



A ZAMBIA EMBASSY BERLIN QUARTERLY MAGAZINE

DIPLOMATIC DISPATCH



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Reflections of 2019 by Amb. Anthony Mukwita

it was good diplomacy year

The year 2019 like others before it came with its own challenges but in all, it as a good year for economic diplomacy.

The Zambian Mission in Berlin pursued and explored various economic opportunities that must eventually benefit the greater population of Zambia as well as improve already stellar relations with the host country, and others represented on a none residential basis.

“We pushed the envelope with the available resources to be in as many places in a bid to contribute to a better Zambia and narrow gaps between those that have and the ones that do not have.”

The Austria medical ‘spot on check’ on the children’s ward, the mothers ward and the Cancer Centre was

probably the most important point of economic diplomacy of 2019 that occurred in July on our watch.

It is poised to lead to a reduced number of babies, mothers dying at birth and delivery at UTH.

Future technology opportunities once operationalised.

Our Mission, for instance, opened up high level historic discussions with the giant motor manufacturing company, Bayerische Motoren Werke AG known by its abbreviation, BMW at their sprawling Head Quarters in Munich, Bavaria.

“We have since invited them to part-



ner with Zambia, the second largest copper producer in Africa, that also produces cobalt and other minerals that are a prerequisite in the future of the auto industry, Electric Vehicles of EV’s.”

What is the bigger picture for Zambia?

The idea is to interest BMW to partner with Zambia or Zambians to establish a component manufacturing plant in Zambia which is strategically and competitively located in the centre of eight countries, as the rich West and East frown upon fossil energised vehicles in preference for EVs.

“Zambia, as copper and cobalt power house must emerge as a winner when the world goes EV and the time to do that is ripe now hence the reason we made the trip to BMW that currently builds 1000 cars per minute every day.”

Bilateral Relations

On the bilateral relations level, we



tipped up the diplomatic scale by taking a high-level delegation of the Austrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs led by Dr Johannes Peterlik made to meet the second most powerful political leader in Zambia, Her Honor, the Vice President, Mrs Inonge Wina.

Possibilities of recalibrating diplomatic relations after the closure of the Austrian embassy in 1989 were candidly discussed.

"It was the first time such a high-level meeting was held between Zambia and Austria in 30 years, we hope something positive comes out of it given the strength Austria has in the area of health and renewable energy."

Austria with a 500 billion-dollar GDP and only about 8 million people would be good for Zambia as a partner in our view, especially if a physical presence in economic diplomacy such as an embassy is established.

It was in 2019 that Slovenia, another country we represent from Berlin on a non-residential basis started economic cooperation discussions with Zambia.

A business delegation from the 50 billion-dollar GDP Slovenia expressed interest in investing in the energy and information and communication technologies, ICT.

2019 was also the year Zambia saw a major change in the energy sector with the introduction of a creditworthy off taker, AFRICA GREEN-CO an initiative the Berlin Mission is proud to be associated with as it played a part in as its eventual fully-fledged functioning could lead to more excess to cheaper energy financing.

Humanitarian Aid diplomacy

The Berlin Mission pursued humanitarian support in collaboration with the Honorary Consul in Austria, businessman Heinz Messinger

who helped the embassy mobilize a 40foot container of assorted medical supplies that were donated to the First Lady Mrs Esther Lungu's charity organisation that helps hundreds of vulnerable Zambians especially in rural areas.

In Poland, 22,000kgs of assorted medical equipment was also donated to Zambia by a variety of Polish organizations with the assistance of Honorary Consul Bartosz Brusikiewicz, destined for clinics and hospitals run by Polish missionaries.

The embassy also organised a sizable container from Slovenia that was donated a hospital in Mumbwa via the office of the charity the First Lady Mrs Esther Lungu runs.

Energy Diplomacy

The mission was happy to note in 2019 efforts to reduce the energy deficit by Germany working with Zambia at a cost of 100 million dollars under the GETFIT programme had escalated. This will lead to an additional 100MW of power that will improve the power situation in Zambia. The Musonda Falls energy project also received a boost with the help of Germany.

Sports Diplomacy

In sports, the Zambian mission provided moral support to two Zambian professional football players Patson Daka and Enoch Mwepu who are playing in the Austrian premier league with Salzburg Redbull.

The Berlin Mission recognizes professional footballers as Zambia's diplomats as they lift the Zambian flag in foreign lands which the country could leverage for economic diplomacy.

Future Outlook

Looking ahead to 2020, our dedicated team is expected to pursue more 'economic impact' activities that

should result in long lasting positive effects for our great country.

We believe the undisrupted 55-year record of peace continues to be a huge investment attraction for Zambia, including the resolve and commitment of President Edgar Lungu, a pro poor President to always place people long term interest above his own.

"We thank God for another good year of peace and stability despite the many challenges such as Climate Change and external economic shocks that we experienced, as did many other economies in Africa and beyond."

It's good to note that Zambia is constantly referred to as a "top ten preferred investment destination in Africa," in economic discussions

"We have a great country (Zambia) with its own challenges and opportunities, a great leadership under President Edgar Lungu so it's up to us to exploit the opportunities in 2020 and beyond for the benefit of the greater population.

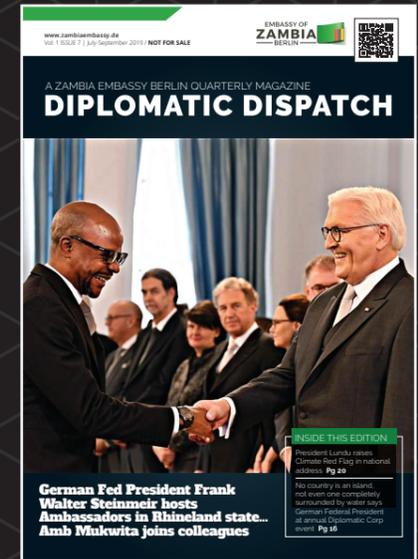
We will continue to look at the glass as half full because negativity adversely affects productivity, especially in economic diplomacy.

The above are great things that happened on our watch of diplomacy of the embassy of Zambia in Berlin. We pray for an even greater 2020.

Anthony L. Mukwita
ALM.
Ambassador of Zambia to Germany.

Editor's Note
We regret the first delay ever in publishing your foremost Zambian diplomacy magazine that must have come out in the last quarter of 2019. This is due to business closures, including our printers that occur over Christmas and New Year periods in Berlin. Enjoy the magazine. Editor

DIPLOMATIC DISPATCH



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The Diplomatic Dispatch is a quarterly magazine of the Embassy of Zambia in Berlin, Germany. The purpose of the publication is to promote the vast opportunities that exist in Zambia in various fields such as agriculture, mining and tourism to mention but a few. It is distributed to all government ministries in Zambia, all missions globally where Zambia is represented and all missions and sections of business associations and chambers of commerce in Germany. It is about the good story of Zambia known mostly for peace and stability as well as a tool for Economic Diplomacy.

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The Chief Diplomat H.E Lungu fetes Ambassadors accredited to Zambia

...as annual event at State House calls for closer corporation

Ladies and gentlemen.

It is indeed an honour to welcome you all, especially the new members of the diplomatic community in Lusaka, to State House today. I would like to extend warm New Year greetings and best wishes for a prosperous 2020, to your excellencies and your respective countries.

This occasion provides an excellent opportunity for us to collectively review, at national, regional and global levels, the achievements and challenges of the past year in order for us to chart our course for the year ahead.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, The year 2019 started on a positive note with the zambian economy projected for robust growth based on assumed normal

It is in this regard that world leaders met at the united nations' conference of parties (cop 25) climate conference in madrid, spain, in december 2019.

farming season, stable electricity generation and improved copper prices on the international market.

At global level, there was hope that various factors which were slowing growth such as trade tensions would subside,

and this was expected to impact positively on economies across the world, including that of Zambia.

However, like many other countries in the southern African region and beyond, the zambian economy during the rest of 2019 was negatively affected by various issues notably, adverse climatic conditions caused by poor rainfall during the 2018/2019 farming season.

This, in turn, negatively affected agricultural production, and electricity generation which led to spill-over effects in other sectors. Economic growth was also affected by a decline in copper output, coupled with lower copper prices caused by a reduction in global demand.

Your excellencies, Climate change continues to be a major global challenge



President Lungu mingles with Ambassadors accredited to Zambia during the annual get together he hosts at State House as part of enhancing diplomatic relations.

whose discussion and deliberations we should not grow weary of, considering the devastating multi-faceted effects it is having on our societies and the environment.

It is in this regard that world leaders met at the United Nations' conference of parties (COP 25) climate conference in Madrid, Spain, in December 2019. The meeting, as we know, failed to come up with the targeted carbon emission cuts.

Therefore, I wish to reecho the words of the United Nations Secretary-General, His Excellency Mr. António Guterres, who called on the world not to give up on the ambition of mitigation, adaptation and finance to tackle the climate change crisis. The zambian government looks forward to progress in the carbon emission cuts at the forthcoming COP 26, scheduled to be held this year in Glasgow, Scotland.

The zambian government during the course of 2020 will intensify programmes aimed at mitigating the devastating effects of climate change as well as ensuring the prudent use, and management of our diminishing resources.

One of the most important areas of focus will be the safeguarding of the country's water resources. This will require concerted efforts of various stakeholders, including the private sector, civil society, and our cooperating partners, in order for

Zambia to ultimately make a significant contribution to the overall global cause.

Given the energy deficit Zambia is facing, the government will aim at enhancing the sector by, among other ways, encouraging investment, and diversification to include alternative sources, such as solar and wind.

This calls for concerted collaboration within the SADC region and beyond through pooling of resources, exchange of best experiences, transfer of technology, capacity building, and encouragement of foreign investment in the region's energy sector. I am optimistic that in this manner, the energy situation will improve on a large scale for all our countries.

In the area of food security, most parts of Zambia were food secure in 2019 except for southern and western provinces as well as some parts of eastern province which were adversely affected by climate change.

I am happy to announce that the projections indicate that the country has sufficient maize stocks to last up to July 2020. Harvests are also expected in April, from the early maize project facilitated by government in partnership with the zambian national farmers union. My government is grateful to our cooperating partners for supporting our efforts to enhance the country's food.

Regarding social protection, the zambian government will continue to implement the social cash transfer scheme, food security pack as well as women and youth empowerment programmes, even in the midst of tight fiscal conditions.

I wish to assure you that the challenges which were experienced in this area were appropriately dealt with in the past year. Therefore, I wish to encourage you, our partners to continue with your goodwill on such progressive and humane initiatives. I am confident of your continued support going forward.

The zambian government has made considerable headway in the implementation of the 7th national development plan, which is currently in its fourth year of implementation.

The plan's implementation is in line with the United Nations 2030 agenda for sustainable development and the African Union Agenda 2063. In this regard, I wish to acknowledge, with gratitude, the invaluable support from our cooperating partners towards implementation of our development blueprint.

At this juncture, I am happy to announce to your excellencies that the economic prospects for 2020 are positive. Projections include a real growth rate of 3 percent and inflation to be maintained within the range of 6 to 8 percent.

In addition, the fiscal deficit is expected to reduce to 5.5 percent and domestic revenue mobilisation is projected to increase to at least 22 percent of gross domestic product (GDP). Fiscal consolidation will continue to be a priority to ensure sustainable and inclusive growth.

Furthermore, I wish to announce that this year, the zambian government will continue to anchor our efforts on the five development strategic areas of the 7th national development plan. These are: economic diversification and job creation; poverty and vulnerability reduction; enhanced human development improvement; development inequalities reduction and creating a conducive governance environment for a diversified



Ambassador Anthony Mukwita and spouse Elaine join fellow envoys at annual new year event held at the Waldorf Astoria in Kudamm Berlin where about 100 Ambassadors and spouses meet annually to enhance economic diplomacy.

economy. I, therefore, appeal, to you all, for your continued unwavering support.

Your excellencies, As we may be aware, economic diplomacy continues to be an important focus of zambia's foreign policy. It is also stipulated in our 7th national development plan.

It is against this backdrop that, zambia is pleased to participate in a number of meetings on the global platform including the forum on china-africa cooperation (focac) coordinator's meeting, the tokyo international conference for african development (ticad), the usa-africa business summit, the recently inaugurated russia - africa summit, elephant summit, united nations general assembly, to mention but a few.

