1.5 billion in investment. This means that from 2021 about US\$1.0 billion has been added. The results point to an over-achievement on the Zone's 2021-2025 Corporate Strategic Plan which aimed to double the levels of investments to US\$ 1 billion over the next five years."

Of the approved companies, 22 are operational, 28 are constructing and the other 51 are at different levels of obtaining sector approvals and financing to commence their projects. "We expect about six companies to commence operations between now and March 2024," adds Schultz.

Currently, about 12, 558 employees trek to the zone for work at the operating investors with another 3000 workers at various construction sites. It is expected that by the end of the year, the number of permanent employees will increase to about 15,700.

"The investor uptake has exceeded the



Alice Schultz

expectations of the planned targets. In the last 30 months, the Zones investment portfolio has grown by 84 investors. Currently, the industrial land quota has also been exhausted and the focus areas for the next five years are to fill up residential, research and development, institutional and commercial land."

Currently, about 12, 558 employees trek to the zone for work at the operating investors with another 3000 workers at various construction sites. It is expected that by the end of the year, the number of permanent employees will increase to about 15,700.

ADVANCED

The MFEZ Limited further says its US\$ 25 Million Lusanje Power Limited has reached an advanced stage and satisfactorily concluded its feasibility studies in the second quarter of 2023.

The company says by the fourth quarter of this year the project should begin construction as it is currently obtaining various permits including a construction permit from the Energy Regulation Board (ERB).

Three years ago, MFEZ Limited partnered with Serenje (Pty) Limited, a South African company with vast experience in solar power energy to form a special purpose vehicle (SPV).

Lusanje is a renewable energy company that uses various technologies and strategies to deliver energy and storage solutions.

Schultz said that the SPV is expected to generate 25MW of solar power and have an energy storage facility onsite, "This SPV will design, construct, implement and manage the resulting energy-providing facility deemed Lusanje Power Limited to be located within the Lusaka South MFEZ. The agreement is in effect with an initial investment of US\$25 million and is expected to contribute to the LSMFEZ investments portfolio for a minimum period of 25 years."

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Zambia, Namibia sign trade MOU

BY JOHN CHOLA

The Zambia Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ZACCI) and the Namibian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (NCCI) have signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to boost trade between the two countries.



ZACCI President Chibuka Kawesha (left) and his counterpart NCCI President Bisey Uirab sign the MOU.



Some of the participants at the Namibia Trade Promotion Business dinner held at Taj Pamodzi Hotel in Lusaka.

The MOU was signed during a Namibia Trade Promotion Business dinner held at Taj Pamodzi Hotel in Lusaka.

The signing ceremony was witnessed by Namibian High Commissioner to Zambia Siyave Haindongo who cited key similarities between the two countries and the political will of the political

leaders as factors leading to the signing of the MOU.

ZACCI President Chibuka Kawesha said, “the collaboration between the governments makes it easier for the private sector to collaborate.”

It was hoped that the MOU would enhance information exchange, consul-



James Kaposha from Walvis Bay Corridor making a presentation during the business dinner.

tation levels and business between the two countries.

NCCI President Bisey Uirab led a 26-member Namibian delegation representing 17 companies on a trade mission to Lusaka, Zambia from August 3 to 9. They represented diverse industries catering for fish, sugar, meat, vegetables; textile, timber, leather, cosmetics, mining, energy, tourism, transport and logistics.

The delegation also had an opportunity to visit the 95th Zambia Agricultural and Commercial Show which provided more opportunities for business linkages.

Uirab said the visit had been marked by active engagement and promising prospects for future collaboration with Zambia’s diverse sectors.

The ZACCI and NCCI focused on interventions to support and capacitate SMEs to ensure their participation in bilateral and intra-regional trade activities.

The trade visit was preceded by a Zambia-Namibia Business Forum, hosted within the showgrounds and graced by Minister for Commerce Trade and Industry Chipoka Mulenga. The interactive event led by a panel of industry leaders discussed enhanced bilateral economic activities and effective collaboration on emergent opportunities.

At the event, Siyave Haindongo who is Namibian High Commissioner to Zambia, Hippy Tjivikua CEO of the Walvis Bay Corridor Group and Dino Ballotti, the Executive Director at MSME Development, Innovation and Acceleration at NIPDB highlighted investment opportunities in Namibia and touched on strategies to enhance bilateral trade with Zambia.

Six nations join BRICS, 40 more at the gate...

BY JOHN CHOLA

As six states were formally admitted to BRICS, Zambian President Hakainde Hichilema called on the South Africa Summit to serve as a stepping stone to enhance coordination between BRICS and Africa.

Argentina, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and the United Arab Emirates have joined BRICS following invites for membership commencing on January 1, 2024.

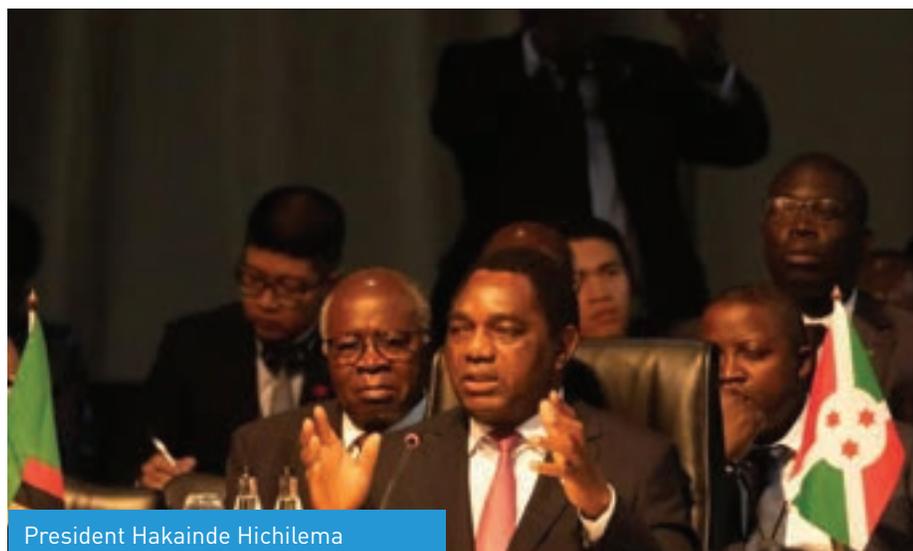
With more than 40 nations expressing their desire to join the bloc, the BRICS countries Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa vowed to speed up the expansion.

Speaking on the sidelines of the 15th BRICS Summit in Johannesburg, President Hichilema congratulated President Cyril Ramaphosa on convening the BRICS Africa Summit and the BRICS Plus Dialogues.

“The theme Partnership for Mutually Accelerated Growth, Sustainable Development, and Inclusive Multilateralism cannot be overstated at a time when our continent is seeking sustainable solutions to the unprecedented economic challenges of our era,” said Hichilema.



Zambia was thus eager to strengthen partnerships that bring mutual benefits, and keen on fortifying economic ties with like-minded countries, based on the complementary nature of resources.



President Hakainde Hichilema

President Hichilema noted that the BRICS community, representing more than 42 per cent of the global population, 30 per cent of the world’s territory, 23 per cent of GDP, and 18 per cent of global trade, presents significant opportunities.

Zambia was thus eager to strengthen partnerships that bring mutual benefits, and keen on fortifying economic ties with like-minded countries, based on the complementary nature of resources.

Ramaphosa announced that the five-member bloc had reached a consensus on the first phase of expanding the body.

Russian President Vladimir Putin, who addressed the Summit virtually, congratulated the new BRICS members on joining the bloc and the President of China Xi Jinping said the BRICS membership expansion was historic as a demonstration of BRICS’ commitment to unity and cooperation with developing countries.

Experts at Oxford Economics Africa say the BRICS bloc will have a lot more clout in the global economy come January when the six strategically important members join.

