

Nkwazi



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COVER STORY:

What defines a witchdoctor, and what separates them from a traditional healer? In a journey into traditional *ng'angas* in Zambia, the line between spiritual practice and deception blurs. Through personal encounters and the exploration of cultural beliefs, this article challenges preconceived notions about the intersection of faith, healing, and modern-day charlatanism on page 58.

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CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE SPIRITUAL KIND

I would like to believe that I have always maintained a degree of closeness to the spiritual. I grew up in a religious family, and the veil between the physical and spiritual has always shifted closer or farther on the spectrum, depending on the context in which I found myself. My most recent exploration into "close spiritual encounters" led me to wonderings about traditional healers, spirit seers or *ng'angas*, if you will. Are *ng'angas* simply healers or false prophets? Wrongfully stigmatised or agents of darkness?

As I asked these questions, I drew back to my own spiritual experiences: dreams and visions in the night that came true in a matter of days, a sense of foreboding that wasn't misplaced, and whispered prayers answered in minutes. But if we are all spirit, why is there a need to consult further? Why the stigma? Why the unspoken yet open secrecy?

Desperate for answers, I called up the only other two persons I could think of who'd be crazy enough to try and find out for themselves: two talented women writers whose adeptness for wordsmithing I have come to rely on. On page 58, writer Mukandi challenges our preconceived notions of the intersection between witchdoctor, traditional healer, and *ng'anga* in the article *Healer or False Prophet? The Ng'angas Hidden in Plain Sight*. Through her first-hand encounter, she reveals the duality that exists within these practices, confronting readers with uncomfortable truths about stigma, mob mentality and the ways our own perceptions betray us. The article quietly but persistently nudges us toward reconsidering inherited assumptions about what our culture truly means.

Conversely, writer Musonda Mukuka is more brazen in her article *Ng'anga - Zambia's Traditional Healers* (published on our website), which explores the legitimacy of practices now shrouded in stigma and urban myths, calling for a return to indigenous knowledge. Reading both articles side by side, one thing becomes clear: the human experience encompasses both spiritual and physical dimensions in equal measure. While I don't align myself with either writer's particular stance, I do position myself firmly in the camp that seeks to document the entirety of the Zambian experience in all its complexity.

When it comes to documenting the Zambian experience, few match director Rungano Nyoni's command of Zambian storytelling. Her most recent venture, *On Becoming a Guinea Fowl*, explores grief layered with the demands of Zambian funerals, particularly for women, and the internal politics and performative aspects that accompany them. Despite having lived most of her life beyond Zambian borders, Rungano's Cannes-recognised film captures distinctly Zambian narratives that remain woefully under-documented and under-celebrated, as explored on page 66.

While I have yet to find answers to the questions I posed to myself, I did discover a place in between the hard questions and honest answers: between certainty and doubt, tradition and modernity, is where the most honest storytelling lives—not in the comfortable corners of absolute belief or dismissal, but in the grey middle where nothing really is or isn't, and that is where I hope to remain, as we bring you these stories.

Happy reading.

Shammah Phiri,
Deputy Editor

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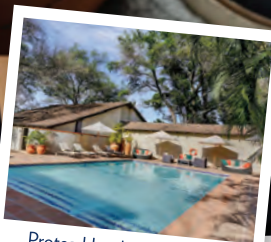
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WELCOME ON BOARD PROFLIGHT

On behalf of Proflight Zambia, I extend a heartfelt welcome aboard today's flight. It is truly our pleasure to have you join us, and we are delighted to be part of your travel experience. I am thrilled to share some exciting news with you that reflects our ongoing commitment to our community and our passengers! Proflight Zambia is proud to host the prestigious Airlines Association of Southern Africa (AASA) Annual General Assembly (AGA) in the vibrant city of Lusaka from October 16th to 19th, 2025. This significant event will take place in collaboration with the exquisite Ciêla Resort and Spa, offering a splendid backdrop for meaningful discussions, networking opportunities, and cooperation among industry leaders and stakeholders.

In line with our commitment to human resource development and excellence in service, I am proud to announce the remarkable achievements of two outstanding members of our operations team. Senior Flight Operations Officer Sylvia Chanda and Crew Scheduling Officer Piyanna Chani successfully completed the esteemed FAA Aircraft Dispatcher Certification Course at Jeppesen Academy, a renowned Boeing Company facility located in Denver, Colorado, in the United States of America. Their hard work and dedication embody our relentless pursuit of excellence and contribute to our mission of providing top-notch service to all our passengers.

Moreover, I would like to express our excitement over our recent participation in the Africa Travel Indaba in Durban and other travel expos. These events are vital in strengthening connectivity within the region and promoting Zambia's rich offerings as a premier destination. We acknowledge the significance of Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, and Events (MICE) tourism globally, as this high-value sector plays a crucial role in enhancing our tourism revenue and positioning Zambia as a key business hub.

At Proflight Zambia, we are more than dedicated to facilitating MICE and business travel. We are actively collaborating with various corporate partners and professional associations to offer attractive discounted fares, exceptional group travel packages, and flexible booking options for both domestic and regional travel, including key destinations such as Johannesburg and Cape Town. We believe that by supporting MICE travel, we can make a positive contribution to the growth of our beautiful country.

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*Captain Josias Walubita,
Director Flight Operations*



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UP FRONT

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PLAN

JULY | AUGUST 2025

A round-up of events and festivals of an entertainment nature from around the region.



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EXPERIENCE

MWAMBA BUSH CAMP

Experience a slice of heaven in the wild heart of South Luangwa. Perched above the seasonal Mwamba River, it is uniquely remote and truly wild.



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DINE

AROMA BY ORCHARD

Discover refinement and sophistication in an unlikely setting. A collaborative ode to food, friends and memories awaits beyond the doors.

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BACKYARD

THE LIVINGSTONE MUSEUM

Discover Zambia's story through the walls of its oldest museum. From early human history to modern independence, the Livingstone Museum brings the country's past to life with galleries that span archaeology, culture, art, and natural science—all under one roof.

36

ESSENTIALS

HUBLY MBEWE

Hand-carved from reclaimed timber shaped by time and nature, this wooden bowl and salad fork set brings a quiet elegance to any table. Each piece is one of a kind—organic, textured, and full of character—perfect for meaningful gatherings.



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TABLETALK

CHRISTOPHER O'DONNELL

From building Bonanza Estate into a luxury landmark to steering high-stakes projects during a pandemic and a drought,

Christopher O'Donnell combines bold risk-taking with strategic acumen. Leading

Union Gold's new ventures, he brings sharp execution, long-term vision, and a deep commitment to Zambia's growth—proving the legacy is in capable hands.



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BRIEFING

ZAMBIA'S FORGOTTEN HEMP ACT

What is happening to Zambia's Industrial Hemp Act? What opportunities lay beyond the stigma, and could this be the key to economic revival?

54

HUMOUR

A (MODEST) PROPOSITION

The monthly humour column is a collection of musings that promises to regale readers with satirical takes on current topics.



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INSIDE

58

HEALER OR FALSE PROPHET?

Traditional healer or modern-day charlatan? A personal exploration of Zambia's *ng'angas* unpacks the fine line between spiritual guidance, cultural practice, and calculated deceit.



RUNGANO NYONI

Rungano Nyoni's *On Becoming a Guinea Fowl* is a surreal, darkly comic exploration of grief and silence. Born from personal loss, the film confronts buried trauma and societal complicity with bold storytelling and magical realism.



WHERE KINGS HUNT

During the emerald season, Liuwa Plain transforms into a lush wilderness of dramatic skies, newborn wildebeest, and prowling predators. At its heart lies Liuwa Camp—a new, eco-conscious retreat offering refined comfort and front-row access to one of Africa's most spectacular natural theatres.

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JO'BURG'S FINEST

Jo'burg's fine dining scene is a blend of bold flavours, refined technique, and striking settings. Savour the city's most distinguished culinary addresses, where every course is a celebration of taste, texture, and time.

TAKE OFF



FLIGHT SCHEDULE

JULY | AUGUST 2025

Peruse the latest flight schedule.

92

NEWS

BUSINESS TOURISM

Proflight Zambia is actively promoting business tourism by advocating for MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, and Exhibitions) travel. Through strategic partnerships and enhanced connectivity, the airline facilitates seamless travel experiences for business events across Zambia.



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PROHIBITED GOODS

A round-up of goods and items not permitted on Proflight aircraft.



Thank You, Zambia

MTN Zambia turns 20 and says “Thank U Zambia” with

K10,000,000 Worth of Prizes

Lusaka, Zambia-May 7, 2025-MTN Zambia has launched its largest-ever consumer celebration, giving away over K10 million in cash and prizes to mark its 20th anniversary. The campaign, titled ‘Thank U Zambia’, celebrates two decades of growth, innovation, and unwavering customer loyalty and kicks off a nationwide moment of appreciation designed to reach every corner of the country.

“This 20-year journey is a celebration of our customers and the future we’re building together,” said MTN Zambia CEO Abbad Reda. “This campaign is about gratitude, turning every connection into a chance to say thank you and put cash, prizes, and joy directly into the hands of the people who made us what we are.”

The ‘Thank U Zambia’ mega campaign will see over 2,000 winners announced daily with one winner every 20 seconds a symbolic nod to MTN’s 20 years of service in Zambia. Prizes range from iPhones and MoMo cash to laptops, local getaways, luxury travel to Dubai, and a grand prize of K1 million split between two lucky customers.

The celebration kicked off in Lusaka with an unforgettable street party at PHI Mall, transforming the morning rush hour into a vibrant display of community energy. The launch featured crowd giveaways, dance crews, live DJs, and appearances by popular local artists bringing excitement to the capital and setting the tone for the nationwide tour to follow.

“We wanted this to be more than just a promotion,” said Chief Consumer Officer Richard Acheampong. “It’s a meaningful campaign that brings people together, celebrates where we’ve come from, and looks ahead to the next 20 years of progress together.”

Running alongside the prize giveaway is a series of roadshows, MoMo activations, community outreach events, and a dedicated radio and digital series that spotlights real customers whose lives have been transformed through MTN’s services and connectivity.

From a single tower in 2005 to a national network spanning all 10 provinces, MTN has helped drive Zambia’s digital transformation empowering entrepreneurs, enhancing access to education, and bringing connectivity to even the most remote communities.

The **‘Thank U Zambia’ celebration** is now live nationwide. To participate, customers simply need to purchase airtime, data, or voice bundles using **MTN MoMo** via ***115# or *117#**.





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UP FRONT

22. PLAN • 26. EXPERIENCE • 28. DINE • 32. BACKYARD • 40. TABLETALK • 44. BRIEFING



Explore the foundation of Zambian history on page 32. The Livingstone Museum is a time capsule to the past while connecting the present to its cultural roots.

PLAN

JULY | AUGUST 2025



EVENT DETAILS:

Date: Last weekend, July.
Location: Mwansabombwe, Luapula.
Tickets: Free.

MUTOMBOKO CEREMONY

The Mutomboko Ceremony, held annually in Mwansabombwe, celebrates the history and unity of the Lunda Kingdom. The event honours the tribe's migration and cultural heritage, with the highlight being the Umutomboko dance. Mutomboko, meaning "the victory dance," signifies the strengths and the triumphs of the Lunda people.

INVEST ZAMBIA INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE 2025

EVENT DETAILS:

Date: 16 - 18 July 2025.
Location: Mulungushi
Conference Centre, Lusaka.
Tickets: Free.

Zambia's biggest investment summit is where \$ 1 billion+ deals fuel generational transformation! Over 1,000 global leaders will explore exciting opportunities in mining, energy, and agriculture. Come and network with top investors, share groundbreaking ideas and compete for the prestigious Presidential Awards. This is where future-changing deals and visionary growth meet.



WINE TASTING AT CARGO 88

EVENT DETAILS:

Date: 2 August 2025.
Location: Rooftop Bar at
Cargo88 Hotel, Lusaka.
Tickets: K888.

Elevate your evening at Cargo 88 with an exquisite wine-tasting experience! Discover new notes and flavours as you sample a curated selection of fine wines, all while enjoying a glittering cityscape. Unwind with fellow wine lovers, expand your knowledge, and indulge in an elegant evening perfect for both connoisseurs and novices alike.



AUTOFEST ZED

Feel the burn as AutoFest revs up for its third edition, bringing you the ultimate adrenaline-fueled showcase of automotive passion. Watch Zambia's finest custom rides burn rubber as they battle for top honours. It's a high-octane event packed with speed and style, so buckle up; you're in for a ride!

EVENT DETAILS:

Date: 23 August 2025.
Location: Twin Palm Mall, Lusaka.
Tickets: K150.

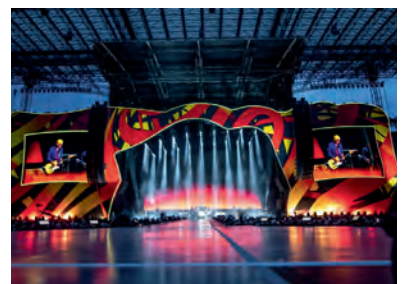


THE GOOD LIFE SHOW 2025

Experience wellness and conscious living and discover cutting-edge plant-based foods, organic products, sustainable innovations, and wellness solutions that promote a healthier lifestyle! Discover the latest in holistic living and connect with like-minded individuals on the path to well-being.

EVENT DETAILS:

Date: 1-3 August 2025.
Location: Kyalami International Convention
Centre, Jo'burg.
Tickets: R175.



PAINT IT BLACK

Step back in time and feel the electrifying energy of The Rolling Stones as Andy Murray & The Retro Rewind Band rock the stage with an unforgettable tribute. Relive the iconic hits and groove to the rhythm in the ultimate throwback classic rock event on the calendar!

EVENT DETAILS:

Date: 16 August 2025.
Location: Noordhoek, Cape Town.
Tickets: R250.

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SHOPRITE

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Whether you're arriving in Lusaka, Ndola, Kitwe, or Livingstone, the unmistakable red and yellow of Shoprite is a familiar sight — a brand that has come to define retail in Zambia for over three decades.

Since opening its first store on Cairo Road in Lusaka in 1995, Shoprite has established itself as a meaningful contributor to the country's economic development, boosting local employment and providing access to quality food and necessities at the most affordable prices.

Now the largest supermarket chain in Zambia — with 45 stores nationwide that create employment for more than 4,150 locals ranging from cashiers and managers to logistics specialists Shoprite's growth in the Copperbelt tells a story of partnership, purpose, and progress.

"From the very beginning, we've proudly served the people of this country by introducing Zambians to world-class shopping destinations that offer unbeatable prices, the freshest produce, and convenient store locations," says Charles Bota the General Manager for Shoprite Zambia.

"Our success over the last 30 years has been shaped by the support from our customers, the dedication of our employees, and the lasting relationships with our suppliers."

And Shoprite's shelves tell a distinctly Zambian story, with over 300 local suppliers, including fruit and vegetables from 108 local farmers who keep stores stocked with fresh, homegrown produce.

These relationships are nurtured through support programmes for farmers, including tailored growing

plans, and regular on-site visits. The result: customers enjoy year-round, farm-to-fork freshness, while farmers benefit from more sustainable incomes, improved planning, and access to wider markets. In addition, the Group's growing focus on local sourcing helps reduce food miles, lower emissions, and strengthen Zambia's agricultural sector.

Where every Kwacha counts, Shoprite is unwavering in its core promise: Low prices you can trust, always. From budget-friendly breads — the cheapest on the market — to essential staples and school supplies, the retailer ensures everyday needs remain within reach for all Zambian households. This includes locally inspired convenience meals such as nshima with a variety of relishes, offering a quick, accessible taste of home for customers on the go.

Shoprite also continues to serve local communities through various We Act For Change hunger relief initiatives, strengthening resilience and addressing long-term food insecurity. These include a growing network of Mobile Soup Kitchens that serve more than 180,000 cups of soup and bread to school children each year, the establishment of community food gardens, as well as surplus food donations to the value of approximately 6 million Kwacha annually to charitable organisations.

Shoprite Zambia's ability to evolve alongside the changing needs of customers while delivering the latest in retail innovation is demonstrated through a range of bold initiatives, from launching upscale Shoprite Select stores to the first standalone LiquorShop, and three high-performing ChickRite takeaways.

As we look towards the next three decades, Shoprite remains committed to continued growth, job creation and local sourcing, all while staying true to the values of trusted quality and affordability that has made it a household name.



MWAMBA BUSH CAMP

SHENTON SAFARIS' WILD SOUL REFINED

Words by Alexandra Harrison, images courtesy of Shenton Safaris



In a remote corner of Zambia's South Luangwa National Park, where the dry season draws wildlife in like a magnet and the nights echo with the enveloping sound of territorial lion calls, Mwamba Bush Camp is unmistakably wild.

Long cherished by safari lovers for its authenticity, Mwamba is the smaller, more intimate sister camp to Shenton Safaris' renowned Kaingo Camp. Its charm has always been its close connection to nature: just four chalets, completely solar-powered, tucked under ancient ebony and sausage trees. Last year's renovation breathed fresh life into the camp while carefully preserving its wild spirit and barefoot luxury ethos.