In addition, in 2019, i had the honour of successfully undertaking a state visit to india and a working visit to the united arab emirates, in a bid to advance mutually beneficial cooperation.

Zambia's recent international engagements have clearly been successful with outcomes including the ongoing lusaka city roads decongestion project, construction of 650 health posts across the country, construction of the convention

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centre to host the heads of states african union summit in 2022, commencement of turkish airline flights between lusaka and ankara, to mention but a few.

Further, zambia signed many agreements with countries represented here in diverse areas such as economic and technical cooperation, development of economic zones and industrial parks, export of honey, information communication technology (ict) and railway transport.

Other areas of cooperation in which agreements were signed include, manufacturing of leather and textile products, mineral processing, entrepreneur development, specialised health care and establishment of a truck and bus assembly plant in zambia.

This year, the zambian government will endeavour to build on these achievements, and we will do even more, together.

Focus will be given to, among other areas, the implementation of agreements signed with many of the countries represented here, completion and commencement of joint projects, enhanced trade and investment promotion in priority sectors such as agriculture and energy, as well as support for climate change mitigation and adaptation.

It is gratifying to note that the ministry of foreign affairs held a technical economic diplomacy forum in december 2019, which was held under the theme "perspectives for 2020". The forum enabled various zambian government and private sector stakeholders to contribute to the direction of zambia's economic diplomacy in 2020.

On trade and investment, there is potential for improved partnerships with your respective governments given our focus on economic diversification as well as the many investment opportunities zambia offers.

Zambia continues to offer a favourable business environment based on its strategic location in the region.

In order to foster mutually beneficial trade and investment linkages, i encourage collaborative efforts between the investment promotion agencies, and chambers of commerce in your respective countries, with those in zambia.

May i take this opportunity to express my profound gratitude for your support at the 2019 zambia agriculture and commercial show, the zambia international trade fair and the chisamba agritech expo.

The zambian government is grateful for your support towards the six provincial expositions which were held in luapula, central, northern, north western, copperbelt and southern provinces.

My government counts on your continued support in encouraging participation from your respective countries, and organisations in the provincial expositions to be held this year as well as the annual zambia international trade fair, and the zambia agriculture and commercial show, which will take place in july and august 2020, respectively.

Zambians in the diaspora have continued to be important contributors to national development, through skills and technology transfer, remittances and investment.

In order to maximise the participation of the diaspora, these contributions should be an integral part of national development through a formalised, efficient and interactive engagement framework.

In recognition of the role that the diaspora plays as economic partners, the zambian government embarked on the development of a national diaspora policy.

This process, which involved the wide consultation of various stakeholders, culminated in the successful publication and launch of the national diaspora policy in april 2019. I wish to express profound gratitude to you all for your steady commitment and support towards this undertaking.

I am equally pleased to mention that in government's efforts to reach out to our nationals in the diaspora, we have made significant number of approvals for dual citizenship, in line with the implementation of the dual citizenship clause.

At the regional level, zambia continued to actively participate in peace and security issues through its chairmanship of the southern african development community (sadc) organ on politics, defence and security cooperation from august 2018 to august 2019, and as out-going chair from august 2019 to date.

In the spirit of multilateralism, the zambian government continues to call for reforms of the united nations, including the security council, where my government advocates for two permanent seats on the security council for africa, considering that the african continent has the highest number of member states represented at the united nations.

Some of the major achievements during zambia's chairmanship in 2019 include the extension of the mandate of the united nations organisation stabilisation mission in the democratic republic of congo (monusco), from march 2019 to december 2019.

The zambian government, as organ chair, also led the sadc electoral observation missions (seoms) to successful and peaceful elections in south africa, malawi, the drc, madagascar, and also participated in these missions in botswana, mozambique, mauritius and namibia.

The successful holding of the elections, particularly in the drc is a demonstration of established norms in the region where democratic elections are utilised as a means of selecting leaders.

Furthermore, this process also helps in consolidating democracy, and contributing to the credibility of the electoral process of member states, and above all, enhancing peace and security in the region.

In the same vein, the zambian government welcomes observation of the country's forthcoming 2021 general elections by international observers.

At continental level, the zambian government remains committed to the african union agenda 2063 and continues to make deliberate steps at both the bilateral and multilateral levels in ensuring its full realisation.

The introduction of the africa continental free trade agreement, the world's largest free trade area, is the continent's symbol of our unity, progress and a shared purpose.

The zambian government, therefore, reaffirms its unwavering commitment to building greater synergies with our brothers and sisters across the african continent under this ambitious economic framework.

On a multilateral level, we all remain seized with implementing the 2030 agenda for sustainable development under the auspices of the united nations in our respective countries.

At the global level, the zambian government continues to prioritise issues of development and peace and security. My government, therefore, calls for further enhanced partnership between the african union and the united nations.

In the spirit of multilateralism, the zambian government continues to call for reforms of the united nations, including the security council, where my government advocates for two permanent seats on the security council for africa, considering that the african continent has the highest number of member states represented at the united nations.

It is our considered view that reforms of the united nations, if effectively implemented, will re-invigorate international cooperation and collective action required to address global challenges.

Your excellencies, king all of you for your support towards zambia's developmental undertakings in 2019, and to reaffirm my government's commitment to continue working with you, in 2020.

I thank you.**DD**

Up-close with Zambian export to Wallstreet, Angela Mwanza

Angela Mwanza's life and career have traced a unique path: Born and raised in Zambia—where her father was the central bank governor from 1995 to 2002—she lived and studied in Germany before finding her way to Wall Street.

“Even though I’ve lived in New York for over 20 years,” she says, “when people say, ‘Where are you from,’ I can’t help myself. I say I’m from Zambia.”

Mwanza is the co-founder of UBS's nine-person Evergreen Wealth Management team, which manages \$1.2 billion for 25 ultra-high-net-worth families. Sitting down with Barron's Advisor, Mwanza explains why her team actively promotes sustainable investing, an approach many investors are still on the fence about.

She describes how Lehman's

bankruptcy led her to more fulfilling work. And she argues that an apprenticeship model could help the industry solve its diversity problem.

Visit the link below to comprehend further who this Zambian diplomat is and why she loves Zambia. In case you were wondering, yes, she is the daughter of former Bank of Zambia governor Dr Jacob Mwanza and a good German mother.

<https://www.barrons.com/articles/angela-mwanza-from-zambia-to-wall-streets-51568983694DD>



Hollywood star Michael Douglas with family captured sampling Zambian tourism in Livingstone recently.



Zambia's top ranking, a 2020 tourism New year gift

The top 2020 list of best tourism destinations to visit globally are out and guess who has made it on the top list again—Zambia.

According to the list posted on the worlds widely followed 24/7 news website, Zambia is a tourism paradise worthy diarising by world travellers said Ambassador Anthony Mukwita.

CNN has described Zambia as having, “jaw dropping national parks and awe-inspiring wild life that characterises this beautiful southern African country...”

Ambassador Mukwita said

“the more people we attract to travel to Zambia the better and the CNN endorsement for us is a new year gift.”

CNN has given the embassy in Germany a talking point ahead of the ITB Berlin that is held annually in Berlin in March, attracting more than



100,000 potential tourists from about 100 countries.

“Zambia has always been a great and easy destination to sell largely due to our record of undisrupted peace and stability but now we have this CNN endorsement which as economic diplomats we must utilise to the maximum,” said Ambassador Mukwita.

President Edgar Lungu recently upgraded tourism to the level of a financial generation ministry in order to reduce poverty and create jobs, “the more people we attract to travel to Zambia the better and the CNN endorsement for us is a new year gift.”

The high lights of why Zambia has made it on the top 20 list of best tourism destination can be found on CNN.com under the headline CNN Travel's 20 best places to visit

in 2020.

Ambassador Mukwita said currently, “we have seen in December, video clips of Hollywood heavy hitting A Listers Michael Douglas pausing in the resort town of Livingstone with his beautiful wife Catherine Zeta Jones and children, which in its own is an endorsement we must maximise on.”

Earlier in 2019, comedy magnet Steve Harvey also visited the Victoria Falls on the Zambia side that offers the best view, albeit he spent nights at his camp in Botswana.

Zambia continues to be a favoured destination for both business and tourism especially after President Edgar Lungu escalated tourism to a financial making sector.

The number of tourists travelling to Zambia from Germany has seen a rise in the past two years according to embassy statistics.**DD**

'Open embassy in Zambia to enhance economic diplomacy'

Vice President Inonge Wina tells Austria



President Lungu flanked by Finance Minister Dr Ngandu and her honor the VP Mrs. Wina at State House recently

The Vice President of Zambia Mrs Inonge Wina has implored Austria to open a full-fledged embassy in Zambia in order to escalate economic diplomacy and other diplomatic relations.

Mrs Wina was speaking in her office today when she met a high-level delegation led by Dr Johannes Peterlik, the Secretary General in the Austrian Foreign office who was accompanied by H.E Anthony Mukwita, Zambia's Ambassador to Germany and none resident representative to Vienna Austria.

"We look forward to the day Austria will open a fully-fledged embassy here in Lusaka order to increase cooperation between our two countries," Mrs Wina said, "you must note that one of the greatest strengths of Zambia is its 55-year uninterrupted record of peace and stability which our people cherish."

She was reacting to Dr Peterlik who told the vice President that Austria was looking at probably expanding its African footprint and Zambia surrounded by eight countries could just be such a destination.

"Currently we have an Ambassador for Zambia Dr Christian Fellner resident in Nairobi where he oversees about ten other countries," Dr Peterlick said, "Zambia is a country we could look at."

Dr Peterlik paid glowing tribute to Mrs Wina for breaking the record as Zambia's first female vice President, a very influential position in Zambia number two only to President Edgar Lungu.

"Congratulations for being elected as the first female vice President we have a lot to learn from you and your involvement with women's work in the past including the various official visits you have made to international meetings to Austria," said Dr Peterlick.

Vice President Wina is a past long time office holder of the seat of the NGO chair before she actively got involved into politics as the Chair of the ruling party and eventually President Edgar Lungu's running mate and vice President.

Dr Peterlik took time to inform Mrs Wina that Austria was happy with the work Ambassador Anthony Mukwita was doing in collaboration with Austrian honorary consul Heinz Messinger.

AREAS OF COOPERATION

The vice President implored Dr Peterlick accompanied by a business delegation of eight to explore investment opportunities in the areas of:

- Renewable energy following the crashing negative effects of climate



VP Wina flanked by Ambassador Mukwita and Ambassador Dr Johannes Peterlick.

change that has plagued the Zambian energy sector

- Health especially specialised health such as cancer treatment and detection which affects a huge number of Zambian women
- And general diplomacy

Dr Peterlick introduced the firms present ranging from security printing to health that had accompanied him.

Ambassador Anthony Mukwita described the meeting in his introductory remarks as "a major diplomatic milestone as it is happening for the first time at this highest level of the vice President and the Secretary General in 55 years."

The senior diplomat said he was hopeful that diplomatic relations with the US\$490 billion GDP rich country with a population of 8 million people would reach fruition soon.

The vice President's team comprised Minister Ms Olipa and Permanent Secretary in the vice President's office Mr. Stephen Mwansa.

Ambassador Mukwita said the delegation had more meetings lined up with Foreign Affairs Minister hon Joseph Malanji, the Economics Association of Zambia,

the Zambia Development Agency and management of the University Teaching Hospital.

"This is a tightly packed meeting, but we are happy and grateful to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for according as a high-level engagement with Vice President madam Inonge Wina whose schedule we know is very busy," Ambassador Mukwita.

"The take away from this I must emphasise with unparalleled excitement is Dr Peterlik and her honor the vice President discussing the possibility of a fully-fledged embassy here. Both of them touched this matter," said Ambassador.

AME International whose Managing Partner Heinz Messinger was in the delegation have already opened discussions to rehabilitate the cancer centre and paediatrics wards at UTH.

Once an MoU is penned between Zambia and Austria, Zambia could receive zero rated financing for the two projects from the government of Austria.

From L to R Austrian delegation leader Dr Johannes Peterlik, her honour the Vice President of Zambia Mdme Inonge Wina and Ambassador of Zambia to Germany H.E Anthony Mukwita in the office of the Vice President on 4th December 2019. **DD**



It was not far from here that thousands demonstrated for freedom and democracy at Hambach Castle in 1832. Karl Marx, a son of Trier, described how repression and restoration subsequently raged, how the Moselle winegrowers suffered from arbitrary behaviour on the part of authorities as well as from oppression. Crop failures and famine forced many people to emigrate.