Nearly every continent will now be represented: Africa will have three members (Egypt, Ethiopia and South Africa); Latin America two (Argentina and Brazil); Asia and the Middle East five (China, India, Iran, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates); and Eurasia one (Russia).

Come January 2024, the BRICS bloc will yield some impressive statistics with 70 per cent of the world’s oil supply being now controlled by its member countries.

Forty-six per cent of the world’s population will now fall within the BRICS bloc, and 37 per cent of global GDP, based on purchasing power parity, will be controlled by the BRICS which will wield greater geopolitical influence.

Vice-President Mutale Nalumango (middle) pose for a photo with FQM employees



FQM: Truly inclusive economic transformation

BY JOHN CHOLA

First Quantum Minerals (FQM) took the Best Exhibition Award in Commercial Hall awards and came out second in the Mining Exhibition category.

With its Inclusive Transformation theme, 95th Zambia Agricultural and Commercial Show saw FQM showcase its top three mining operations at Kansanshi Mining Plc, Sentinel Copper Mine and the newly-commissioned US\$250 million Enterprise Nickel Mine in Kalumbila.

“If you see these expansions going on at our various operations, it clearly shows that FQM is all about inclusive economic transformation. When you look at

FQM had over the years transformed people in the communities from non-skilled to skilled, thereby making it possible for them to sustain their lives and those of their families.

our investment and the workforce at all units it will again show that we care more for our employees and communities,” said FQM Kalumbila Minerals Public Relations Manager Mirriam Harmon.

Speaking at the Show, Harmon said the company’s inclusive economic transformation was about never leaving anyone behind.

“Our inclusive economic transformation is about not leaving anyone behind. Whatever it is that we can do where the



community is lacking, where there are gaps, we try to make sure that we bring in other avenues like local business development and we include our communities in our everyday growth by taking care of them.

“We have had programmes that target children from communities who have never had a chance to afford school, as well as the teachers’ professional development. We design and implement programmes such as scholarships working with the Ministry of Education to ensure all children in our communities access school.”

The organization offered scholarships, added Harmon, from Grade One to college level “because we know and have seen that once these children are empowered with education, they go back to impact their families and communities positively.”



FQM took the Best Exhibit award in the Commercial Hall and second place for Best Mining Exhibit



Public relations specialist Mirriam Harmon being interviewed by Suma systems staffer

TRANSFORMED

FQM had over the years transformed people in the communities from non-skilled to skilled, thereby making it possible for them to sustain their lives and those of their families.

“For those from our communities where we have been operating who want to further their skills, we have partnered with various technical colleges which provide community members with the survival skills that have been lacking in North-Western Province,” added Harmon.

She noted further that the commissioning of Africa’s largest Nickel Mine in Kalumbila, expected to yield 32,000 tonnes of nickel yearly, and the US\$1.2 billion expansion at Kansanshi Mining Plc, meant that more than 2400 people would be employed.

“Besides the massive direct jobs created, this also means more contractor and supplier opportunities; leading to a multiplier effect as thousands of families of those directly working with the mine will also have their lives improved.

“Currently FQM Zambia has 16,000 direct and indirect employees and when you multiply that number by say 10 family members supported by each of our employees, this is a clear meaning of inclusive economic transformation,” Harmon said.

INVESTING

“We are also investing heavily in environment rehabilitation and restoration using the best management practices to make sure that at the end of mines’ lifespan there will be no environmental damage.”

Harmon assured that as one of the top global mining firms, FQM would continue to ensure that the massive operational expansions would be carried out with environment-friendly technology.

“As a mining company and a point of reference for best practice mining operations, we are proud to note that it’s largely Zambians at the centre of FQM success, whether as geologists, engineers, metallurgists, or artisans. We are a classic case of true inclusive economic transformation.”

Left to right: Cabinet ministers Peter Kapala (Energy), Paul Kabuswe (Mines) and Chipoka Mulenga (Commerce) listen to FQM Trident General Manager Junior Keyser (second right) at the ceremony

FQM Enterprise nickel concentrator fires up

BY DERRICK SILIMINA

The government has officially commissioned First Quantum Minerals' new Enterprise nickel mine concentrator in the Kalumbila district of North-Western Province.

Designed to process four million tonnes of ore and produce around 32,000 tonnes of nickel per year, Enterprise will provide an estimated 700 permanent jobs and diversify the nation's minerals and metals output.

The development would make Zambia the largest nickel producer on the continent and the 10th largest in the world.

Speaking when he commissioned the mine's new concentrator in Kalumbila district on Friday, Mines and Minerals Development Minister Paul Kabuswe said the decision of FQM to fire up the concentrator demonstrated the company's commitment to work with Government in advancing the mining sector in the country.

"The commissioning of production of nickel metal in concentrates has been achieved on schedule and I want to congratulate you for keeping the promise that within the year, we are going to see what we have seen. This is as it should be and through you, we want to urge

With an estimated 700 permanent jobs to be created with around 32,000 tonnes in production of nickel per year, the Enterprise mine was geared to diversify Zambia's minerals and metals output.

other investors in the mining sector to keep to the time. We politicians run with time and when investments like these are happening within time, then we know that we are scoring goals and achieving that which we promised our people," Kabuswe stated.

He reiterated that investing in nickel was not only the demonstration of the country's diversification agenda but enabled Zambia to participate actively in the global supply chain for the energy transition minerals.

The first off-take comes a year after President Hakainde Hichilema commissioned the mine, launching Zambia's journey to becoming a key player in the new global electric vehicle (EV) ecosystem.

Once in full production, the Enterprise mine will be the largest African producer of this valuable metal. Nickel, like lithium, cobalt, and copper, is an essential component in the batteries required for the new era of 'green' vehicles.

Commerce Minister Chipoka Mulenga said as FQM was investing heavily in the nickel and copper processing plant and mining itself, "We need to seriously consider contracting Zambian people through many business affiliations that are happening beyond the mining that you are doing here."

Visiting UK Trade Commissioner for Africa John Humphrey described the development as a milestone in Africa's scale of economy. Humphrey said the investment of \$1.35 billion in the project's extension was generally significant, "I think it's also significant looking at the minerals we need for the global transition to make Electric Vehicles (EVs) and for me, it's a great example of the UK/Canadian multinational business committing a great deal to the local communities in Zambia."



Nickel concentrate ready for the export market.



Mines Minister Paul Kabuswe (R) flanked by his Commerce Minister Chipoka Mulenga (Middle) and FQM Country Manager Godwin Beene



British High Commissioner to Zambia Nicholas Woolley (left) and UK Trade Commissioner For Africa John Humphrey (right) witnessed the commissioning of the Enterprise nickel concentrator in Kalumbila.

With an estimated 700 permanent jobs to be created with around 32,000 tonnes in production of nickel per year, the Enterprise mine was geared to diversify Zambia's minerals and metals output.

He stated that the relative value to be generated by the nickel mine was important for Zambia, the UK, and the global community at large. In that context, Africa was ready to transition to renewable energy. "There is no doubt about it because the lowest energy that you can get at the moment is probably wind energy and when it comes to Zambia, it's solar energy which is also very cheap as well as hydroelectric energy," Humphrey added.

In a prior briefing, FQM Trident General Manager Junior Keyser said Zambia was poised to become a major player in the

Humphrey added that the project will further help leverage foreign direct investment including from the UK into Zambia in support for responsible mining of minerals which are key to the clean energy transition which the whole world depends on.

global electric vehicle industry, thanks to its abundant reserves of nickel, "This investment will help to ensure that Zambia is at the forefront of this new and growing market. This is because

nickel is a key component in many of the technologies that are driving the energy transition, such as electric vehicle batteries and renewable energy infrastructure."

Mines and Minerals Development Minister Paul Kabuswe was accompanied by his counterparts from the Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry Chipoka Mulenga, Energy Minister Peter Kapala, Lands Minister Elijah Muchima and other senior Government officials.

Humphrey added that the project will further help leverage foreign direct investment including from the UK into Zambia in support for responsible mining of minerals which are key to the clean energy transition which the whole world depends on.