Gone are the traditional reed walls, replaced with handcrafted woven bamboo panels and subtle screening that





dance with natural light. The result is chalets that seem to disappear into the landscape while offering guests more comfort than ever before. The interiors are spacious, light-filled, breezy spaces, each with a private veranda that overlooks the wild canvas of open plains and dry riverbeds. The open-air bathrooms remain a highlight, featuring sculptural copper tapware, live-edge mirrors, and solid paths underfoot. The showers are delightfully open to the trees, where hornbills call to you as you lather up beneath the canopy. It's this balance: comfort without barriers to the wild, that has always been Mwamba's signature.

I fell in love with the new viewing deck. Perched above the dry Mwamba riverbed, it's quickly become everyone's favourite hangout spot. There's something magical about lingering over brunch while watching elephants and impalas wander the sandy riverbed below, completely undisturbed by your presence. In the evenings, the unmistakably Mwamba dinner experience served beneath the stars awaits under the great ebony tree, with chandeliers hanging from a trailing python vine.

For those in the know, the real magic happens where your gaze meets the wild: Mwamba is home to the legendary Last Waterhole Hide, one of Shenton Safaris' trademark "windows to the wilds". Tucked discreetly beside a permanent pool of water, it offers an unrivalled front-row seat to the rhythms of the bush. Designed for photographers, loved by all, this hide provides close, unobtrusive encounters with everything from big cats and thirsty elephants to swarms of quelea and love birds, all unaware of your quiet presence nearby.

What makes the renovation so special is how it manages to improve without intruding. The changes feel like a natural evolution rather than a reinvention. Derek and Juliet Shenton have been guiding safaris and protecting this patch of wilderness for over three decades, and their deep respect for the land shines through in every decision they've made.

At Mwamba, you won't find gleaming infinity pools or air-conditioned suites. The luxury here is more meaningful—it's the absence of crowds, the symphony of night sounds as you drift off to sleep, the thrill of watching a leopard from just meters away in the hide. One evening, as we gathered for sundowners, an elephant silently appeared at the edge of camp, so close we could hear the rumble of its stomach. That's the Mwamba magic no renovation could ever change—those raw, unscripted moments when Africa's wild heart beats in time with your own.



» WHERE?

- Mwamba Bush Camp is safely tucked away in a remote corner of South Luangwa National Park, a scenic 2.5-hour game drive from Mfuwe.

» WHAT TO EXPERIENCE

- Sleep out beneath a canopy of stars with nothing separating you from the majesty of the night sky but a thin veil of mosquito net on the Numbu star bed.
- Lie in wait and experience some of the rarest wildlife encounters in the hideout, where you lock eyes with Zambia's wildest species.
- SLNP has one of the largest leopard concentrations in Africa and a thriving lion population awaiting you in exciting game drives.
- South Luangwa is the birthplace of the walking safari. Walking in small guided groups, this offers a unique way to experience the bush first-hand, a truly wild experience!

BOOKING AND CONTACT DETAILS

✉ info@shentonsafaris.com



📱 [shentonsafaris.com](https://www.shentonsafaris.com)
 📱 @shentonsafaris



Proflight Zambia operates regular scheduled flights into Mfuwe to/from Lusaka, connecting with Cape Town, Johannesburg, Kalumbila, Kasama, Livingstone, Mansa, Ndola and Solwezi. Visit flyzambia.com for the latest flight schedule.

AROMA BY ORCHARD

CULINARY REFINEMENT IN AN UNLIKELY SETTING

Words by Leelee Ngwenya, images by Justine Kunda for Nkwazi Magazine



In an unlikely neighbourhood, you will find the serenity of Aroma tucked away between a busy thoroughfare and a business hub. For Lusaka residents, the suburb of Kalingalinga probably isn't on their bingo card for elevated dining experiences in the city. Yet within this setting, Aroma by Orchard offers one of Lusaka's most refined culinary experiences, and it is here to stay.

Lusaka's culinary scene is constantly evolving. If you are familiar with Orchard Farm Shop and its laid-back, family-friendly setting, Aroma is its refined sibling, offering a contemporary and elegant ambience. Both establishments share the same dedication to quality, hospitality, and innovation.

Once through the doors, the urban clamour of the city fades away as you are transported into the chic, modern interior, tastefully designed in an industrial warehouse style, with large glass windows inviting streams of natural light. The juxtaposition of colours and textures, steel against wood, high ceilings, deep, rich walls, and soft lighting sets a warm and inviting ambience.

The resident sommelier-in-training welcomes me and walks me through the newly launched menu. Aroma's new menu is a love letter to its patrons, a collaboration of suggestions from regulars combined with staff favourites, executed with the chef's creative flair and commitment to fresh, seasonal ingredients: there is something for everyone!

My exploration began with a fresh steaming bowl of creamy vegetable soup made with seasonal vegetables, the perfect start for a crisp Saturday afternoon as winter approaches. The velvety texture was occasionally punctuated by tender chunks of baby marrow, sweet baby carrots and bright peas. The natural sweetness of the carrots balanced the subtle earthiness of the marrow. At the same time, the restraint in excessive seasoning allowed the understated body of the cream and hints of thyme to peek through without overwhelming the gentle flavours.

Alongside its culinary offerings, Aroma boasts an enviable wine collection in its wood-panelled, temperature-controlled

➤ MENU OF THE ROUND TABLE

Part of the new menu is credited to Aroma's loyal customers, who suggested what to include. Some opted for platters and finger foods, others for sweet cravings, and others for wine. The menu has something for everyone!

➤ CONTACT DETAILS:

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 📍 Aroma by Orchard



wine cellar. Their collection includes unique varietals from South Africa, France and Italy. The in-house sommelier conducts wine tastings and offers guidance to guests, depending on their palate. The collection is extensive, with choices for both wine novices and aficionados.

With the sommelier's careful guidance, I selected the appropriate wine pairing for my preferred palate, including a main course of vegetable fried rice and rich chicken curry, accompanied by a side of julienned carrots, baby marrow, and peppers. The wine pairing was Aroma's famous house wine, the Bruce Jack Cabernet Sauvignon, which some might think unlikely, as most would reach for a white wine with chicken curry. However, this bold red creates a surprising harmony; its chocolate tannins mellow the spice, while the

acidity of the black currant notes cuts through the sauce's richness, transforming what could be a clash of flavours into a sophisticated duet.

The chicken curry provided a gentle warmth with fragrant spices of cardamom and cinnamon, while the fresh ginger added a warming brightness that lingered long after the last mouthful. The chicken, slow-cooked in a slurry of aromatics with a slight sweetness, was tender, juicy, and bursting with flavour, reminiscent of a rich homemade curry steeped in ghee and coconut cream for a luxurious, velvety finish. Not to be outdone, the accompanying vegetable fried rice was a delightful presentation of colourful vegetables that provided sweetness that counterbalanced the savoury nature of the curry and added texture to the soft and pillowy steaming rice. The meal was the perfect warm embrace on a snappy winter afternoon.

As I wind down, I am told that Aroma's cappuccino is one of the best in Lusaka and highly recommended by its regulars. As I sip on the creamy, foamy delight that is the Aroma cappuccino outside, the rain begins to fall again. However, inside Aroma, I remain warm, cosy, and dry, both outside and within.

For those seeking a dining experience that combines innovation with comfort in an unexpected corner of Lusaka, Aroma By Orchard is a testament to the city's evolving culinary landscape—a hidden gem worth discovering, regardless of where you call home.



➤ BUSINESS IN THE BACK, PARTY UPFRONT

Aroma's wine room on the first floor offers privacy and elegance, perfect for refined dining experiences and high-level business dinners. Bar and dinner services are available on the ground floor, and a dedicated remote work setup is also provided.

➤ A CORPORATE HUB

Aroma also hosts and facilitates corporate training, conferences, and meetings on the second floor, which is currently undergoing renovations to enhance the service experience.

➤ BUT FIRST, SAFETY

Aroma works closely with onsite 24-hour security teams to ensure the highest levels of safety for their clientele. Since opening in June 2022, they have not recorded a single break-in on the premises.



Proflight Zambia operates regular scheduled flights into Lusaka from Cape Town, Johannesburg, Kalumbila, Kasama, Livingstone, Mansa, Mfuwe, Ndola and Solwezi. Visit flyzambia.com for the latest flight schedule.

Zanaco: Putting YOU FIRST



A LEGACY OF INNOVATION AND IMPACT

What does it take for a bank with over five decades of history to stay ahead in a fast-evolving world driven by algorithms, digital innovation, and ever-changing customer expectations? Since its establishment in 1969, Zanaco—short for Zambia National Commercial Bank—has been more than just a financial institution; it's a cornerstone of Zambia's economic story, built to serve, support, and uplift the nation.

Despite the challenges that come with decades of change, Zanaco has proven its resilience and ability to adapt. Its recent financial milestones speak volumes—most notably, in 2021, it became the first Zambian bank to report a profit after tax exceeding K1 billion. This achievement marked a new chapter, especially considering that just three years prior, the bank's profit was K234 million. Such strides underscore Zanaco's unwavering commitment to growth, innovation, and excellence.

LEADING WITH PURPOSE AND PIONEERING SPIRIT

Under the visionary leadership of Mrs. Mukwandi Chibesakunda, Zanaco's first female CEO, the Bank has undergone a transformation that is as profound as it is inspiring. Her extensive leadership experience and trailblazing approach have garnered both national and international acclaim. Her tenure has redefined what a home-grown bank can achieve—driving modernity while honoring its foundational purpose.

A LEGACY OF INNOVATION

Zanaco's reputation as a trailblazer is deeply embedded in its history. In 1992, it launched the country's first Automated Teller Machine (ATM), revolutionising banking convenience in Zambia. Then, in 2012, it introduced Xapit—an innovative mobile account that enabled digital payments and online banking—long before digital banking became a global norm.

These milestones are more than technological achievements; they are a testament to Zanaco's relentless pursuit of meeting customer needs and shaping the future of banking in Zambia. Whether serving underserved communities or large corporations, the bank's investments in technological innovation and inclusive solutions have cemented its role as a catalyst for economic growth and financial inclusion.



"YOU FIRST" A VISION FOR THE FUTURE

Considering Zambia's recent 60th anniversary and the progress made in the financial services sector, Zanaco is on a continuous journey to evolve and align with these demands to effectively deliver value to all stakeholders in an impactful manner.

"You First" reflects the bank's unwavering dedication to delivering value for its customers, shareholders, employees, the community, and indeed Zambia, regardless.

This commitment reflects a bank that has stayed true to its roots while proactively shaping the future. With a customer-centric approach, innovative solutions, and a focus on social impact, Zanaco is poised to remain Zambia's trusted financial partner.

STAYING RELEVANT IN A RAPIDLY CHANGING WORLD

For generations, the Zambian people have looked to Zanaco as a "big, strong, reliable" institution—an emblem of national pride. This trust has been earned through consistency, resilience, and an unwavering focus on serving the underserved and marginalized.

In recent years, Zanaco has embarked on a strategic journey of transformation—embracing digitalization, strengthening security, and embedding sustainability into its core. These efforts ensure the bank remains not only relevant but also a leader in shaping Zambia's financial future amidst global challenges and opportunities.

PIONEERING SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE ACTION

Zanaco's commitment to responsible banking is exemplified by its pioneering role in climate finance. It proudly stands as the first and only bank in Zambia accredited by the Green Climate Fund (GCF)—a testament to its leadership in addressing climate change and promoting environmental sustainability. Through this, Zanaco demonstrates that banking can be a force for positive social and environmental impact.

LOOKING AHEAD

Zanaco's journey is far from over. With a clear vision and relentless dedication, the bank aims to set new standards in banking—delivering value, fostering inclusion, and championing sustainability. Its unwavering focus remains on one thing: putting YOU FIRST.

As it continues to lead, innovate, and serve, Zanaco reaffirms its pledge to be a catalyst for Zambia's growth—today, tomorrow, and beyond.

THE LIVINGSTONE MUSEUM

YOUR GATEWAY TO THE PAST

Words by Victoria Chitungu, images courtesy of Livingstone Museum



The first thing that strikes you about the Livingstone Museum is the 'Pioneer Clock', a four-faced turret clock that was donated to the museum in 1951. For 74 years, the clock has announced the hour to Livingstone residents, on the hour, every hour.

The Livingstone Museum is one of five national museums in Zambia. Located in Livingstone, home to the Victoria Falls and Zambia's tourist capital, it is the largest and oldest museum in the country. Its collection dates back to 1930 and is one of the largest in Central Africa, making it one of the most important tourist attractions in the country and a national treasure.

The Museum first opened its doors to the public in 1934. In 1937, it was incorporated into the Rhodes-Livingstone Institute to undertake sociological research among the Central African Bantus. The current building, which houses the museum today, was constructed in 1950.

As you enter the museum foyer, you will see a relief model depicting an aerial view of Livingstone, Victoria Falls, and surrounding gorges. In the corner, reverently observing, stands the towering sculpture of an Ila tribesman, entitled 'Africa Awakes', as if pre-empting the enlightening experience that a walk through these hallowed halls will yield.

Archaeology Exhibition

The sunlit interior of the foyer is immediately contrasted by the sheltering dim of the Archaeology gallery as if depicting the obscure days of mankind's birth. The exhibition retells

the story of human evolution and cultural development in Zambia, using material evidence sourced from Zambia's prehistoric sites, dating back as far as the Stone Age.

Here, a major attraction of the gallery is held: a replica of the Broken Hill Man. The skull, dating back over 200,000 years, was discovered in 1921 in Broken Hill (now Kabwe) and provides a link between early and present-day humans. The original skull has remained at the centre of a repatriation deadlock between Zambia and Britain since the 1970s.

Ethnography Gallery

Connected to the Archaeology Gallery is the Ethnography and Art Gallery. The exhibition begins with life-size, interactive scenes of the rural homestead that morph into urban scenes and ends with 'the museum', where exhibits related to Zambian cultures and traditions are displayed. The progression of this exhibition describes the loss of Zambian traditions from the villages to urban lifestyles, only to be reconnected to their roots in 'the museum'.

David Livingstone Exhibition

In this gallery, the visitor is introduced to the life and work of David Livingstone, the Scottish medical doctor, missionary, and explorer who was the first European to extensively traverse Central and Southern Africa in the 19th Century. The main attraction of this exhibit is the explorer's original traveller's coat and the surgical instruments he used to practise medicine while in Africa.

History Gallery

Stepping into the History Gallery transports visitors back in time to 1550, recounting

FAST FACTS & TIPS

- The museum is open daily from 9 a.m. to 4.30 p.m., except Christmas Day and New Year's Day.
- Entrance fees: Residents: Adults K10, children K5 | Non-Residents: Adults \$5, children \$3.
- The museum provides facilities for meetings, workshops, and conferences for up to 50 people.
- The museum also houses a laboratory, natural science gallery, and education hall, Mubutana Hall, which opened in 1973.



CONTACT DETAILS

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the precolonial history of Zambia from its present day to the past. The exhibition introduces the ancestors of Zambia's Bantu-speaking peoples who originated in the Luba-Lunda kingdoms of present-day DRC and their migration between the 12th and 18th centuries. The rich exhibition shows Zambia's power structures before the advent of colonialism. Behind the glass cases, numerous rulers are depicted alongside their regalia and insignia, symbolising their power, legitimacy and authority.

The next scene reveals a diorama depicting European penetration into Zambia from the 1500s to the 1900s, with a model of the slave trade that highlights the evils and effects it had in Zambia. The exhibition recounts the advent of colonialism in Zambia, African resistance to colonial rule, the rise of nationalism and the struggle for independence. The gallery's last section covers the various political changes and socio-economic developments since independence. Throughout the gallery, the exhibition centres on events and ideologies that have and continue to shape the lives of the people of Zambia.

Much like the achievement of independence, the gallery exhibition concludes with visitors stepping back into the light and the courtyard, an open, interactive space that allows for quiet contemplation, relaxation, or discourse. The courtyard erupts in a riot of colour as three life-size murals by Ranford Sililo from 1951 cover its walls.



Outdoor Exhibits

Outside, various sculptures dotted across the grounds encourage visitors to stop and contemplate. These include a prehistoric iron-smelting furnace, one of the six DHC-1 Chipmunks used in the initial training of Zambian pilots just after Zambia's independence in 1966, a David Livingstone statue erected for the 150th anniversary of Livingstone's sighting of the Victoria Falls, and the bust of Emil Holub (1847-1902), a Czech traveller and explorer in Southern Africa, who drew the first-ever recorded map of the Victoria Falls in 1875.

Library and Additional Offerings

Beyond the exhibitions, the Livingstone Museum library is one of the country's

oldest libraries, dating back to the 1940s. The library holds about 7,000 volumes of books and periodicals, including a vast collection of maps. It has some rare collections on the sociology of the Bantu, geography, travel, hunting, geology, history, archaeology and natural history of Zambia and southern Africa. It also houses a valuable collection of publications by well-known explorers and missionaries to the area, such as François Coillard, Emil Holub, and David Livingstone.

The Museum Crafts Shop is stocked with a variety of handicrafts, including basketry, wood carvings, and stone carvings, sourced directly from rural craftspeople in Mongu, the Gwembe Valley, and Mukuni Village. These crafts are made using indigenous techniques, which helps link them to a buying market while keeping traditional skills alive.