Rhineland Palatinate 18.09.19

“No country is an Island”
 ...even if its surrounded by water, German President tells Ambassadors Rhineland Palatinate

Speech by Federal President Frank-Walter Steinmeier on the occasion of the informational and contact building visit with the Diplomatic Corps to Rhineland Palatinate on 18 September 2019

Rhineland Palatinate, the Hunsrück and the Moselle are particularly beautiful regions of Germany. If word of this has not spread all around the world yet, then this will change tomorrow at the latest. After all, I still remember that mainstay of day to day diplomacy – the telegram... Tomorrow morning – as soon as they get back to Berlin – the ambassadors will cable news of the hilly Hunsrück and the meandering Moselle around the whole world...

So, allow me today, in person, to thank you sincerely for your warm hospitality.

Nuncio, Ambassadors,

You can put your telegrams to one side for the day.

For me, our trip is a wonderful opportunity to get into conversation away from the trappings of protocol. When we meet on official occasions – for your accreditation or my New Year’s Reception at Schloss Bellevue – things are a bit more formal. Morning coats, the receiving line – you know the drill.

We’re going to go on a little boat trip together today and we’ll be in good company when we do so. Kurt Tucholsky, Karl Marx and Johann Wolfgang von Goethe wrote about their experiences on and by the Moselle – often inspired by one or two, or perhaps three, glasses of Moselle wine.

In 1792, Goethe was on his way back from France, heading downriver in the vicinity of Traben Trarbach. It was night

and a powerful storm brewed up. The poet prince feared for his life, noting the following:

“The boatman did not conceal his uneasiness; the danger appeared always greater the longer it lasted; and it had risen to the highest pitch, when the honest fellow assured us that he neither knew where he was, nor in what direction he should steer.”

I was particularly struck by the line about the boatman who “neither knew where he was, nor in what direction he should steer”.

This isn’t an entirely unfamiliar sentiment. Our world is changing – at an ever-faster pace, and ever more fundamentally. We are losing sight of the shoreline – old certainties of the international order appear obsolete. The storms of international cri-

ses blow into our faces and the waves crash together also here at home, over the boat that is our community.

As Federal President, and perhaps also you as diplomats shouldering responsibility for the peaceful coexistence of peoples, I sometimes ask myself these days where we are, and where we are headed.

As far as my country, Germany, is concerned, many storms, many upheavals and new departures in German history left their mark here in Rhineland Palatinate, in the Hunsrück and on the Moselle. Nascent and dashed hopes, downturns and upswings, setbacks and detours, structural change and new beginnings.

It was not far from here that thousands demonstrated for freedom and democracy at Hambach Castle in 1832. Karl Marx, a son of Trier, described how repression and restoration subsequently raged, how the Moselle winegrowers suffered from arbitrary behaviour on the part of authorities as well as from oppression. Crop failures and famine forced many people to emigrate.

Edgar Reitz testified to these upheavals in the Hunsrück in cinematic form in his “Heimat” trilogy, an impressive chronology from the middle of the 19th century to the fall of the Wall. I recommend that anyone looking to understand this country and its people watch these films.

And today? Democracy – also here in Germany – is certainly not safe as houses for all eternity even today. Today, we are experiencing political, social and technological upheavals, such as those meticulously recorded by Edgar Reitz over the course of decades, almost as if in time lapse.

And we sense that these upheavals and

centrifugal forces are shaking our democracy as well. Indeed, not only certainties of foreign policy have become uncertain, but also a number of domestic questions, questions concerning the constitutional make up of democracy and the rule of law, questions that we thought we had answered long ago, are being asked once again anew.

I firmly believe that we must not shy away from such fundamental questions. We must not play down criticism and we must not disregard those who are frustrated or angry. Instead, we must learn, also here in Germany, to fight for democracy anew and to find new answers where old ones evidently no longer bear fruit.

To my mind, part of this process is open dialogue with and also learning from others. In the first half of my term in office, I have visited countries around the world that are undergoing transformations that give us hope, which – in the midst of all the global crises and upheavals – are treading new paths, their own paths, towards the future. In Ethiopia and Ghana, in Ecuador and Uzbekistan, in Iceland and New Zealand, and I could mention many more besides.

I have become acquainted with new and different answers – answers to foreign policy questions, to social challenges, to the open questions surrounding the future of democracy. I'm profoundly grateful for these impressions – and seek to convey these to people in Germany so that they – in the flood of terrible news that flickers across our screens each day – will be inspired by these stories of new beginnings and renewal.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

“No man is an island, / entire of itself”, is what an English poet wrote in the 17th century.

By the same token, no country is an island, not even those with a great deal of water around them. Our world is interconnected, intertwined, and we are all strongly interdependent.

History is not a long, calm river. Its path is not preordained, but rather we steer into the open and unknown. But there is a light in the distance. There is hope in the distance.

The Congress of Vienna had already obliged the countries bordering the Rhine to regulate shipping jointly.

For centuries, the major rivers here in Europe were considered to be bonds between principalities, empires and kingdoms: the Rhine, the Danube and the Memel, which is called “Nemunas” in Lithuanian and “Njoman” in Belarusian.

It was also on a river, on a small Moselle vessel, that five EU member states signed the Schengen Agreement in 1985. This historic trip down the Moselle paved the way to the borderless movement of persons and goods, casting the barriers of Europe onto the scrapheap of history.

This wasn't the End of History, however. Today, we sense how the idea of the benefit and value of international interconnectedness, cooperation and our common, rules based order is being challenged.

The guardian of the familiar world order shuns the burden of responsibility today. The rise of new powers with entirely different political systems is leading to a new competition between powers. While we all feel that the tectonic plates of the world order are shifting, a new order is not yet clearly discernible.

I believe that if we don't want to simply put up with this new global order, then this requires all of us to demonstrate self-confidence and a willingness to act. This also goes for my country.

That is precisely why we as an international community must remain in dialogue with one another. Being in a dialogue with one another cannot primarily be a question of who is right. It cannot be a question of defining boundaries, excluding people or thinking in terms of rigid definitions, along the lines of “you're like this and we're like that.” Rather, dialogue can be highly productive especially in the midst of tensions, and especially in the face of our differences.

You, esteemed Ambassadors, stand for a dialogue, for open channels between Berlin and the capitals of the world. I would like to thank you sincerely also for that.

This dialogue enables all of us to have an open horizon. Goethe's stormy night on the Moselle ended in a similar fashion: “And thus we were tossed to and fro in the total darkness, till at length a light was seen at a distance, and hope also was awakened within us. We now steered as directly as possible towards it.”

Excellencies, esteemed guests,

History is not a long, calm river. Its path is not preordained, but rather we steer into the open and unknown. But there is a light in the distance. There is hope in the distance.

I have been privileged enough to feel this time and again in many of your home countries – and I'm grateful for this. We are steering into the open, but the rudder is in our hands.

Thank you very much.

SOURCE: presse@bpra.bund.de <http://www.xn--bundespraesident-dib.de/>

Zambia's Ambassador H.E. Anthony Mukwita joined colleagues from the Berlin Diplomatic event that often takes up the whole day until night. The Federal government also uses the great event to show case some of the best places to visit in Germany away from the hustle and bustle of the capital Berlin. **DD**

Zambia Austria open milestone health MoU

...to reduce deaths of babies, mothers and cancer, Amb. Mukwita

Zambia has signed a crucial Memorandum of Understanding or MoU with Austria that could result into a significant reduction of the number of babies and mothers dying at birth said Zambia's Ambassador to Germany H.E. Anthony Mukwita.

Ambassador Mukwita said the Cancer Centre at the University Teaching Hospital or UTH could also get 'rehabilitated and upgraded' to international standards following this momentous MoU facilitated by the embassy, in addition to the infants and mothers' wards rehabilitation at UTH.

“It's the most crucial agreement our embassy has facilitated with Austria in over 15 years,” said Ambassador Mukwita, “once completed it could lead to the number of mothers and babies dying at birth reducing drastically.”

Ambassador Mukwita said President Edgar Lungu has often stated that death of mothers and babies at birth must not occur in 21st century Zambia, “No mother must die while giving birth,” said President Lungu in recent official statements.

Zambia has reduced the number of babies and mothers dying at birth by the hundreds, but President Lungu wants the deaths further slashed because an 'increased and healthy population' of Zambia is key to GDP growth of the southern African country said Ambassador Mukwita.



Caption: Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Health Ms. Kakulubelwa Milalelo handing the signed crucial MoU to Ambassador Mukwita in her office in Lusaka recently. Courtesy of the embassy of Zambia in Berlin. 05.01.20

Alongside the ambitious proposal to slash infant and maternal mortality, the Zambia Austria MoU, with AME International, also seeks to ensure cancer deaths and infections are slashed due to early detection and treatment once the Cancer Centre is upgraded.

Zambia must also become a treatment and skills hub after the upgrade according to AME International partner Heinz Messinger who has travelled with H.E. Mukwita twice to Zambia in July and December for 'on the spot' studies on the UTH facility's needs.

The financing for the projects if approved will be on a 'zero interest' rated basis, which the government of Zambia prefers

as compared to commercial loans.

“This is all part of our economic diplomacy quest which has been very well supported by our headquarters at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Lusaka,” said Ambassador Mukwita.

The senior diplomat said the Office of the Vice President Mrs Inonge Wina, Finance Minister Dr Bwalya Ngandu including the management team at UTH cannot be thanked enough for bringing the successful Austria Zambia MoU.

Perhaps of even greater help on this was PS's Health, Finance, Kakulubelwa Mulalelo, Chikuba Mukuli and Stephen Mwansa.

They played crucial roles along with the office of the Secretary to the Cabinet and Dr Simon Miti that is always diligently assisting and facilitating the mission's efforts said the senior diplomat.

Austria's decision to partner with Zambia on this health MoU that could save lives of mothers, babies and cancer centre could be a “true new year gift to Zambia.”

It is also testimony according to Ambassador Mukwita that the embassy in Berlin can work well with the right kind of support it has been receiving from HQ in its quest for greater economic diplomacy.

“Austria is a great country with a US\$ 500 billion GDP, its interest in Zambia just goes to prove the notion of us being a great people and a great country...it is a good story that is not told enough,” said Ambassador Mukwita.

The health MoU is a “New Year 2020 gift that keeps on giving for us as long as the number of dying mothers and babies reduce and that of cancer too,” said Ambassador Mukwita adding that this means the embassy seeks to 'walk the walk and talk the talk.'

Issued By Kellys Kaunda First Secretary Press and Public Relations Embassy of Zambia in Berlin. **DD**

Germany helps Zambia boot power from 6 to 15 MW at the Chishimba Falls Hydro Power Station.

KfW Development Bank, on behalf the Federal Government of Germany, signs EUR 41.5 million grant agreement with Ministry of Finance and ZESCO



KfW has concluded two grant agreements with the Ministry of Finance and ZESCO for a total of EUR 41.5 million on behalf of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) for the rehabilitation and extension of Chishimba Falls Hydro Power Plant in the Northern Province with its Capital Kasama.

The project will rehabilitate and upgrade existing civil structures as well as construct a completely new power station with a foreseen total capacity of 15 MW and two new switchyards. Additionally, the project will support the site with touristic development by turning the retired part of the plant into a museum. It will also finance a new health center with maternity services.

KfW has supported Zambia since 1965 on behalf of the German Federal Government with nearly EUR 900 million, mainly financing infrastructure projects improving access to water and sanitation, transport and basic infrastructure in provinces and recently also energy.

The investments are supported by international consulting services to ensure the projects are implemented according to the agreements by both sides. In recent years, the Northern Province has been experiencing low voltage and power outages because the power demand has outstripped the supply.

"It is a well-known fact that a resilient energy infrastructure plays an important role in fostering sustainable development. This project is pivotal to meet the increasing energy demand in Kasama and neighboring districts", says Marco Freitag, Principal Project Manager at KfW, the German Development Bank.

KfW's ongoing energy portfolio of EUR 109 million in grant funding on behalf of

the German Federal Government comprises the implementation of the GET FiT (Global Energy Transfer Feed-in Tariff) Zambia programme to facilitate private sector investments in renewable energy provision, the rehabilitation and extension of the Chishimba Falls HPP and several projects on Grid rehabilitation and Extension in the Southern Division with additional co financing of EUR 40 million from the French Development Bank AFD and EUR 10,4 million grant from the EU Infrastructure Trust Fund.