"My goal as His Majesty's Trade Commissioner for Africa is to promote every possible opportunity for UK companies to grow and invest here in Zambia and this is how we will support livelihoods and a stronger, greener and more resilient economy and one that creates jobs and opportunities for everyone," Humphrey said.

Meanwhile, FQM Country Manager Godwin Beene affirmed that after the mining giant promised to deliver the project a year earlier, it has now come to pass.

"This is how FQM works, if we say something is going to happen, it will surely happen as last year when we said that the first concentrate will come out of our mills, on the trucks and will be exported, it's now 12 months later and it has happened," Dr Beene said.



BO'JANGLES

... TASTE THE JAZZ ...

— Est. 2014 —

Bo'Jangles: Food Destination Par Excellence

BY SOW COMMUNICATIONS

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

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

SAVOIR-FAIRE

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

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

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First aid teams impress in Solwezi

BY SOLWEZI TODAY REPORTER

First aid teams from four major mines proved their mettle in a competition to prepare for a bigger event at the end of the year.



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

The teams from First Quantum Minerals (FQM), Konkola Copper Mines, Lumwana Mine and FQM Trident Limited displayed their skills in the competition hosted by Kansanshi Mining Plc.

Solwezi Mayor Remmy Kalepa commended FQM for ensuring that most of its employees are trained in first aid which is critical to saving lives in an event of an on-site accident.

He observed during the inter-departmental first aid competition held at Solwezi Lodge that the mine had gone the extra mile and trained members of the community in life-saving skills.

“It is gratifying to note that you want to

have everyone on board,” Kalepa said, noting the participation of many women in the competition which was held under the theme Learn First Aid, You Never Know When You Need It.

Kalepa urged the Zambia Chamber of Mines (ZCM) to continue promoting first-aid competitions in the mining industry to increase safety awareness in workplaces and among the public.

FQM Safety Manager Justin Mpesa said first aid training was key to saving lives not only on the mine site but anywhere an accident could occur. Many lives have been lost because of a lack of first-aid training.

“Many times, many of us have seen peo-

ple taking videos instead of rendering the help that is required; and this help must be offered competently. The skill in first aid is vital in saving lives, be it in a home, on the road, at school or indeed at the field or at the farm.”

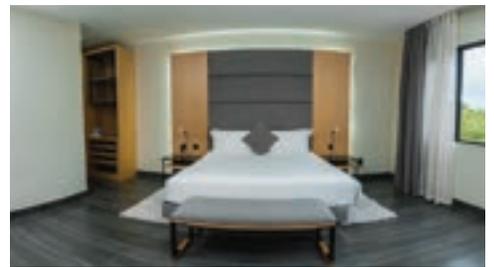
Kansanshi Mine Manager Armand La Grange said the competition would enable the workers to enhance their skills, coordination and efficiency. He implored the teams to be focused and put in their best during the upcoming inter-mines first aid competition.

The Kansanshi Mining Plc inter-departmental first aid competition was held as part of the preparations for the inter-mines first aid competition to be held at FQM Trident Limited on August 5.



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Chamber of Mines promotes first aid for safety

BY DERRICK SILIMINA

By the close of June, the mining industry recorded 12 deaths and 14 dangerous accidents, according to the Ministry of Mines.



A first aid crew in action during the competition in Kalumbila District

Mines and Minerals Development Minister Paul Kabuswe, in a speech read on his behalf by Permanent Secretary Hapenga Kabeta at the 16th Intercompany Mining First-Aid Competition in Kalumbila District, said the increased number of accidents compared to the same period in 2022 was of great concern to Government.

He urged all stakeholders and mine operators to ensure that workers are guar-

anteed a safe work environment. Management and responsible officers at all sites must ensure that mine safety regulations are complied with at all times without fail.

The Mines Minister further stressed that the mining industry, through the chamber, should lead the way and inspire confidence among the workforce and their families that mining can be done safely. And with advancements in technology, mining should become a more

attractive and safer business than ever before.

“I have been delighted by the exemplary show of first aid skills by teams and individual participants. Let us all recognize that a safe and healthy workplace will create healthy workers, increase productivity, contribute towards sustainable development and create a positive image for the mining industry. I wish to remind you, like I did during last year’s competition, that occupational health



A demonstration in resuscitation



Lubambe the winning team.

and safety is not negotiable! We all have a responsibility to guarantee the safety and health of our workforce,” Kabuswe said.

Kabuswe has since commended FQM Trident Mining Limited, for hosting the inter-company mining first aid competition and contractor firms for participating in this year’s event. The theme this year was Learn First Aid, You Never Know When You Need It.

Speaking at the same event, Chamber of Mines President Godwin Beene noted that the mining accidents report of 2022 and 2023 indicated that most of the fatalities occurred in mining operations that are not affiliated with the Chamber of Mines.

Dr Beene, who is also FQM Country Manager, urged the Ministry of Mines to see how the affected mining com-

Lubambe Copper Mine Support services team bagged the first position having scored 76.93 per cent. The 2nd slot went to the KCM Geology team who scored 75.75 per cent. Mopani Copper Mine’s Nkana security team took third position and walked away with 75 per cent while KCM Nchanga Mine’s underground team landed fourth place and collected 74.17 per cent.

panies should be engaged with to join the Chamber of Mines to benefit from programmes designed by the Council for First-aid, the Zambia Mining Rescue and the Safety, Health and Environment Committee.

The programmes promoted best international practices in occupational health, safety and environment.

The 16th edition of the 2023 Intercompany Mining First-Aid Competition consisted of 20-plus participating teams from FQM Trident Ltd, Chambishi Copper Smelter, and FQM Kansanshi Mining. Others were Konkola Copper Mines Plc, Lubambe Copper Mines Plc, and Mopani Copper Mines among others.

Lubambe Copper Mine Support services team bagged the first position having scored 76.93 per cent. The 2nd slot went to the KCM Geology team who scored 75.75 per cent. Mopani Copper Mine’s Nkana security team took third position and walked away with 75 per cent while KCM Nchanga Mine’s underground team landed fourth place and collected 74.17 per cent.

Other participants such as Kansanshi Mine’s Team D grabbed the seventh slot by scoring 70.67 per cent. The FQM Trident Engineering team came out in 11th position with 65.5 per cent. Barrick Mine took 12th position with 64.75 per cent and the FQM Trident Quattro team got the 13th slot with a 62.92 per cent score.

Lubambe Copper Mine General Manager Support Services Daniel Chihili expressed joy after his team’s exemplary performance.

“This is exciting especially that the team that has won is under my department. From the time that I have been associated with emergency response teams, the last four years have been very exciting because we have performed with very strong teams that have been able to demonstrate that in case of any unforeseen eventualities, we have men and women able to rise to the occasion and protect the injured, secure property and get back to operations.”



'Uplift women, youth in mining'

BY JOHN CHOLA

A three-day United Nations conference in Lusaka ended with a call on Great Lakes governments to actively spur women and youth participation in mining.

The conference held under the theme Peer Learning and Sharing of Best Practices and Policies for Inclusion of Women and Youth In Strategic Mineral Value Chains In The Great Lakes Region, brought together some of Africa's leading industry lights who once again consolidated their call for a paradigm shift in favour of women and youth involvement in mining.

South African mining entrepreneur, Ambassador Bridget Radebe Motsepe as keynote speaker urged regional governments and global stakeholders to recognize that there were huge benefits in supporting local investments in key sectors such as mining.

The office of the Special Envoy of the UN Secretary-General for the Great



Lakes region said the gathering allowed all stakeholders to appreciate that there was a collective effort to advance women's leadership and inclusion.

Represented by the Director for Political Affairs Fatou Dieng Thiam, UN Special Envoy-Great Lakes Region, Huang Xia hoped to see progress in member states in policy areas, legislation or practical measures on the ground at mining sites. Huang said the United Nations would at all levels pursue the points reflected in the outcome document.

