



# Nkwa zi

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## A THOUGHT EXPERIMENT

WHAT IF ZAMBIA HAD MADE IT TO THE MOON?

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STEADY AT THE HELM

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THE GARDEN CITY

**78** WITNESSES OF THE WILD  
THE GUARDIANS OF BUSANGA



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## COVER STORY:

The space race began on August 2, 1955. On October 4, 1957, the USSR successfully launched Sputnik 1, the first Earth-orbiting satellite in history. However, on the morning of October 25, 1964, Zambia stunned the world as the first female afonaut, Matha Mwamba, was launched into space, becoming the first African country to send a manned spacecraft into space on page 60.

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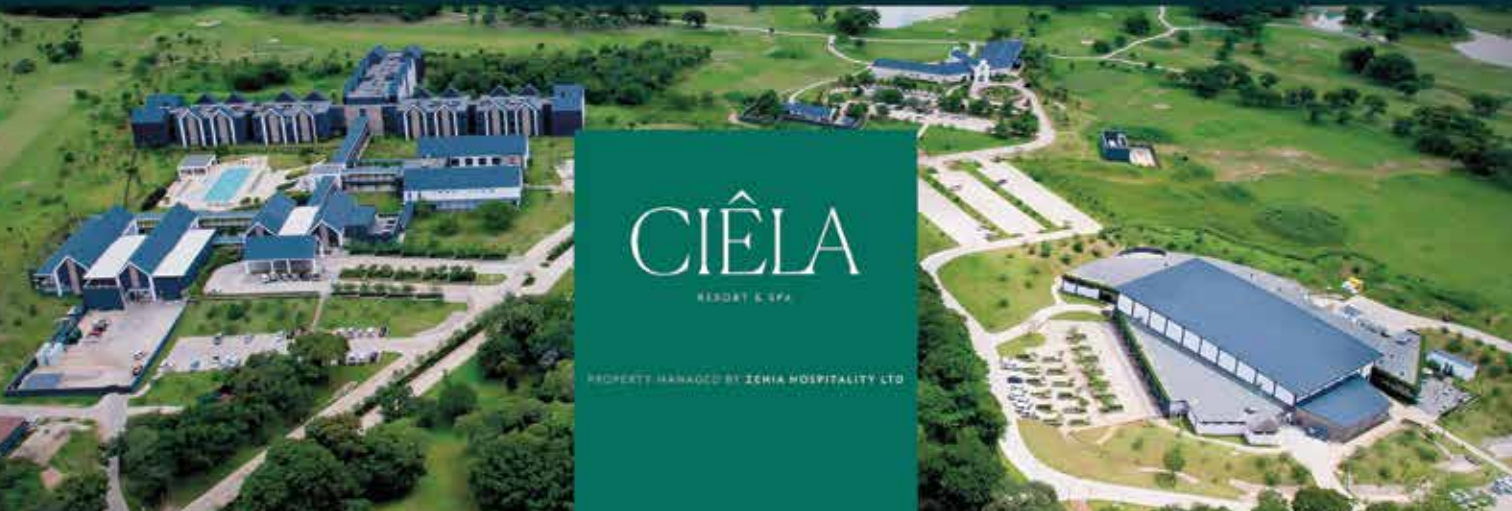
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## A DISCOVERY OF AFROCENTRISM

I cannot remember the exact moment or encounter when I fell in love with science fiction—or when science fiction fell in love with me. What I do remember is discovering that first book that introduced me to the Milky Way and all her gilded companions. Through pixels and imagination, I met Neil Armstrong and shook hands with Yuri Gagarin in a video game now left behind on a Windows '98 processor.

This was before the internet was anything more than a super weapon for world powers to claim they had more intelligence on their enemies than they would ever actually disclose. I stumbled upon Gene Roddenberry in the hushed corridors of a dimly lit, slightly damp library where I was the most frequent visitor, among hardcover volumes wrapped in shiny cellophane. Every 31st page bore a stamp in a foreign language, now familiar and foreboding: *Hierdie boek is eiendom van Afrikaanse Laer Meisieskool, nie vir herverkoop nie*. I am certain that these institutional markings found natural companionship beside the stark declarations of *Slegs Blankes* in a bygone era.

(Translation: This book is the property of Afrikaans Primary Girl's School, not for resale).

Although my newfound friends were clearly a remnant of a time hostile to free exploration—a truth that would have been intimately known to those who survived the harsh injustices chronicled on page 88—they were now my instruments of space pioneering. While I imagined away a future that embodied the maxim, "to boldly go where no man had gone before," in another timeline, in another lifetime, another man had done the same, only his was struggling toward realisation.

In the aftermath of WWII, Edward Makuka Nkoloso returned to Zambia with an audacious vision: to take Zambia to the moon (page 60). While many acknowledge Zambia's forgotten space programme, few grasp the significance of Nkoloso's *determination* to place an African, a *dark-skinned African*, on lunar soil. Poised on the edge of independence, but not quite free, Nkoloso dared to voice such a revolutionary notion. Ridiculed by some, dismissed by many, his philosophies represent what may be among the earliest embodiments of Afrofuturism: a future that re-positioned African technology, science, and knowledge at the vanguard of human achievement—a position that, six decades later, new African generations are learning to embrace and reclaim.

Nkoloso's Afronaut was not only a symbol of Zambia's potential astronautical progression, but a bold declaration that indigenous knowledge and science deserved equal standing with global scholarship. His stance sought to transform the colonial perspectives and diminutive wordplay that framed African herbalism, medicine, and ancestral wisdom as primitive, into recognised pillars of scientific inquiry: powerful, significant, and contributing to the field of science worldwide.

As Zambia commemorates 61 years of independence, Nkoloso and every freedom fighter who has gone before serve as a reminder of that distinctive Zambian tenacity and survivalist spirit. There was once a time when people would exclaim in astonishment, "Is this really in Zambia?" by way of compliment. Today, however, there are no more surprises, but expectation: good things come out of Zambia. 61 years of peaceful living, working in joy and unity, and building our country (page 70) are a testament to greater things to come.

Happy Independence, Zambia!

Shammah Phiri,  
Deputy Editor



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**D**ear valued passenger, we are thrilled to have you join us as we celebrate our 20th anniversary, a remarkable milestone reflecting our dedication to providing exceptional air travel across the region. We are equally delighted to wish Zambia a very happy 61st birthday as we join the nation to celebrate our country and its people.

In honour of this special occasion, we are excited to announce the addition of two new aircraft to our fleet! In May, we welcomed a 29-seater Jetstream 41 turboprop, and in June, we welcomed a 50-seater CRJ-200. These enhancements will not only increase our seat capacity but also improve service frequency on our busiest routes, allowing us to better serve the surging demand from our valued customers while maintaining the high standards of reliability and efficiency that you have come to expect from Proflight Zambia.

By consolidating around proven aircraft types, we are streamlining our operations to deliver even greater reliability for you, our passengers. This strategic approach also allows us to develop our in-house engineering and maintenance capabilities, ensuring your flights are safer and more dependable. Our skilled engineers are continuously deepening their technical expertise, mentoring new talent, and fostering a collaborative team environment—all focused on enhancing your travel experience.

Looking ahead, we remain committed to strategically reviewing opportunities to grow our regional network and explore new destinations that matter to you. Our current focus is on optimising our existing route structure, reducing operational bottlenecks, and ensuring resources are utilised effectively where they are most needed. This approach allows us to sustain our upward trajectory in customer satisfaction and operational excellence.