KfW has supported Zambia since 1965 on behalf of the German Federal Government with nearly EUR 900 million, mainly financing infrastructure projects improving access to water and sanitation, transport and basic infrastructure in provinces and recently also energy.

"KfW is a long-standing partner to Zambia, and we are committed to help improving the lives for the Zambian people with our expertise and financing", says Stefan Lutz, Director of KfW office in Lusaka. KfW is one of the world's leading and most experienced promotional banks.

Established as a public law institution in 1948, the German Federal Government has an 80% stake and the German federal states have a 20% stake in the bank. KfW Development Bank carries out Financial Cooperation (FC) projects with developing countries on behalf of the German Federal Government.

The 706 employees in the Head Office and 390 experts in 69 regional offices cooperate with partners all over the world. The objective is to combat poverty, secure peace, protect the environment and the climate as well as ensure fair globalization. KfW is a competent and strategic adviser for current development policy issues. **DD**

EAZ hails Africa Greenco energy derisk model

...that will boost power stocks in Zambia



The Economics Association of Zambia would like to laud the government for heeding its summit recommendation for energy sector through a suggested derisking mechanism that will see an intermediary that will be housed between the power utility ZESCO and Independent Power Producers (IPPs). The Association is well aware of the power utilities negative jaws (costs rising faster than its revenue generation) causing operational inefficiencies that have impacted it. Some of the financing that ZESCO requires for capital expenditure and debt refinance have been hampered by lack of guaranteed options given its financial position. But with the GreenCo de-risking solution, funding for the power utility should now be easier given

that this intermediary will raise funding in its names but on behalf of the utility to allow its to patch its operations.

Greenco is also specialized in renewable energy funding and as such has been implemented at a time Zambia grapples with energy bottlenecks to the tune of 872MW which has impacted growth pulse for the copper producer. The intermediary has already gathered over \$150million in funding and has a target of over \$3billion in energy finance over the next 10 years for Zambia.

The EAZ would also like to laud the state for the energy reforms announced earlier this month as these will go a long way in improving the energy sectors efficiency. **DD**



The role of Public Relations in the economic integration of Africa

...our conversations could mean the difference between poverty and prosperity

The 2020 Africa Public Relations Association, APRA, Annual Conference takes place in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania from the 11th to the 15th of May under the theme: One Africa! March to economic integration and the role of Public Relations.

The decision by African Heads of State and Government to agree on the adoption of an African Continental Free Trade Agreement, AfCTA, in Kigali, Rwanda in

March 2018 that eventually went into force in May 2019 stands out as one of the most significant policy positions ever taken in the continent's recent history. So far nodded by 54 of the continent's 55 States, AfCTA, should revolutionize the economic fortunes of Africa and reset its relations with the rest of the world.

It is precisely because of AfCTA's significance that APRA decided as the theme for its 2020 Annual Conference a discussion around the subject. The association

recognizes the role it could play in contributing to the implementation of this policy decision. From the list of potential participants, the PR landscape comes in full view. The list includes "Public Relations Practitioners, Communication Executives, Media Practitioners, Brand Management Practitioners, Advertising Executives, Government Officials and Representatives, Communication Officials of the African Union and relevant regional economic blocs, communication officials of relevant multilateral agencies in Africa, marketing communication experts and other professionals across Africa and beyond who seek a better understanding of public relations on the continent and its engagement value".

From the foregoing list, the organizers have provided a definition of public relations beyond the functionalist/organizational perspective to encompass

communications that take place among those "who seek a better understanding of public relations on the continent and its engagement value". This school of public relations is comprehensive and inclusive as it demonstrates the almost infinite possibilities that the practice has to offer. Put differently, every African wherever he or she may be is a public relations person in their own right and therefore have a role to play in the successful implementation of AfCTA. The starting point though is to seek an understanding of just what AfCTA is all about.

And this is what APRA 2020 is all about, "understand its workings". Some projections indicate that AfCTA is expected to generate a combined consumer and

For instance, energy deficits across the African Continent could be projected as either a reason to discourage investment or the very reason why investors interested in the energy sector should move in and provide the service.

business spending of about 6.7 trillion dollars by 2030, a sizeable market for any

serious investor although still small by far in comparison to that of the European Union. It's a market with vast investment opportunities that remain largely pristine in comparison with other regions of the world. How these opportunities are forged in narratives matters a lot. For instance, energy deficits across the African Continent could be projected as either a reason to discourage investment or the very reason why investors interested in the energy sector should move in and provide the service.

The large population classified as unemployed could be projected as the absence of buying power but may also be presented as labor waiting to be employed in investment projects. Africa therefore must decide on the structure of its conversation, and public relations practitioners could be helpful in this effort. As a communication tool, public relations has and continues to help shape how people, business houses and countries are perceived by others. For instance, there are countries in Europe that are popular destinations for international tourists because they have successfully convinced the world that the coastlines they have and the monuments of some of their historical figures are appealing enough to warrant long distance travel and their associated expenses. And others have attracted tourists because of the few hills and slopes they have around which they have created narratives that project them in romantic and sometimes mystical ways.

"Wow! What beauty"! Tourists can be heard exclaiming at what in Africa would be normal sights and sounds that we wake up to every day of our lives. The difference though lies in the conversations that have been created and sold to the rest of the world. Herein lies the relevance of APRA in providing a platform on which PR practitioners could shape Africa's story from every and any vantage viewpoint. And the 2020 Annual Conference is just that opportunity where the debate in respect of the AfCTA could trigger a larger conversation of the kind of Africa we want the world to be associated with.**DD**





GreenCo GO!

Zambian Cabinet decision facilitates innovation to transform the Zambian Energy sector

The announcement on 19th November that the Government of the Republic of Zambia has officially approved the setting up of creditworthy intermediary renewable energy purchasers and sellers in the electricity industry hails a new era of renewable energy in Africa.

Currently, eighty-five per cent of Zambia's electricity supply comes from hydro-generated power, which is adversely affected by poor rainfall; in recent years enforced load-shedding has left businesses and domestic residences without power for up to 15 hours at a time.

Since its inception in 2015, Africa GreenCo has been leading the drive towards establishing an independent creditworthy intermediary to provide a more cost-effective, efficient and reliable renewable energy power supply to sub-Saharan Africa.

This will promote growth in the region, ensure prompt delivery of renewable energy projects already in the pipeline and provide additional support to current investors in IPPs.

GreenCo, an independently-managed but Zambian government co-owned creditworthy intermediary, will attract more private sector investment at lower cost and with less reliance on government support. GreenCo will be a renewable energy buyer and seller, buying power from small to medium sized independent power producers (IPPs) and on-selling through long-term contracts to utilities and private buyers.

GreenCo will also execute shorter-term trades through the Southern African Power Pool. This will promote growth in the region, reduce fiscal risks, ensure

prompt delivery of renewable energy projects already in the pipeline and provide additional support to current investors in IPPs.

"The model aligns with the government's aspirations for increasing supply availability, improving security of supply in the country through diversity in the generation mix and increasing efficiency through facilitating open access in the market" explains Hon. Matthew Nkhwa, Zambian Minister of Energy.

Zambia's Ambassador to Germany, His Excellence Anthony Mukwita, confirmed: "With a creditworthy off-taker now legalised, the embassy in Berlin can now confidently invite the investor interested in investing in the energy sector to head to Zambia."

In order to develop its market-changing model, Africa GreenCo has drawn on a huge pool of experts, through years of highly detailed consultations with numerous public and private sector stakeholders. Key stakeholders from the Zambian energy sector include ZESCO, IDC, ERB, OPPPI, the Ministry of Energy, the Ministry of National Development Planning and the Ministry of Finance and other influential bodies such as the Economic Association of Zambia.

Many of Zambia's cooperating partners and other leading development-focused organisations have played an active role in supporting GreenCo's development. These include Agence Française de Développement (the French Development Bank), the European Commission, the Government of Denmark (via P4G (Partnering for Green Growth and the Global Goals 2030) and their development bank, IFU), the Government of Canada (via Convergence), the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany (through SADC PPDF), the Development Bank of Southern Africa, the Green Climate Fund, The Rockefeller Foundation,

the Private Infrastructure Development Group via InfraCoAfrica) and Power Africa.

Working alongside renewable energy developers in Zambia, Africa GreenCo is busy developing a pipeline of projects to ensure it is operational in early 2020. Effective yet systemic solutions to reliable, renewable energy in Africa are in progress.

Some of GreenCo's key stakeholders at an Acceleration Workshop hosted by P4G in New York in September 2019 in parallel with Climate Week: Back row left to right: Andrew Johnstone, CEO, Climate Fund Managers, Pug Bennet, CIO, Africa GreenCo, Peter Hutchinson, Acting CEO, InfraCo Africa, Francis Mpampi, Zambian Ministry of National Development Planning, Mohan Vivekanandan, Group Executive, DBSA, Victor Mundende, Managing Director, ZESCO, Lubinda Haabazoka, President of the Economics Association of Zambia, Muchindu Kasongola, Chief Investment Officer, Industrial Development Corporation of Zambia, Damien Navizet, Head of





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Climate Finance, AFD, Mulele Mulele Director of the Ministry of National Development Planning. Front row left to right: Josef Abramowitz, President, Gigawatt Global, Robyn McGuckin, Head of Partnerships, P4G, Ana Hajduka CEO, Africa GreenCo, Prof. Ignacio Perez-Arriaga, MIT, Honourable Minister Matthew Nkhuwa, Minister of Energy of the Republic of Zambia, Cathy Oxby, CCO, Africa GreenCo, Ayaan Adam, Director of the Private Sector Facility, Green Climate Fund.

“We hope innovative solutions such as GreenCo could play an important part in providing alternative offtaker participation in the Zambian electricity supply industry, to make new generation projects less risky and more easily bankable, whilst perhaps encouraging the maturation of electricity markets to encourage electricity trade. We at ZESCO are convinced that we are on the right path to unlocking the vast potential of our land-linked country’s position with no less than eight neighbouring countries.”

– Mr. Victor M. Mundende, Managing Director of ZESCO Limited, at the P4G Acceleration Workshop in New York, USA.

In June 2020, P4G will hold the Second P4G Summit in Seoul, Republic of Korea. This global summit will bring together leaders of government, business, civil society and academia to advance sustainable growth through innovative partnerships.

P4G offers a global platform where early progress and learnings on P4G partnerships are showcased, and commitments can be accelerated through connecting do-ers at the forefront of public-private partnerships. The P4G Seoul Summit will be the place for developing, accelerating and recognizing partnerships for large-scale impact.

Africa GreenCo together with the Government of Zambia looks forward to presenting the implementation results it will achieve in 2020 at the P4G Summit in June 2020. **DD**

President Edgar Lungu Address To The National Assembly Warmly Received



This is the official speech his excellency Edgar Chagwa Lungu, the President of the Republic of Zambia delivered in parliament on 06.03.20.

Mr. Speaker, Before I proceed with my address, let me take this opportunity to request the honourable members to stand and join me in observing a minute of silence in honour of the late member of parliament for Chilubi constituency, honourable Rosario Chailunga Fundanga, who passed away on 20th November, 2019 as well as our people who lost their lives at the hands of mobs following gassing incidents across the country.

Members of this august house, the people of Chilubi and the nation at large will fondly remember the late Honourable Fundanga for her invaluable contribution to this house, her constituency and the nation at large. May her soul rest in eternal peace.

(Minute of silence)

Following the passing on of honourable Fundanga, the people of Chilubi elected a new member of parliament on 13th February 2020. Let me, therefore, welcome honourable Mulenga Fube, MP. To the house.

I congratulate you on your election. In the same vein, I

commend all those who participated in the Chilubi By-election for exercising their democratic right and enhancing our growing democracy.

It is more than three months ago since Zambia woke up to a horrible reality that the country was under attack from unknown people who not just inflicted physical harm but also applied psychological warfare on our people.

The launchpad was Chingola but since then many parts of Zambia have experienced this inhuman phenomenon of gas attacks on our people, often culminating in loss of lives at the hands of mobs, acting in the name of 'community justice'. These coordinated gas attacks have triggered irrational mob attacks on suspects, vandalism of public property, death of innocent lives and constant fear among our people in many communities.