Association of Zambia Women in Mining (AZWIM) founder and trustee Namakau Kaingu lamented that since the early 1990s womenfolk and stakeholders had convened consultative gatherings but with little action taken to catapult women and youth further in the exploitation of natural resources. Kaingu said the labour- and capital-intensive nature of mining had for long deterred women and

youths. Sharing her experience on the effective participation of women and youth in the sector, Kaingu noted that despite some fairly good laws which identified and accepted both women and youth into the sector, affirmative action should also see more favourable legislation enacted with budgetary allocations. Governments had not critically considered incentives to help women and youths thrive and develop the mining sector, "Affirmative action should also mean inclusion and appointing of women in decision-making positions and policy-making. As we can all see from the 1990s we have been talking but nothing has happened. I hope as we have heard from this meeting, this is going to be the end of talking and filing documents on the shelves. I feel good that we have gathered here in Zambia not only as women but together with the men," said Kaingu.

When we say there is mining in Africa, most of the big mines here are not even owned by us, but by foreigners who easily access the money from the stock markets while we have to dig deep into our shallow pockets. Most of these small-scale women, even men, have had to sell their personal property, including houses, to finance their labour and capital-intensive mining.

Kaingu prodded the regional meeting to call on regional governments to uplift women and youths from informal small-scale mining to formal status. Most of the women and youth currently participating in artisanal small-scale mining were unable to make tangible progress in their business because they lacked the capital to equip themselves with appropriate tools and machinery for mineral extraction. She stated, "The vicious circle will continue unless we are supported with capital for appropriate equipment. When we say there is mining in Africa, most of the big mines here are not even owned by us, but by foreigners who easily access the money from the stock markets while we have to dig deep into our shallow pockets. Most of these small-scale women, even men, have had to sell their personal property, including houses, to finance their labour and capital-intensive mining. This has left many either dead or stressed to the core. Through the same mining which is supposed to make us rich, we are creating poverty."

She said most starter-up small-scale miners require about US\$40,000 to commence operations.



Participants and discussants



Lobito refinery, pipeline to lower fuel prices

BY DERRICK SILIMINA

Zambia's fuel import bill from the Middle East currently stands at more than US\$1.2 billion annually.



Apart from the high cost of fuel hovering around US\$79 a barrel on the international market and a weak kwacha, transportation costs are also on the rise due to the country's distance from the Gulf region.

For this reason, in an attempt to lower fuel pump prices, Zambia has shown keen interest to own stakes in Angola's Lobito Refinery based in Benguela Province on the Atlantic Coast.

"It makes no sense to import fuel from other parts of the world when we have a neighbouring producer. I don't know how we have managed to maintain this situation of buying fuel from Saudi Arabia and other parts of the world and not from our neighbour," President Hakainde Hichilema said during his recent three-day visit to Angola.

SIGNED

Angola's state-owned Sonangol recently signed an MOU with China National Chemical Engineering Co. Ltd. (CNCEC) that could potentially advance its previously delayed plan to build a refinery in Lobito. The refinery is expected to be completed in 2026, with the capacity to produce around 200,000 barrels per day, of which Zambia will enjoy 100,000 barrels per day.

Angola state oil firm Sonangol will hold a 30 per cent stake while energy experts expect Zambia to hold a meaningful share in the remaining 70 per cent which will also attract other investors. Zambia will participate via a Public-Private Partnership (PPP).

"It is very natural that Zambia, as our neighbour, has a great interest in ac-

quiring these fuels in Angola, a neighbouring country, especially when Angola has a greater capacity to refine the crude oil it extracts," Angolan President João Lourenço said.

The Lobito Refinery represents one of the most important infrastructure projects in the Angolan energy sector and will enable the country to become self-sufficient in refined fuels such as gasoline, diesel, Liquefied Petroleum Gas or Jet Fuel A1. The refinery will additionally enable the country to export and supply neighbouring countries.

"We will have enhanced energy security due to the refinery's proximity to Zambia as compared to 10,000 kilometres away in the Middle East where most of our petroleum products are imported from," energy expert Johnstone Chikwanda said in an exclusive interview.



Dr Chikwanda says by tapping into Lobito Refinery, Zambia will be assured of cheap fuel because much of the pricing in the petroleum mechanism, about 30 per cent or so, is the cost of transportation. “Any approach that reduces transport costs will deliver a significantly cheaper landed product.”

PREFERENTIAL ACCESS

As a shareholder in the facility, Dr Chikwanda noted that Zambia will have preferential access to a fair price of fuel and also be able to dictate the terms and agree on interval price revision.

“When you are a shareholder, it is easy to discuss pricing terms and how long we are going to be taking before a new price is reviewed. This move will easily take away our thirty-day price review of fuel,” he states.

For this reason, the long-awaited Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Angola to develop a US\$5 billion oil pipeline was recently inked, thus paving the way for feasibility studies for the development and implementation of the Angola-Zambia Refined Petroleum Multi-Product Project (AZOP).

Dr Chikwanda maintains that the project will enhance regional integration as the transnational asset will bring the nations together and open up more avenues for economic projects of common interest.

For this reason, the long-awaited Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Angola to develop a US\$5 billion oil pipeline was recently inked, thus paving the way for feasibility studies for the development and implementation of the Angola-Zambia Refined Petroleum Multi-Product Project (AZOP).

This is a private sector-led project being promoted by Basali ba Liseli Resources Limited (a Zambian company).

According to AZOP, the project will cover 1,400 kilometres from the Port City of Lobito, to Lusaka in Zambia. The pipeline system will not involve middlemen but is designed to deliver finished products including petrol, low-sulphur diesel, Jet fuel and Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) to Zambia and Katanga Province in Congo DRC.

REDUCE

AZOP project will also reduce the relative pump pricing in Zambia and the regional target market. It is envisaged that this would eventually spur migration from the use of charcoal to the use of LPG, in most domestic homes.

The pipeline project is planned to be completed by January 31, 2028, while feasibility studies are expected to be concluded in two years due to the complexity and size of the pipeline project.

Energy Minister Peter Kapala recently disclosed that plans are progressing.

“I hosted stakeholders of the Angola-Zambia Refined Petroleum Multi-Product (AZOP) Project at my office as we discussed plans to speed up the implementation of the project. Representatives of Angola’s oil company Sonangol and the Zambian firm BBRL attended the meeting which was called to analyze the new terms of reference for the project.”

80 women pursuing Lobito Corridor skills

BY JOHN MUBAMBE

A total of 80 women are training to enter the construction industry as contractors following the launch of a US\$130,000 sponsored course at Solwezi Trades Training Institute (SOTTI).



Women contractors ready to undergo the one-month training for small scale and medium contractors' in North-Western Province under the Lobito Corridor project.

The one-month Lobito Corridor Contractors' Course aims to build capacity within the province so that personnel effectively support infrastructure development in the Lobito Corridor Project.

Speaking at the official opening ceremony of the Lobito Training women contractors on August 21, North-Western Permanent Secretary Grandson Katambi said the National Council for Construction (NCC) and SOTTI had been appointed by the African Development Bank through the Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry, "This training is fully-funded by the African Development Bank (AfDB) through the Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry and is intended to train 80 women contractors in North-Western Province to build capacity."

Katambi said the Lobito Corridor Pro-

ject would accelerate growth in domestic and cross-border trade by harmonizing trade, strengthening joint corridor development activities and fostering the participation of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in value chains. "The corridor covers the Democratic Republic of Congo, Angola and Zambia, and it represents an alternative strategic outlet to export markets for Zambia and DRC and offers the shortest route linking key mining regions in these two countries to the sea," he explained.

The training was in line with the government's vision to enhance local skills for sustainable infrastructure development and job creation.

The permanent secretary said he expected more than 90 per cent of contractors based in the province to favourably bid and win contracts for execution within the province to re-

duce the projects being undertaken by external contractors.

"The Government will constantly encourage more women to venture into the construction sector by acquiring skills that will be useful in the implementation of various projects," Katambi said.