Thank you for choosing Proflight Zambia and for being part of our journey. We look forward to serving you now and in the years to come. Here's to many more years of connecting you to the places and people that matter most.

*Captain Josias Walubita,  
Director Flight Operations*



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# UP FRONT

# 22

## PLAN

SEPTEMBER | OCTOBER 2025

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



# 26

## EXPERIENCE

CHICHELE PRESIDENTIAL

Discover classic safari elegance with panoramic views, luxurious suites, fine dining, and prime access to South Luangwa's abundant wildlife in a bespoke setting.



# 30

## DINE

BELLINI RISTORANTE

Experience a taste of Chef Tony's 'fun dining' surrounded by refined elegance with a lively atmosphere, offering authentic Italian cuisine, fine wines, and warm hospitality.

# 34

## BACKYARD

RHODES PARK NEIGHBOURHOOD

In Rhodes Park, leafy streets lead to historic sites, spiritual sanctuaries, art galleries, and eateries serving flavours from around the world, creating one of Lusaka's most culturally diverse neighbourhoods.



# 44

## TABLETALK

COLLINS HAMUSONDE

With over 20 years in insurance, Collins Hamusonde is shaking up ZSIC Life. Bold, transparent, and results-driven, he's cleared multimillion-kwacha claim backlogs and is redefining trust, efficiency, and growth in Zambia's oldest insurer. Discover how he adapts his leadership style to get the best results out of his teams.



# 48

## BRIEFING

ZAMBIA'S SILENT ECONOMY

Behind the scenes, Zambia's informal sector fuels 40% of the economy, a vast network of traders and creators shaping daily life from the shadows.

# 56

## HUMOUR

LATE SUBMISSION

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«

60

## A THOUGHT EXPERIMENT

What if Zambia made it to the moon—transforming Nkoloso's daring vision into reality, reshaping liberation, national identity, and positioning Africa at the forefront of global science, innovation, and imagination?



## BUILDING LUSAKA

Trace the city's evolution from colonial outpost to capital city, where British-built bones meet Zambian reinvention and contradiction. Lusaka stands as both a monument to history and a living, ever-changing reflection of its people.



## WITNESSES OF THE WILD

At Shumba Camp on the Busanga Plains, the guides weave landscapes and wildlife into vivid stories. From lion rivalries to fiery sunsets, each moment blurs memory and dream, offering guests not just a safari, but an intimate connection with untamed Zambia.



## GOODBYE, ROBBEN

Robben Island tells a powerful story of strength, where prisoners faced hardship, stood together, and turned years of struggle into a lasting symbol of hope and courage.

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## PROFLIGHT 20<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

Proflight Zambia marks 20 years of connecting communities, growing industries, and shaping national progress through safe, reliable, and proudly Zambian air travel.

# TAKE OFF



## FLIGHT SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER | OCTOBER 2025

Peruse the latest flight schedule.

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## NEWS

### PROFLIGHT ZAMBIA'S REACH EXPANDS

Proflight Zambia boosts capacity and connectivity with its sixth CRJ-200 jet, enhancing frequency on key routes, streamlining operations, and strengthening its reliable, efficient network across domestic and regional destinations.



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# UP FRONT

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30

Bellini Ristorante is the embodiment of food as a form of love and celebration. Carrying the ethos of 'fun dining', Bellini is where you go to make memories and share new culinary experiences with those you love on page 30.



# PLAN

SEPTEMBER | OCTOBER 2025



## EVENT DETAILS:

Date: 4 October 2025.

Location: R&G Arena, Lusaka.

Tickets: K150 - K500 early bird.

## OKTOBERFEST NEON BEATS

Zambia's boldest bash is cranking the voltage sky-high this year, transforming Lusaka into a pulsing, glowing wonderland. Slip into your brightest neon threads, glow-in-the-dark encouraged! Lose yourself under dazzling lights, and dance 'til your trainers glow to epic beats.

**EVENT DETAILS:**

Date: 25 - 26 September 2025.  
 Location: Radisson Blu Hotel, Lusaka.  
 Tickets: TBD.

## SUSTAINABILITY SUMMIT 2025

The National ESG & Sustainability Summit is your gateway to shaping Zambia's green future, featuring high-level speakers, cutting-edge ESG innovations, and unmatched networking opportunities with policymakers, investors, and industry leaders.

**EVENT DETAILS:**

Date: 11 October 2025.  
 Location: Open Window University, Lusaka.  
 Tickets: K155 - K405.

## LUSAKA COMIC CON 2025

This isn't just another comic con, it's a full-throttle celebration where anime and cosplay become high art, and local tech wizards rewrite the rules. Rub shoulders with Zambia's most brilliant creators, lose yourself in next-level gaming battles, and discover why our nerd culture is the most exciting on the continent. One weekend—infinite possibilities.



## CAPEWINE 2025

Mark your diaries, wine lovers! CapeWine, the crown jewel of South Africa's wine scene, is back, bigger, bolder, and more brilliant than ever! Held just once every three years, this is your golden ticket to dive headfirst into the vibrant world of SA's finest vintages.

**EVENT DETAILS:**

Date: 10 - 12 September 2025.  
 Location: Cape Town International Convention Centre.  
 Tickets: TBD.



## LOVERS REGGAE

Whether you're boo'd-up, single, or rolling deep with your crew, this is your ultimate escape into a day of chilled-out beats, conscious lyrics, and pure positive energy. Sway to the soundtrack of unity, make memories with kindred spirits, and let the music move you.

**EVENT DETAILS:**

Date: 6 September 2025.  
 Location: The Piazza at East Park, Lusaka.  
 Tickets: K100 - K400.



## THE STANDARD BANK JOY OF JAZZ 2025

With over 60 performers from 15 countries across four stages, this year's festival celebrates jazz's rich legacy while pushing boundaries with bold collaborations and soul-stirring performances. Don't miss the ultimate jazz experience.

**EVENT DETAILS:**

Date: 26 - 28 September 2025.  
 Location: Sandton Convention Centre, Johannesburg.  
 Tickets: R1,350 - R3,250.



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# SHOPRITE ZAMBIA

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**W**hether 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.





# A HISTORIC LODGE REBORN

## CHICHELE PRESIDENTIAL

Words by Shammah Phiri, images by Elsa Young



**W**hen you book Chichele Presidential, you may be expecting another luxury safari experience, but what you'll find is something much more significant: a piece of Zambian history transformed into one of Zambia's most compelling wildlife destinations. Built in the 1970s as President Kenneth Kaunda's private retreat, it commands a hilltop overlooking South Luangwa's endless plains.

Your suite will feel completely different from typical safari accommodations. The interior design is thoughtful, with rich fabrics, local artwork, and contemporary furniture that stand out without competing with the environment. Your private plunge pool overlooks grasslands that stretch to the horizon, dotted with

acacia trees. The landscape changes throughout the seasons: golden amber in the winter, emerald green after the rains, and silver green under a stormy sky.

The real experience begins when you venture into South Luangwa with your guide. Walking safaris here demonstrate the highest respect for wildlife, requiring patience from guides and guests. You'll find fresh lion tracks in the white earth, and your guide will explain wind direction and how to approach silently. Then you'll spot them—a small pride, about fifty metres away, resting in the shade of an acacia tree. Being on foot with big cats nearby creates an intensity that no vehicle-based game drive can match.