We have witnessed merciless killings of innocent people in not only Chingola but also in other parts of our motherland. We have equally witnessed merciless reactions from citizens after these killings. We have witnessed spraying of chemicals on families, school children, and the public in general.

We have witnessed repulsive reactions by citizens, including stoning and burning of suspects. We have seen horrifying pictures on social media. We have also witnessed mass hysteria; people reacting violently to rumours of attacks; failing to sleep for fear of the worst.

We have lost in excess of

50 lives of people murdered by various mobs across the country. About 24 people have survived, either saved by security people or good samaritans, like traditional or religious leaders.

Regrettably, in some cases, my government is aware that some traditional leaders and church leaders have either directly or indirectly fuelled and instigated these mob attacks.

As if that is not enough, in the ensuing confusion, police have shot people. Some of those who have died in the most unfortunate circumstances include, schoolboys, frank Mugala aged only 14; and Sydney Moonga, aged 17.

The deaths of these two boys and other citizens are incomprehensibly regrettable, and my heart goes out to the bereaved families. This is what the enemy achieved in their effort to destabilise our peaceful nation.

Twenty-six (26) suspects have so far been arrested and investigations are still going on; while the security situation has generally improved.

It has been observed however that, the enemy has shifted focus to the rural areas where false information is now being given to the public with a view to inciting citizens to rise and cause public disorder.

Let me thank the headmen, headwomen, religious and community leaders, civil servants and individual citizens who have played a major role in rescuing victims that have almost been lynched by mobs. Your samaritan gesture of citizen patriotism

and good neighbourliness is highly commendable.

19. In the same vein, let me strongly warn those headmen and women, religious, civic and all community leaders encouraging mob justice that the law will soon catch up with you. The state shall catch up with the enemies of the state and isolate them from the Zambian population.

Mr speaker, At this juncture, i wish to thank the men and women in uniform for their gallant efforts to restore order and peace. Their work is not over. Neither is ours. As commander-in-chief of the defence forces and head of state and government, i want to promise Zambians that the enemies of our people will be crushed and buried.

To this effect, i am seriously considering constituting a commission of inquiry to get to the bottom of these gassing and mob attacks, and be rest assured that all the culprits will be brought to book regardless of their standing in society.

The enemy will surely be defeated, without any doubt, and life will return to normal for our people sooner than later.

The people of this great nation, Zambia have, through the constitution, mandated the president of the republic to address this august house at least twice in a session of parliament. The first mandatory address being the official opening of parliament in September and the second being this march address, on the national values and principles, in accordance with article 9, sub-article (2) of the

constitution of the republic of Zambia.

Today, therefore, i am here to address the house and the nation at large on the progress the country has made in the application of national values and principles which should define who we are as a people.

This is the fourth time i am addressing parliament and the nation on the progress made in the application of our national values and principles. As i undertake this constitutional duty, it should be noted that inculcating national values and principles and building a nation's character is a long-term undertaking, requiring concerted efforts by all stakeholders.

The country has equally witnessed violence during elections. We need to make a deliberate effort to work with one another for the benefit of our motherland. We have one choice and that only choice is to succeed as one nation. But we can only succeed in tackling the challenges we face as a nation, if we accept to see ourselves as "one Zambia, one nation, and one people". Elections should not divide us into perpetual political hostility and warring camps!

It goes without saying that we cannot improve the lives of our people through political violence. It is disheartening that we continue experiencing violence during elections. It is an abomination that we should even lose lives because of an election. One Zambian life lost is one life too many.

Let me sound a stern warning that enough is enough. I direct

all law enforcement agencies to arrest the situation once and for all. There should be no sacred cows in administering justice. Similarly, we should have no sacrificial lambs! The law should always take its full course on perpetrators of political violence or mob attacks, regardless of one's political affiliation or any other consideration. Tribalism and hate speech has no place in Zambia. Politicians, please stop it!

Government is equally concerned with the escalation of negative sentiments based on narrow sectarian interests. Our country is a nation of 73 ethnic groupings. We all have an equal stake in this country. There is no merit in anyone trying to demean other citizens based on tribe, so as to gain political mileage. There should be an immediate stop to this negative and divisive trend. Tribalism and hate speech has no place in Zambia. Politician, please stop it!

Mr speaker, Let me now restate to the house and the nation, the set of national values and principles that we have embraced for ourselves as enshrined in article 8 of the constitution of the republic of Zambia. These are:

- i. Morality and ethics;
- ii. Patriotism and national unity;
- iii. Democracy and constitutionalism;
- iv. Human dignity, equity, social justice, equality and non-discrimination;
- v. Good governance and integrity; and
- vi. Sustainable development.

These values and principles influence our attitude, behav-

our and conduct as a people. They also contribute to the conscience of the nation and provide a moral compass in the formulation of policy and running of government, businesses and one's personal life. The importance of these national values and principles cannot, therefore, be over-emphasised.

I will now proceed to highlight the progress we have made as a nation on the application of each of our national values and principles.

Morality and ethics

Mr. Speaker, Morality and ethics is about what we as a people consider to be socially acceptable and desirable. These include hospitality, generosity, and respect for elders, the environment, human life, and property.

Let me thank the distinguished countrymen and women who are living to defend hard work, generosity, integrity, respect for human life, elders and public property.

To all Zambians who have said no to mob justice, chemical spraying, and disregard for human life; to all Zambians who have respect for elders, property, and the environment, i want to salute and thank you for upholding good morals and ethics.

I would like to call upon the church, traditional leaders, teachers, parents and guardians to fully take up their god given role of positively guiding and mentoring our children and youth to become responsible citizens who value and uphold hard work, honesty, respect for human life,

respect for elders, respect for property and respect for the environment. This involves valuing integrity, hard work, loyalty and honesty.

There are, however, vices that are prevalent in our communities such as child marriage; gender based violence (GBV); as well as alcohol and substance abuse, which degrade our moral fibre. These vices are detrimental to the health and wellbeing of our society. We must all proactively guard against them.

Alcohol and substance abuse remains a matter of public concern. Alcohol and substance abuse is a significant contributing factor to gender based violence, promiscuity and the spread of HIV and aids. Alcohol and substance abuse also contributes to road traffic accidents, low productivity, and social disorder.

Due to abuse of alcohol, we are now seeing more families breaking up and a general decline in moral values. As a country, we must not allow ourselves to lose our moral compass.

Consequently, my government will not relent in sensitising the people on the dangers of alcohol and substance abuse. To this effect, we sensitised 644,940 people in 2019 as compared to 486,104 in 2018 on the dangers of alcohol and substance abuse. This milestone was achieved through public awareness programmes carried out in institutions of learning, workplaces and community-based structures.

In addition, my government is providing counselling and



rehabilitation to drug dependent persons. In 2019, government supported 797 clients compared to 757 in 2018. Further, 471 cases involving learners in institutions of learning were handled as compared to 367 in 2018.

I applaud authorities in those institutions that were able to identify vulnerable learners and facilitated counselling and rehabilitation. The authorities must go further to identify the root causes of delinquency among our learners because, we need a drug-free environment in our institutions of learning.

I, therefore, call upon parents, the communities and the church to take keen interest in the welfare of our children.

Government is equally aware of the abuse of drugs among sportsmen and sportswomen. This is why government has continued to implement the 'anti-doping in sport programme'. In 2019, government sensitised 3,000 sportsmen and sportswomen, comprising 2,000 males and 1,000 females.

My government will continue to conduct anti-doping training and awareness campaigns. We value the role sport plays in building character and imparting positive

values.

Developments in information and communication technology have transformed our society. It is interesting to see how information and communication technology has enhanced the way we acquire information and knowledge, as well as how we are able to reach all corners of the world at the touch of a button. As of 30th September 2019, the country had an estimated 9.1 Million active internet users, representing an internet penetration rate of 52.2 Percent. This is above the continental average of 35.9 Percent.

The digital era has, positively and negatively, impacted morality and ethics in ways we could hardly have imagined a few years ago. The digital era has rapidly changed the way we conduct our business, politics, education, careers and much more.

Our people can easily access useful information that is helpful in their businesses, careers or education. While some of our people use this technology appropriately, it is of concern to my government that others use it to violate human rights and to commit crime.

Formulation of stringent laws and enforcement could deter some of our people in the habit of circulating inappropriate materials. Yet again, culprits of these indiscretions cannot be brought to book if the information technology regulator and the police do not coordinate to track them down.

I am happy to inform the house that the two organs have arrested some crimi-

nals so far and some are undergoing trial in court of law. But this is not enough, social media abuse is in fact getting worse by the day. Have we not seen pictures of accident victims being splashed on social media? Have we not seen pictures of human beings being stoned and burnt, lately on social media? The abuse of social media is real and the battle is far from being won.

In 2019, sensitisation programmes on the appropriate use of social media were conducted in 70 secondary schools, covering 15 districts in Western and Copperbelt provinces. These programmes targeted pupils, members of staff and district education boards. I am happy that our schools are responding positively to these interventions.

In addition, training of more Zambia police officers in cyber-crime detection and forensic investigation has been undertaken.

I am equally gratified that a number of print media, radio and television stations are increasingly promoting discussions on these important subjects of social media and cyber-crime. Let us introspect and rethink how we interact with information and communication technology platforms. Let us not abuse great inventions created to improve our lives.

Mr. Speaker, In line with my government's commitment to the UN Convention on the rights of the child (CRC), the seventh national development plan and the "national strategy on ending child marriage", our vision is to reduce child marriage in 2021 by 40

per cent and to have a Zambia free from child marriage by 2030.

The incidences of child marriages and teenage pregnancies in the country are of great concern. It is morally unacceptable to force young girls into early marriages. This denies them the right to enjoy their childhood, a healthy life and an uninterrupted education. It is for this reason, that we are working with traditional leaders to curb this scourge in their respective chiefdoms. In 2019, government sensitised 146 traditional leaders in 14 districts of eastern, central and north-western provinces.

The initiative of working with traditional leaders in ending child marriages won the country a gold award for innovative management at the 2019 African association of public administration and management round table conference in Cairo, Egypt. This accolade must inspire us to work hard and do more in eradicating child marriages.

I want to commend our traditional leaders who have taken it upon themselves to withdraw children from marriages and taken them back to school. Notable among them are chief Madzimawe, chief Mumena and the late chief Nyamphande the fourth. We want to see more of such affirmative action across our chiefdoms. This is a clear demonstration that once our traditional leaders, civic and religious leaders partner with government to address social vices, a lot can be achieved.

Apart from child marriage, our communities are grappling with the problem of teenage pregnancy. To this ef-

fect, government has continued implementing the adolescent health strategy. In 2019, 1,967 health workers and 3,025 peer educators were trained in adolescent health. Currently, the country has 464 health facilities offering adolescent health services. This is all in a bid to ensure that our teenagers are well informed about reproductive health and the dangers of teenage pregnancy.

A number of stakeholders are complementing government's efforts in addressing teenage pregnancy. Government is, therefore, appreciative of the initiative taken by stakeholders in introducing a website on reproductive health education and sensitisation. This tool is complementing the traditional outreach programmes to raise awareness and prevent the occurrence of teenage pregnancies among our children.

The increasing number of child defilement cases, remains a great concern to government. Our sensitisation programmes against this vice have resulted in an increase in the number of cases being reported and dealt with. A total of 2,653 cases of defilement comprising 2,637 girls and 16 boys were reported throughout the country in 2019, while 2,578 were reported in 2018 of which 2,574 were girls and 4 were boys.

We need to do more to address this challenge. I, therefore, implore our traditional leaders, families, the church, civil society and law enforcement agencies to redouble efforts in protecting our innocent children. Families must desist from the temptation of protecting perpetrators from

facing the law.

Gender-based violence is a social cultural matter that continues to erode the moral fibre of our society. It is saddening to note that the number of gender based violence cases reported countrywide increased from 22,073 in 2018 to 25,121 in 2019. The majority of victims were women and girls, accounting for 19,720 cases. While we appreciate the efforts being made to report these cases, our collective effort should also be on reducing the incidences of gender based violence in our communities. Let us inculcate good morals in our children from a tender age. This way, they will grow up to be loving, caring and respectful citizens.

To this end, my government is taking a holistic approach in combating the vice. This includes sensitisation of the public, prosecution of perpetrators as well as protection and rehabilitation of victims.