To end a day's journey through Zambian history, Sepo Yaka restaurant offers visitors a welcome respite with fresh meals, snacks, refreshments and traditional Zambian cuisine. For those looking to explore Zambia's rich cultural heritage while visiting Victoria Falls, the Livingstone Museum offers the perfect starting point to understand the country's past and present. Plan to spend at least two hours here to fully appreciate all the exhibitions before your next adventure in Zambia's tourist capital.



Proflight Zambia also operates regular scheduled flights into Livingstone from Cape Town, Kalumbila, Kasama, Lusaka, Mansa, Mfuwe, Ndola and Solwezi. Visit flyzambia.com for the latest flight schedule.



ALVEARIUM.

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ALCOHOL STILL



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THE ART OF FALLEN TIMBER

BOWLS FROM THE BUSH

Words by Ieva Skabickaite, image by Kelvin Mbewe for Nkwazi Magazine



In the heart of Zambia's wilderness, elephants roam freely, and ancient trees keel beneath the weight of time. Here, Hubly Mbewe, a master craftsman, has been transforming nature's discards into works of art fit for the tables of kings. Decades of dedication to woodworking produce household items that blend functionality, tradition, and a piece of Zambia's beauty.

No two bowls are ever the same, as each item is lovingly hand-carved from different sources of timber, and the hands that carve them have different temperaments each day. The core material – timber – is special in more ways than one.

Hubly only uses trees which have naturally fallen due to storms or the strength of elephants that roam freely across the South Luangwa valley.

Each item is unique because the fallen tree spends at least three years in the bush before it becomes a beautifully carved bowl or a pair of salad servers.

This beautifully curated set, available in various sizes and styles, flawlessly presents the perfect blend of traditional craftsmanship and the beauty of South Luangwa. It is ideal for keeping a piece of Zambia with you, wherever you find community and full hearts around mealtimes.

» HOW MUCH?

Medium Bowl, \$40.
Salad Servers, from \$15.

» ABOUT HUBLY MBEWE

Rooted in South Luangwa, Hubly has been carving naturally fallen wood into beautiful household items since 1996. His nearly 30 years of experience are evident in the delicate and creative designs of the salad bowls and servers, which are suited for every table across Zambia and beyond.

» FIND HUBLY MBEWE

- Project Luangwa, Mfuwe.
- Collective Hands, Agora Village.

» FOR ENQUIRIES

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- ✉ info@projectluangwa.org
- 🌐 www.projectluangwa.org



A Bold New Look. The Same Award-Winning Wine

Introducing Nederburg's refreshed identity - where heritage meets exploration.

From 23rd to 25th May, the Nederburg Pink Polo delivered a weekend of elegance, purpose and celebration at its finest. Set against the vibrant backdrop of Zambia's polo scene, the charitable event brought people together to support the Zambia Cancer Society in its vital work—reminding us all of the power of connection and meaningful moments.

The event was a landmark occasion, marking the official unveiling of Nederburg's bold new visual identity - a modern evolution of the brand's long-standing heritage of over 230 years. Guests were among the first to experience the refreshed look and feel of one of the world's most respected wine brands, now wrapped in a design that reflects exploration, curiosity and confidence.

A new signature element of the brand is a bespoke red travel cloth, adorned with universal symbols of travel, heritage and a sustainable future - representing both our storied history and forward-looking spirit. Our new tagline, "Yours To Explore" captures the heart of our brand: an invitation to try something new, step out of the ordinary and discover the extraordinary.

While our appearance may be new, our essence remains the same. With a global reputation, over 1,000 international awards and recognition as one of the Top 40 Most Admired Wine Brands, Nederburg has always embraced innovation - from experimenting with new varietals to redefining what great wine can be. This new chapter builds on that legacy, championing the belief that wine - and life - is meant to be explored.


Nederburg remains one of the most travelled names in wine. With availability in over 80 countries and a legacy dating back to 1791, we raise a glass to the future - remaining grounded in our heritage, inspired by the unknown and committed to crafting wines that spark confidence in every moment.

Driven by curiosity, we encourage you to explore, discover and uncover the extraordinary in the everyday.

Nederburg. *Yours To Explore*

YOURS TO EXPLORE

Explore our range of award-winning wines and join us on a journey of discovery, purpose and bold beginnings.

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ZAMBIA TRAVEL EXPO 2025 RECAP

ZATEX 2025 SPARKS EXCITEMENT FOR TOURISM GROWTH



From 5th – 7th June 2025, Zambia Tourism Agency, in collaboration with the Ministry of Tourism and Tourism Council of Zambia, successfully hosted Zambia Travel Expo 2025, marking a significant milestone in Zambia's ongoing efforts to market and boost its tourism industry and position itself as a premier travel destination of choice in Africa and the world at large.

Over the three days, industry stakeholders, government officials, international buyers, local entrepreneurs, and media representatives converged in the heart of Lusaka to explore opportunities, showcase Zambia's diverse attractions, and foster lasting partnerships.

ZATEX 2025 was a strategic platform designed to accelerate Zambia's tourism sector, boost revenue for local operators, and facilitate global partnerships, as evidenced by the attendance of hosted buyers and local tourism enterprises. It attracted key buyers from international

markets, including the United Kingdom, Spain, Kenya, Poland, South Africa, Malawi, and Zimbabwe, totalling 28 hosted buyers. This improved Zambia's position in the global tourism industry, strengthened domestic tourism, and promoted sustainable growth within the sector.

The presence of hosted buyers fostered strategic partnerships between Zambia and other African nations, promoting regional tourism circuits and joint marketing initiatives. Such collaborations are vital for positioning Zambia as a gateway to exploring the broader Southern African region.

The event attracted over 1,500 attendees, including international buyers, industry stakeholders, media representatives, tourism enthusiasts, and 50 local operators.

Said Daan Brink, Chairperson of Zambia Tourism Agency, "ZATEX is the flagship initiative aimed at repositioning Zambia as a competitive, compelling tourism

destination while boosting revenue for the tourism industry in Zambia."

This year's theme, *Sustainable Tourism: Driving Inclusive Growth*, reflects Zambia's commitment to fostering a tourism sector that benefits all stakeholders. It underscores the role of tourism in creating economic opportunities for all.

Minister of Tourism Rodney Sikumba highlighted the strong participation of Zambian exhibitors and private sector stakeholders as an opportunity to showcase Zambia's rich tourism potential to the world. He noted that the Indaba is a powerful economic driver for Africa, aiming to forge a stronger and more united tourism future for the continent by giving players and stakeholders a chance to showcase the diversity of what their countries, including Zambia, have to offer globally.

The Minister expressed satisfaction with the impressive turnout of exhibitors and private sector participants and emphasised the importance of strategic



partnerships in advancing the sector, adding that increased collaboration remains key to unlocking Zambia's tourism growth.

One of the highlights of ZATEX 2025 was the extensive showcasing of Zambia's natural attractions, including renowned national parks such as South Luangwa, Lower Zambezi, Kafue, and North Luangwa, which were prominently featured through immersive presentations, virtual reality experiences, and promotional materials. Visitors had the opportunity to learn about Zambia's abundant wildlife, including the Big Five, and its world-class safari experiences.

The event underscored Zambia's commitment to sustainable tourism, with discussions on conservation efforts and eco-friendly travel practices. Several exhibitors showcased innovative lodges and camps that seamlessly blend luxury with environmental responsibility, appealing to the growing eco-conscious traveller demographic.

The expo also emphasised community-based tourism initiatives, encouraging visitors to engage with local communities, learn traditional crafts, and participate in cultural ceremonies. This focus on community involvement aims to generate sustainable economic benefits for local populations while preserving Zambia's cultural identity.

A key component of the expo was attracting investment into Zambia's

tourism infrastructure. Panel discussions and workshops addressed issues such as improving air connectivity, expanding accommodation facilities, and leveraging digital marketing strategies. The government announced plans to upgrade Lusaka International Airport and develop new tourist circuits to remote areas with high potential. Furthermore, private sector players expressed interest in investing in hotel developments, adventure tourism activities, and eco-lodges.

Industry experts noted that the expo's success signals a positive trajectory for Zambia's tourism sector, which has demonstrated resilience and growth

despite global challenges, including the COVID-19 pandemic. With ongoing infrastructure development, strategic marketing, and community engagement, Zambia is well-positioned to become a top travel destination of choice in Africa.

Looking ahead, the government and stakeholders plan to build on the momentum generated by ZATEX 2025 to make it an annual event benchmarking with other travel shows such as Magical Kenya. Future initiatives include expanding digital marketing efforts, developing niche tourism segments such as adventure, medical, and sports tourism, and enhancing regional integration.



CHRISTOPHER O'DONNELL

DREAMING IN DECADES AND BUILDING ON A LEGACY

Words by Royd Kapesa, images by Dickson Kunyongana for Nkwazi Magazine



A few months ago, I wrote about “The Man Who Built Lusaka,” the straight-talking, clear-minded business titan Mark O'Donnell. As the founder of Union Gold Group, Mark built a business empire spanning hospitality, real estate, construction, manufacturing, and mining. But readers will recall that he never took sole credit; at the heart of his story was his family, whom he consistently praised as key contributors to his entrepreneurial journey.

In a full-circle moment, the story continues with the next generation: Mark's son, Christopher O'Donnell, now steering Union Gold's future as Head of Business Development.

Little is publicly known about Christopher. He has no social media presence, and a quick Google search mostly turns up an American actor with the same name. But Christopher O'Donnell is very real. I met him at Protea Hotel Lusaka Tower, and our conversation unfolded over a Whiskey Sour and an Espresso Martini at the bar.

While Mark laid the foundations, Christopher is building the next era, introducing fresh ideas and a forward-thinking approach that will reshape the business for decades to come. The night before our chat, he had a late night

teaching himself ChatGPT, a system he believes could significantly improve operations. It's a small moment, but it speaks volumes. As Zambia's travel, hospitality, and urban development landscape shifts, his vision offers a compelling look at how legacy adapts to the future.

Raised in Zambia, Christopher recalls childhood days spent on the family farm in Chisamba, long before it became part of the Marriott portfolio. Despite growing up in the orbit of one of Zambia's most prominent businessmen, life felt remarkably normal; there was no pressure to join the family business. Instead, the focus was on exploration, education, and finding his path.

At the age of 15, Christopher left Zambia to attend school abroad. He later earned admission to Cornell University, earning qualifications in hospitality administration and real estate finance. Christopher would spend holidays in Zambia, interning in hotels and spending hundreds of hours in laundry, housekeeping, reception, and kitchens. This was the base on which he planned to build a career abroad later, testing his skills and gaining global experience.

But timing had other plans. The 2008 financial crisis struck just as Christopher was graduating, narrowing job prospects,



THAT 1% IS WHAT BUILDS ANOTHER 100-YEAR-OLD BUSINESS. WE'VE HAD A LOT OF FAILURES, BUT THAT'S PART OF THE PROCESS. YOU NEED TO THINK IN THE SHORT, MEDIUM, AND LONG TERM.

— Christopher O'Donnell,
Head of Business Development, Union Gold Group.



even for Ivy League alumni. With opportunities scarce, he decided to return to Zambia and contribute to the family business.

Twelve years later, Christopher has no regrets. What began as a redirection has evolved into a fulfilling career. In stepping into the business, he found not only purpose but a platform to shape the next chapter of the O'Donnell legacy. At Union Gold, Christopher focuses on new projects and development. But to understand his approach, you need to know how he thinks about growth itself. During our conversation, he shared a philosophy that reveals much about his mindset: "You measure success by how many times you've failed. If you have too many successes, your dreams are too small. Look for something with a 99% chance of failure and a 1% chance of success."

I raised an eyebrow. 99% sounds steep. But he smiled and continued: "That 1% is what builds another 100-year-old business. We've had a lot of failures, but that's part of the process. You have to think short, medium, and long term."

That ethos is perhaps best exemplified by Bonanza Estate, one of Southern Africa's premier golf destinations and a signature project of Christopher's over the last eight years. Today, Bonanza is a staple of Lusaka's luxury landscape, a destination in its own right. But Bonanza is not just a story of ambition. It's also one of chance and conviction.



The turning point came during an uncanny encounter with Peter Matkovich, a famed golf architect, at a Lusaka event. Christopher was initially planning a modest golf facility. Peter challenged him to aim higher, to build something of world-class quality. Christopher listened and acted. He convinced his family to change course. No pun intended.

Then came the storm. The second phase, the construction of Ciêla Hotel, was undertaken at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. Travel halted. Revenue vanished. Liquidity dried up. And to compound it all, one of the financing banks hiked interest rates during the crisis. It would have been understandable to pause or pull out. But that's not how the O'Donnells operate.

Bonanza became more than another development project; it became proof that bold thinking and strategic risk can deliver landmark results, even amid a crisis.

Business runs deep in Christopher's veins. He understands the mechanics of entrepreneurship, risk, investment, and growth. But for him, it's never just about balance sheets and buildings. Like his father, Christopher is driven by a bigger idea: economic progress for Zambia.

That led him to serve as Vice Chair of the Tourism Council of Zambia, a nonprofit advocacy body that shapes national policy and promotes a stronger tourism environment. The Council works with the Zambia Tourism Agency to influence legislation, attract investment, and position Zambia as a premier destination. Their advocacy effort is starting to show. Zambia has recorded a new high of 2.2 million foreign arrivals in 2024. It was named one of 2025's Top 10 Places to Visit by *Condé Nast Traveller*. And perhaps most notably, lions were successfully reintroduced into Nsumbu National Park, which boosted both conservation efforts and the tourism brand. Growing Zambia's tourism industry is one of the largest drivers of employment, and Christopher is focused on unlocking more of this potential. "There are a few things that could work overnight," he explains. "First is the marketing budget. If you look at our competition, our neighbouring countries, we're far behind. That can have an immediate impact within 12 months."

His logic is direct. "We don't need five years to build new infrastructure. Marketing is quick. The more money you invest, the higher the returns you receive. And it benefits everyone, not just the people of Lusaka. People want to visit far-off places, but they often don't know about them. So we must first tell them."

» AN AVID SPORTSMAN

Despite developing one of Zambia's finest golf destinations, Christopher is not an avid golfer. He only plays occasionally, mostly with his father. His weekly sports fix used to come from seven-a-side soccer—a hobby he's paused for now, due to injuries and wedding preparations. "I get injured every week and spend 3 days with ice and a brace. I've stopped playing now because I can't be injured for the wedding."

» MORE THAN PROFITS

Christopher is the Head of New Projects and Business Development. Beyond that, he serves as Vice Chair of the Tourism Council of Zambia, a nonprofit advocacy body that shapes national policy and advocates for a stronger tourism environment.

» TAKE BIG RISKS

Chris's growth mindset is simple: "You measure success by how many times you've failed. If you have too many successes, your dreams are too small. Look for something with a 99% chance of failure and a 1% chance of success."



It's a reminder that Christopher's ambitions extend far beyond Bonanza or Union Gold. He's thinking about Zambia's place in the global tourism ecosystem and how to build an economy that not only grows but also uplifts communities from Livingstone to Nsumbu. Outside of work, Christopher is entering a new chapter, and he's getting married to his best friend. Most of his time away from business is spent with his fiancée, enjoying the outdoors. "To be able to marry your best friend is something I cherish. We spend a lot of time in nature, like the Leopards Hill Forest Reserve, we go camping, and I have a dog that we spend a lot of time with."

Working in a family business has its rewards and challenges. Christopher speaks candidly about the dynamic with his father, Mark. While both are visionaries, their approaches often differ. "He's very determined and has very



YOU MEASURE SUCCESS BY HOW MANY TIMES YOU'VE FAILED. IF YOU HAVE TOO MANY SUCCESSES, YOUR DREAMS ARE TOO SMALL.

— Christopher O'Donnell,
Head of Business Development, Union Gold Group.

clear thinking. He can take a complex problem and break it down to its simplest form. I'd like to think I'm similar in some ways, but I also approach things differently. He and I can have arguments over lunch, and they can get pretty loud. We're both thinking far into the future, and we both think big, but while he wants to go one way and I want to go another, we're ultimately aiming for the same outcome. My mother sits back, waits for the argument to end, and then we follow whatever she says," he chuckles.

What emerges is a portrait of a tight-knit family balancing drive with deep respect—unified in ambition, even when opinions differ. These relationships form the bedrock of Union Gold's evolving legacy. As things change, the more they stay the same. Christopher is undeniably cut from the same cloth as his father. Mark O'Donnell built his empire on vision, grit, and common-sense business. Now, sitting across from Christopher, it's clear that ethos endures. As our conversation wraps, Christopher reflects on the weight and privilege of carrying the O'Donnell legacy forward.

"Normally, the old man sits in the hot seat, but I did enjoy this. We have a responsibility. This is our home, we've been here a long time, and we want to stay for a long time. We want to shape this country, and I think we're doing a good thing."

From Mark to Christopher, the story of Union Gold is not just a handover. It's a continuation, and so Zambia's growth marches forward, powered by visionaries who dream in decades.