The elephant encounter will be equally memorable. After thirty minutes of driving, your guide will suddenly stop,





pointing to what appears to be a cluster of trees. Two mothers and their calves will be standing there. Watching those calves play while their mothers remain alert will remind you why African wildlife remains so captivating.

What will impress you most if you are travelling with family, is observing your children during their educational safari drive. The Chichele Cubs programme is an immersive fun-filled experience for children aged 4-11. Your guide turns into part teacher, part storyteller as he combines play and learning to nurture curiosity, environmental stewardship, and a love for nature, drawing on all five

senses in ways that resonate with their young minds.

Back at the lodge, the infinity pool and tranquil communal areas will provide welcome relief during hot afternoons. The pool appears to flow directly into the floodplains below, and you'll spend considerable time there watching Thornicroft's giraffes move across the distant landscape.

Dinner time rolls around to exceed your expectations. With the Milky Way stretched overhead and the sounds of the African bush in the background, you will indulge in everything from Boma barbecues to delicate tapas and rustic wood-fired pizzas. Other nights will feature indulgent formal dinners creatively curated by expert chefs in this unique setting.

Chichele Presidential works because it combines authentic history with excellent wildlife encounters. But at its core, lies the lodge's commitment to sustainability and minimising its environmental footprint. Through eco-friendly practices and engaging local communities through education, conservation and economic development, your overall experience supports local conservation efforts.

The lodge positions Zambia firmly among Africa's premier luxury safari destinations while maintaining its commitment to conservation and community support. You'll already be planning your return visit before you leave.



## » WHERE?

- Following a warm greeting and a short two hour transfer from Mfuwe, you will discover the lodge perched atop Chichele Hill in South Luangwa NP.

## » WHAT TO EXPERIENCE

- Take a morning or afternoon walking safari or game drive in custom Land Cruisers to spot lions, leopards, buffalo and over 350 bird species.
- Spend relaxed evenings sipping your favourite blend around the boma fire, as your guides regale you with stories and legends of the bush.
- Unwind in the spa, gym or yoga deck, all overlooking panoramic views of the Luangwa Valley for moments of pure relaxation.
- Experience Zambian rural life firsthand with a day trip into Mfuwe town!

## BOOKING AND CONTACT DETAILS



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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](http://flyzambia.com) for the latest flight schedule.



# ZAMBIA TAKES THE SPOTLIGHT

## LUSAKA HOSTS AIRPORTS COUNCIL INTERNATIONAL AFRICA 2025



Words by Mweembe Sikaulu, images courtesy of Zambia Airports Corporation Ltd.



**T**here is a sense of strategic significance unfolding in Zambia. As aviation leaders, policymakers, and industry stakeholders from across the continent and beyond convene in Lusaka for the 34th Airports Council International (ACI) Africa Annual General Assembly, Board and Committee Meetings, and Regional Conference, the atmosphere is one of purpose, ambition and forward-looking momentum.

The event, hosted for the first time in Zambia's capital, reflects the reputation of conference host, Zambia Airports Corporation Limited (ZACL), as a trusted and capable force in African aviation. Under the theme "Powering African Airports for Strategic Growth," the conference brings together more than 400 delegates from across Africa and the global aviation community. The last ACI

Africa conference hosted by Zambia was held in Livingstone in 2017.

This marks the third time the country has been chosen to host this prestigious event, a clear reflection of the trust, confidence, and leadership role Zambia continues to earn within the African aviation sector, one rooted in infrastructure advancement, operational excellence, and a clear vision for sustainable growth.

### A Nation Ready and Rising

With support from the government through the Ministry of Transport and Logistics (MTL), ZACL presents a statement signalling that Zambia is open, ready, and eager to be at the centre of Africa's aviation future.

The newly modernised Kenneth Kaunda Wing at the Mulungushi



Hon. Frank Tayali, Minister of Transport and Logistics with ACI Africa Secretary General, Ali Touns.



International Conference Centre provides a fitting venue alongside Ciêla Resort. At the same time, Kenneth Kaunda International Airport, Zambia's flagship airport, serves as the country's welcoming gateway, showcasing recent investments in infrastructure, safety, and passenger experience.

"This is a strategic opportunity," says Honourable Museba Frank Tayali, Zambia's Minister of Transport and Logistics, during a briefing about the event. "Hosting ACI Africa 2025 is a moment of national pride and a reflection of how far we have come and where we intend to go. Zambia has once again demonstrated that it is not

just participating in the regional aviation conversation, we are helping to lead it".

#### Where Tradition Meets Transformation

For many delegates, Lusaka offers something new. It is a capital city that blends authenticity with ambition; a place where cultural heritage coexists with modern innovation. From colourful markets and contemporary art scenes to vibrant business corridors and traditional cuisine, Lusaka is fast becoming a symbol of regional transformation.

Zambia extends its invitation far beyond the conference walls. Delegates are encouraged to experience the country's natural and cultural wonders, from the world-renowned Victoria Falls in

Livingstone and South Luangwa's wildlife to local city tours and warm community interactions.

#### More Than a Conference

ACI Africa 2025 presents a platform for high-level dialogue, policy direction, and cultivation of transformative partnerships across the aviation sector. For Zambia, and particularly Zambia Airports Corporation Limited, the event signifies more than just hosting a continental gathering; it underscores a national ambition aligned with the Eighth National Development Plan (8NDP) and the African Union's Agenda 2063, both of which recognise aviation as a driver for inclusive growth, enhanced connectivity, and sustainable development.

In bringing the ACI conference to Lusaka, ZACL reinforces Zambia's position not only as a competent and reliable host but as a forward-looking aviation hub and preferred investment destination committed to shaping Africa's air transport narrative with strategic foresight, operational excellence and policy coherence.

#### The Moment Is Now

As the conference unfolds in Lusaka, there is a sense that something lasting is being built. Beyond infrastructure, there are relationships, ideas, and ambitions that will carry well beyond 2025.

Zambia welcomes the world not as a stopover, but as a strategic destination ready to lead, ready to connect, and ready to rise.





# FUN DINING, BUT FANCY

## AN UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCE AT BELLINI RISTORANTE

Words by Leelee Puthumile Ngwenya, image courtesy of Bellini Ristorante and images by Justine Kunda



**T**he first thing that struck me about Bellini was how welcoming it felt. The interior is elegantly decorated, and from where I was sitting, I could see right out to the polo fields at Lusaka Showgrounds. Copper and wood chandeliers catch the light beautifully, and there's greenery scattered throughout. Everything about the place, the lighting, the furniture, and the art suggested this was somewhere you could relax and enjoy yourself without worrying about being too proper.

Bellini is Chef Antonis "Tony" Leferi's creation, and it really shows his vision for combining good looks with great food and warm service. Chef Tony's journey to Bellini is as rich and diverse as his menu. Born to Cypriot parents



who migrated to Kitwe, Tony's early life saw him move to Zimbabwe, then Cyprus for his education. However, he soon began to feel the pull towards the culinary world. After a successful restaurant partnership in Pretoria, he refined his skills at the prestigious Silwood School of Cookery in Cape Town. What followed was an illustrious career spanning 25 years in some of Cape Town, Cyprus, and Germany's most prestigious restaurants, with the latter awarded a Michelin Green Star for sustainable gastronomy.