To facilitate the protection, rehabilitation and legal support to victims of gender based violence, 32 one-stop centres have been established in selected hospitals in all the ten provinces.

We have also continued to establish fast track courts across the country. We now have 7 fast track courts, with one additional fast track court having been established in Kitwe in 2019. These courts are facilitating the speedy disposal of gender based violence cases.

In my last address on national values and principles, I informed this august house that my government had put in place measures to bring examination malpractices to an

end.

I am glad to report that in 2019 the country recorded malpractice-free examinations. I commend the teachers, learners, parents and other stakeholders for this achievement. This is as it should be. We cannot build a progressive zambia if the foundation of our children is based on deceit and falsehood.

Patriotism and national unity

Mr. Speaker, Every Zambian has a duty to love this country, defend its interests and work for the unity of the nation regardless of one's race, tribe, religion or political affiliation. We equally have to build our unity around the motto of one Zambia, one nation. This is the heartbeat in fostering political stability, national unity and sustainable development.

One way of showing love for our country is to care for public assets such as road signs mounted to guide road users and minimise accidents. Love for our country includes our animals, which are our national heritage. I bring this issue up as a result of the recent killing of 2 rhinos by an overspeeding driver. That action was unpatriotic. I am glad that the culprit was brought to book.

As president of the republic, in the recent spate of gas-sing incidents, I found it very shameful, unacceptable and regrettable to see our own people vandalising police stations, schools, market places, hospitals and other public infrastructure.

When people vandalized these public assets recently, we did not only undermine our own

security and destroyed our much needed infrastructure, but we also denounced the values of patriotism, good citizenship, collective sovereignty and national unity.

I want to reiterate that, we must protect public infrastructure against vandalism. We must take pride in bringing beauty to our homes, workplaces, and public places as patriotic Zambians. We must guard mother Zambia, jealously.

Being patriotic means always being positive and speaking good about Zambia, both at home and abroad. My government is fully committed to working together with all well-meaning patriotic Zambians to market and advertise our beautiful and peaceful country.

I have observed with concern that some of our local contractors who are awarded contracts have not delivered to the expectation of their clients. I want to see you be more patriotic by ensuring that you deliver quality works on time and within cost. To the foreign contractors, I equally want to see you deliver value for money. This is one area our development partners could help us in upholding and applying patriotism.

My government has continued to implement the buy Zambian campaign, an important aspect of patriotism. To promote ownership and sustainability of this initiative, government is supporting the private sector to enhance the market share for Zambian products on the domestic and international markets. To this effect, local products are certified for meeting quality

standards and are clearly labelled with the proudly Zambian logo. These include trade kings, Californian Beverage, ZAMBEEF, etc. As at 31st december 2019, 21 companies were registered to use the proudly zambian campaign logo.

56. The proudly zambia logo helps us to easily identify local products in our shops or chain stores. When we support that farmer, who grows oranges or vegetables in Chibombo, she will plough back the profits into growing more vegetables and oranges. This inevitably encourages her to employ more people and create more job opportunities. The more of such farmers we have, the more we are likely to attract other players in the value chain, ultimately, our economy will grow.

The proudly Zambian campaign is being promoted through sensitisation activities at various shows and fairs in the country and abroad, as well as on radio, television and print media. It is exciting to watch all those adverts on our national television that promote Zambian manufactured goods, which our people are able to relate to and are happily willing to buy those products. That is buying proudly Zambian.

I urge more of our companies in Zambia to take advantage of this initiative and register to be flag carriers of the buy Zambian campaign. I also urge our people to support government and Zambian businesses by buying local products who's quality is comparable to imported products. Further, all government institutions are being encouraged to consider buying local



products. This will not only promote the growth of our local industry but also contribute to the economic development of the country.

Giving the best of ourselves in the service of others is yet another way of demonstrating patriotism. I am, therefore, encouraged by what I see happening in some of our institutions. For instance, we have been able to localise specialist treatment and build local capacity, thanks to our dedicated team of medical personnel. As a result, we have seen ground-breaking surgeries in kidney transplant, open and closed heart surgery and separation of Siamese twins being conducted by our local medical personnel.

I also salute our crop scientists who are dedicating

Their time to give us climate resilient seed varieties. This is contributing towards house-

hold and national food security. Being patriotic means preserving our environment against the threat and impact of climate change. I call upon every Zambian to join me in a patriotic crusade of planting trees as well as engaging in clean and smart energy generation such as solar as opposed to cutting trees and charcoal burning.

As citizens, let us continue developing and nurturing a strong sense of devotion and attachment to our country. We need to develop a deep sense of loyalty to the nation and enduring support in defence of our country without expecting any payback or reward. Let each and every citizen make a conscience decision to put the interest of the nation first, before self. Let us promote hard work, innovation and patriotism among ourselves. It is unfortunate to see some of our own people who want to go against all this

good values.

Democracy and constitutionalism

Mr. Speaker, Democracy allows everyone to freely and fairly participate in the governance of the country without any form of coercion, intimidation or discrimination. This goes hand in hand with constitutionalism, which is about upholding the rule of law by both government and the governed.

It is in this spirit that my administration continues implementing legal reforms aimed at addressing emerging issues that hinge on democracy and the rule of law.

The emerging issues included the lacunae surrounding some of the fundamental provisions in our constitution, concerns raised over the public order act and the need to strengthen the electoral process. Legal

reforms are being undertaken following extensive consultations, with a view to enhancing the rule of law and the effective participation of our people in the running of the affairs of the nation.

I am glad to report that my administration has made some significant progress in fostering legal reforms in addressing known lacunae. For example, I am pleased to report that many patriotic Zambians and stakeholders have taken interest in reading and assimilating the proposed provisions in the constitutional amendment bill number 10.

In bill 10, our chiefs and traditional leaders hope to regain their heritage security and smooth succession; political players want to see an extension to the period of presidential petition from 14 days to 30 days; in bill 10, many Zambians want the Christian Nation identity to be secured and pro-

tected; in bill 10, our women, youth and the differently abled want their own representation in parliament; the judiciary want clarity of hierarchy between the supreme court and Concourt; in Bill 10, our people want enhanced separations of powers; bank of Zambia want to see their mandate harmonized to regional and global standards; and in bill 10, all of us want to clear and bury all legal lacunae and inconsistencies found in the current constitution.

The health insurance act no. 2 Of 2018 has made it mandatory for all Zambians to contribute to the scheme and reduce the cost of seeking medical attention. The public finance management act no. 1 Of 2018, has streamlined the management of public finances, with more stringent sanctions against culprits.

The above are some of the issues that speak to our national values and principles of democracy and constitutionalism. As citizens, it is my obligation, your obligation and our obligation to effectively, together, participate in legal reforms to enhance our democracy and progressive constitutionalism. Our legal reform process begins with the supreme law of the land. Our constitution, and all subsequent legislation that governs our nation.

My government remains committed to upholding and fostering the key tenets of democracy, including free and fair elections, free media, citizen participation and representation, multi-party political system, citizen equality, rule of law, separation of powers, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, politi-

cal transparency and leadership accountability.

One of the threats to our democracy is voter apathy. A voter, who is a citizen of the country, is the running fuel and engine of democracy. When we do not vote, democracy suffers. When democracy suffers, good governance suffers. The recurrence of voter apathy in general elections and significantly in by-elections, remains a concern to all of us. For instance, in 2019 all parliamentary and local government by-elections, the voter turn out was less than 50%, an indication that most of our citizens do not understand and appreciate the importance of our democratic system.

In this regard, I appeal to learning institutions, civil society organisations, faith-based organisations and non-state actors to get to the root cause of voter apathy in the country and devise effective ways of re-energising the sense of civic duty in our people. We need to nurture our democracy.

Further, I appeal to the media in the country to play an active role in reporting positively information on the importance of voting and democratic values. The Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ) should also devote more time and resources to sensitise and create public awareness among our people.

Human dignity, equity, social justice, equality and non-discrimination

Every human being has an inherent right to life and human dignity. We, therefore, need to treat everyone with love and respect, regardless of social

class, race, gender, nationality, education or religion. This is why my government is improving access to electricity, water and sanitation, among others.

My government is also making steady progress in supporting our girl child in the education sector. For example, my government keeps on scoring high under the girls education, women empowerment and livelihoods (GEWEL) project with support from the world bank. With the aim of increasing access to the livelihood support for women and access to secondary school education for disadvantaged girls in extremely poor household, the GEWEL project reached 16,082 beneficiaries in 2018 and increased to 16,584 beneficiaries in 2019. Such are practical government programmes aimed at fostering human dignity, social justice, equality and non-discrimination among Zambians.

As a pro-poor government, we are equally paying particular attention to the marginalised sections of our society. As you may be aware, the social cash transfer program aimed at helping to reduce poverty through transfer of money to persons who meet the specified criteria of vulnerability stands out in this case. By comparison, the individual and household beneficiaries of the social cash transfer initiative in 2018 was 574,663, while in 2019 increased to 632,327.

In all these efforts, my government is working with religious organisations, non-governmental organisations, the private sector, the donor community and our traditional leaders to promote and

improve the dignity and livelihood of our people.

To improve the dignity of our people in rural areas, we have made progress in the implementation of the open defecation-free programme. In 2019, the Lundu chiefdom in Muchinga province became the latest chiefdom to attain the open defecation-free status. This brings the total number of open defecation-free status chiefdoms to 53 out of 288 chiefdoms in the country. In addition, 60 percent of the targeted 7.8 Million people in 102 selected rural districts now have access to hand washing facilities.

Furthermore, 152,808 sewer connections were made to provide adequate sanitation and promote hygiene for close to 1.3 Million people in urban areas.

To make good on social justice and equity, my government is increasing access to electricity in rural areas. Eight grid extensions were completed in 2019, resulting in 408 initial connections. Rural households are the primary target for connection to the electricity grid and this is done at a subsidised fee.

Further, 16,662 households out of the targeted 22,000 households countrywide have so far been connected to electricity under the electricity service access project. In addition, we are working on three mini grids and 25 grid extension projects across the country that are at various stages of construction. This is work in progress and we are certain we shall reach our target.

In the same vein, in December last year, I personally initiated

and consequently commissioned the 32.5 Kilowatts solar power station in chief Chibwika's area in Mwinilunga district with the aim of helping to change and improve the lives of our people. My government plans to install and support many such initiatives across Zambia.

Today, I am happy to report to this house and the nation that the off grid solar power station in chief Chibwika's chiefdom now connects over 300 households, schools as well as a clinic to electricity. This is evident testimony that the government is committed to improving the human dignity and lives of our citizens without leaving anyone behind.

To encourage enrolment, attendance and concentration in class, my government has been implementing the home-grown school-feeding programme. The programme provides meals to learners from poor and vulnerable households in selected districts and provinces. As at December 2019, 1,156,760 learners were being fed every day in 3,004 schools covering 39 selected districts. The 2019-targeted reach of 1,156,760 is a big improvement in terms of beneficiaries. Evidently, provision of education and feeding support to vulnerable children is an important way of promoting equality; social justice; equity and non-discrimination.

Further, 14,395 vulnerable children and adolescents were supported with education bursaries through the service efficiency and effectiveness for vulnerable children and adolescents initiative. This support is enabling the most vulnerable children in our society to meet their basic

needs and prevent them from delinquency.

In our resolve to promote inclusive education, government is offering education to all, including persons who are differently abled. Currently, there are 215 inclusive schools across the country. I am happy to note that Zambia has 458 teachers who are competent in sign language and 253 in braille.

To further promote social justice and equity, government continues to increase access to information and communication facilities, especially in rural areas. This is being done through the construction of communication towers. Government would have erected 1,009 towers by the end of 2020. So far 776 towers have been erected, out of which 655 are functional compared to 338 in 2018.

These towers have improved communication in rural areas and brought the benefits of digital technology to our people. The benefits include mobile telecommunication and financial inclusion through mobile money and internet banking.

Further, nine additional radio stations and one television station have been licensed, bringing the total to 142 radio stations and 45 television stations countrywide. This has increased access to information for our people. More importantly, plurality of voices in the media means that Zambia's democracy has been enhanced, as the media is a marketplace of ideas.

Government is committed to enhancing equal access to justice, particularly for vul-

nerable groups as well as inmates.