National Council for Construction (NCC) Acting Executive Director Kabondo Muntanga said that the launch of the training course was the beginning of a journey towards transforming lives and shaping futures.

"This training course targeting our women has been meticulously designed to empower our local contractors with the skills and knowledge that are not only relevant but also invaluable in today's competitive landscape," he said. He urged the participants to approach the course with enthusiasm and open minds, embrace the challenges that lie ahead and be active in their learning journey. "As you progress through this course, remember that your success is not only a personal achievement but a source of inspiration for others since the knowledge and skills you gain here will have a ripple effect on your families, communities and the nation at large," he advised.

Solwezi Trades Training Institute Principal Ethel Mbewe disclosed that a similar training programme was conducted in 2021 to meet the current skills gaps within the corridor, where 121 SMEs were trained and capacity-built in line with the Lobito Corridor Project component.

Mbewe said the current training will enable the graduates to assess the quality of workmanship, determine the technology to be used in construction, understand the bidding processes, management of projects and resources, and manage health and safety processes on site.

She said that the selection of participants was conducted on merit and she therefore urged all participants to take this training as a game-changer which would create employment for them and offer business opportunities for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) around the province.



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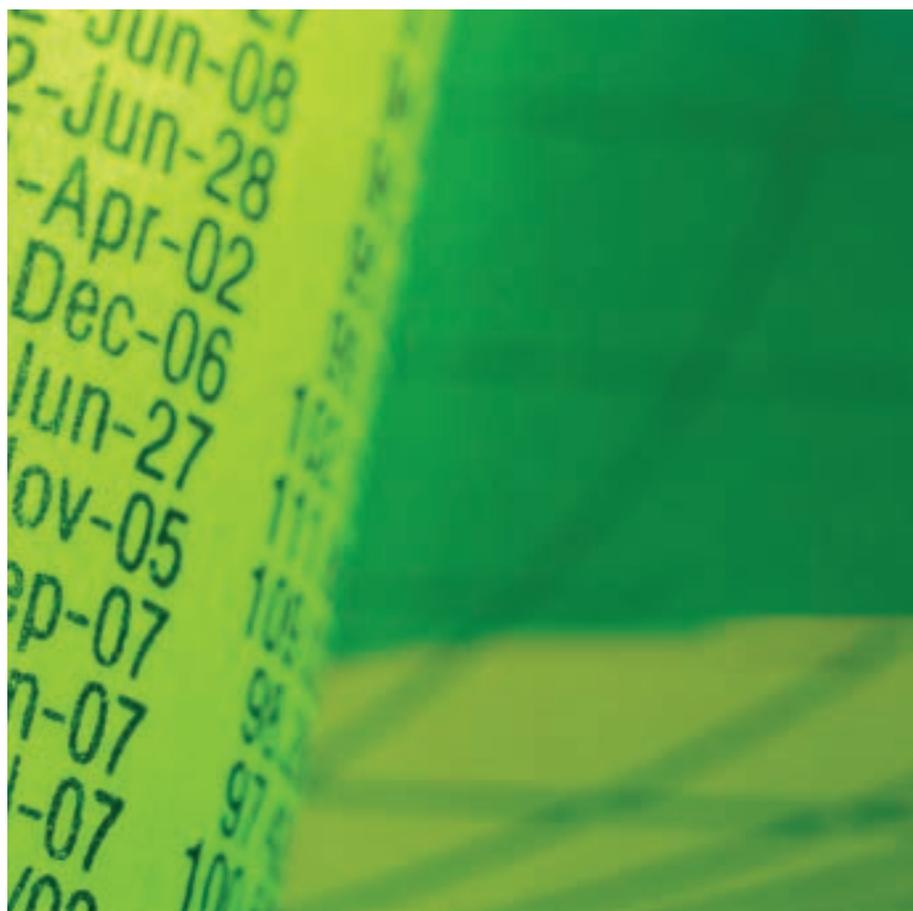
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Government bonds oversubscribed

BY STUART LISULO

Results from the Bank of Zambia (BoZ) bond auction in July revealed that the bond auction was oversubscribed, with the central bank managing to raise around K4 billion beyond the intended K2.6 billion on offer.



The results were boosted partly by the Zambian government's successful debt restructuring deal.

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

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, in-

cluding US \$1.3 billion in arrears, paved the way for the country to receive another US \$188 million tranche of funds from the International Monetary Fund

Appetite was skewed towards the longer end of the curve, with the 10-year paper absorbing K1.1 billion— around 29 per cent of the total amount allocated.

(IMF), part of the US \$1.3 billion Extended Credit Facility (ECF) secured from the Fund last year.

Market players hailed the development as one that would boost investor confidence in Zambia's economy. Commenting on the results in a Daily Market Update, First National Bank (FNB) Zambia stated that the outcome of the July 21 bond auction indicated the improvement in Zambia's risk posture since the conclusion of the debt restructuring process. "The central bank raised around K4 billion from the intended K2.6 billion at last week's bond auction. This was the second oversubscribed auction of the year and is an indication of the improvement in the risk posture since the confirmation that domestic debt wouldn't be included in the restructuring process," stated FNB.

"All tenors were fully subscribed, save for the two-year paper, which was slightly undersubscribed. Appetite was skewed towards the longer end of the curve, with the 10-year paper absorbing K1.1 billion— around 29 per cent of the total amount allocated. Yields remained relatively flat save for 10-year, which reduced by 100 basis points and the five-year, which increased by 50 basis points."

While Zambia is experiencing positive sentiments and investor confidence, coupled with an improved fiscal position, the kwacha has significantly depreciated against major currency convertibles, now trading at an average K19 per dollar by end-July, putting pressure on the cost of imported food and non-food items.

'Let's address poor credit culture'

BY STUART LISULO

President Hakainde Hichilema has challenged the banking and financial services industry to work with the Government in addressing the poor credit culture prevailing in the country to revive economic growth.



President Hakainde Hichilema

Speaking when he officially opened the 95th Agricultural and Commercial Show at the Showgrounds in Lusaka, President Hichilema acknowledged the need to improve the credit culture across all economic sectors, such as agriculture, to revive economic growth.

In encouraging farmers and other stakeholders to improve their credit culture by timely payback of loans, President Hichilema said there was a need to utilize more land for increased economic productivity.

Stanbic continues to be part of this important show as it plays an active role in fostering inclusive economic growth by helping businesses seek out opportunities for expansion and hence contribute to job creation.

"In order to encourage utilization of all land, starting this year, we, vigorously working in Government, and yourselves in the private sector, including cooperating partners, the World Bank, with whom I had a meeting only two days ago, we agreed that we will set up a special credit window with subsidized financing below the market level deliberately, as an intervention to allow even civil servants sitting on 10 acres to be productive," President Hichilema said.

He stressed the importance of banks and financial institutions playing a helpful role in improving the credit culture in the country, "...I was talking to the Stanbic Chairman, Dr. Abraham Mwenda, that, 'Mr. Chairman, we need to work with you, the banks, to manage these pipeline funds through an apex system that you will be the ones interfacing with the farmers because you know how to recover money. And when you borrow this money, please, pay it back so that we can grow these funds...' Let's improve the credit culture in our country so that we can grow the overall production."

Speaking earlier during a Presidential Luncheon, Stanbic Bank Chief Executive Mwindwa Siakalima said the Bank continued to participate at the Show to foster inclusive economic growth, "It is an honour to be here on this occasion of the 95th Agricultural and Commercial Show.

Stanbic continues to be part of this important show as it plays an active role in fostering inclusive economic growth by helping businesses seek out opportunities for expansion and hence contribute to job creation.

"Your Excellency, I'll take this opportunity to congratulate you and your Government for attaining the successful debt restructure with the Official Creditors. We recognise that this is expected to create the fiscal space for increased social spending and will allow Government to invest in Zambia's key growth sectors."

National Breweries in K230m losses

BY STUART LISULO

National Breweries Plc has posted total losses of K237.6 million during its financial year ending March 31, 2023.