The passion for food, he explained, runs deep in his Cypriot family. "We're the kind of family that discusses what we're having for lunch or dinner tonight, while we're sitting having breakfast! Meals are a time for love and sharing," Chef Tony shares. This inherent love for food is the driving force behind Bellini's philosophy: to be fun, accessible, and casual, yet undeniably delicious.

The first delightful bites of the starters marked my introduction to this 'fun dining' ethos. Presented playfully on a custom board of spikes, *Nshima But Fancy* is a playful take on a classic local staple. Pan-fried crispy *nshima* cubes with a fluffy interior are topped with a flavourful rape relish, seared beef fillet, and a dab of chilli mayo. This nostalgic delight tastes like your mother's homemade *nshima* and beef stew. Chef Tony explains, "This is a dish I

### ▶ PLATING AROUND THE WORLD

Chef Tony has cooked for world-renowned establishments, including La Colombe Restaurant, Cape Town; Alati by the Sea, Cyprus; and Lammershof Stuben in Germany.

### ▶ CONTACT DETAILS:

📞 +260 973600957  
 @bellini\_zm  
 📍 Bellini\_zm



created from memories of eating *nshima* in my childhood in Kitwe; it is a comfort food to me."

The *Sesame Crusted Chicken Pralines* followed on a custom tray laid with a bed of white rocks. "Your own style of presentation is important, and working with local materials just elevates everything," Chef Tony notes. The miso orange mayo with hints of chilli and lime creates the perfect blend of umami flavours. Each crispy bite was tender and bursting with flavour.

My exploration of Bellini's starters ended with *Prawn Pralines* brought in from Mozambique. Seasoned with chilli, lime, and lemongrass, then pan-fried with chilli mayonnaise and baby cress, the crispy outside and juicy interior marked a pleasant transition to the main course.

Before the mains arrived, I opted for the *Salmon Avocado*—a delightful, citrusy salmon tartare with avocado, grapefruit, orange, lemon cream, and sesame honey glaze. I found it refreshing and a perfect palate cleanser. First up was *Surf and Turf*, a classic dish featuring locally-sourced ribeye, dry-aged for 7 days before being expertly seared in butter and herbs and topped with succulent prawns. Served with seasonal vegetables that add sweetness to the dish, dollops of creamy butternut purée rounded off each succulent bite.

I was still savouring the last drops of the creamy housemade pepper sauce when the *Salmon and Spinach Tagliatelle* arrived—an uncomplicated dish, true to its Italian nature. The sweet cherry tomato sauce was elevated by the parmesan cream, and the earthy



hints of spinach made for a mouthwatering combination.

To end a memorable meal, I ordered my go-to coffee with a new addition to the menu: a delicious baobab shortbread, rich and buttery with a hint of Zambian baobab fruit—a prelude to future menu items infused with recognisable Zambian flavours.

If you are looking for a place to create memories, then Bellini is your destination. As Chef Tony passionately shares, "We're in the food industry, but we sell emotions. We sell feelings." He believes people come out to be entertained, to create memories, and to feel good, and you will find it all at Bellini. My bill arrived in a custom wooden treasure box, another one of Chef Tony's creations. Engraved on it: "Love served daily."

## » CALL OF DUTY

Chef Tony's career began with army service in Cyprus, followed by earning his qualification as a mechanical engineer before pursuing his passion for food.

## » BUT FIRST, LOCAL

Bellini is passionate about sustainability and supporting local talent, working with local craftspeople to create unique plating boards and serving pieces. "We've got such talented, creative artists here that it's a pity not to bring them in and showcase what Zambia is capable of doing," Chef Tony shares.

## » FARM TO TABLE, LITERALLY

Bellini's menu highlights creativity and commitment to local partnerships, sourcing the highest quality ingredients directly from local farmers and butchers to ensure freshness while supporting the community.



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



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# RHODES PARK

## BEAUTY IN THE ORDINARY

*Words by Bongani B. Kumar and images by Justine Kunda and courtesy of Bongani B. Kumar*





**R**hodes Park is one of Lusaka's most culturally diverse neighbourhoods. Within a three-kilometre radius, you can sip freshly brewed tea beneath jacaranda trees, trace the lingering architecture of the colonial era, admire local art, sample cuisine from around the world, or find spiritual refuge at several places of worship. While the suburb takes its name from British businessman and politician Cecil Rhodes, local lore suggests that it was once known as *Mabula*—a name that loosely translates to “leafy tree.”

It is not hard to see why; the suburb's most striking features are its tree-lined streets and calm atmosphere, which make it ideal for strolls at any hour of the day. As one of Lusaka's earliest planned residential suburbs, it was developed to house settlers arriving from abroad. By the 1920s, Rhodes Park had become a cultural melting pot, housing many residents from Southern Rhodesia, Nyasaland, Poland, India and members of the Jewish diaspora.

#### Aylmer May Cemetery

You can't understand Rhodes Park without visiting Aylmer May Cemetery and Chapel. The old cemetery, which goes back to colonial times, tells the area's story in granite and marble, but it's not a comfortable story. The graves were segregated by race and nationality, and locals say the African burial ground now sits under the Gallery Office Park, forgotten beneath office buildings and car parks.

I was intrigued by the story of the chapel-mausoleum built by the Catholic Church

for Audrey Mary Elizabeth, who died at just 25, shortly after marrying Captain Thomas Henderson Murray and arriving in Lusaka. I also discovered that Marrapodi, the peri-urban area, is named after a family that lived there and is buried here, too.

Since 1999, the Aylmer May Cemetery site has been maintained by two dedicated caretakers, who also offer short, guided walks between 07:30 - 17:30, Monday through Sunday.

#### Saint Ignatius Parish

As you wander beneath the shady canopies, you will pass several spiritual sanctuaries, including the New Apostolic Church, the



#### FAST FACTS & TIPS

- The Lechwe Trust Gallery is open to visitors from Tuesday to Saturday 10:00 - 18:00; Sundays 12:00 - 18:00. Entry is free unless otherwise stated.
- Mpoto Yathu is a restaurant inspired by traditional Zambia cuisine. Try their *mbuzi* (roasted goat meat) with *nshima* and traditional veggies for a real treat.
- Aylmer May Cemetery admits visitors daily between 07:30 and 17:30. Simply look out for one of the caretakers and be sure to live a tip for their help with guided walks!
- Stop by the Garden Cafe & Buddha Bar for a one stop shop for a bite, your next house plant and fresh produce all at once.



Lutheran Church, and the BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir Hindu Temple. But it's the red-bricked Saint Ignatius Parish that has played a significant role in Rhodes Park's history and identity since its establishment in 1937. As a cornerstone of faith, it welcomes people from all walks of life seeking community and spiritual comfort. Yet what often goes unnoticed is the beauty of the stained-glass windows, which depict Saint Ignatius, Jesus Christ, and Saint Clare.

### Lechwe Trust Gallery

Rhodes Park isn't just about history anymore. What started as a quiet area of churches and colonial homes has grown into a busy district with businesses, hospitals, spas, and restaurants serving both residents and visitors.