» BIG IDEAS NEED DETERMINATION

"The day we opened the hotel," Christopher recalls, "my dad and I were at the clubhouse. We started planning the hotel on the back of a napkin. That's the thing about him, he never stops. He's always thinking about the next thing." He laughs, recalling their scribbles: rough cost estimates, room calculations, big ideas. "We figured 100 rooms were too small. At the time, our biggest hotel was this one (Protea Lusaka Tower) with 137 rooms. We knew we needed to go bigger. Eventually, we landed on 250 rooms and a conference centre for 2,500 people. We had to be determined. There was no other choice."

» PROTEA HOTEL BY MARRIOTT LUSAKA TOWER

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HAS ZAMBIA'S MINING RENAISSANCE ARRIVED?

ZAMBIA RECORDS MORE UPTICKS IN ITS MINING SECTOR

Words by Royd Kapesa



Copper mining has been the backbone of the Zambian economy for the last 100 years. However, production has been declining under the strain of old mining technology, volatile commodity pricing, and poor economic fundamentals. This underperformance has seen Zambia fall from the top 10 list of the world's largest copper producers. On the bright side, 2024 saw a 12% increase from 732,583.45 tonnes in 2023 to 820,670 tonnes in 2024, suggesting better times are ahead for the copper-dependent nation.

Despite largely depending on copper, Zambia's mining production also includes other major commodities. In 2024, Zambian mining production included:

- **Gold:** 3,141.81 kilograms
- **Nickel:** 21,039.55 metric tonnes
- **Manganese:** 2024 figures pending; 2023 output was approximately 171,000 metric tonnes
- **Zinc:** 134,932.48 metric tonnes
- **Gemstones:** 31,578 kilograms
- **Cement:** 3,262,318.78 metric tonnes

However, copper remains the crown jewel in Zambia's mining mix, accounting for 70% of total export earnings in 2024.

A resurgence in legacy mines on the Copperbelt, the hub of mining in the country, largely drove the production recovery. Mopani Copper Mines was recently acquired by International Resource Holdings (IRH), KCM saw a reinjection of cash by Vedanta Resources, and Barrick Gold's Lumwana Mine ramped up production in 2024. All these positive developments occurred against the backdrop of reduced energy supply critical for mining, resulting from the worst drought in over 100 years that has severely impacted hydroelectric power generation at the Kariba Dam and other facilities.

Increased Investment in Mining

Zambia has set an ambitious target to produce 3 million tonnes of copper by 2031. If achieved, this would position Zambia as the third-highest producer in the world behind Chile and the Democratic Republic of Congo. Investment in the mining sector has seen an exponential rise over the last three years, driven by the tailwind of Zambia's

2021 elections. To this end, major players in the mining sector have announced more than \$10 billion of new investment in the ageing mining sector.

Some key commitments include:

- \$2 billion from Barrick Gold to increase copper production at the Lumwana Mine
- \$1.35 billion from First Quantum Minerals at Kansanshi Mine in Solwezi to extend the life of the mine
- \$2 billion planned investment by KoBold Metals to develop the high-grade Mingomba copper deposit, located in the Northwestern Province
- \$300 million by JCHX Mining to revive the ailing Chibuluma Mine and extend its life

Strategically, the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) partnered with Mercuria Energy Trading of Switzerland to develop a commodities trading company, leveraging Zambia's mineral wealth and enhancing economic value. According to a press release from IDC, the deal will "help Zambia build



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independent institutional marketing and trading capabilities for copper, the country's largest mineral export."

Improved Policy and Micro-Environment

The surge in mining investment is driven by regulatory and policy improvements aimed at positioning Zambia as a worthy destination for investment dollars. These policies aim to achieve, among other objectives, economic diversification to replace mining as the primary revenue source, fostering a competitive and stable environment, increasing local ownership and participation, and strengthening monitoring mechanisms to track grades and volumes.

To achieve this, three primary policy directives have been published so far, pending full implementation:

1. The Minerals Regulation Commission Bill 2024
2. The Draft Local Content Regulations
3. The Critical Minerals Strategy

When fully implemented, these proposals promise significant changes to enhance the environment for increased investment and project development in the sector.

Furthermore, the 2023 National Budget introduced significant tax revisions that laid the foundation for increased investments. These revisions included a reduction of the property transfer tax on the transfer of mineral rights held

by exploration companies from 10 per cent to 7.5 per cent, deductibility of the mineral royalty tax when determining the taxable income of mining companies, and the introduction of a presumptive tax (4-10%) for artisanal and small-scale mining, based on gross turnover. This legislation aimed to stabilise the tax regime and provide mining companies with significant tax relief to spur investment.

Challenges Ahead: Social Concerns

Despite the positive investment trajectory in the mining sector, social and environmental challenges continue to pose a serious threat to the industry. On the social front, local communities continue to demand more involvement from mining houses. The National Local Content Strategy (2018-2022) has failed to deliver the promise to "promote inclusive growth and sustainable development through value addition by increased utilisation of locally available goods and services in growth sectors." This has left Zambians watching on the sidelines without fully realising the potential of their national resources.

Environmental Risks

Mining continues to pose a significant environmental risk to the country. The country is still grappling with the lead contamination from the tailings of the Broken Hill mine in Kabwe, which ceased operations in 1994.

Adding to these concerns, early 2025, a major acid spill occurred from a tailings dam in the Copperbelt, resulting in

over 50 million litres of concentrated acid, dissolved solids, and heavy metals flowing into a stream that feeds into the Kafue River. The acid spill could affect millions of Zambians well beyond the Copperbelt, as contamination was detected as far as 100 kilometres downstream. This incident highlights the ongoing environmental management challenges facing the industry.

The Bright Future Ahead

When the potential of Zambian mining is fully unlocked, everyone stands to benefit. The country could earn millions of dollars in foreign exchange, but desperately needs to halt the falling currency. The presence of mines will benefit local communities through job creation and enterprise development, effectively increasing household incomes.

Manufacturing plants would be revived to feed the demand for inputs and equipment used in mining. Infrastructure supporting the commodity's export could see significant improvements, especially rail, which is the most viable alternative to road. The Lobito Corridor is one such optimistic development that will connect Zambia to the port of Lobito in Angola.

Furthermore, increased mining production would free up much-needed resources to invest in energy projects, thereby diversifying the country's energy sector and reducing its strong dependence on hydropower, which has proven vulnerable to the effects of climate change.

As the demand for critical minerals that support the global energy transition grows, copper becomes an increasingly desired commodity. Zambia has a rare opportunity to position itself as the supplier of choice if its ambition is supported by a transparent and flexible policy, enhanced environmental protection, and community empowerment with inclusion at all stages of the value chain.

So, has Zambia's mining renaissance arrived? The evidence suggests a resounding "yes", but the sustainability of this revival will depend on how well the country balances economic growth with environmental stewardship and social responsibility in the years to come.



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ZAMBIA'S FORGOTTEN HEMP ACT

HIGH HOPES OR UP IN SMOKE?

Words by Kamiza Chikula



The global hemp industry is worth an astronomical USD 6.2 billion. The industry's growth has been nothing short of stratospheric, driven by the discovery of more beneficial uses for hemp products and derivatives, as well as the numerous markets these are yielding. Why, then, isn't Zambia actively staking a claim to its slice of this lucrative pie? Let's explore Zambia's hemp story...

Legal Framework

On 20 May 2021, Zambia enacted Act Number 34, the Industrial Hemp Act, 2021. This Act was passed in tandem with Act Number 33, the Cannabis Act, 2021, to ensure a clear distinction between the two products. The objective of the Hemp Act was to introduce the Zambian agricultural sector to a new

avenue of growth and diversification through the legal and regulated cultivation of hemp.

The Hemp Act of 2021 is a landmark piece of legislation regulating hemp cultivation, processing, and commercialisation in Zambia. It recognises and highlights hemp's versatility and makes it a point to distinguish it from narcotic cannabis because of its low tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) content. THC is a cannabinoid found in cannabis and is the primary psychoactive compound that causes intoxication or the "high" associated with cannabis use.

This one active component marks the most distinct difference between hemp and narcotic cannabis. For clarity, hemp

is cannabis that contains 0.3% or less THC by dry weight; narcotic cannabis, also commonly referred to as marijuana, is defined as cannabis with more than 0.3% THC. This distinction is deliberately created by the Act to support, guide, and encourage the legal cultivation, production, and processing of hemp for use in the medical, industrial, and food-processing sectors.

The Hemp Act, 2021, gives Zambian farmers who venture into this sector a seat at the global hemp market table, potentially boosting income for local communities and contributing to broader economic diversification efforts.

The Wonder Plant

But what is all the fuss regarding hemp? Well, hemp is somewhat of a wonder

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plant. It provides a vast array of products and, when grown correctly, can yield some incredibly high profitability per acre. A few cases in point:

- Hemp stalk provides a sustainably grown fibre, which can be woven into rope, string, textiles, livestock feed, insulation material, and even biofuel.
- Hemp leaves, rich in polyphenols (naturally occurring plant compounds which serve as antioxidants, with more potential health benefits being unlocked through research), are a top source of cannabidiol (CBD). CBD is the non-psychoactive compound derivative that yields health benefits without the much-frowned-upon mind-altering “high” infamously associated with THC. These leaves can be used for food supplements and skincare products, dried and added to infusions, and in some places, even eaten raw in salads.
- Hemp flowers are the platinum standard for CBD harvest. The CBD oil extracted from hemp flowers is predominantly added to creams, ointments, and lotions, with the most significant benefit being its use in pain management when applied topically.
- Hemp seeds (cold-pressed to yield hemp seed oil that contains no cannabinoids) are rich in protein, dietary fibre, fatty acids, and magnesium. On the industrial front, several manufacturers use this oil in products like paint, varnishes, and even plastic production.

Like all other cash crops, it's all about the numbers. Averages hover around USD 450 per acre for hemp fibre, and USD 250–300 per acre for hemp seeds. Growing hemp for CBD is by far the most profitable venture, yielding anywhere from USD 2,000 to USD 40,000 per acre, with even higher numbers reported by some growers. The caveat here is that higher profitability is dependent on the quality of plants cultivated and the methods used in that cultivation process.

Barriers to Entry

With all these positives attributed to



hemp cultivation, the question remains – why isn't Zambia diving headlong into the mass cultivation of this wonder crop? Various barriers exist to entering and successfully playing in this space:

- These include a restrictive licence fee of USD250,000 to commence operations coupled with expensive quality seeds that provide high CBD and low THC.
- Hemp is a labour-intensive crop, with manual labour needed for planting, maintenance, harvesting and processing. It requires meticulous harvesting, storage and processing to preserve CBD and yield quality fibre. This infrastructure can be quite costly in large-scale operations.
- There are legal risks of ensuring the crop never breaches the legal threshold of THC concentration and the need for dedicated 24-hour security, to prevent theft due to the crop often being mistaken for marijuana.

On the positive front, hemp grows very quickly, taking only 60 to 90 days and 90 to 120 days to reach the fibre and seed harvesting stages, respectively. Hemp is

resistant to pests, acts as a good nitrogen fixer, is eco-friendly, and can be grown sustainably on reasonably fertile land, which Zambia possesses in abundance.

Recent Developments

In January 2025, Zambia's hemp-growing future received a much-needed boost with the announcement that the Zambia National Service had secured 20,000 hectares in Kabompo, North-Western Province. This news could be just the spark that Zambia has been waiting for to ignite the acceleration of hemp cultivation and production in Zambia.

The Zambia National Service, with its storied history of agricultural prowess, ticks all the boxes for the successful implementation of this project. It is a self-sufficient and self-protective entity that can turn what has hitherto been merely a discussion point into a success story run with military precision.

Zambia waits with bated breath to see positive outcomes from this venture. It is hoped that, if executed correctly, it will be a scalable operation that initiates a lucrative chain reaction from field to finished product, replete with value-added opportunities for the benefit of the Zambian economy.

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THE NEW REFRESHED ISUZU MU-X

A TASTY TREAT FOR MOTORING CONNOISSEURS



Words by Kamiza and Phyllis Chikula, images courtesy of Isuzu Motors South Africa



There are test drives, and then there is The ISUZU Experience. You see, ISUZU doesn't just hand you a set of keys and let you drive around aimlessly; they curate a memorable experience that leaves you immersed, exhilarated, and hooked on their automotive offerings.

Here's the thing about Isuzu Experiences—they are meticulously planned and designed to make participants feel special, honoured and appreciated. It's the small yet important things, like a thorough outline of what to expect, sent well in advance of the event; the naturally cheerful welcoming party at the airport; the seamless hotel check-ins; and the elaborate food menus shared electronically, giving guests a chance to mull over their options at their leisure. It's the carefully curated snack packs bursting with variety in each vehicle; it's the precise and expertly crafted launch event, enhanced by a safety briefing from a professional driver. And finally, there are the test drive routes—what awaits is something for everyone: from easy cruising to adrenaline-packed off-roading and just about everything in between.

Shifting gears into first impressions of the facelift, the refresh to the ISUZU MU-X was nothing short of jaw-dropping. The previously sedate face had morphed into an aggressive, commanding, and sporty scowl, giving the impression that the new ISUZU MU-X is constantly in motion, even when it stands perfectly still. The sliver-thin LED headlights demand attention, while the wide, sweeping grille and integrated front bumper featuring stylish air curtains make for a future-ready look that will remain fresh for years to come. Rolling on 20-inch alloy wheels, their black detailing is a nod to the detail on the tastefully flared wheel arches. Beyond the unmissable aesthetic, a 360-degree camera system coupled with a highly sensitive proximity sensor system adds a practical touch, making for a safe and informed driving experience. The rear end also received a modern treatment, featuring smoked-out taillights and a light bar, which scored top marks for a bold shift from the safety of normalcy and a dramatic new look.

The newly refined interior matches the exterior's style while still paying homage to its lineage and pedigree. The

ergonomic leather bucket seats feature a classy and tasteful red stitching finish in the top-of-the-range XT models, and this red accenting is visible throughout the interior, on door panels, armrests, headrests, and console, all designed with the user in mind. The Infotainment System has been upgraded to a 9-inch touchscreen, which supports wireless Apple CarPlay and Android Auto, as well as seamless smartphone integration. A new 7-inch bright digital multi-information cluster provides real-time information, including eco-driving data and four-wheel-drive status, replacing the previous analogue and digital hybrid displays. Even the most minor details, such as the way the steering wheel fits in your hand, are considered. This includes everything you need for hands-on operation, from answering the phone to setting adaptive cruise control, as well as activating the 360-degree cameras and resetting the control panel display layout.

Of course, the true test and measure of any self-respecting motor vehicle is its performance. The test drive felt akin to an episode of The Amazing Race, with old-school map-reading skills put

to the test as drivers navigated the charming highways and byways of Stellenbosch in a 120-kilometre loop that included a 10-kilometre off-road track to challenge both driver and machine. The upgraded suspension confidently challenged every cross-axle, side slope, boulder, sand, and descent thrown at it. Speaking of descents, the machine showcased its newly improved Hill Descent Control (HDC) with aplomb, handling a 40-degree downhill slope with consummate ease and poise. Adrenaline surged through the drivers as they placed their trust in the highly efficient on-board computer until they reached level ground.

With spirits high from the morning's adventures, the convoy of elated ISUZU drivers rolled over the lush and rolling meadows of Cavalli Wine and Co. for a sumptuous three-course lunch where experiences and impressions of the refreshed ISUZU MU-X were shared. You may be wondering why all the ceremony for a car launch? President of Isuzu South Africa, Mr Billy Tom shares an interesting response; "We don't want to just do a conventional launch at a motor show or in some auditorium; we want to showcase the beauty of South Africa by taking our guests to places where they might not ordinarily go and in our small way, we are helping the tourism sector".

Lunch ended with a final drive on the tarmac to the Erinvale Estate Hotel and Spa for dinner and overnight accommodation. This final lap allowed the new ISUZU MU-X to gallop freely on the highway with its retuned, 3.0-litre turbo diesel engine, effortlessly utilising all 140kW and 450Nm of power at its disposal. The six-speed automatic shifter smoothly adapts to all driving conditions, and the author may or may not have tested the raw acceleration (0-100km/h in 10.65 seconds) of this comfortable yet composed city road cruiser.

Overall, the new ISUZU MU-X boasts usability – anyone can drive it for any activity. It is a crystallisation of ISUZU's ethos that life does not fit neatly into just one category. For this reason, the refreshed ISUZU MU-X is not built for just one kind of journey or person; it is designed for everyday and everywhere. As any ISUZU driver will tell you, reliability and dependability are the bedrock of the ISUZU brand, and the new MU-X is certain to join a long line of legendary ISUZU models. ISUZU truly is with you for the long run.

The newly refreshed ISUZU MU-X 2025 is here to make its mark on the SUV market and stake its claim as a worthy option for anyone serious about experiencing all the creature comforts

of the modern vehicle, with a side of the benefits of a machine built like a tank. The base model is fitted with a 1.9-litre turbocharged diesel engine in the LS variant, while the class-leading flagship ONYX model boasts a 3.0-litre turbocharged diesel engine.

The ISUZU MU-X range is sold in Africa with ISUZU's standard 3-year/100,000km warranty, which includes roadside assistance and an anti-corrosion warranty with service intervals every 10,000km or 12 months. For a close encounter with the new ISUZU MU-X, visit Action Auto Zambia in Lusaka or Kitwe.