Company Secretary Simbarashe Banga said in a statement this had been induced mainly by a kwacha depreciating against major convertible currencies.

In a statement announcing its audited results for the financial year period ended March 31, 2023, National Breweries posted increased losses of K237.6 million during the period under review from around K120.3 million in the same period in 2022, largely attributed to higher finance costs induced by the depreciating kwacha against major currency convertibles.

While the kwacha traded at an average of K18.05 per dollar at the end of the first quarter of 2022, the local currency rapidly depreciated to hit K21.40 per dollar by the end of the first quarter of this year.

“The Company posted an operating loss of K194.3 million during the peri-

“The implementation of the turnaround strategy continued during the second half, which saw the launch of a new product offering, Chibuku Super Banana; continued expansion of depot footprint in strategic areas around the country and deployment of competitive packs to fight competition in the congested trading space of Traditional African Beer.

od against a loss of K88.2 million in the prior year. This resulted in a loss after tax of K237.6 million (2022: K120.3

million) and a loss per share of K3.77 (2022: K1.91) on account of higher finance costs and higher exchange losses on foreign currency liabilities due to the depreciating kwacha.”

Other than the depreciating local currency, which increased production costs of imported packaging materials, the company faced major headwinds in the increased price of maize, the impact of higher distribution costs, and the increase in excise duty, hiked at the beginning of 2022.

However, Banga added that National Breweries implemented a turnaround strategy during the period under review, designed to boost volume growth.

“The implementation of the turnaround strategy continued during the second half, which saw the launch of a new product offering, Chibuku Super Banana; continued expansion of depot footprint in strategic areas around the country and deployment of competitive packs to fight competition in the congested trading space of Traditional African Beer.

“The volume recovery registered in the second quarter continued in the third and fourth quarters resulting in the second half volume closing 66 per cent above prior and annual volumes closing 28 per cent up on the prior year. The affordable offerings contributed to the larger sales volumes during the year. The fourth quarter, however, saw an increased acceptance of the mainstream products, providing opportunities to recover profitable volume.”

National Breweries Plc produces and distributes Traditional African Beer (TAB) under the market-leading Chibuku Shake Shake and Chibuku Super brand names.

Hoping for economic perks of a clean Lusaka...

BY DERRICK SILIMINA

Street vendors or hawkers are often in the news, either clashing with municipal authorities trying to clear them off the streets, or with shop owners who accuse them of undercutting their businesses.



The recent relocation of street vendors to clean up the city of Lusaka has been described by various segments of society as a welcome move that will stimulate the economy of the central business district.

A combined unit of the Zambia police and the Lusaka City Council recently swung into action and removed street vendors from the Lusaka Central Business District (CBD) which was infamously known for its choking garbage, clogged drainages, make-shift stalls and

illicit trade and anti-social vices.

And though street vendors have protested this new development, the Zambia National Marketeers Association (ZANAMACA) is hopeful that the displacement of street vendors from Lusaka CBD will be sustainable to restore order in the city.

ZANAMACA President Mupila Kameya stressed that people have no choice but to comply because Government is trying to bring sanity in the city the same way it handled the issue of political party cadres who once controlled the CBD.

“This exercise will be more beneficial to the traders if they begin to move into the designated trading places to reap the full benefits of trading there, especially when it comes to empowerment programmes.”

EXCESSES

Local Government and Rural Development Minister Gary Nkombo on a recent ZNBC Sunday Interview programme outlined excesses that had bedevilled Lusaka city streets.

“Lusaka is what holds the face of this country and street vending is a thorny issue which is a consequence of permitting people to trade arbitrarily. Do you know that on the island of Freedom Way for instance, there was a braai every morning; people roasting meat and under the tables where vendors used to sell their merchandise, you would find 20 litres of Kachasu and I saw that with my own eyes.”

Nkombo noted that with more than 7,500 vendors battling for street spaces in Lusaka, around 6000 empty market stores were available for their occupation. The people idling in the CBD under the guise of street vending were a threat to national security.

Interestingly, more than half of Africa's GDP comes from the informal sector which accounts for around 80 per cent of the labour force, many of them small traders, according to a recent report by the African Development Bank.

In Zambia, street vending is one of the major activities in the informal economy and is known to be an old practice that has always had a presence in any business district across the country. However, street vending is illegal and considered as a public nuisance.

There are business entities in the CBD which do not operate with ease as their front premises are swamped by street vendors who trade right at their doorsteps; sometimes selling the same merchandise found in the shops.

COMPEL

Now that shop owners have been given their right of way to trade in conditions of sanity, the Minister of Local Government has since hinted that a Statutory Instrument (SI) will soon be enforced to compel shop owners to paint their shops, pave and green the frontage of their business premises.

"It was really nerve-wracking to deal with some vendors who traded along my shop corridors. It was really difficult to attract customers. I am excited that street vendors ought to be in designated trading places and away from the CBD, a move that will allow shop owners to do business with ease," says Omar Mohamed, one of the shop owners on Lusaka's Freedom Way.

Moffat Habyarimana, a wholesaler in Kamwala trading area echoes Mohamed's view and believes that stiffer regulations against street vending will attract more investors.

"It is easy for a well-organized city to attract investment from outside the country and once the local authority here is seen to enforce order in the CBD, investors get attracted to come and do business," Habyarimana notes.



In terms of promoting tourism in the city, proponents of the industry say a clean Lusaka will attract more visitors since order is restored.

Some governance activists have charged that there is a need to terminate the malignant culture of ruling party cadres who have been influencing street vendors by allocating them trading spaces on the streets, a move that hinders the local authority from undertaking its obligations in the municipality.

Nkombo has noted that as a result of past ruling party cadres' activities,

most councils including the Lusaka City Council got failed to collect revenues to improve their operations of the council. They even struggled to pay staff salaries.

"Councils are still struggling to pay their salaries as the leakages have not been fully sealed. Every single day, we are struggling with a backlog of arrears because councils have not yet perfected the art of collecting revenue. So, the councils will be capacitated and we are moving from a manual collection of revenue to an e-payment system so that the process becomes water-tight. A pilot project is underway."

Ne-Yo to headline Stanbic Bank 2023 Music Festival

BY STUART LISULO

American rhythm and blues (R'n'B) singer Ne-Yo will perform two nights in Lusaka (October 13 and 14, 2023) headlining the Stanbic Bank 2023 Music Festival.



During the Festival launch in Lusaka, Stanbic Bank Zambia's Head of Corporate and Investment Banking (CIB) Helen Lubamba expressed delight that the Bank continued to bring international artists to perform at the flagship Music Festival.

Lubamba said that the Bank aimed to continue growing the local music industry, "We have been bringing international artists to Zambia since 2015, and our goal has been to establish connections between the local music industry in the country and foreign markets. As a financial services institution, we believe in the power of partnerships, which is why throughout the years of hosting the SMF, we have partnered with many stakeholders, partners and local artists, amongst others, to help us put together these well-supported concerts.

"By continuing to showcase local artists at the #SMF2023 to perform on the same stage as Ne-Yo, we believe that Stanbic

is demonstrating how we continuously seek to expose and grow young musical talent, with the overall objective of raising standards in the Zambian music industry. We also remain committed to generating new business opportunities for local artists, to enable their careers to reach new heights."

Speaking on behalf of Ministry of Youth and Arts Permanent Secretary, Chama Fumba, Director of Arts Esther Ngambi thanked Stanbic for managing to attract the three-time Grammy Award-winner.

"I am happy to note that Stanbic Bank has successfully managed to attract a globally-renowned musician to Zambia! We salute the Bank for securing Ne-Yo to travel to the country and entertain the masses for what we know will be an electric performance! As a recording artist myself, I am particularly gratified that local musicians will have the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to share the same stage with this three-time Grammy Award winner," said Ngambi.