Amidst this maze, Rhodes Park's soul finds its creative home within the intimate walls of the Lechwe Gallery at Gallery Park. Founded in 1986 through the vision of Henry Tayali, Cynthia Zukas, and Bente Lorenze, the gallery was established to foster Zambian cultural and creative expression. Nearly forty years later, the Lechwe Trust continues to uphold this mission, hosting exhibitions, artist competitions, and scholarships for artists. I have often experienced artworks in this gallery that have stirred memories, deepened my sense of connection to humanity, and allowed me to reflect through the canvases of many artists who have



showcased their work here. So, if you ever find yourself walking along the vibrant streets of Rhodes Park, be sure to take time to visit Lechwe; you are certain to feel the pulse of Zambia's creative spirit.

### Mpoto Yathu

I have come to refer to the Rhodes Park suburb as Lusaka's Café District, as it is home to some of the city's most notable cafés and restaurants.

As you enjoy a stroll around the neighbourhood, be cautious of wandering too close to Omelo Mumba Road with an empty stomach, as you will find yourself drifting into Mpoto Yathu courtesy of the delicious aroma of seasoned meats being barbecued, freshly sautéed greens, and well-simmered *nshima*. Coupled with a vibrant ambience and occasional live music on weekends, Mpoto Yathu is the go-to spot for corporate events and visitors.

A personal favourite that you should consider visiting is the Garden Café and Buddha Bar, which sits within a plant nursery along Zimbabwe Road. This café is an ideal location to retreat from the bustling metropolis and high-rise buildings that are emerging around the area, as it offers a quaint environment to have a quick meeting, catch up on a good book, enjoy a wholesome bite, or



even grab some farm produce, plants, and homemade preserves. You would be happy to know I actually wrote this piece you are reading right from one of its serene corners.

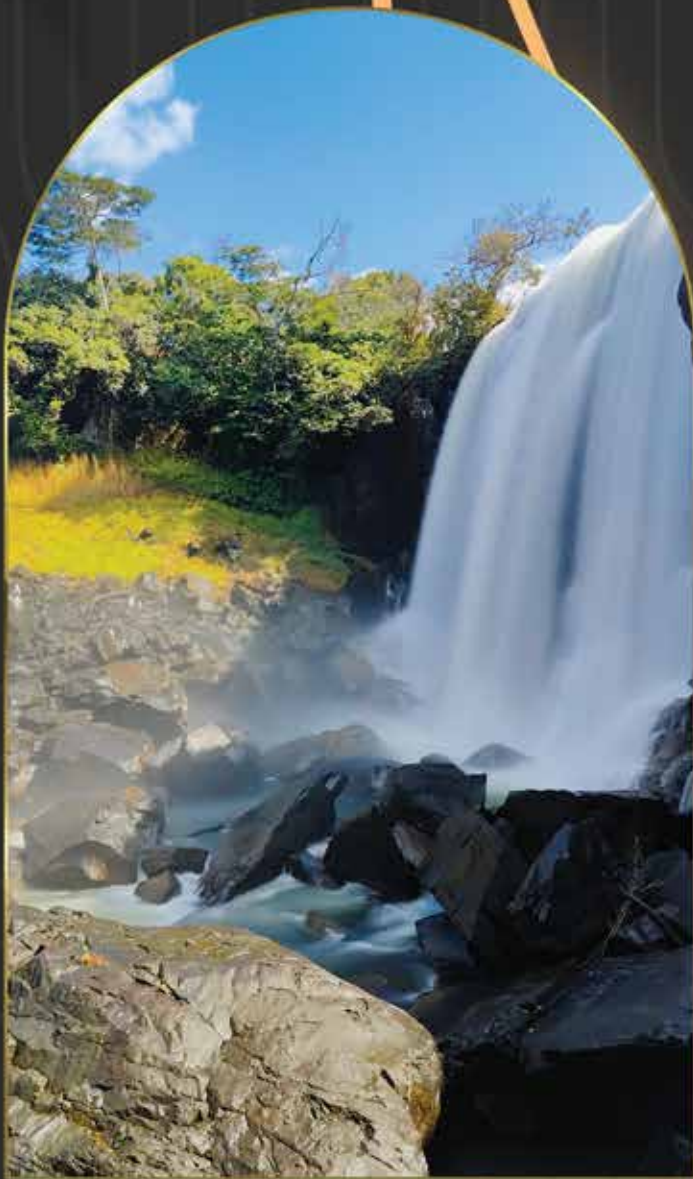
From its bittersweet reflections at Aylmer May Cemetery and the red-bricked resilience of the Saint Ignatius Parish to the creative expression at the Lechwe Gallery and the fusion of flavours at the many tucked-away restaurants like Mpoto Yathu, Rhodes Park is quite the living story. So, take a walk, share a plate and let its layered culture stir yours.



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# FIRST QUANTUM MINERALS

## A GLOBAL SUCCESS STORY WITH ZAMBIAN ROOTS



Words by Jolezya Adeyemo, images courtesy of First Quantum Minerals



**M**ining has shaped Zambia's history, defines its present, and will influence its future. From ancient times, indigenous people extracted copper and other minerals from the land. Back then, copper ingots were the preferred currency. Post-independence, the nascent Zambian economy was booming, thanks to copper production. But this production began to decline in the 1970s.

### Privatisation and Possibility: The Dawn of FQM in Zambia

By the early 1990s, the future of Zambia's mining industry was uncertain, with copper output still falling. The country had returned to multi-party democracy and, as it shifted from socialism to capitalism, privatising its mines became a key policy.

To most people, this might not have seemed a wise time to invest in the Zambian mining industry, except

to the founders of First Quantum Minerals, Philip Pascall, Clive Newall, Martin Rowley, and Zambian businessman Kwalela Lamaswala. As fearless entrepreneurs with a sense of adventure and strong business acumen, they had the foresight to see that the Zambian mining industry was a worthy investment. That founding spirit continues at FQM today, almost 30 years later. And as Zambia celebrates 61 years of independence, FQM has been part of that story for nearly half the journey.

FQM's first major operation was in Zambia, starting with the acquisition of Bwana Mkubwa Mine in 1996 and Kansanshi in 2001. These acquisitions were more than quick deals; they were bold bets on Zambia's future.

At Kansanshi, earlier operators had never fully unlocked its potential. Commercial production in 2005 propelled Kansanshi to the top, making it Africa's largest

copper producer by volume at the time. This was a landmark moment for Zambia.

### Growth Intertwined with Zambia

Over the past two decades, FQM's growth has mirrored Zambia's development as the nation strengthened its economy and institutions. The company invested in infrastructure, technology, and people.

Today, FQM directly employs over 12,000 people, 96 per cent of them Zambians. One of its hallmarks is its reliance on homegrown talent, building local knowledge and skills that endure. For every one formal FQM employee, an estimated 11 additional jobs or earning opportunities are created in the broader economy, spanning administrative services, manufacturing, ICT, and agriculture.

FQM's direct contribution to Zambia in 2024 alone was US\$2.6 billion, comprising over \$650 million in



government revenue, \$236 million in salaries and wages, \$1.75 billion in local procurement, and \$13 million in community investment and social outreach. This shows the scale of its economic impact.

#### **Beyond Mining: Investing in Communities**

In Solwezi and Kalumbila, FQM's presence is seen in schools, clinics, clean water, and agricultural projects. The company has embedded itself in local life through close interaction and cultural sensitivity. In the last five years, FQM has invested US\$52 million in community initiatives through its two foundations.