Action Auto Zambia is proud to be the sole authorised dealer for Isuzu Motors South Africa in Zambia, operating across three branches – two in Lusaka and one in Kitwe. Since 1997, Action Auto has been delivering class-leading passenger vehicles, pickups, and trucks while providing industry-leading after-sales support to the Zambian market.

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A (MODEST) PROPOSITION

Well," she asked, "are you going to get on your knee?"

"Uh, yeah sure, why not?" I obliged. Surprisingly, she obliged too.

Thus began the 53 short hours of engagement bliss before my family descended like wedding-planning locusts, fielding questions about when, where, how, and with whom the wedding should take place, something I had somehow forgotten comes after proposing.

"Can we invite your cousin's colleague's dog-sitter? She watched Snuffles that one Saturday when Dad went for his checkup. Oh, it's your wedding, so you decide, but you really should invite her, you know." To be fair, she's a pillar of the Central African dog-sitting community, which is no small feat, and her inclusion in our wedding would bestow upon it the kind of high-profile status we desperately need.

Somehow, I had forgotten that a proposal leads to an engagement, which, naturally—follow me on this complex logic—leads to an actual marriage. In my mind, getting engaged is just an expensive way to tell someone that you are fairly confident you like them. I suspect that Sarah, my fiancée, is mostly happy that she got a new ring. In contrast, marriage exists as some far-off possibility, sharing space in the same hazy future that includes kids running out of a suburban home with a white-picketed fence and me watching them, grey-haired from my debts to questionable people, while sipping coffee out of a mug that says "World's Best Husband/Dad/Debtor".

Planning a wedding, as it turns out, is quite stressful, not to mention expensive. In the course of three weeks, I have suggested eloping at least ten times—that's averaging one escape plan every two days.

We even came across a wedding photographer who specialises in elopements. He charged the small amount of two months' salary to capture us spontaneously fleeing from our wedding obligations and my cousin's colleague's dog-sitter's disturbingly well-groomed Scottish terrier called Zelda. Of course, the irony that something as supposedly spontaneous as an

elopement could be meticulously orchestrated does not escape me.

I am confident that it will all work out, just like my proposal. I'd love to say that I had been planning to propose for months – nay, years – carefully orchestrating sonnets and floating down on a parachute. But I usually leave matters of the heart to its impulsive beating, much like my dental appointments and general planning.

One night, I had the sudden urge to propose, and so I bought a ring online (yes, romance in the age of the internet is delightful. Nothing says "forever" like a late-night purchase after three hours of comparison shopping and reading reviews from strangers named BlingLover427). I was giddy; Sarah noticed it. She probably also noticed me measuring out her rings. She has awfully small fingers, which initially excited me because I imagined it would make the ring cheaper (smaller ring = less gold = cheaper, right?). It didn't. Turns out the jewellery industry doesn't offer discounts for small-fingered people. Must be some kind of monopoly, a conspiracy peddled by the fat-fingered CEOs of jewellery companies. Nevertheless, I obliged, and bought the piece of stone and gold, and wouldn't you know it, the ring is still too big for her, a bittersweet inconvenience – I really did show those profit-hungry CEOs who's winning here: the guy with the loose-fitting engagement ring and the maxed-out account.

The ring came a long way, delivered to a friend who was travelling overseas. It was prettier than I remembered, sparkling with the light of a thousand "monthly payments."

That night, I proposed in front of candles in our dark house (after all, it's easier to be romantic during an electricity crisis; nothing says "I love you" like being able to see your partner's face exclusively by candlelight). It was April Fool's Day, a fact that only revealed itself after Sarah told me she hoped it wasn't a joke, otherwise she'd leave me. I said we'll have to find out. She hasn't left me yet.

I appreciate her commitment to my humour... and Zelda.

» ABOUT SEBASTIAN

Sebastian kindly asks all of his three and a half fans, who irregularly send him fan mail, to desist. As a 'taken' man, he no longer accepts unsolicited dog pics.



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FINEST



Liuwa Plains is home to prolific predator sightings and is still guarded by the ancient ways of the Lozi, who named themselves the keepers of the earth centuries ago. On page 72, lions roar, and hyenas hunt unafraid.



HEALER OR FALSE PROPHET?

The Ng'angas Hidden In Plain Sight

Words by Mukandi Siame, illustrations by Tsungai Kaunda

Driven by arrogance, I stepped over the hearth into Prophet Joseph's world. My usual Saturdays were a slice of decadence before returning to the workweek, but there I was, visiting a *Ng'anga*. Determined to form an adventure, I convinced my friend Matilda to be my sidekick. We had no appointment, and our first realisation was that traditional healing practitioners have always worked from home. Outside, we were welcomed by a woman washing bright white cotton nappies and shaking ash from a brazier at the door. This suggested the presence of a newborn and meals eaten as a family. Prophet Joseph did not operate in a shrine; it was a clay-brick homestead in the heart of Lusaka, sitting on a large patch of land that chickens pecked and scratched.

Why Prophet Joseph? I wanted to speak to a traditional healer whose reputation preceded advertising. Through word of mouth, I was directed by a mall janitor who didn't flinch when I asked.

AMONGST THE BULLETIN BOARDS AND PLASTERED WALLS OF ZAMBIAN STREETS, BETWEEN THE COMMERCIALS FOR COOL DRINKS AND REAL ESTATE, SIT ADVERTISEMENTS FOR TRADITIONAL HEALERS. IN BOLD WORD ART FONTS, THEY BROADCAST THE AILMENTS THEY CAN HELP YOU WITH.

- MUSONDA MUKUKA

a fair man, clean-shaven and groomed, with his gaze fixed on a spot on the ground. He could have been the *Ng'anga's* apprentice or another 'believer' searching for answers.

The *Zambia Census Report 2022* does not provide specific data on the exact number of people working as traditional healers. However, it's estimated that there are more than 35,000 traditional healers in Zambia. While a detailed census breakdown isn't available, the 2022 data indicate that about 70% of the population uses traditional medicine.

A traditional healer in Zambia is called a *Ng'anga*. The term is neutral and simply translates as 'healer', but its meaning has evolved. Healer-diviners are believed to be called to their vocation by spirits. Because healing serves humanity, there is an intersection with Christianity, where healing is received through the Holy Spirit. This is explored in the paper titled *Ng'angas - Zambian Healers-Diviners and Their Relationship with Pentecostal Christianity*.

Today, traditional healing sits at the crossroads of culture, public health, politics, and religion. The government recognises healers and herbalists. The Traditional Health Practitioners Association of Zambia (THPAZ) encourages healers to register and pay a bi-annual fee of K146.41. The association certifies five categories of traditional health practitioners: Herbalists, Diviners, Healers, Spiritualists, and Traditional Birth Attendants.

It's in our nature to never stop seeking answers. When modern medicine is inaccessible or unsatisfactory, people turn to nature. A burn is soothed at home with aloe; guava leaves and salt settle the stomach; migraines, infertility, and even cancer are sometimes treated with traditional medicine. While oaths, science, and procedure guide modern medicine, traditional African medicine is holistic, accounting for the mental, emotional, and cultural aspects of health.

This line of thought led me to Musonda Kapena, co-founder of the Namfumu Conservation Trust and an expert in ethnobotany. I asked her what led us back to nature and what distinguishes a witch doctor from a *Ng'anga* or herbalist.

"Every human civilisation has an herbal healing system—all medicine started in the forest. Through tangible and intangible means, humans have used spiritual, intuitive, and learned processes to heal," Musonda shared. She emphasised that though all traditional health practitioners relied on nature to heal, their intentions and approach set them apart. She reminded me that the *Witchcraft Act of 1930* criminalises the practice or accusation of witchcraft in Zambia.

Her practice at Namfumu incorporates deep empathy, botany, and indigenous knowledge to develop scientifically dosed herbal therapies that address a myriad of ailments. She engages sustainably with nature and encourages all humans to adopt a responsible lifestyle that does not contribute to disease.

Healers advertising on roadside banners usually treat mainstream ailments, such as malaria, but highlight flashy services, including bringing back lost lovers, enlarging manhood, magic wallets, and lucky charms for court cases and exams. These sorts of practices defy nature and the principle of free will. But because there's no scientific proof required, the wilder the claim, the more attention it attracts.

Prophet Joseph, by contrast, **did not believe in advertising**.

As I sat there, I expected him to ask why I'd come, like a doctor would. My friend suggested I pose a hypothetical issue, but I couldn't suppress my superstition. My lips were dry, and my palms were moist as I waited for the spell of silence to be broken. When the moment came, the neat man by the window spoke. My mistake dawned on me.

"Ndine Prophet Joseph. Tingamitandizeni..."
(Translation: We can help you...)

The subversion was shocking. This was the prophet? He was cordial, trim, and almost professional. He introduced his apprentice, who had once been a patient, and nodded before turning back to his phone. Prophet Joseph looked me in the eye, nodded, and continued talking until we found a common





language: Nyanja. I noticed an accent, though I couldn't place it. The baby lay asleep as we talked.

He said he didn't choose this life—he was born this way, born with the ability to see visions. At church, he saw disturbing flashes about elders. In public, he foresaw misfortunes. His parents told him to be quiet, blend in, and never share what he saw. Over time, he came to understand the purpose behind his visions—to support and assist in God's work. However, the hypocrisy he found in the church sent him away.

He met his wife during his prodigal years. They married in 2018 and now have four children. He eventually found a church that brought him peace. I guessed he was in his early to mid-thirties, but I didn't ask—afraid it might derail our conversation. “*Sini gwila mankwala...*” he said, opening his palms to show they were clean. Aside from a cane leaning against the wall, no herbs or strange objects were in sight. He explained that he was not a witch doctor or herbalist but a healer, and all his power came from God.
(Translation: *I do not use witchcraft...*)

When asked if he healed for money, he deflected. He spoke about false prophets and scammer pastors who sought spiritual powers through dark means to grow their churches. He hinted at a hierarchy—more followers meant more money. The irony struck me: influencers also operate on the principle of attention and influence. Are they also scammers?

Many people visit Prophet Joseph, and he dedicates himself to prayer to see the problem, the source, and how to eradicate it

SINCE ZAMBIA WAS DECLARED A CHRISTIAN NATION, CONSULTING NG'ANGAS HAS INCREASINGLY BECOME A TABOO. MANY SEE THEIR PRACTICES AS CONFLICTING WITH BOTH THE NATION'S CHRISTIAN VALUES AND ITS IDENTITY.

- MUSONDA MUKUKA

permanently. His manner was evangelical, reminding me to stay on the path with the Christian God, who didn't ask for anything to heal us because Jesus Christ paid the price. He shared his extensive beliefs in evil and how people attract it through desperation, greed, desire, and careless exposure.

His vigilance against evil is shared by mobs who harm elderly people accused of witchcraft. The accused are often alone, exhibiting cognitive decline and vulnerability. Such accusations are fatal, resulting in the violent loss of life outside of the justice system. I shudder to think of what I would do if my own mother were found in such a situation.

I had more questions than answers.

He was as curious about me as I was about him. He asked again why I was there.

To most, writing is not a real profession. We sat across from each other, playing tennis with our whys. Ultimately, I concluded that there was no definitive answer.

Traditional healing was as integral to African culture as storytelling. At one point in time, traditional healers existed freely, much like storytellers around a fire. The forms of the practice have changed. I write on a laptop, and people like Prophet Joseph work with what they have. When asked where the words I write come from, I would have the same answer as he: *pictures in my mind*.

Eventually, he stopped asking. The baby stirred awake. His wife came in, nursed him, and then handed him to the apprentice. She listened as we spoke. When I'd said my goodbyes, Prophet Joseph warned me: “Be careful. There is good and bad everywhere.”

I was tempted to ask about my weight, fertility, or future romantic prospects, but it all felt trivial. He spoke of people who were carried in on reed mats and walked away healed. I knew I wouldn't get the answers I needed for closure. Heeding his warning, I lost the courage or curiosity to visit more traditional healers.

I reached into my bag for a note I felt was worth his time and hid it in my palm before I knelt.

“Ah, siba ona,” his wife said, the baby now on her hip.
(Translation: *He can't see.*)

What? I looked up at him, scanning his face. For the first time, I saw the glassy mist in his eyes.

His wife quickly filled in the gaps. It was clear this was her role—explaining her husband's imperceptible blindness. After a bout of headaches, Prophet Joseph suddenly went blind seven months prior. The hospital prescribed Vitamin B as the headaches worsened. His work worsens his condition, his visions drain him, and his prayer is a strenuous effort. I asked if he was afraid—and why God hadn't healed him. He answered that it is “*all to the glory of God.*”

I thought of the many who advertised potions for wealth but were not rich themselves. I slipped the money directly into his palm, and he thanked me, saying he would see me again. Did he see it—or was that just something people said?



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Words by Jolezya Adeyemo

"DARKLY COMIC, EMOTIONALLY INTENSE—
RUNGANO NYONI'S BOLD RECKONING WITH ABUSE."

Images courtesy of Rungano Nyoni

RUNGANO NYONI

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2024 Official Selection

IN HER SECOND FEATURE, ZAMBIAN-WELSH FILMMAKER RUNGANO NYONI TRANSFORMS PERSONAL TRAGEDY INTO A STARK AND SURREAL TALE. "ON BECOMING A GUINEA FOWL" FOLLOWS SHULA THROUGH FUNERAL RITUALS STEEPED IN CONTRADICTIONARY EMOTIONS—MOURNING, GOSSIP, PERFORMANCE—AFTER SHE DISCOVERS HER PREDATORY UNCLE'S BODY. DRAWING ON HER GRANDMOTHER'S STORYTELLING TRADITIONS, NYONI DELIVERS DRY HUMOUR AND MAGICAL REALISM, RESISTING OVER INTERPRETATION. FILMED IN ZAMBIA, THE MOVIE EARNED HER BEST DIRECTOR UN CERTAIN REGARD AT CANNES 2024. IT IS A POWERFUL ASSERTION OF WOMEN'S VOICES, CULTURAL ROOTEDNESS AND CINEMATIC AUTHORITY.

ON GRIEF, DREAMS AND GUINEA FOWLS

THE “GUINEA FOWL” METAPHOR ORIGINATES
FROM A BEMBA PROVERB ABOUT COLLECTIVE
PROTECTION AND SOUNDING THE ALARM.

Rungano's film came to her in a dream. She woke up in the middle of the night and said to herself, "I think I dreamed a movie." Still half-asleep but compelled to explore the possibilities further, she began writing immediately. The story she outlined took shape over several years, evolving into *On Becoming a Guinea Fowl* (2024), the Zambian-Welsh filmmaker's second feature film—a haunting, darkly humorous reflection on silence, complicity, and tradition. The film earned Rungano the Best Director Award in the *Un Certain Regard* section at the 2024 Cannes Film Festival—a prestigious category that spotlights films with unusual styles and non-traditional storytelling approaches.

The year she began drafting *Guinea Fowl* was an especially significant and difficult one. Rungano lost two family members she was close to: her grandmother and her uncle. Grief, layered with the demands of funerals—particularly for women—lingered in her mind. "Imagine doing all this work for someone you loved; now imagine doing it for someone you hated." The intersection of that discomfort and that tension is where the film begins.

Guinea Fowl opens with its main character, Shula, driving home from a fancy dress party. She is dressed as Missy Elliott in the music video for her *Rain (Supa Dupa Fly)* track. She spots something in the darkness and discovers her Uncle Fred lying dead on the roadside near a brothel he most likely visited that night. The image of Shula standing over her dead uncle in an oversized space suit and a bedazzled headpiece is striking—almost absurd. It has been widely interpreted as a comment on private versus public identity, diasporic dissonance, or as Rungano's way of saying women in Zambia are not free. But Rungano shared that most people misinterpreted the outfit and read too much into it. "In the film, we don't get to know Shula outside of the funeral, and she remains stoic throughout. With this outfit, her personality, life and sense of humour are allowed to flicker for a moment before giving way to the heaviness," Rungano shared.



THE FILM HAS ALSO BEEN PICKED UP BY A24 FILMS, THE INDEPENDENT PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION COMPANY BEHIND SEVERAL OSCAR-WINNING FILMS.

Throughout my conversation with Rungano, it becomes clear that audiences misinterpreting her work has been a common occurrence, stretching back to her first feature film, *I Am Not a Witch* (2017). "It is alright for people to interpret my work differently than I intended," she says. "I just don't want to hold the viewer's hand and over-explain scenarios to them. I just want to make the film I want to see."

A Style Rooted in Contrast

Rungano brings her signature blend of magical realism, dry, biting humour, and observations from Zambian funerals to *Guinea Fowl*. "Funerals in Zambia are full of contradictions," she explained. "They're sad and overwhelming, but in some ways, they're not really about the person who died. There's gossip, family politics, food debates, and who's cooking for the 500 people here? You're mourning, but you're also laughing. That contrast shaped the film."

As *Guinea Fowl* progresses, we learn that the deceased hurt a lot of people and was a sexual predator—Shula being one. While the family is aware of his crimes, she's still the recipient of pressure to mourn him regardless. Shula is expected to put her 'differences' aside and conform to the performative side of Zambian funerals.