The Stanbic Music Festival (SMF), initially born out of the legendary Stanbic Jazz Festival, began its journey in 2014 as part of the bank's efforts to grow Zambia's music and arts industry.

Stanbic has continued with the annual SMF, which will see a live concert being held for the first time in three years.

Throughout its nine-year history, the SMF has showcased world-famous bands and artists from Boyz II Men at the 2017 Festival to Nigerian star Davido at the 2019 show. The festival has attracted thousands of local and continental audiences and helped to showcase Zambian music internationally.

Ne-Yo, born Shaffer Chimere Smith in Arkansas in 1979, is an award-winning songwriter, actor, dancer and record producer. He made his presence felt on the music scene in the United States when he was credited for writing Mario's 2004 hit, Let Me Love You.

But it was Ne-Yo's 2006 smash hit single, So Sick, that cemented his evolution from songwriter to global superstar and sealed his status as an artist. The track was the lead single from the 2006 hit album In My Own Words.

Before jetting into Zambia, Ne-Yo will be embarking on the Champagne & Roses Tour in the US with fellow R 'n' B stars Robin Thicke and Mario in September.

In what is expected to be an electric performance at the Lusaka Polo Field, Ne-Yo will be treating fans on this side of the world with soulful tunes, high-tempo beats and chart-topping hits to a Zambian crowd that has followed his career since dropping his first album back in 2006.

Nine community entities receive \$152,000 grants

BY STUART LISULO

The US Embassy in Zambia has awarded US \$152,000 (K2.9 million) to nine Zambian community-based organizations in six provinces.



Phil Dimon

Public Affairs Officer Phil Dimon said the grants awarded this year would support nine community organizations and projects in Central, Copperbelt, Lusaka, Muchinga, Southern, and Western provinces.

The embassy, through the Public Affairs Small Grants Programme, released the grants for the organizations to expand economic opportunity, improve health and education, and fight corruption in the communities.

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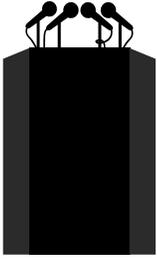
Among some of the organizations was the Empowerment Initiative for Rural Women and Adolescents, which empowers rural adolescent girls with life, literacy, and digital skills for better health and education outcomes. Another was Funzeleo, which would conduct a teacher training programme to expose educators to techniques for integrating Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) practical skills into their classroom teaching.

“The US Embassy is proud to provide these meaningful funding opportunities to organizations developing their own solutions to address inadequacies within their communities. Grants were selected through a merit-based review process that assessed their projects’ objectives, organizational capacity, and focus areas,” said Dimon in a statement.

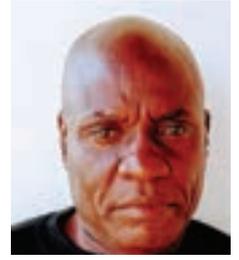
The Public Affairs Small Grants Programme provides financial support from the American people directly to Zambian community organizations improving the lives of communities through sustainable projects that bolster economic development, democracy and governance, health, and education in traditionally underserved areas or groups.

The U.S. Embassy will announce the application season for the next round of funding in 2024.

Small Grants Programme guidelines, project criteria, and application forms are accessible at: <https://zm.usembassy.gov/public-affairs-section-small-grants/>.



HICKS SIKAZWE ON THE PLATFORM



Zambians need to see new, clean page...

The other day, I drove to Kansenshi Shopping Centre here in Ndola. Some strange spectacle struck me. There was something that seemed to have happened. Oh, I recalled; the vendors had been moved off the shop corridors.



Unbelievable, I thought to myself. The corridors were clean, neat and airy. In the city centre, most traders had all moved. They had all gone to the markets.

With all fairness, everyone should support the government initiative to keep vendors away from the streets and especially shop corridors. It is for the good of the country.

As I walked, my mind went back to something I had written shortly after the current government came to power.

Part of it read as follows “Going by the dictates of the old adage of striking the iron while it is still hot, the new Government while wallowing in a celebratory atmosphere of pledges to transform Zambia needs to move fast and act on vendors, especially those crowded along shop corridors.”

Admittedly, these traders are an important part of the economy. They need to survive, they have families to support and for many of them selling merchandise openly is the only way to help put food on the table all year round.

FAILURE

In fact, previous political administrations have used failure to provide employment as justification to allow people to trade all over in goods from food to clothing wear. Over time these failed political practices have contributed to the arrogance of this group of traders.

President Chiluba under MMD even established the vendors’ desk at State House, appointing a Deputy Minister to be in charge. But the truth remains that the person responsible did not do anything to solve the issue and instead continued to get a salary from the national

coffers for not doing anything. There are further political arguments that the traders provide service. Yes, they do, but in the wrong way, and in a risky atmosphere. They pollute the atmosphere which in the end contaminates the domestic water supply much of which many water distribution firms fail to treat adequately.

They crowd in spaces where there are few public toilets or none at all, to the extent that some desperate souls opt to use emptied Chibuku packages to relieve themselves and douse the product anywhere and everywhere. They generate so much waste that during the rainy season, drainage systems get clogged worsening flooding.

That is not the end. Much of that polluted water seeps into broken water pipes of conversional supply systems, and dangerous and contaminated quantities find their way into domestic settings. As a result for many years, Zambia has been a victim country of incessant cholera outbreaks.

In fact, when you speak to professionals in the medical sphere they will tell you that cholera in the country does not clear; it only reduces and remains in several pockets causing periodic havoc.

STORAGE SPACE

It is also clear that most of the vendors operating on corridors and other undesignated areas in city and town centres lack adequate storage space for their wares; hence some of the facilities they use to store the contraband, again are

drainages, and public toilets where they leave items including food such as oranges, apples or even tomatoes and other vegetables.

This is the type of merchandise unsuspecting customers the following morning rush to buy. In such an atmosphere it is difficult for any country to control diseases not only cholera but a litany of others.

With the above background, allowing vendors to continue along shop corridors and other open spaces is courting a serious health disaster; therefore they must be relocated to designated markets.

For all the condemnation the just-defeated government has been bombarded with, at least that administration built markets in many outlets throughout the country. The vendors who operate in corridors are people who have run away from conventional markets under the guise of getting closer to consumers.

But this excuse is lame. The tradition of consumers is that they will always follow items no matter where they are. Examples abound. Many people who live in Lusaka, Ndola or Kitwe, will always find time to get to Soweto Market in the capital city, Masala in Ndola, and Chisokone in Kitwe where foodstuffs are sold in bulk.

Other towns and cities have similar outlets which they fall on for items they want. Therefore, there is no excuse for vendors to continue crowding along shop corridors covering every space not even leaving walking room for shoppers.

The other point is that many of the traders who get to the corridors, especially in the evening simply migrate from conventional markets after a day's work.

BROKEN DOWN

The vendors have survived this far because of municipal systems broken down over the years. The local authorities that were supposed to control the situation have been made incapable by over-stretched political interference which many Zambians are hoping will not continue in the new Government.

If authorities have provided markets where these people can trade, then they

have created an enabling environment and helped reduce unemployment.

It should be acknowledged too that because of the crowdedness, councils have not been able to clean cities and towns properly. As has been argued in this column before, local authorities used to have full departments such as Parks and Gardens that oversaw overall cleanliness in cities including planting flowers and trees and maintaining lawns.

If those units are still operating, what are they doing? The new Government needs to give the councils teeth to deal with the problem of vendors.

POLITICAL WILL

First, there should be strong political will to ensure traders stick to traditional markets and other designated areas. After all, by-laws are available, to contain this lawlessness. The problem has been overt political interference.

If authorities have managed to keep away vendors from shopping malls throughout the country, where is the problem in applying a similarly strong hand in the central business areas of the capital, Lusaka, Ndola, Kitwe or anywhere else in the country?

It is this lawlessness and decapitating of local councils authorities that has led to the emergence of a dangerous group of thugs floating as ruling party cadres, to control bus stations and openly extort money from unsuspecting bus operators. Though there is an order that the thugs should vacate persistent reports abound, some of them on social media platforms, that the fines have continued by people claiming to be cadres of the ruling party.