One such project was commissioning the Wumi Mini Hospital in Kalumbila District in July 2025. This public-private partnership serves as a lifeline to rural communities that previously had to trek 98 kilometres to the nearest government health facility. Building on these healthcare initiatives, the Trident Foundation has helped over 140 women-led businesses with training and K1.3 million in microfinance, promoting livelihoods that will last beyond mining.

Employee welfare is also a priority. HIV prevalence among Kansanshi workers dropped from 10 per cent in 2006 to just over 3 per cent by 2015. Education programmes, from classroom construction to university scholarships, prepare thousands of young Zambians

for the future. FQM's community programmes and transparency in reporting have ensured that these efforts foster mutually beneficial relationships, contributing to long-term regional well-being.

#### **Technical Excellence in Zambian Operations**

The Kansanshi smelter processes 1.3 million tonnes of concentrate annually, producing over 300,000 tonnes of blister copper with some of Africa's most advanced smelting technology.

Perhaps even more significantly, FQM has trained a generation of Zambian mining professionals working across Africa and beyond, demonstrating that the company's investment in people strengthens the entire sector.

#### **Taking Zambian Success Global**

From Zambia to four continents, FQM ranks amongst the world's top copper producers. Kansanshi's output has helped fund the company's global expansion. In 2024, Kansanshi produced 171,000 tonnes of copper and 105,000 ounces of gold. Looking forward to 2026, guidance is 180,000 - 210,000 tonnes of copper and 140,000 - 150,000 ounces of gold. ZCCM Investment Holdings' 20 per cent stake ensures that success remains tied to Zambia's prosperity.

Those first Zambian operations were the springboard for FQM's transformation

into a global mining leader. The scale of local procurement, taxes and royalties, jobs and skills transfer, and community investment shows that Zambia has captured substantial value from FQM's growth whilst helping to shape its global footprint.

#### **The Road Ahead: Realisation of Investment Commitments**

With US\$1.25 billion committed to Kansanshi's S3 expansion project and US\$100 million to operationalise the Enterprise Nickel Mine, Africa's largest nickel mine, FQM is building for the long term. The West Lunga Conservation Project reflects its commitment to combining environmental stewardship with development, demonstrating tangible efforts in biodiversity protection and ecological restoration.

The company is also actively investing in exploration in Zambia, both directly and indirectly through junior exploration companies. Infrastructure investment remains another priority, with FQM participating in the upgrading of the 371-kilometre Mutanda-Kaoma road to improve freight efficiency and local accessibility.

#### **Two Success Stories, One Shared Future**

As Zambia celebrates 61 years of independence, FQM's journey from privatisation-era acquisitions to global mining giant is a story of shared resilience, ambition, and progress. Rooted in Zambian soil and thriving on the world stage, FQM proves what can be achieved when vision meets opportunity. Mining will remain central to Zambia's future, and FQM is committed to being part of it.





# CARRY A PIECE OF SOUTH LUANGWA WITH YOU

## MWEZI BLU'S LUANGWA RIVER SAND COLLECTION

Words by Vilune Skabickaite, image courtesy of Mwezi Blu



**W**hat if you could carry the essence of one of Africa's most pristine wilderness areas wherever you go? The Luangwa River Sand collection is a new and creative take on Zambian fine jewellery. The collection of one-of-a-kind pieces celebrates Zambia and its natural resources. Each piece is meticulously hand-crafted in their South Luangwa workshop by a team of aspiring Zambian jewellers.

The citrine earrings sing an ode to the shimmering yellow grass and pale sands of the incredible South Luangwa valley. Meanwhile, the aquamarine pendant showcases the raw beauty of the Luangwa River. Through traditional, time-tested jewellery making and metalsmithing techniques, each piece celebrates the essence of this extraordinary region.

The coarse texture of the river sand is captured and imprinted into Zambia-sourced sterling silver through sand-casting techniques. Pair the pendant and earrings with the eye-catching Zambian garnet ring, mined and cut in the country. Its deep red hues honour the fiery sunsets and natural beauty that can only be witnessed in the valley.

The unpredictable nature of techniques used in the production of the Luangwa River Sand collection means that every piece of jewellery will live to tell its own story, as unique as the land itself!

With their conscious approach towards slow fashion, sustainability, and craft, Mwezi Blu designs jewellery that withstands the test of time. These pieces will continue to tell the story of Zambia through generations to come.

### » HOW MUCH?

Citrine Earrings, \$140.  
Aquamarine Pendant, \$270.  
Garnet Ring, \$285.

### » ABOUT MWEZI BLU

Nestled in the remote South Luangwa valley, Mwezi Blu celebrates Zambia's natural resources through ancient jewellery making and metalsmithing techniques. It provides specialised jewellery training to school leavers from the local community. Each sale donates 5% to educational projects in the area, as well as sponsoring 14 kids through school.

### » JEWELLERY CARE

1. Remove jewellery before showering, swimming, exercising, and other practical activities.
2. Apply hair and beauty products before putting on jewellery.
3. Store jewellery in airtight containers, cotton or felt pouches, which will absorb excess moisture.

### » FIND MWEZI BLU

- Mfuwe, South Luangwa Valley, 7 minutes from SLNP gate.
- Mwezi Blu, Leopards Hill Market, Lusaka.

### » FOR ENQUIRIES

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# THE SPARK THAT LIT A MOVEMENT

## A DECADE OF COPPER ROSE ZAMBIA



Words and images by the Copper Rose Zambia Team



Ten years ago, it began with a whisper, a quiet, persistent voice that refused to be silenced. At the University of Zambia's Ridgeway Campus, medical student Dr. Natasha Salifyanji Kaoma was juggling textbooks while confronting a truth many chose to ignore: the silent crisis of menstrual poverty. Alongside her sister, Faith Kaoma Kabeleka, she co-founded Copper Rose Zambia (CRZ) as a response to this deeply personal yet widespread issue.

You may wonder what inspired these vibrant young women. Dr. Natasha's menstrual cycle began at age 15, considered a delayed debut. She describes this as a blessing in disguise, giving her first-hand insight into the challenges girls face.

"It opened my eyes to the quiet suffering so many girls endure in silence," Dr. Natasha recalls.

In a country where over 60% live below the poverty line, menstruation is more than a biological reality; it is a barrier.

Girls miss school, drop out, and lose confidence, lacking access to basic menstrual products and the safe spaces needed to talk about their health.

"We saw a gap. There was no space where young people could access accurate health information, feel supported, or be empowered to take charge of their lives," recalls Faith.

Natasha and Faith believed Zambia's greatest resource isn't copper, as it is known for, but its youth, and with the right tools, they could transform their lives and the continent.

In 2015, period poverty was deeply entrenched in Zambia. With the majority living below the poverty line, managing menstruation with dignity was a luxury for many adolescent girls. Lack of access to menstrual products, coupled with stigma and absence of dignified spaces, led to school absenteeism and permanent dropouts.

With just \$300 raised through door-to-door donations and a small group of

passionate peers from the University of Zambia and the Copperbelt University, Faith and Natasha launched their first campaign: CandidPride. It was bold, raw, and unapologetically honest. They held workshops in underserved communities, taught girls how to make reusable sanitary pads, and went door-to-door to break the silence around menstruation. Funding was scarce, and with limited resources, every activity required immense creativity and determination.

"The early days were not easy. We were a small team with limited resources facing cultural resistance, but we were driven by the belief that young people deserve better," Faith recalls.