"I wanted to reflect on how difficult it can be to speak up," Rungano said. "Especially when you know no one will support you. There's a reward for silence—socially and emotionally. Speaking costs you."

Finding Her Way to Film

A common misconception about the actress-turned-director is that she comes from a creative family, or that her upbringing nurtured her creative side. However, Rungano asserts, "We weren't a creative or cinematic family. No one in my family was in the arts. Everyone had



'proper' jobs, but interestingly, the jobs they picked weren't easy ones. People in my family tend to be stubborn, and I inherited that trait too and translated it into my career." Rungano studied business before accepting that film was her true calling. "I thought acting was my way in, and I studied acting, but I was a terrible actress," she shared. "I then tried producing before I found my place as a director."

Although Rungano insists that her background did not lead her to film, she notes another creative in the family—her sister, award-winning author Mubanga Kalimamukwento. The siblings share a similar journey: both initially pursued

DESPITE A TIGHT FILMING SCHEDULE, ROLLING POWER CUTS IN ZAMBIA CAUSED UNPREDICTABLE PRODUCTION DELAYS



conventional professional paths before following their artistic callings. "A job in the creative world wasn't an option for us growing up. That's why I first studied business, and my sister studied law before we explored our creative curiosities."

Rungano credits her grandmother for influencing her storytelling style and her creative DNA. "My grandmother used to tell many stories, or *utushimi*, including fairy tales. They incorporate a lot of magic and music. I was trying to find a style that could be mine and not just copy anyone, so I looked to my grandmother," she shared. This influence is visible in both her films, which

incorporate elements of magical realism and fairytale-like qualities that echo traditional Zambian storytelling.

Rungano's great grandmother makes her mark in another way—through the naming of her characters. The main characters in *Guinea Fowl* and *I Am Not a Witch* are called Shula, for Rungano's great grandmother. In both cases, what began as a placeholder stuck as filming progressed.

Telling Zambian Stories on Her Terms

While Rungano has lived most of her life outside Zambia, her filmmaking instincts have always pulled her back. "I did not set out to only make Zambian stories,"

she admitted. "But whenever I sat down to write, Zambia came to me. Perhaps it's my grandmother's way of calling to me."

Still, Zambian stories have never been easy to fund or sell. Her early pitches were often met with remarks like, "This is too African." Even now, distribution across the continent remains a challenge. "My films are more accessible abroad than they are at home. That's an African problem, not just a Zambian one," she said. "Distributors don't think it's worth the effort to showcase African films in Africa."

Despite this, she has doubled down and insists on making her films in Zambia and



RUNGANO STUDIED ACTING BEFORE BECOMING A DIRECTOR, PERFORMING AS AN EXTRA IN BOLLYWOOD MOVIES. BUT SHE WAS MORE INTERESTED IN STANDING BEHIND THE CAMERA.

about Zambia, even though she admits that filming in the UK is significantly easier. Her work represents a growing wave of African filmmakers determined to tell their stories authentically, regardless of industry challenges.

She moved back to Zambia in 2024 with her husband and three-year-old daughter. "I wanted my daughter to have a sense of her Zambianness. I wanted her to be rooted here before she experiences the rest of the world," she said.

Between Pressure and Persistence
After the success of *I Am Not a Witch*, which premiered at Cannes and earned a BAFTA, Rungano didn't rush into her next project. She wasn't sure she would make another film at all. "I'd stopped writing," she said. "*I Am Not a Witch* was hard to make, and I felt drained."

And with success came pressure—something she felt more acutely the second time. "Everyone had ideas about what kind of filmmaker I was supposed to be," she said. "There were expectations from financiers, collaborators, critics, and I started making choices based on what others wanted, but I'll never do that again."

Despite her accolades, Rungano feels far from successful.

"I'm grateful for the opportunities I've had and feel lucky to do what I do, but

success, for me, would be making films without being constantly questioned—the way my male peers are just allowed to direct. I have the accolades, but not always the respect. One male peer who has made less films than me, told me he's the alpha and omega on his set. That's what I want—to have that authority."

She sees a gendered hierarchy even among African filmmakers. "Being a woman is the hardest part," she said. "Black male filmmakers still have it easier. Being African, being a woman—being both—becomes more complicated."

Despite the challenges of being a filmmaker, Rungano isn't done yet. She plans to make a sci-fi film—surreal and playful, yet meaningful. "Sci-fi is my favourite genre, so I want to have fun with it," she said. "But not empty fun. I must find meaning in it, even if it's not a heavy subject."

She was unequivocal when asked what advice she has for emerging filmmakers, including those from Zambia: "Don't wait to be discovered. Just make the film. Use your phone. Use your friends and family as actors. Share. Upload your film to YouTube if you can't afford to submit it to Cannes. Don't just talk about it—do it." She added, "I receive many requests for mentorship, but I only agree to help those who have something to show, even if it's only a script."

Her vision is clear—even when the world around her is murky. "If I only had one more film to make, I'd still make it here," she said. "I believe Zambia is where I'm meant to be."

THE VISUAL STYLE OF THE FILM WAS INSPIRED BY ITALIAN FILMMAKER FEDERICO FELLINI.





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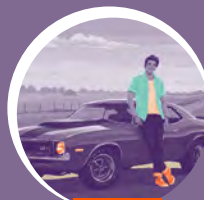
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WHERE KINGS HUNT:



A full-page photograph of a sunset over a body of water. In the foreground, the calm water reflects the orange and yellow hues of the sky. A dark silhouette of a shoreline with several palm trees stands in the middle ground. The sky is filled with numerous birds in flight, appearing as dark silhouettes against the bright, hazy background. The overall mood is serene and natural.

RETURN TO LIUWA PLAINS

Words by Sebastian Moronell, images by Walid Nassar for Nkwazi Magazine

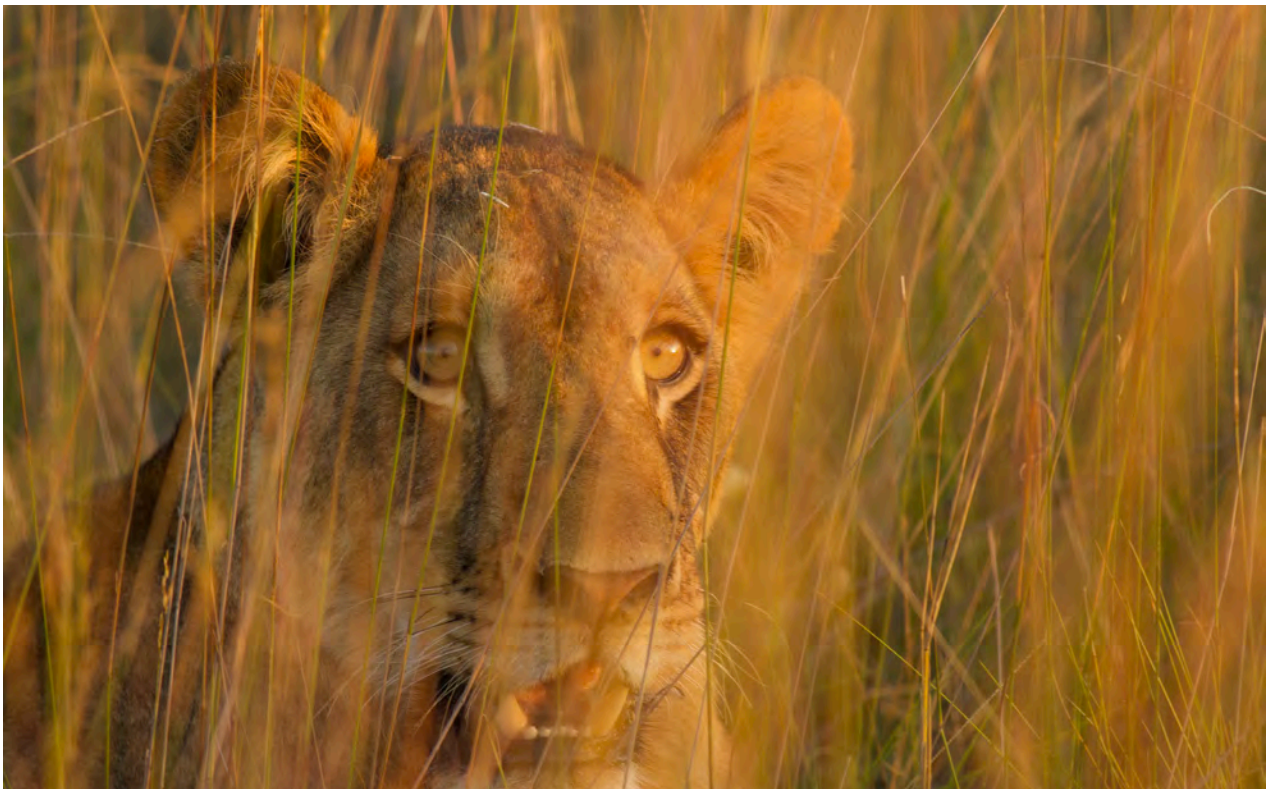
LIUWA PLAIN WAS FIRST DECLARED A PROTECTED AREA BY KING LEWANIKA IN THE 1880S, MAKING IT ONE OF THE EARLIEST CONSERVATION EFFORTS ON THE CONTINENT. IT PREDATES MOST WESTERN NATIONAL PARK SYSTEMS

We had been tracking the lions since morning, the sun climbing steadily across Liuwa's endless sky. The mother was collared, and we could access information on her whereabouts through a GPS tracking system updated once or twice daily. However, time lapses between updates and the natural restlessness of wildlife meant their locations were sometimes wildly inaccurate. Outdated coordinates forced us to rely on more traditional forms of tracking—examining paw prints pressed into sandy soil, educated guesswork based on water sources and

shade patterns, and that most essential safari ingredient: luck.

The search had taken us across vast stretches of grassland punctuated by scattered termite mounds and acacia islands. Our vehicle carved paths through grass that reached window height, creating temporary corridors that closed behind us like water. The landscape stretched infinitely in every direction, broken only by the occasional tree standing sentinel against the horizon.

When we finally found them, they were barely visible among an innocuous collection of shrubs and short trees, seeking relief from the afternoon heat in dappled light. They looked at us with thinly veiled disinterest, or maybe it was disdain—the way lions usually do, as if our presence was both expected and entirely beneath their concern. As we manoeuvred around for a better view, some cubs grew curious and wandered closer, their oversized paws silent on the earth. Her protective instincts aroused, and the mother watched us while maintaining an air of studied casualness. The lions regarded us, and we photographed them, locked in that age-old dance between predator and observer.





After about twenty minutes of half-curious mutual examination, the lions rose with fluid grace. It was time to search for water. The cubs played in the long grass, their golden coats blending seamlessly with the amber grass, hiding the latent power of their beings. We left them to their ancient rhythms, disappearing into their domain as silently as we had arrived.

This more traditional, involved form of animal tracking was a welcome change from over-subscribed safari destinations, where animal locations are usually foregone conclusions and the wilderness experience has been sanitised and packaged for mass consumption. In the contrived world of safari 'experiences', guides work hard to leave nothing to the imagination—animal locations become prerequisites for conventional drives because there's too much money at stake, too many expectations to manage, too many disappointed faces if the Big Five remain elusive.

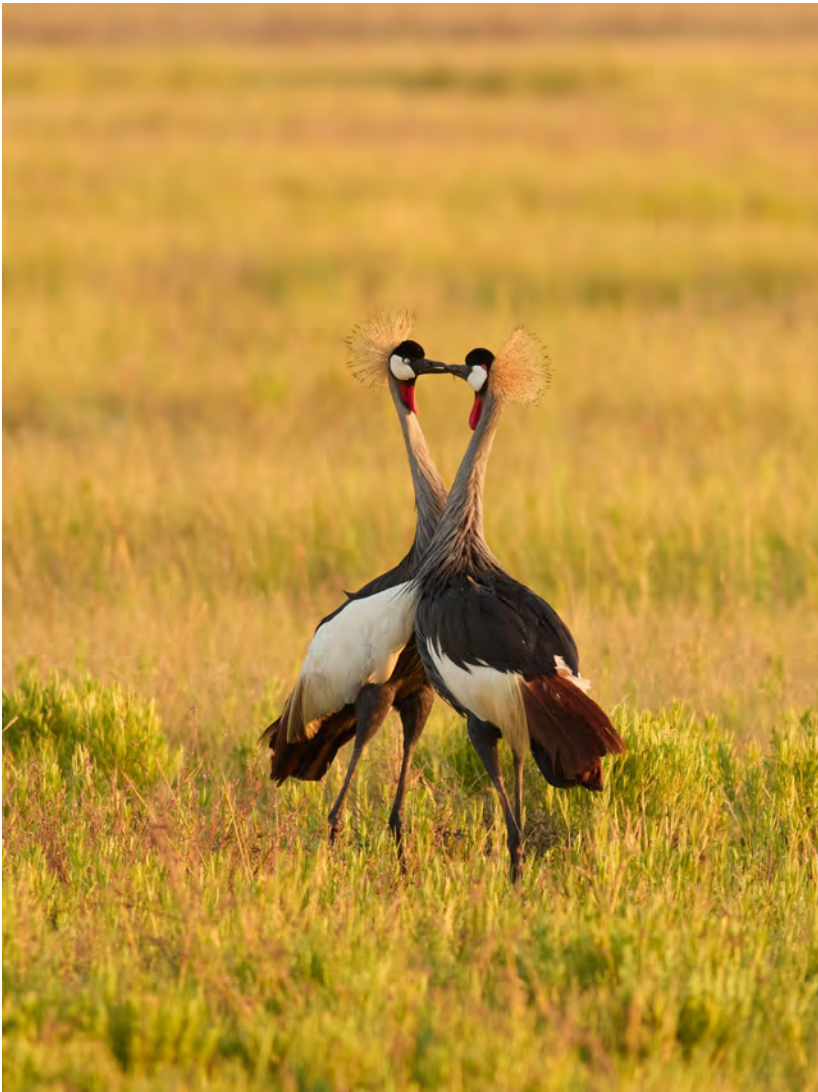
Here in Liuwa, it was a genuine delight to be alone with the landscape, the rich emptiness unspoiled by convoys of tourists piled into safari vehicles with telephoto lenses longer than a man's arm, all vying for the perfect shot to post on social media. As far as the eye could see, we were the only human figures, our solitude complete and profound. The

silence was broken only by the whisper of wind through the grass and the distant call of a fish eagle riding thermals high above.

The Liuwa Plain has earned its reputation for being gloriously remote and, by extension, relatively unspoiled—a quality that becomes increasingly precious each year as Africa's wild spaces shrink under pressure from development. Measuring 3,369km², Liuwa forms part of the larger Barotse floodplains, which swell dramatically to almost 11,000km² at their peak, usually in April when the Zambezi River system reaches its seasonal crescendo. We visited in early May when northern sections remained completely inaccessible, cut off for long periods each year by seasonal floods that transform the landscape into a watery maze of channels and islands.

This remoteness has its own appeal, particularly for 'overlanders'—those intrepid souls who cross continents in specially outfitted vehicles, seeking the most rugged terrain as proof of their adventurousness and dedication to authentic travel. The plains' sheer flatness allows for the full expression of that challenge, with few areas remaining immediately accessible except during the height of floods, when the park becomes a temporary inland sea. However, this vast open expanse also offers sweeping

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expressions before suddenly scurrying away from oncoming vehicles with surprising speed. Then there are the predators that complete this ecosystem—spotted hyenas, cheetahs, lions, wild dogs, and side-striped jackals, each occupying their particular niche in the food chain.

Birding offers another major draw for visitors, with over 350 species calling Liuwa home throughout various seasons. Many use the park as a crucial migratory stopover, while others are simply rare gems that reward patient observers. Wattled cranes, crowned

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panoramic landscape views and enables a genuine appreciation of Liuwa's famous wildebeest migration, which is second only to the Serengeti in size and spectacle. The total wildebeest population now numbers over 45,000—a remarkable recovery from decades when poaching and habitat loss decimated their numbers.

While wildebeest provide the main attraction during migration season, scores of other life occupy these plains year-round, creating a complex web of predator-prey relationships. Lechwe antelopes, perfectly adapted to the wetland environment, roam among the dispersed herds, and alongside plains zebras whose stripes create mesmerising patterns against the golden grass. Pairs of oribi antelope stand motionless, wearing perpetually contemplative



cranes, and saddle-billed storks wade through seasonal pools while Secretary birds stride across the grasslands like feathered sentinels.

This ecosystem's remarkable richness is neither accidental nor recent—it's the deliberate result of Liuwa's unique royal history, which stretches back centuries. These were the exclusive hunting grounds of the famous Barotse Litunga (literally, 'Keeper of the Earth') Lewanika, whose descendants form part of the Barotse Royal Establishment that continues to wield significant cultural authority today. The current Litunga remains the revered leader of the Lozi people of western Zambia, and signs of this royal heritage are scattered throughout the park like breadcrumbs from a fairy tale.

Consider the famous 'Lone Palm'—a cluster of four palms growing on a raised mound beside a wildlife-rich pan attracting animals throughout the dry season. Local legend claims this marks the exact spot where the mighty Litunga once sprouted a palm tree through divine power, simply by placing his ivory walking stick on the ground and commanding it to grow. The more prosaic but equally fascinating explanation suggests that the palm was

deliberately planted by the king's retinue to serve as a navigational landmark, helping to orient the royal hunting party during expeditions across the ceaselessly flat expanse where one acacia grove looks much like another.