Following the launch of the national legal aid policy, government, in 2019, embarked on sensitisation programmes in southern, central, Copperbelt, north-western and Lusaka provinces. During these sensitisation programmes, the general citizenry was also provided with legal aid clinics. These sensitisation programmes will be extended to the remaining provinces.

To promote social justice and equity among the poor, government is training, 280 paralegals at different levels. It is also gratifying to note that, in 2019, 9,229 people sought legal aid assistance and were all assisted.

Good governance and integrity

Mr. Speaker, Good governance is necessary to achieving our national goals for sustainable development. We are ensuring citizen participation, accountability and transparency in the running of the affairs of the country.

We have continued to promote the participation of our people in decision making and the country has witnessed a marked increase in participation in the development coordinating committees by private and other non-state actors. This is important as these platforms provide our people with an opportunity to participate in the development process of this country.

To further promote participation of our people at local level, we have enacted the local government act no.2 Of 2019. The act gives effect to the

decentralisation of functions, responsibilities and services to be provided at all levels of local government. In addition, the act provides for the role of traditional leaders in the democratic governance of the country.

I am glad to report that the implementation of this act has commenced. So far, development committees have been formed and are operational in 1,326 out of the 1,624 wards.

Government has also tabled the national planning and budgeting bill no. 22 Of 2019 before this august house. The bill aims at providing an integrated national planning and budgeting process. Once enacted into law, the legislation will improve good governance by providing a participatory and decentralised national planning and budgeting process.

I urge members of this august house to support the bill as it will facilitate and enhance our peoples' participation in national development.

To consolidate good governance and the integrity of our electoral process, there is need to ensure, among others, that all citizens eligible to vote are accorded an opportunity to exercise their democratic right. It is for this reason that, this year, the electoral commission of Zambia will conduct the voter registration exercise.

I urge all stakeholders in the electoral process to play their respective roles in order for our elections to continue being credible and transparent.

To promote good governance and integrity in the provision

of services, government has continued to deploy electronic services. The deployment of electronic systems in the public service has restricted discretion by officials and increased detection of corruption.

I am glad to inform the house and the nation that government has developed an integrated digital platform known as the government service bus and payment gateway. This platform has been developed with an internet based single-window service for accessing and delivering selected government services electronically. More of our citizens will be able to access and pay for services using the internet from the comfort of their homes, offices or business premises.

Some of the electronic services that will be launched soon on the government service bus and payment gateway include the motor vehicle road worthiness; road tax and carbon emission service; business-name searches and clearance; printout and annual returns and online business registration.

Furthermore, payment of ground rent; consideration fees; certificates of title; land surveys and forestry fees; and INTERPOL vehicle clearance will be included on the single window electronic platform. Other services to come on board are hunting and safari park licences; online tax identification registration and declarations; visas and work permits.

Mr. Speaker, My government remains committed to the fight against corruption. Under the corruption prevention

interventions, we have introduced anti-corruption content in the school curriculum at primary and secondary school levels, to instil high integrity values in our young people.

In addition, significant progress has been made to further institutionalise prevention of corruption. In 2019, 30 more integrity committees were established in both public and private sectors bringing the total number to 94. These efforts are practical steps in closing all leaking taps in management of public funds.

With regard to prosecutions, the anti-corruption commission secured 17 convictions and recorded seven acquittals during the period under review.

I urge individuals, the public sector as well as non-state actors to continue partnering with government in the fight against corruption. We must all hate corruption in order to fight and eradicate it because corruption is number one enemy in sustainable development and good governance.

Remember corruption is a two-way vice that requires concerted effort to curb. Join my government in fighting corruption; join us in developing Zambia, without living anyone behind.

I have consistently reminded the media that, they play a critical role in promoting democracy and good governance. However, the nation has witnessed the erosion of media ethics by practitioners, as well as media owners. The critical role that the media plays, as the fourth estate, as well as a watchdog of society,

has been circumvented by financial and political interest; all we hear and read is not editorial content but propaganda aiming to bolster media owners and political players' interests. This must stop!

I condemn in the strongest terms actions by people abusing the social media platform to victimise, undermine and embarrass those they choose to target. Country men and women, there is no integrity in filming accident victims instead of helping them? Neither is there any integrity in filming terminally ill people and sharing to the general public?

Despite all this, my government has allowed the media to operate without interference. My hope and prayer is that journalists will soon free themselves from the new form of control by people with money.

Sustainable development

Mr. Speaker, My government has prioritised sustainable development in our quest to achieve socio-economic development and preserve the environment for our needs and the needs of generations to come. This will ensure that our development process guarantees inter-generational equity.

We remain mindful of the inter-linkages of the economic, social and environmental pillars. Our aspirations for a decent life for our people through economic development have, therefore, not been at the exclusion of social and environmental sustainability.

Climate change can impede our sustainable development

agenda. That is why it is imperative that we continue to mitigate against the effects of climate change. Accordingly, we will continue to support research in agriculture in order to develop more climate resilient seed varieties. Currently, we are promoting the use of conservation farming practices, especially in the drought prone areas of our country.

I am glad to inform this august house that the number of farmers practising conservation farming stood at 532,000 in 2019 in comparison to 267,000 in 2018.

Countrymen and women, my heart bleeds to see the recent calamities our facing our people across the country. The people of Kanyama, Chilanga and Luangwa in Lusaka province. The people of Lumezi, Mambwe, Nyimba, Lusangazi, Petauke and Lundazi in the Eastern Province. The people of Chama, Mafinga, and Kanchibiya in Muchinga Province. People of Mungwi, Kasama, Kaputa, Chilubi island and Luwingu in Northern Province. People of Lunga, Chembe, and Milenge in Luapula Province. People of Chitambo in central province. The people of Kitwe and Chililabombwe in Copperbelt Province. The people of chavuma and Zambezi in North Western Province. The people of Mitete in Western Province. And the people of Sinazongwe, Gwembe, Chikankata, Mazabuka and Siavonga in the Southern Province of Zambia. All these nationals have been affected by flooding as a result of climate change.

The devastating effects of climate change can cause an economic and social shutdown. For example, recently



eastern province was cut off from the rest of the country, while in many places pupils and especially mother had no access to food, their schools, health facilities and markets.

Furthermore, other negative effects of this flooding has caused insecurity among our nationals as dangerous reptiles have been brought into direct contact and conflict with our people.

To ensure we mitigate the effect that climate change is causing to our environment, afforestation and reforestation are key interventions in promoting sustainable use of our forestry resources. To this effect, 34,650 pine trees and 13,432 fruit trees were planted in the Lake Tanganyika basin in northern province during the 2019/2020 rainy season. This initiative is aimed at protecting the ecological integrity of the basin.

I commend all the stakeholders who have taken a lead in supporting this developmental milestone of planting trees. I look forward to seeing the fruition of the 'plant a million trees initiative', and many others. Tree planting improves the water holding capacity and the carbon sink, in addition to bringing general beauty to our environment.

Innovations are the spice of development. They not only catalyse the pace of development, but also build the momentum for change. I salute the efforts being made in various sectors as we pursue development in a sustainable manner.

These efforts include the diversification of our energy sources, developments in

information and communication technology applications as well as in medicine and other sciences.

For example, last year, a university of Zambia engineering researcher, Dr. Sam Sichilalu, came up with an innovation to generate fuel from polymer waste such as discarded tyres, plastics and rubber.

This innovation has the potential to contribute significantly to the production of cheaper energy and improve sanitation. In addition, this new energy source could save our forest resource and help mitigate against climate change. Our women and youth would also have a window of opportunity to provide raw materials to the industry in the form of discarded tyres, plastics and rubber.

I encourage the captains of industry to take keen interest in the various innovations being show-cased by our higher learning and research institutions. Zambia would be richer if these innovations were quickly patented and commercialised. I further encourage the commerce industry and researchers to tap the potential of existing and new rural innovations such, food preservation, food and nutrition production, prevention of ailments, etc.

We have a duty to safeguard our natural resources. Accordingly, government has continued to regulate the utilisation of ground water resources in the country. So far, 32,000 boreholes and 94 drilling companies have been registered. To further guide the public on water utilisation, cabinet has approved the national water supply and sanitation policy.

In 2019 alone, we constructed 1,454 boreholes countrywide. Further, the chongwe water supply and sanitation project and the Kafulafuta Water Supply Systems project have reached an advanced stage, currently standing at 90 percent and 55 percent, respectively.

I also want to encourage my fellow citizens to develop the culture of water harvesting. At household level, a lot of runoff water can be harvested during the rainy season for use in our gardens and other domestic purposes. Communities and local authorities can also pool resources and apply them on constructing small scale dams. As government, we will continue to work on existing water harvesting projects across the country.

Zambia is renowned for its rich wildlife and pristine national parks. This vital resource can easily be lost due to rampant poaching and climate change effects. Government has, therefore, empowered local communities in villages to manage and preserve the natural wildlife for them to continue receiving economic benefits through tourism.

So far, community conservancies have been established in selected game management areas to help conserve our wildlife and build sustainable wildlife-based economies for the affected communities. This initiative will also influence positive and proactive practices of conserving wildlife as well as reducing human animal conflicts. The heightened sense of community ownership inevitably leads to a reduction in poaching.

The discovery of gold in north-

western province and a number of districts in other parts of the country resulted in an increase in illegal mining activities. It is unfortunate and regrettable to note that the discovery of gold and other precious minerals has currently birthed unlicensed mining, unsafe mining practices where people have been buried alive and criminal activities while scrambling of this precious mineral.

In order to safeguard this precious mineral and other natural resources and ensure sustainability in the mining sector, my government has introduced a number of measures to mitigate illegal mining and its negative effects on our economy.

Subsequently, government has declared gold a strategic resource and established the ZCCM gold company limited to spearhead and manage the gold mining value chain in a formal and structured manner. This measure will ensure that, we exploit this natural resource in a sustainable manner and transform our country's economic fortunes.

Indiscriminate disposal of solid waste has continued to be a menace and a public health hazard in our communities. In addition, it impedes our progress in achieving sustainable development.

I have observed with concern that the Keep Zambia Clean, Green and Healthy Campaign is yielding very little results. When you look around the cities, there is little improvement at reaching the desired objective. Councils are not proactively collecting garbage and cleaning the cities. How are councils justifying the receipt

of equalisation funds when social services are poorly delivered? Mayors and council secretaries, what are you doing to ensure your towns and cities are clean, green and healthy?

And what are you as citizens doing at individual to keep your surroundings clean, green and healthy, on a daily basis? The one-day cleaning exercise a month is noted but insufficient. To all public and private institutions, take this responsibility very seriously and ensure everyone is dedicated to cleaning their surroundings. Further, all community leaders should ensure that households clean their surroundings every day and arrange for appropriate community waste disposal.

Councils should be innovative and create a competitive reward system for those households and communities who are adhering to keeping their surroundings clean, green and healthy. I further encourage the private sector to join by supporting this initiative.

I also call upon our people and agencies managing the markets and other trading areas to ensure that they put in place effective waste management strategies. Further, I urge industries, the corporate world and the mining companies to ensure that they comply with the law on pollution management and solid waste disposal.

We must begin with our own homes. We must dispose all our waste in the right manner. We must keep our home environment clean, green and healthy.

A healthy population is key to

achieving sustainable development. Therefore, the emergence of the coronavirus is not only a public health concern but also a threat to sustainable development. Zambia, being part of the global village, is susceptible to the disease. In this regard, government has put in place measures to enhance public health security in the country including creating a contingency fund for emergency preparedness, prevention and mitigation. Further, the Zambian missions abroad are monitoring the situation regarding Zambians studying or living in the affected countries. In addition, all our ports of entry are on equally on high alert.

Here in Zambia, let us all be alert and adhere to the guidance being provided by health officials, such as washing hands regularly, covering your mouth with your elbow when coughing and seeking medical attention from the nearest health facility, as well as advice as quickly as possible when you feel you have flu like symptoms. These measures apply to other infectious diseases such as Ebola.

Conclusion

Mr. Speaker, National values and principles are a critical ingredient in the development of a prosperous Zambia. I am convinced that adherence to our national values and principles will keep us focused on addressing the needs of our people.

It is our duty to invest time, resources and energy in making our national values and principles a defining feature of our country. We must all stand up and live by these values and principles. We owe it to the



next generation to inculcate our national values and principles in their lives. National values and principles are the glue that holds us together as a nation. Let our greatness be measured not by our qualifications or wealth, but by the strength of our devotion to our national values and principles.