The removal of vendors from the streets and shop walkways is a positive move. Government should go beyond pledges and orders. There is a need for people

**For all the condemnation
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disobeying these orders to face consequences.

There is a need to deal with vendors now and not tomorrow. These are not unemployed; they already have something to do since they are traders. It is just that they want to do their business in the wrong way by hanging on to undesignated areas which is illegal. All the Government needs is a strong hand; the vendors can comply and move back to the markets.

The vendors have remained in corridors not because they are defiant, but because they took advantage of weak systems which in some cases thrived on illegality. If indeed there is any dawn at all, Zambians need to see a new and clean page. Take the vendors where they ought to be—the markets.

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



Solwezi Cooperatives get K1,200,000 push

BY FELIX KATYETYE

Six cooperatives in Solwezi have received K200,000 each from Kansanshi Mining Plc.



Hidden Wisdom Cooperative receive a cheque from Kansanshi Mining Plc

The funding comes as an addition to an earlier grant of K756,000 given to the same groups in February.

Kansanshi Mining PLC Contracts Manager Pamela Chola, who is also leader of the community initiative called Tujipamo, presented the cheques to the cooperatives and said the mining company believed in their potential to positively impact their communities.

“The partnership between Kansanshi Mine and the cooperatives will run for

one year, during which the mine will pilot the project using resources generated from selling scrap materials at the mine site. The primary aim of this initiative is to promote economic growth not only in Solwezi and North-Western Province but also across the entire country.”

The grant is part of Kansanshi Mining Plc Corporate Social Responsibility support for initiatives which create business and networking opportunities, enhance capacity-building for local enterprises and generate employment.

The chairpersons of the beneficiary cooperatives expressed their gratitude for the support and pledged to make the most of the opportunity to uplift their communities.

Bertha Chabala, Chairperson of Samarai Multi-purpose Cooperative, applauded the initiative and called for cooperative collaboration to ensure its success.

“Our aim is to empower women in the communities financially, as we believe this will lead to overall national development. We are grateful for the funds we have received, and we encourage other cooperatives to join forces and share ideas to bring positive change to North-Western Province,” she said.

Philip Kapijimpanga, Chairperson of Mutezhi Multi-purpose Cooperative, recognized the project’s potential impact on the region’s youth, and saluted the company’s commitment to that cause.

The six cooperatives, Mutezhi, Twibamo, Twinkle, Samarai, Norwestec, and Hidden Wisdom, are involved in poultry farming, pigs and chicken rearing. Suma Systems



Recipients pause with Kansanshi Mining Plc Management

Choova cycling competition wins state support

BY FELIX KATYETYE

The annual Eastern Province Choova cycling competition has won Government support to promote road safety education and encourage healthy habits.



Left to right: 2023 Men's Champion Biggie Zimba, Chipata City Mayor George Mwanza and Provincial Assistant Secretary Clement Chilombo

Provincial Assistant Secretary Clement Chilombo, representing Eastern Province Minister Peter Phiri, said the province relied heavily on bicycles and motorbikes as a primary mode of transportation, making the Choova cycling competition a vital platform for practical road safety education.

“Choova remains a practical platform for road users, including vehicles, motorbikes, bicycles, and pedestrians, to learn coexistence and practice road safety measures,” Phiri said.

Given the importance of the cycling competition now in its 18th year, the Ministry of Youths, Sports and Child has officially incorporated it into the sports calendar. Phiri encouraged youths, women, and men to participate in various sports and empowerment pro-

grammes aimed at fostering a healthy lifestyle and deterring substance abuse. He further urged the youth to follow the example set by the Shepolopolo, who

Betham Daka secured the first prize in the differently abled category and commended the organizing committee for their consistent inclusion of disabled individuals. He said sports activities played a crucial role in maintaining the well-being of differently abled individuals.

had achieved international recognition in football. “Through cycling, you can also compete in world cycling competitions,” he asserted.

Chipata Mayor George Mwanza emphasized the importance of maintaining good health through sports participation and encouraged fellow citizens to engage in the upcoming Choova competition. Mwanza committed to securing more sponsors to enhance the growth of the competition and ultimately promote community unity.

Notably, the 2023 Choova cycling competition saw Biggie Zimba emerge as the 2023 champion, winning a motorbike and a mattress. Zimba expressed gratitude towards the organizing committee, sponsors, and fellow committee members for their unwavering support. He encouraged fellow participants to continue training hard, as the sports event continued to evolve each year. Betham Daka secured the first prize in the differently abled category and commended the organizing committee for their consistent inclusion of disabled individuals. He said sports activities played a crucial role in maintaining the well-being of differently abled individuals. Petronella Mwale came out tops in the women's category at this year's Choova cycling competition and urged other women to participate in the forthcoming competition as it was refreshing and good for their health.

This 2023 Choova cycling competition was held under the theme Cycling to Promote our Culture, Tourism, and Enhanced Road Safety, reflecting the multifaceted benefits of the competition beyond mere athleticism.

27 July, 2023

President Bazoum ousted as Niger's military takes control following coup

Niger's President Mohamed Bazoum has been removed from power by a group of soldiers, as announced on national television. The soldiers, led by Colonel Amadou Abdramane, stated that they took this action due to security concerns and poor governance. They imposed a curfew, closed borders, and suspended all republic institutions. This military takeover, the seventh in the region since 2020, could complicate Western efforts to combat jihadist insurgency in the Sahel region.



10 August, 2023

Hawaii wildfires claim historic town



Wildfires driven by hurricane winds have severely damaged the historic town of Lahaina on Hawaii's Maui island. US Senator Brian Schatz reported that much of Lahaina has been destroyed by the fires, which were intensified by strong winds from Hurricane Dora. At least six people have died in Maui County as a result.

16 August, 2023

Plane carrying millions seized in Zambia



Zambian authorities intercepted a private plane that had landed in Lusaka from Cairo, Egypt. In a statement, the Drug Enforcement Commission (DEC) revealed that it had "received information that a chartered aircraft carrying dangerous goods had landed at Kenneth Kaunda International Airport on 13th August 2023 at 19:00 hours". The mysterious aircraft was carrying \$5.7 million in cash, metal bars, and firearms with ammunition. Ten individuals, including nationals from Zambia, Egypt, the Netherlands, Spain, and Latvia, have since been detained.

20 August, 2023

Spain crowned Women's World Cup Champions

Spain emerged victorious in the Women's World Cup final against England, leaving the Lionesses disappointed as their dream of winning the championship remained unfulfilled. Spain displayed flair and creativity, outplaying England in Sydney's final match. This victory marks a remarkable achievement for a team that had struggled in previous tournaments (2013, 2015). It also makes Spain the second country, after Germany, to have won both men's and women's championships.



22 August, 2023

Britain's most prolific child serial killer, Lucy Letby, to spend life in prison

Neonatal nurse Lucy Letby (33), has been found guilty of murdering seven babies and trying to harm six others at a hospital in the UK. She deliberately harmed the babies by injecting them with air, feeding them milk forcefully, and poisoning some with insulin. She received a severe punishment called a "whole-life order," which means she will spend the rest of her life in prison. The judge said her actions were extremely cruel and went against the normal care that babies should receive from medical professionals. Letby showed no remorse and was con-

sidered to have acted with a high degree of cruelty.

The judge highlighted Letby's calculated and harmful actions towards the babies. The parents of the victims expressed their grief and loss, describing her as "evil" and a "coward" for not attending her sentencing. Letby's refusal to accept responsibility for her actions and her lack of remorse were noted during the trial. This case has shocked many due to the severity of her crimes and the breach of trust that parents had placed in her as a nurse.



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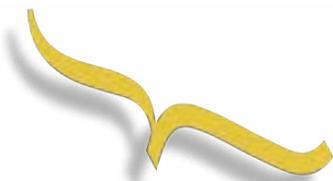
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