There's also 'King's Pool', a permanent water source that stays miraculously waterlogged throughout even the driest years, reserved exclusively for fishing by the royal family and their designated representatives. When we crossed the labyrinth of waterways toward the pool early one morning, mist still rising from the surface, we encountered local fishermen carefully retrieving and resetting their traditional fish traps. This practice has continued virtually

unchanged for generations.

The Barotse Plains' seasonal flooding and recession continue to mark the fundamental rhythm of life throughout this region, holding deep symbolic and practical value for the Lozi people. The annual swelling and contraction of the plains, synchronised with the lives of human inhabitants and wildlife populations, creates a poetic image of harmony between man and nature that has largely disappeared elsewhere in Africa.

Toward the end of the 19th century, as colonial pressures mounted across the region, the forward-thinking Lewanika made a prescient decision: he declared

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SOME CLANS NUMBER
UP TO 50 INDIVIDUALS,
MAKING THEM DOMINANT
OVER LIONS IN MANY
ENCOUNTERS**

the Lozi people 'guardians of the plains', effectively designating Liuwa as one of Africa's earliest protected areas. This traditional conservation model worked remarkably well for decades, with local communities maintaining sustainable relationships with wildlife populations. In 1972, recognising the need for formal protection, the Litunga requested that the newly independent Zambian Government assume park management responsibilities, and Liuwa officially became a national park. Three decades later, in 2002, the respected conservation organisation Africa Parks took over day-to-day governance in partnership with the Department of National Parks and Wildlife and the Barotse Royal Establishment—a unique three-way collaboration honouring traditional authority and modern conservation science.

The park today balances competing desires with remarkable grace, remaining authentically rugged, genuinely out of reach, and refreshingly raw, while simultaneously developing into a sustainable tourist destination that supports local communities. For now, it maintains its blessed inaccessibility—the drive from Lusaka stretches endlessly through a landscape designed to test one's commitment, with precious little else drawing casual visitors to Western Province's remote reaches. Yet this very remoteness, which might seem like

a disadvantage, has become Liuwa's greatest asset.

The accommodation infrastructure reflects a careful balance between authenticity and comfort. We spent our first three nights at the Katoyana campsite, which exemplified rustic charm while providing essential amenities—hot showers that felt miraculous after dusty days, an attentive camp attendant who knew precisely when to appear with tea and a traditional boma where we gathered each evening to share stories and plan the next day's adventures. Several similar community-run campsites, most featuring self-catering chalets constructed from local materials, dot the park's southern edge like pearls on a string. Others are strategically positioned along roads that wind through the park's central spine, offering varied perspectives on this vast landscape.

Two lodges operate within park boundaries for visitors seeking greater comfort without sacrificing the wilderness experience: the established King Lewanika Lodge and the newer Liuwa Camp, where we spent our final evening. Modern yet understated, comfortable without being ostentatious, Liuwa Camp was enjoying only its second full season since opening when we visited. After three nights of canvas walls and camp beds, it provided welcome luxury—proper beds, gourmet meals,





and thoughtful service that doesn't intrude on the wilderness experience but certainly enhances it.

Unconventionally for an African savanna ecosystem, lions aren't Liuwa's apex predator—a fact that becomes apparent once you witness the impressive spotted hyenas that rule these plains. Larger and more muscular than their counterparts elsewhere in Africa, Liuwa's hyenas don't merely scavenge the kills of others but actively hunt with sophisticated pack coordination. We set out to track them the following morning; this time, our GPS coordinates proved more recent and reliable.

We found the pack relatively easily, their distinctive grins and alert ears poking

above the tall grass like periscopes surveying their domain. One particularly large cub had somehow acquired an entire wildebeest hide, which it dragged around with evident pride while other pack members watched with what appeared to be amusement. These creatures proved remarkably playful and inquisitive, ambling toward our vehicle with unmistakable looks of intelligent curiosity rather than aggression.

As the pack began to disperse across the landscape, we did our best to follow their movements, but they soon demonstrated why they were such successful predators in this environment. They travelled too far, too quickly across terrain that challenged our vehicle. Eventually, we had to admit defeat, leaving them

to vanish into the grass, undisturbed, untamed, and utterly in their element.

This predator-prey dynamic reflects Liuwa's broader character as a place where natural systems still function largely as they have for millennia. As traditional guardians of the plains, approximately 12,000 Lozi people currently reside within park boundaries, living in neatly planned villages that blend seamlessly into the landscape. They continue to raise cattle using time-tested methods, fish the seasonal waterways with traditional techniques, and coax crops from the challenging, sandy soil that characterises much of the plains.

This arrangement makes Liuwa a remarkable anomaly—most protected areas exclude human communities entirely. You'd expect human-wildlife conflict, and it does occur when predators threaten livestock, but Africa Parks collaborates with traditional authorities and communities, monitoring problem animals and employing non-lethal deterrents. In an age of managed experiences, Liuwa offers something more valuable: the possibility of a genuine encounter, the authentic thrill of uncertain search, and the satisfaction of finding yourself truly alone in Africa's wild heartlands.

UNLIKE MANY NATIONAL PARKS THAT EVICT LOCAL POPULATIONS, LIUWA IS A RARE EXAMPLE WHERE HUMANS AND WILDLIFE COEXIST, WITH TRADITIONAL LOZI VILLAGES CONTINUING TO LIVE SUSTAINABLY INSIDE PARK BOUNDARIES.

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Jo'burg's Finest



Fine Dining in the City of Gold

Set against Johannesburg's lively summer backdrop, experience an immersive exploration of the city's fine dining scene. The journey begins at Qunu, where local ingredients and global techniques converge in an artfully curated tasting menu. Later, the story moves to Flames, where cocktails and seafood are enjoyed against panoramic city views. Through thoughtful narration and sensory detail, catch a glimpse into Jo'burg's layered identity—cosmopolitan yet rooted, indulgent yet grounded, and always full of personality.

Words by Shilika Chisoko, images courtesy of The Saxon Hotel, Villas, Spa and The Four Seasons Hotel





Uncovering the City of Gold

Johannesburg, the ever-enthralling travel destination, is the City of Gold in every sense. With every visit, I find myself enchanted by the city's exuberance—its energetic people, bold architecture, and larger-than-life culture. On my most recent foray into Jo'burg, I decided to indulge myself with a taste of the finer things, sampling the city's fine dining scene, and I'm delighted to report that it was worth every cent and second spent!

I travelled to Jo'burg at the height of summer, when the city pulses with almost tangible energy. Upon arrival at the airport and eager to start my vacation, I promptly hailed a cab to my hotel. Despite my desire for a silent commute, the driver was chatty and friendly, gently stringing me into conversation. After I told him where I was from, he excitedly replied, "Ah, *muli bwanji!* My Zambian sister," and I burst into laughter. Jo'burg was

already beginning to win me over. He asked about my plans, and I outlined an elaborate food tour covering six restaurants. After a short pause, he asked me to consider limiting my list for a more relaxed experience.

The next day, I ventured out to my first stop, Qunu Restaurant at The Saxon Hotel, Villas and Spa. I was drawn to this establishment for various reasons. Located in the tranquil Sandhurst area of Sandton, the restaurant combines international sensibilities with local flair in its culinary offerings. Interestingly, the restaurant is named after Nelson Mandela's hometown in the Eastern Cape, reinforcing their commitment to celebrating local heritage, as I discovered during my research.

My initial plans included an early coffee and brunch, but relaxation was the aim of the vacation, and I decided to take a more leisurely approach. Although

it was a hot day, the sun was hidden behind a thicket of clouds, which made for pleasant weather. With nature on my side, I lazily made my way to Qunu Restaurant. The cab driver wasn't chatty this time but opted to treat me to a wide-ranging and enjoyable sonic experience. He played everything from dreamy house songs by Kelvin Momo to heart-pumping *amapiano* tracks by Kabza De Small. After fifteen minutes, I finally arrived at The Saxon, where I was greeted with a warm smile by a serene attendant who graciously directed me to the restaurant.

The restaurant's décor was beautifully understated, with vibrant wall art complementing the room's wood accents. I took my seat and was immediately attended to by a waiter. As this was an exercise in indulgence, I opted for the tasting menu. Within minutes, the waiter emerged with duck canapés and the glass of Pinotage I'd

selected from the menu. The canapés were a humble yet welcoming opening to the feast ahead, and the deep notes of the wine elevated their flavours immensely.

Next came what can only be described as a curated aubergine dish and a *vetkoek* (fritter) served with Cape Malay pickled fish and tomato jam. Encountering a *vetkoek* at a fine dining experience was surprisingly delightful, undoubtedly embodying the restaurant's ethos of elevating the African dining experience. The waiter explained that, under the stewardship of Executive Chef Matthew Foxon and Head Chef Scott Dressels, Qunu has become a pilgrimage destination for bold dining experiences

that are both a homecoming and a celebration of cuisine.

As I savoured the remnants of the last dish on my palate, I was served a carpaccio accompanied by a palate cleanser, setting the stage for the star of the show: the Angus. The beef sirloin was served with a red pepper purée and asparagus. The meat, expertly seared to a lovely pink medium, was tender and bursting with flavour as the uncomplicated choice of seasoning allowed it to shine. The asparagus added freshness and texture, while the red pepper purée added a tangy sweetness that rounded off the dish. I wished the meal would last forever as I slopped what was left of the sauce on the plate. My

tasting experience ended with a bright and delightful lemon dessert that was an ode to summertime. As the waiter cleared my table, I pondered whether I could stomach my next stop, Flames, at The Four Seasons Hotel, as I was already quite satisfied.

It was nearly 3 p.m., and the drive was about 20 minutes. As the glimmer of the city whipped past my window, I thought about the advice the first cab driver had offered and concluded that he was right. Upon arriving at Flames, I instantly knew I had chosen the perfect place for sundowners. Perched atop a hill, the view from the terrace was breathtaking—the grandeur of the City of Gold sprawled into the horizon, allowing

Tasting the Finer Things





An Ode to Summertime

me to feast on its beauty. As I waited to place my order, I admired the images I took of the view and the sumptuous lobby. Catching a glimpse of my screen, my waitress informed me that the hotel would be unveiling a new grand lobby and lounge in September and some soft refurbishments to all the rooms. I placed my order, and as I noted the irony of my cocktail's name, aptly called *Bikini Weather*, my waitress quickly added, "All that's missing is a pool," and we shared a laugh. I had two more of these bubbly concoctions, lightly flavoured with bitter orange syrup and vodka to give it a kick, while the fizz of the MCC titillated my taste buds.

Dinnertime found me diligently scanning the menu. In the mood for fish, I ordered the Mauritian seabass, served with chargrilled cauliflower and baby marrow, and the squid ink pasta, accompanied by *bonito miso beurre blanc*. Though I had never tried seabass, I was more intrigued by the squid ink pasta. The entire meal was out of my comfort zone, but I was keen for the adventure, and my boldness was not unrewarded. The richness of the seabass paired deliciously with the freshness of the baby marrow. The meal felt like a meeting of familiar and complex flavours, and I was engulfed in the experience, that I was moved to send my compliments to the chefs. I

decided to end my night with a simple and reliable hot chocolate as I revelled in the day's success, chatting with the waiters as they stopped by my table to check on me.

My ride back to the hotel was serene. From the safety of my cab, I watched the rhythm of the city unfold as the night progressed. I thought about the day I'd had and the fullness of it all, both literally and metaphorically. Most importantly, I reflected on how my experience was just a sliver of what Jo'burg has to offer. Tomorrow, I will find myself fully immersed in the City of Gold, hungry for more adventures.



Fly direct into Johannesburg with Proflight Zambia twice daily from Lusaka. Proflight Zambia also operates regular scheduled flights into Johannesburg from Kalumbila, Kasama, Livingstone, Mansa, Mfuwe, Ndola and Solwezi. Visit flyzambia.com for the latest flight schedule.



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Your place for all things Proflight, from news updates to fleet and customs information.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE

LUSAKA - JOHANNESBURG

#	DEP	ARR	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
020	08:15	10:15	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
024	11:00	13:00	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

NDOLA - JOHANNESBURG (VIA LUSAKA)

#	DEP	ARR	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
311/020	06:30	10:15	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
303/024	09:00	13:00	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

LUSAKA - CAPE TOWN (VIA LIVINGSTONE STOPOVER)

#	DEP	ARR	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
050	06:40	11:10				●			●

LIVINGSTONE - CAPE TOWN

#	DEP	ARR	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
050	08:10	11:10				●			●

LUSAKA - LIVINGSTONE

#	DEP	ARR	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
700	06:55	08:05		●			●		
704	10:35	11:45	●		●	●	●	●	●
708	16:35	17:45	●	●	●	●		●	●

LUSAKA - SOLWEZI

#	DEP	ARR	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
930	06:30	07:25	●	●	●	●			
910	06:40	07:50							●
910	06:50	07:45					●	●	
946	15:20	17:05		●	●	●	●		
918	15:45	16:55						●	
918	16:05	17:00	●						●

LUSAKA - KALUMBILA

#	DEP	ARR	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
930	06:30	08:15	●	●	●	●			
950	06:30	07:45					●	●	
946	15:20	16:15		●	●	●	●		
956	15:40	16:55	●						●

JOHANNESBURG - LUSAKA

#	DEP	ARR	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
023	12:00	14:00	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
025	14:00	16:00	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

JOHANNESBURG - NDOLA (VIA LUSAKA)

#	DEP	ARR	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
025/308	14:00	17:45	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

CAPE TOWN - LUSAKA (VIA LIVINGSTONE STOPOVER)

#	DEP	ARR	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
051	12:00	16:20				●			●

CAPE TOWN - LIVINGSTONE

#	DEP	ARR	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
051	12:00	14:50				●			●

LIVINGSTONE - LUSAKA

#	DEP	ARR	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
701	08:40	09:50		●			●		
705	12:20	13:30	●		●	●	●	●	●
709	18:25	19:35	●	●	●	●		●	●

SOLWEZI - LUSAKA

#	DEP	ARR	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
930	07:50	09:35	●	●	●	●			
911	08:15	09:10					●	●	
911	08:25	09:35							●
946	17:30	18:25		●	●	●	●		
919	17:30	18:25	●					●	●

KALUMBILA - LUSAKA

#	DEP	ARR	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
930	08:45	09:45	●	●	●	●			
951	08:20	09:35					●	●	
936	16:40	18:25		●	●	●	●		
957	17:30	18:45	●						●

Please check our website, www.flyzambia.com, for updated departure days and times.

LUSAKA - NDOLA

#	DEP	ARR	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
310	05:15	06:00	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
302	07:50	08:35	●	●	●	●	●	●	
334	10:15	11:00	●		●		●	●	
304	12:20	13:05		●		●			●
306	14:00	14:45				●	●		●
308	17:00	17:45	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

NDOLA - LUSAKA

#	DEP	ARR	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
311	06:30	07:15	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
303	09:10	09:55	●	●	●	●	●	●	
335	13:45	14:30	●		●		●	●	
305	13:40	14:25		●		●			●
307	15:15	16:00				●	●		●
309	18:20	19:05	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

LUSAKA - MFUWE

#	DEP	ARR	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
800	06:55	08:05	●				●		
804	10:35	11:45	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
808	16:35	17:45	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

MFUWE - LUSAKA

#	DEP	ARR	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
801	08:40	09:50	●				●		
805	12:20	13:30	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
809	18:20	19:30	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

LUSAKA - JEKI/ROYAL

#	DEP	ARR	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
620	07:20	07:55/08:20	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
616	15:00	15:35/16:00	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

JEKI/ROYAL - LUSAKA

#	DEP	ARR	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
621	12:30/12:55	13:30	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
616	15:50/16:15	16:50	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

JEKI/ROYAL - MFUWE

#	DEP	ARR	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
620	08:10/08:35	10:05	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

MFUWE - JEKI/ROYAL

#	DEP	ARR	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
621	10:45	12:15/12:40	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

LUSAKA - KASAMA

#	DEP	ARR	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
440	07:55	09:30		●		●			●

KASAMA - LUSAKA

#	DEP	ARR	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
441	10:05	11:40		●		●			●

LUSAKA - MANSA

#	DEP	ARR	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
334	10:15	12:05	●		●		●	●	

MANSA - LUSAKA

#	DEP	ARR	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
335	12:40	14:30	●		●		●	●	

NDOLA - MANSA

#	DEP	ARR	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
334	11:25	12:05	●		●		●	●	

MANSA - NDOLA

#	DEP	ARR	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
335	12:40	13:20	●		●		●	●	

BOOKINGS

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+ SIDE NOTE

Proflight Zambia reserves the right to change, suspend or amend this published schedule without prior notification. Every effort will be made to operate as per the planned schedule.

MICE TRAVEL TAKES FLIGHT WITH PROFLIGHT ZAMBIA

DRIVING BUSINESS TOURISM THROUGH STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS



As global business travel continues to gain recognition for its economic value, Zambia's leading scheduled airline, Proflight Zambia, is taking to the skies as it positions itself as a key enabler of MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, and Events) travel both domestically and across the region.