I recall that each time I paid a visit to my village as a young man then, I was always reminded that the worth of a person was not in the number of chickens, goats or cattle one owned, but rather the good name one carried. By that, they meant the values and principles that one lived by, and were an example to others.

I also treasure the experiences and lessons I learnt from my extended family on the importance of respect and family. This provided a sense of belonging and security because as a child I was safe even when my biological parents were not there. This value was taught and passed on from

the older folks to the younger generation in every part of Zambia. This is the Zambia I know and desire to see.

We have, therefore, no excuse but to live by our national values and principles. It is our duty now to ensure that this wisdom continues to be taught to the younger generation in the spirit and name of "one Zambia, one nation".

For you and me, Zambia is our only God-given country, our own true nation, our only heritage, and collectively our home. Therefore, we have no choice but to keep Zambia peaceful and beautiful; not only for ourselves today, but for our children and their children, for tomorrow and eternity.

May the almighty God bless us all and our great nation, Zambia. I thank you.

Edgar Chagwa Lungu, President of the Republic of Zambia. **DD**



1000 'mega' reasons to invest in Zambian energy

...says Amb. Anthony Mukwita

Investors must view Zambia's energy shortage as a business opportunity, not a downside said Ambassador Anthony Mukwita during the country's National Day event in Berlin on 1st November 2019.

Ambassador Mukwita was speaking before scores of fellow diplomats and business leaders during Zambia 55th anniversary event held at Hotel Bistrol in down-town Kuddam Berlin.

With the theme "Our Freedom Our Country, our Responsibility," the diplomat echoing sentiments of President Edgar Lungu in the State of the Nation Address said time to invest in Zambia's energy sector is 'ripe' now.

"We heard President Lungu bemoaning how small business at house-hold levels such as tumentambas have been adversely affected by Climate Change as the country faces critical power shortages," said Ambassador Mukwita, "this must change through foreign direct investment because the ordinary people in Zambia matter the most on the Presidential agenda."

Ambassador Mukwita said, "it is our

responsibility as economic diplomats to engage those with money to take it to Zambia's energy sector that currently has a power deficit of almost 1000 megawatts."

He said agriculture and mining activities, in addition to house hold business have been adversely affected due to the reduction in power supply as a consequence of climate change.

Business people in Germany according to Ambassador Mukwita must rise to the challenge and fill up the yawning energy gap because the market in Zambia promises to be a real cash cow for any business.

Ambassador Mukwita said investing in the energy sector in Zambia could present opportunities of supplying power to the entire SADC region with potential of huge profits.

Zambia's official Independence Day falls

on 24th October 2019 but the embassy of Zambia in Berlin celebrated it on 1st November 2019.

Accompanied by his wife Mrs. Elaine Mukwita and diplomats from the Zambian mission in Berlin, Ambassador Mukwita said President Lungu is determined to see the energy black hole in Zambia plugged as soon as possible.

The well attended Zambian Day attracted high ranking officials from the Federal Foreign Office, all SADC Ambassadors, AU Ambassadors and business leaders.

Zambia also used the event to put its weight behind the call for lifting of sanctions against Zimbabwe that have continuously hurt ordinary Zimbabweans, in line with SADC heads of states declaration and greater support for Zimbabwe.

Issued By Kellys Kaunda First Secretary Press And Public Relations Embassy Of Zambia In Berlin. **DD**

Ambassador Mukwita engages Slovenian Cooperation agency

To commence economic collaboration with Zambia



The President of Slovenia Borut Pahor and spouse welcomes Ambassador Anthony Mukwita and spouse Elaine at the Bdor Palace in Slovenia recently.

Zambia's Ambassador to Germany H.E Anthony Mukwita has commenced high level economic diplomacy discussions with the head of the influential Centre for International Cooperation and Development of Slovenia Mr Klemen Potisek. Ambassador Mukwita who is in the Slovenian capital, Ljubljana met Mr Potisek on the side-lines of the annual business and diplomacy reception hosted by the President of Slovenia H.E Borut Pahor and the Prime Minister.

"We are interested in working with African nations, Sub Sahara in particular," said Director Potisek when he paid a courtesy call on Ambassador Mukwita at

Grand Union Hotel, "the areas that come to mind immediately for Zambia are energy, health and agriculture." Ambassador Mukwita told Mr Potisek that, "there is no other ideal country in southern Africa to target investment those areas (energy, health and agriculture) than Zambia right now.

The envoy who is also accredited to Slovenia from his Berlin base said the 'government to government' cooperation Mr Potisek's organisation is seeking could go a long way in reducing the power scarcity Zambia is experiencing and increase food production including job creation. Ambassador Mukwita said President Edgar Lungu has repeatedly called for greater investment in the energy sec-

tor to plug about 800MW power deficit as a consequence of climate change. "I will tell what I tell everybody every potential investment partner Mr Potisek," said Ambassador Mukwita, "Zambia is the ideal investment destination especially on government to government investment or public sector financing."

The Slovenian head of the CICD known by its Slovenian acronym CMSR told Ambassador Mukwita that he would soon travel to Zambia to meet relevant government ministries in order to escalate the discussion. Yesterday's groundbreaking meeting was organised through the office of the honorary consul of Zambia Mr Damian Zonta who last November with the help of the Zambian embassy took a business delegation of seven companies on a one-week trip to Zambia.

Mr Zonta has been a keen investment go between of Zambia and Slovenia. The Zambian envoy also invited the Slovenian team under honorary consul Zonta to visit Zambia again and attend the widely famed and followed Agritech fare in Chisamba.

The President of Zambia always attends the Agritech show in Chisamba that attracts hundreds of agriculture investors from abroad, including Slovenia and Germany. This is according to a statement issued by First Secretary for Press and Public Relations at the Zambian mission in Berlin Kellys Kaunda. **DD**

First Lady Esther Lungu charity work donation finally arrives in Zambia

...from Europe says Ambassador Mukwita

The forty-foot container of various medical equipment from Europe destined for the charity foundation run by the First Lady of Zambia Mrs Esther Lungu has arrived in Lusaka said Ambassador Anthony Mukwita.

The arrival of the container whose journey commenced in Vienna Austria under a collaboration of the embassy of Zambia and office of the Honorary Consul there commenced its journey on the high seas almost two months ago.

"We have spoken to the First Lady (Mrs Lungu) who witnessed the arrival and off-loading of some of the equipment," said Ambassador Mukwita, "she is grateful for the kind gesture and believes this will greatly benefit vulnerable Zambians she targets in rural areas."

Ambassador Mukwita said the "priceless" donation is testimony that Mrs Lungu's work is being appreciated not only locally but internationally too.

Among the donated goods are electric beds, safety health chairs, beds, feeding pumps, syringes and ultra sound machines including Centrifuges whose cost would normally run into millions of kwachas.

Ambassador Mukwita said the donors, "our embassy collaborated with via our honorary consul Mr Heinz Messinger were more than happy to help because they appreciate how hard it can be to be engaged in charity work Mrs Lungu is involved if your support is lean."

The First Lady told Ambassador Mukwita

that there is no gift that is "too small" for her foundation because everything she receives fills a void that existed before the donation was made.

This is according to a statement issued by Kellys Kaunda, First Secretary Press and Public Relations at the embassy of Zambia in Berlin that also overseas Austria.

For the First Lady, the donation means 10 or twenty beds where there was none, a syringe, a chair or an ultra sound machine where none existed in the past and she appreciates this.

The embassy in Berlin pledged to reach out to as many Good Samaritans as possible to help ease the burden the First Lady is carrying through her charity work for rural Zambians that sometimes cannot be reached via conventional government channels.

Ambassador Mukwita added that the First Lady's foundation would soon receive a consignment of safe delivery kits to cut down the number of women dying while giving birth via a donation from the honorary consul of Zambia in Poland.

Mrs Lungu was lauded for breaking out of the State House 'comfort zone' to work among the poorest of the poor in rural Zambia, especially women, children and the disabled.



ISSUED BY KELLYS KAUNDA FIRST SECRETARY PRESS AND PUBLIC RELATIONS, BERLIN GERMANY. **DD**

Give us more military training slots'

...in Germany says Ambassador Mukwita



Zambia wants to spike up the number of officers qualifying for long and short term military courses in the Federal Republic of Germany offered by the Bundeswehr (Armed Forces of Germany) said Ambassador Anthony Mukwita.

"We must increase the number of Zambian officers that benefit from these prestigious international military courses offered by the Bundeswehr," said Ambassador Mukwita.

He was speaking when he hosted the senior officer in charge of Training Assistance for Africa in Germany Lt. Colonel Ulrich Humpert in his office.

Colonel Humpert said Zambian officers are 'highly rated' by the German Armed Forces Office and it would be good to see more officers from the Zambia Airforce and the Zambia Army enroll in annual courses.

"On a scale of 1 to 10 Zambian officers I can rate Zambian officers at at 8 out of ten," Colonel Humpert said, "what we need now is to see the authorities in Lusaka send us more qualified officers with fitness certificates on time to help us with plan for things like visa's and air tickets plus placement."

Annually, the Bundeswehr through its military corporation with Zambia that commenced around the 1980s offers some three short term slots, one for a year and two others for six months said Colonel Humpert.

It also offers under grad and bachelor's degree courses for senior military officers from 64 countries including Zambia that can run from 5 to seven years per officer as the officers have to learn Deutsch or German first.

"I think it's a great thing that Zambian officers that are predominantly English

speaking have to learn Deutch first because it opens them up for careers in international organisations such as the UN in future through this engagement," said Ambassador Mukwita.

Colonel Ulrich urged Ambassador Mukwita to engage directly Zambia Army Commander Lt General William Sikazwe and Zambia Air Force Commander Lt General David Muma to step up the submission of suitable names of candidates with fitness certificates to enroll for the courses via the ministry headquarters.

Colonel Ulrich also commended the past Defense Attaché of Zambia Colonel Christopher Lusaka whose tour of duty in Berlin recently came to an end saying: "we worked very well with the good Colonel he was a great liaison and great friend."

Colonel Lusaka is yet to be replaced hence the reason Col. Ulrich visited Ambassador Mukwita but the matter is in the able hands of the defense headquarters in Lusaka.

Some of degree courses Zambian military officers could benefit from are: electrical engineering and information technology, engineering science, defense systems, business administration, economics, political science, aero space technology etc.

Zambia enjoys great diplomatic, economic and military relations with the Federal Republic of Germany which Ambassador Mukwita said his team in Berlin would enhance going forward. **DD**

Amatheon ASB Ambulance donation to Zambia

...cheers Ambassador Anthony Mukwita

Zambia's Ambassador to Germany His Excellency, Anthony Mukwita has commended Amatheon Agri and the German Arbeiter -Samariter Bund (ASB) for their joint donation of an ambulance to the Kaindu Health Center in Mumbwa District.



Amatheon, a German investment company, has invested over 15 million dollars in agricultural activities in Mumbwa district while employing about 600 workers and supporting an out-grower scheme involving hundreds of farmers.

And ASB, a German organization, focuses on health and wellness, medical services and infrastructure in Mumbwa

District. Together, the two organizations target geographically isolated communities that surround Amatheon's farm. The initiative includes training intended to minimize the risk of spreading infectious diseases, and how to apply infection prevention measures.

Ambassador Mukwita said the donation is expected to contribute to the avoidance of needless deaths that sometimes

arise from the failure to get a patient to a health facility where they could get immediate medical attention.

"This is particularly a major challenge in rural areas where most residents do not have their own motorized form of transport", the senior diplomat noted.

Mr. Mukwita observed that investments in rural areas of Zambia are particularly welcome as they contribute to the bridging of the development gap that exists between urban and rural parts of the country.

In recent interactions Ambassador Mukwita has had with Amatheon Chief Executive Mr. Carl Bruhn, indications are that the German investor intends to expand investment in the Zambian agricultural sector, a move that shall see hundreds of Zambians pull out of poverty.

Under President Edgar Lungu, the agricultural sector has received significant attention as government continues to invest in road infrastructure to link areas of production with their markets, improved distribution of farming inputs, expediting the payments to farmers selling their produce to the Food Reserve Agency, FRA and embracing technology to expand investment opportunities.

Note the ambulance image is just an illustration and not the actual donation. **DD**