That fire led Faith to rural villages like Lubombo, where she personally helped a young girl return to school after dropping out due to period poverty. These stories—intimate, painful, and powerful—became the heartbeat of CRZ.

From the beginning, partnerships have been the backbone of CRZ's growth. Their very first donor was FRIDA | The

Young Feminist Fund, a pivotal moment that gave life to the organisation's vision. Locally, they secured partnerships that included ActionAid Zambia and the Rotaract Club of Lusaka. These organisations believed in the CRZ mission when it was still just an idea, and their support enabled the organisation to weather the storms and keep pushing forward.

One of the most transformative partnerships was with Bauleni United Sports Academy (BUSA), led by Fred Kangwa. Reflecting on BUSA's collaboration with CRZ, Fred shares:

"When Copper Rose Zambia approached us with the idea of sewing sanitary pads, it was a fantastic initiative. It not only provided a much-needed resource for young girls but also empowered them with skills."

CRZ is now supported by a growing network of funders and partners like the US government, Melinda Gates and other foundations like Hewlett and Packard.

Just last year, in 2024, in partnership with the Ministry of Health, CRZ operated in over 50 districts, across 42 health facilities, and reached over 400 communities. This expansive footprint enabled CRZ to launch Adolescent Wellness Days in 14 districts, reaching over 7,900 adolescents and young people with essential health services. These wellness days have become a cornerstone of their youth-centred approach, offering supportive environments for young people to access health information, care and support.

Beyond service delivery, CRZ has been instrumental in championing youth participation in community health governance. Over 1,000 young



people are now actively involved in Neighbourhood Health Committees (NHCs), helping shape local health priorities and ensuring the voices of the next generation are heard.

CRZ also celebrated a significant milestone with the graduation of their first cohort of the Campus Corps Fellowship, a work-readiness programme designed to equip young people with practical skills and experience. Impressively, over 80% of graduates from the programme have successfully transitioned into their first jobs.

In recognition of their impact, CRZ was honoured with the CEO's Youth Impact Award 2025, hosted by Absa Bank Zambia.

Looking back, their journey has been marked by both innovation and compassion. By 2018, through their menstrual hygiene programs, they had donated over 100,000 sanitary pads, restoring dignity and confidence to thousands of girls across Zambia.

What started as a grassroots initiative quickly grew into a national movement. Celebrating 10 years of impact, CRZ has reached over 600,000 young people across all ten provinces of Zambia, empowering them with knowledge, tools, and opportunities for healthier, more dignified lives. From menstrual health to sexual and reproductive rights, from leadership development to digital innovation, CRZ has become Zambia's leading youth-led organisation, driving positive change.

This anniversary is more than a celebration—it's a call to action. On Friday, 5th December 2025, CRZ will host its 10th Anniversary Gala in

Lusaka. The event will bring together government leaders, corporate partners, development agencies, and youth advocates to reflect on progress and chart the path forward.

This year's gala carries a special mission: raising ZMW 100,000 for renovating two safe houses for survivors of sexual and gender-based violence in Lusaka and Chipata. In partnership with the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA), CRZ is committed to creating secure, dignified spaces where young girls can heal, rebuild, and thrive.

"This cause is close to our hearts; we want to ensure that every girl who has survived violence has a secure, dignified space to heal and rebuild her life because she still has a chance at a brighter future," says Dr. Natasha.

As CRZ looks to the future, its vision remains clear: a Zambia where every young person is happy, healthy, and living to their full potential. The journey that began with two sisters has become a movement, one that continues to grow, inspire, and transform. When young people rise, nations rise with them.

*Help CRZ raise ZMW100,000 towards renovating two safe houses for survivors of sexual and gender-based violence in Lusaka and Chipata.*

#### To donate, contact:

**Senior Communications Officer**

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**Copper Rose Zambia Headquarters**

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# COLLINS HAMUSONDE

## STEADY AT THE HELM

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*Words by Royd Kapesa, images by Dickson Kunyongana*





**C**argo88 is one of those places in Lusaka that makes you pause. Hidden behind the polished storefronts of East Park Mall, the container-clad exterior gives an industrial feel, unapologetically different, as if to say: "This is not your average spot." It reminded me of Truth Coffee, my favourite coffee spot in Cape Town—edgy, warm, and intentionally designed.

Here, I met Collins Hamusonde, the new Chief Executive Officer of ZSIC Life Plc. Over pork chops and mashed potatoes for me, and sirloin with fries for him, we got talking. I ordered a Red Bull with ice; he went with a Tonic and Coke. Something about that combination told me he was relaxed, present, and not looking to impress. We were just two professionals, exchanging stories.

Collins joined ZSIC Life in January 2025 after an impressive 11 year stint at ABSA, where he most recently served as CEO of ABSA Life. Before that, he cut his teeth with recognisable industry names. You could say he's a purebred insurance man, though, interestingly, that wasn't always the plan.

He grew up in a disciplined household. Born in rural Southern Province, he is a self-proclaimed village boy—his mother, a teacher; his father, a mechanical

engineer and professor. Books were everywhere. Engineering texts and theory manuals are the kind of material that shapes methodical thinkers. But Collins, even early on, knew he wasn't wired for torque and tension rods. He was drawn to business.

"I believe my dad preferred the sciences for me, while my mother was clear that I was born for TV. Unfortunately for them, I told them I wanted to do business administration. They had created an environment where you decided what you wanted and went for it, so they supported me until I could support myself."

Insurance, however, was an accident. Or perhaps a divine test of grit. A college lecturer once told him insurance was the hardest thing to sell. And yet, that's where he landed. His first job was selling policies door to door in the Zambian heat, a masterclass in rejection.

That rough start gave him an edge because four years in, something clicked. He stopped treating insurance like a starter job, and started seeing it as a career. The more effort he put in, the more it paid off. He was hooked.

"In insurance, the reality is hard. People don't give you the time or the respect. But I stuck with it and fell in love with



**DON'T MISS A DEADLINE.  
EVERYTHING ELSE CAN BE  
NEGOTIATED. I LIKE TO LISTEN  
AND GET INVOLVED, BUT I  
TRUST MY PEOPLE TO GET THE  
WORK DONE.**

— Collins Hamusonde,  
Chief Executive Officer, ZSIC Life.



the industry. I decided to dig my heels into this and see where it would take me."

That conviction and a thirst to grow propelled him up the ladder. He moved from African Life (now Sanlam) to Metropolitan, and eventually ABSA, where he joined the Life Insurance division. Eventually, he had the opportunity to act as CEO of ABSA Life, and he took it. But even he admits he wasn't ready. The shoes were too big. He laughs about it now.

"Within three months of acting, I realised I wasn't ready. It took a lot to admit that it was too much for me. I would sit in meetings to explain the business, then realise that my explanation fell short. The more it happened, the more I realised it was not due to my inability, but rather my lack of exposure. Ultimately, I wasn't given the role, but I was not disappointed. I knew I needed to bridge the gap."

It was a turning point. He enrolled at Rhodes Business School in Grahamstown, South Africa. The MBA programme was intense and, by his own account, humbling. He found himself in study groups with younger, more erratic thinkers. They weren't as methodical, but they still managed to get results. That contrast expanded his perspective.

As fate would have it, two years later, the CEO job circled back around, and this time, he was ready and cinched it. It was the culmination of years of preparation, learning, failing, and rising again.