Proflight Zambia has recognised this growing segment and is working closely with corporate bodies, professional associations, and tourism agents to facilitate seamless business travel. The airline offers discounted fares, group travel packages and flexible booking options for MICE delegates, whether flying within Zambia or to regional destinations such as Johannesburg and Cape Town in South Africa.

"As Proflight Zambia, we want to ensure that business travel is an enabler of industry growth and national development," said Proflight Zambia's Director of Flight Operations, Captain Josias Walubita. "Our MICE travel solutions form part of our broader mission to connect people, dreams, ideas and industries across Zambia and beyond."

MICE travel, also known as business tourism, primarily encompasses events where corporate groups come together for networking, strategy sessions, large-scale conferences, annual general meetings (AGMs), events and exhibitions. These activities not only generate travel demand but also stimulate local economies through increased spending on hotels, hospitality, entertainment and transport.

In recent months, Proflight Zambia has collaborated with a wide range of stakeholders, including Zambian Breweries for the Mosi Day of Thunder Music Festival, Africa's Eden Travel Show, the Zambia Institute of Chartered Accountants, the Engineering Institute of Zambia, the Zambia Medical

Association and Zambia's national sport climbing team, as well as international agents attending the Zambia Travel Expo (ZATEX). To further enhance this support, the regional airline has introduced an annual MICE calendar—a curated schedule of upcoming meetings/ conferences, events and exhibitions across the country. This calendar enables efficient flight planning and the allocation of travel discounts and sponsorships tailored to travellers' needs.

"Through our internal MICE Tracker, we proactively identify key business events across the country via desk research and strategic partnerships, particularly with the Zambia Tourism Agency, which manages the national MICE destination calendar," said Capt. Walubita. "This alignment ensures we remain in sync with Zambia's broader tourism and investment ambitions."

With the airline's extensive domestic network covering provincial cities and towns such as Ndola, Livingstone, Kasama, Mfuwe, Mansa and Solwezi, Proflight Zambia is making it easier for delegates to access even the most remote conference locations, thereby contributing to balanced regional development and promoting local tourism. The airline also plans to commence scheduled flights to Mongu, with operations expected to begin in the third or fourth quarter of 2025.

Ultimately, business tourism plays a crucial role in supporting Zambia's ambition to become a regional hub for business engagement, knowledge exchange and investment. Improved travel access through airlines like Proflight Zambia boosts the country's appeal as a preferred destination for international conferences, expos, meetings and networking events.

Proflight Zambia's commitment to business connectivity is clear: whether flying executives to a mining conference in the Copperbelt or tourism expos in Livingstone, the airline is proudly flying Zambia's business growth—one event at a time.

FLY **LUSAKA TO CAPE TOWN** THE SMARTEST WAY!



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- ✓ **Smooth Stopover in Livingstone** – Enjoy a refreshment on board including a cup of Zambian coffee while on ground for the 30 minute stopover.
- ✓ **Relax Onboard** – Assorted snacks, drinks, a cold meal and Zambian coffee served on board.
- ✓ **Hassle-Free Arrival** – Easy immigration at Cape Town International Airport.
- ✓ **Earliest Arrival** – Land in Cape Town early enough to enjoy your afternoon.

SPOTLIGHT ON PROFLIGHT'S OUTSTANDING WORKFORCE

PROFLIGHT ZAMBIA'S FEMALE STAFF EARN GLOBAL DISPATCHER CERTIFICATION



If opportunity doesn't knock, build the runway yourself. As Zambia continues to expand its aviation industry and nurture its ambition to become a major aviation transport hub, highly qualified professional staff are crucial for delivering world-class services and achieving that goal. Two determined members of Proflight Zambia's operations team have seized the moment to advance their careers on a global stage.

"We proudly recognise Senior Flight Operations Officer Sylvia Chanda and Crew Scheduling Officer Piyanna Chani for completing the prestigious FAA Aircraft Dispatcher Certification Course at Jeppesen Academy, a Boeing Company facility in Denver, Colorado," said Director of Flight Operations, Captain Josias Walubita. Captain Walubita further lauded the achievement: "It is truly inspiring to see aviation professionals take charge of their growth and invest in their future. Their dedication exemplifies our commitment to nurturing talent, and when our people grow, the airline grows with them."

This significant achievement is more than a professional milestone—it is a personal mission brought to fruition through self-driven initiative. Both Sylvia and Piyanna took time off work and enrolled independently in the intensive seven-week programme while Proflight Zambia supported their travel arrangements. Their courageous commitment to continuous improvement embodies the airline's passion for excellence.

The rigorous course covered a broad spectrum of aviation topics essential for safe and efficient operations. Study modules included aerodynamics, aircraft systems, weather theory, flight planning, navigation, air traffic control, weight and balance, and aircraft performance. This comprehensive curriculum reinforced the critical skills needed to excel in today's dynamic aviation environment.

Returning to Zambia with their newly earned certification, the two professionals have resumed their roles at the Proflight

Zambia Operations Centre at Kenneth Kaunda International Airport (KKIA). Sylvia now applies her enhanced expertise as a Senior Flight Operations Officer, while Piyanna continues her pivotal work as a Crew Scheduling Officer. Their proactive knowledge sharing is already strengthening team operations and furthering the airline's commitment to robust safety practices.

For Sylvia, whose 13-year journey at Zambia's leading scheduled airline began in ground operations, the transition into flight operations has been transformative. "Flight operations is at the heart of the airline," she explains, highlighting how her new qualifications not only reflect her personal growth but also parallel Proflight Zambia's stringent adherence to global safety standards such as the IATA Operational Safety Audit (IOSA) program.

Likewise, Piyanna values the international perspective gained from the training. Reflecting on her experience, she remarked, "The training has made me more up-to-date with industry standards. Although we follow different regulations, the core principles remain the same. Learning about aircraft systems and aerodynamics has enriched our engagement with pilots and deepened our overall operational understanding." Her insights underscore the universal language of aviation and the benefits of global collaboration.

This remarkable certification is not only a personal success for Sylvia and Piyanna but a triumph for women in Zambian aviation. Their initiative sends a powerful message to young women across the country: with passion and dedication, the sky is not the limit—it is only the beginning.

As Proflight Zambia continues to invest in safety, professional development, and gender inclusivity, the achievements of its staff set a new benchmark for excellence in the country's aviation industry.

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ENHANCING REGIONAL CONNECTIVITY THROUGH AVIATION

ZAMBIA'S ROLE IN DEVELOPING AS AN AFRICAN AVIATION HUB



At the recent Land-Linked Zambia Summit, aviation industry stakeholders, which included representatives from the Zambia Civil Aviation Authority (ZCAA), the Ministry of Transport and Logistics, and Proflight Zambia, engaged in a panel discussion on the nation's ambitious plan to transform its aviation sector into a competitive hub within Africa.

The concept of aviation hubs has gained prominence as African airlines expand their networks to foster connectivity and stimulate economic growth across the continent. Advocates argue that establishing a robust hub can attract increased passenger flows, facilitate trade, and boost tourism.

"Proflight Zambia keenly promotes Zambia as a hub within the network we currently have and are still developing," said Vincent Banda, Proflight Zambia's Director of Ground Operations, Cargo, and Catering, during the summit.

While more established hubs, such as OR Tambo International Airport in South Africa, Bole International Airport in Ethiopia, Jomo Kenyatta International Airport in Kenya, and Kigali International Airport in Rwanda, dominate Africa's aviation landscape, Zambia is strategically leveraging its geographical location and implementing reforms and investments across its transport sector.

The nation is focused on reducing operating costs and easing the regulatory challenges that have historically hindered local airlines, such as excessive airport taxes. Handling fees are a critical issue, Mr Banda highlighted. "The ticket taxes and handling costs are very high in our region. We need a review to make our local airlines competitive".

Several industry players also noted inflexible regulatory frameworks as significant barriers. For instance, discussions at the summit revealed that Zambia's aeronautical services account for 87% of airport revenue. In contrast, the global best practice suggests non-aeronautical revenue should form at least 40%

of income. This imbalance compels airlines to pass on costs to consumers.

Safety and security remain paramount in fostering confidence among both investors and consumers. Following the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) Safety Audit, ZCAA achieved a 72.94% effective implementation rating, surpassing the regional average. With more preparations for an upcoming security audit underway, industry experts affirm that Zambia's improved safety record will significantly enhance its appeal to international passengers and investors.

Government policies play a pivotal role in realising the aviation hub vision. The Ministry of Transport and Logistics, in collaboration with industry leaders and the ZCAA, are examining tax reviews, regulatory reforms, and initiatives to lower aviation fuel prices. Efforts include discussions with bodies like the Energy Regulation Board (ERB) to mitigate high fuel costs. Furthermore, the summit underscored the importance of aligning national policies with African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) initiatives to support the liberalisation of air transport across the continent.

The Land-Linked Zambia Summit serves as a vital platform for discourse, uniting stakeholders to confront both challenges and opportunities within the aviation sector. By fostering dialogue among key participants—from the private sector to governing bodies—the summit emphasised a shared commitment to overcoming regulatory and operational obstacles and capitalising on the potential of the expanding African aviation market.

Whilst challenges persist, Zambia's proactive approach to tackling high operating costs, regulatory hurdles, and safety standards points to a promising trajectory towards establishing a dynamic aviation hub. Stakeholders are calling for prompt and comprehensive policy reforms to empower local carriers, invigorate the sector, and pave the way for sustainable growth and enhanced regional connectivity.

PROFLIGHT FLEET

BOMBARDIER CRJ200



FLEET	LENGTH	WING SPAN	HEIGHT	FUEL CAPACITY	MAX ALTITUDE	SPEED	MAX PASSENGERS
4	26.77m	21.21m	20ft	6400kg	41000ft	682km/h	50

BOMBARDIER CRJ100 PARCEL FREIGHTER



FLEET	LENGTH	WING SPAN	HEIGHT	FUEL CAPACITY	MAX ALTITUDE	SPEED	MAX CARGO
1	26.77m	21.21m	20ft	6400kg	41000ft	682km/h	6804kg

JETSTREAM 4100



FLEET	LENGTH	WING SPAN	HEIGHT	FUEL CAPACITY	MAX ALTITUDE	SPEED	MAX PASSENGERS
4	19.25m	18.29m	5.75ft	2600kg	25000ft	550km/h	29

JETSTREAM 3200



FLEET	LENGTH	WING SPAN	HEIGHT	FUEL CAPACITY	MAX ALTITUDE	SPEED	MAX PASSENGERS
1	14.37m	15.85m	5.37ft	1474kg	25000ft	445km/h	18

TRAVEL TIPS

FLYING COMFORTABLE

- Before you fly, get a good night's sleep. Rest and some light exercise will help you cope on your journey.
- Wear loose, comfortable clothing and shoes that are not too restrictive.
- Eat a light, well-balanced meal before you travel and opt for a smaller helping than normal on the plane.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES

- Please ensure that all electronic devices are turned off before taxiing and take off as they may interfere with the safe operation of the aircraft. These include cellphones, laptops, remote controlled games.

SAFETY

- A Proflight safety demonstration is always made before take off. A safety pamphlet is also provided at your seat. Please familiarise yourself with its important information and note the nearest emergency exit.

SMOKING

- Smoking on board is strictly prohibited. This includes any artificial device or e-cigarettes.

BAGGAGE ALLOWANCE

- In addition to the carry on luggage allowance provided herein, each passenger may carry without additional charge, the following carry on items the weight of which shall not exceed 5kg. The carry on items are permitted for use during the flight and when retained in the passengers' custody as listed here below:
- A lady handbag, pocket book or purse, which is appropriate to normal traveling dress and is not being used as a container for the transportation of articles, which would otherwise be regarded as baggage.
- Laptop.
- An overcoat, wrap or blanket.
- A small camera and/or a pair of binoculars.
- Reading material.
- Infant's food for consumption in flight.
- Infant's carrying basket.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

BAGGAGE POLICY

We offer a complimentary 30kg checked allowance on our international flights for adults/children and 10kg for infants. On our domestic flights, our complimentary checked allowance is 23kg across all fare types. In addition, you are allowed one piece of 5kg carry-on baggage.

Excess checked baggage over your complimentary amount is charged at \$5/kg out of Zambia or R60/kg out of South Africa or K60/kg domestic within Zambia. Excess baggage can also be pre-purchased on our website at a discounted rate per 15kg excess bundle. The bundle is \$40/bundle out of Zambia or R600/bundle out of South Africa or K600/bundle domestic within Zambia.

Take note due to airport safety rules, no one piece of baggage can weigh more than 30 kg. All excess baggage is subject to space available on the aircraft and is non-refundable. Total weight limit only, no restriction on the number of pieces.

Toy guns or blunt objects such as tennis racquet or hockey stick are not permitted in carry-on baggage. Toy guns must be declared for carriage in checked baggage and you must check-in at least two hours prior to flight else the toy gun will not be permitted.

The following items are not permitted in checked or carry-on baggage, they must be sent as cargo: hoverboard, television set, microwave, computer and computer parts, car parts, stoves of any kind.

CHECK-IN COUNTER LOCATIONS

Our check-in counters are located as follows:

- Lusaka and Livingstone international flights: Terminal 2
- Lusaka and Livingstone domestic flights: Terminal 1
- All other domestic flights: Main terminal
- Joburg: Terminal B counters 64-66
- Cape Town: Main terminal, check airport monitors

Airport ticket sales in Joburg are located at Proflight office at back terminal wall past counters 64-66, in Cape Town are located at check-in counter.

UNACCOMPANIED MINORS

We happily accept unaccompanied minors (5 years to 11 years) on the flight. There is no extra charge for unaccompanied minors and they still receive our 25% children discount. Please note we are limited to a certain number of unaccompanied minors per flight so book early.

INTERLINE PARTNERS

- Air Tanzania
- Cemair
- Emirates
- Ethiopian Airlines
- Fly Safair
- Hahn Air
- Kenya Airways
- Qatar Airways
- Rwandair
- South African Airways
- Turkish Airlines

TRANSFER IN JOBURG DETAILS

(Connecting to an international flight out of Joburg)

- Advise the Proflight check-in agent of your final destination and show necessary tickets.
- If you are on Emirates, Qatar or Cemair out of Joburg, you will receive your onward boarding card at time of first check-in with Proflight and your baggage will be tagged through to final destination.
- If you are on another airline out of Joburg, your baggage will be tagged as final destination.
- Upon arriving into Joburg airport from bus, do not enter South Africa through immigration, turn left before immigration queues.
- Follow the signs for International Transfers and go to the transfer check-in desk of your next airline.
- From your next airline, collect your onward boarding pass and receive new baggage tags (your baggage will be re-tagged for you by the next airline transfer check-in agent).

CARGO CONTACTS

- **International Cargo**
Tel: +260 977 511690 or +260 964 900449
zegandlexport@zegaltd.co.zm | import@zegaltd.co.zm
- **Domestic Cargo**
Tel: +260 772 686395
cargo@proflight-zambia.com
- **Johannesburg**
Tel: +27 11 230 4600
Email: mohalen@bidaircargo.co.za | dentont@bidaircargo.co.za
- **Cape Town**
Tel: +27 21 935 6138
Email: charlenek@bidaircargo.co.za

PROHIBITED GOODS

Banned, restricted and dangerous goods are articles or substances that are capable of posing a risk to health, safety, property or the environment.

If you wish to travel with any such goods or material, please be aware of the restrictions or steps you may have to take if wishing to travel on a Proflight Zambia service.

To ensure the safety of the aircraft and those on board, checked in or hand baggage must not contain articles or substances that could pose a danger during flights these include:

COMPRESSED GASES

deeply refrigerated flammable non-flammable) such as butane, oxygen propane and aqualung cylinders.

FLAMMABLE LIQUIDS & SOLIDS

such as lighter and heater fuels, paint. All safety matches and fire lighters.

CORROSIVES

such as acids, alkali wet cell batteries and apparatus containing mercury.



MEDICAL AND TOILET ARTICLES MAY BE CARRIED IN SMALL QUANTITIES. SAFETY MATCHES wMAY BE CARRIED ON THE PERSON.

EXPLOSIVES

such as fireworks, flares munitions, Ammunitions and pistol caps.

BRIEFCASES / ATTACHE CASES

installed with alarm devices.



OXIDISING MATERIALS & ORGANIC PEROXIDES

such as bleaches and fibre glass repair kits.

POISONS

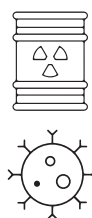
such as insecticides, weed killers, arsenic & cyanides.



TOXIC SUBSTANCES

such as bleaching powder and peroxide.

RADIO ACTIVE MATERIALS



INFECTIOUS SUBSTANCES

such as bacteria and live virus materials.



! IF YOU ARE CARRYING ANY OF THESE ITEMS, YOU MUST INFORM THE AIRLINE.



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- ✓ Freight Forwarding
- ✓ Sea Freight
- ✓ Air Freight
- ✓ Road Freight
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ZCFAA - The oldest association in Zambia for professional clearing and forwarding agents.

ZCILT - The leading professional body for everyone who works in supply chain, logistics, and transport.



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