11 years at ABSA is nothing to sneeze at, so his move to ZSIC Life, a 58-year-old state-

owned insurer, caught many off guard. Why leave a blue-chip private-sector company for a government parastatal?

He smiles knowingly. Even he admits: it's an odd move.

"ZSIC Life is a parastatal, while my other roles were part of a private group with systems and structures already in place. At ZSIC Life, you have to make most decisions without those structures to rely on. I have to think a lot more in this role, but working with a new team to understand their roles and implementing my ideas has been rewarding so far."

ZSIC Life, like many government-owned companies in Zambia, has seen better days. For years, it was plagued by inefficiencies, delayed claims, outdated systems, and a disconnect from the very people it was meant to serve. But Collins saw a different opportunity: to build and repair. Eight months in, his mission is clear: restore operational efficiency, increase revenue and profitability, and leverage technology.

When he arrived, ZSIC Life owed millions in unpaid claims. In just six months, every outstanding claim was cleared. The business is now current. That alone is no small feat.

"We paid more than K150 million in claims by April 2025, which has changed the perception. Ultimately, insurance is about meeting customers' needs when they need it most. The internal culture is just as important. I want to see staff proudly walking the streets, not running away from customers. Those days are gone."

## » FINANCIAL LITERACY IS KEY

Collins is passionate about delivering financial literacy talks, especially to the youth. "We have an opportunity to change their mindset. They must understand the value of adopting the entire financial structure, not just banking. It includes pensions, insurance, and investments. Older people have to catch up because only two things happen as you grow older, you either die or retire. So you must have a plan for both. You need to sustain a livelihood even after retirement."

## » AN EXPERT'S INSIGHT

General insurance is easier to sell as it is often mandatory. Car, property, and medical insurance—people see the logic, but not when it comes to life insurance. Collins believes the tide is turning. Life insurance today includes wellness, medical support, and employee benefits. The market is growing as financial inclusion expands, currently sitting at 70% according to the last Finscope study. Ten years ago, inclusion was at 60%. That 10% shift is massive. As more Zambians access banking services, insurance will follow.





**WE PAID MORE THAN K150 MILLION IN CLAIMS BY APRIL 2025, WHICH HAS CHANGED THE PERCEPTION. ULTIMATELY, INSURANCE IS ABOUT MEETING CUSTOMERS' NEEDS WHEN THEY NEED IT MOST.**

— Collins Hamusonde,  
Chief Executive Officer, ZSIC Life.

Collins leads a team of over 100 people. Many of them have been with ZSIC Life for decades. He understands that trust is not given, but earned, and he has travelled across the country to meet staff in person, branch by branch. The feedback from the field, not boardroom presentations, has shaped his early strategy.

His leadership style is versatile. He adapts to context. He knows when to lead from the front and when to step back. Above all, he leads with clarity. His vision is persuasive, rooted in transparency.

"I have principles that should not be broken, such as don't miss a deadline, don't be late for any of my meetings, and come prepared when

you step into my office. Everything else can be negotiated. I like to listen and get involved, but I trust my people to get the work done."

Away from the office, Collins lives a grounded life. He does not indulge side hustles or the usual weekend farming, a rarity in today's corporate Zambia. He has shown that excellence in one thing can still make room for a whole and meaningful life. His time outside work is for faith and family. He's an active member of God's Envoys, a singing group at his church and attends practice every Thursday and Sunday. He finds release in music and connection in his community.

He's also a passionate home chef. One of his dreams is to open a small restaurant after retirement. The concept? No menus. You eat what's been made that day. I joked that his wife must be lucky to have a personal chef. He laughs in agreement. But more seriously, he credits her as one of his greatest supporters. The one who listens, even when she doesn't understand the specifics of his work.

As we wrap up, I realise how much of this conversation has stuck with me. Collins and I are about 10 years apart. But the clarity with which he's approached his life, work, and leadership left a real impression. He's thoughtful, strategic, humble, and quietly confident.

ZSIC Life's past may be checkered, but under Collins's watch, the future looks promising. As the world shifts, with the West becoming more inward-looking, so should Africa, particularly Zambia, with a focus on building strong local institutions. The future won't be imported. It will be built from the inside out.

ZSIC Life is one of those legacy institutions that, if fixed, could become a cornerstone of local resilience. And Collins Hamusonde? He's the man writing that next chapter.



## ➤ PLANNING FOR YOUR FUTURE

According to Collins, people need to know what they're buying, what it protects, and how it fits into their long-term financial plans. This is where ZSIC Life has its most significant role to play: demystifying insurance for the everyday Zambian.

## ◀ CARGO88 HOTEL

Situated in the heart of Lusaka, Cargo 88 Hotel boasts 71 rooms and a rooftop bar and restaurant. Our unique boutique hotel, made from repurposed shipping containers, offers a blend of contemporary design, comfort, and sustainability. Guests can enjoy stylish accommodations, conference spaces, a spa, and access to a high-end gym. It is conveniently located within East Park Mall, providing a unique experience for all travellers.



# ZAMBIA'S SILENT ECONOMY

## THE IMPACT OF INFORMAL BUSINESSES

Words by Kamiza Chikula

Physicists theorise about multiverses where different versions of reality exist in the same space. Zambia has something similar—two economies occupying the same country but operating by entirely different rules. One follows regulations, pays taxes, and appears in official statistics. The other thrives outside government oversight, moves billions through informal networks, and somehow remains largely invisible to policymakers. Guess which one actually employs most Zambians?

Recent data indicate that around 70–72% of Zambia's workforce operates in the informal sector, according to the most recent available statistics. Estimates of the sector's contribution to GDP vary widely by methodology—typically ranging from 30% to 45% across different studies—but it represents a substantial slice of economic activity. With Zambia's nominal GDP in 2024 estimated at USD 26–27 billion, the informal economy accounts for billions of dollars in value. It supports millions of people: street vendors, small-scale farmers, casual labourers, and others working without formal contracts or social protection. This, coupled with the sheer scale of participation, makes for a phenomenon that is too impactful to be ignored or taken lightly. But just who exactly constitutes the informal sector?

In trying to find a workable definition, the International Growth Centre defined the informal sector thus: "The informal sector, also known as the informal economy, refers to economic activities that are not regulated or taxed by the



government. It encompasses businesses and employment arrangements that operate outside of formal, established legal and regulatory frameworks."

Think neighbourhood *kantemba* (makeshift shop) owners, street vendors, marketeers, and more recently, online resellers. The hallmark of the informal sector is its ability to offer solutions with greater agility and higher convenience than established organisations. When a substantial portion of economic output stems from businesses operating outside formal regulatory structures, this represents a phenomenon that demands serious policy attention.

Any visit to major commerce hubs such as Soweto Market in Lusaka, Chisokone Market in Kitwe, or Main Masala Market in Ndola reveals the real operations of informal enterprise. Thousands of traders earn daily wages through these ecosystems, supporting numerous

related industries. Consider the bus driver whose morning trips revolve around ferrying traders and their wares from *ma order* (ordering stock for the day) to their designated stops, or the ever-reliable "ZamCab" system.

ZamCabs—human-powered transport wheelbarrows retrofitted with automobile tyres—can be seen on virtually every city main road, conveying goods from wholesale outlets to small retailers. This trust-based logistics arrangement allows retailers to procure stock and board a minibus to their trading location whilst the ZamCab makes its way to them, providing a head start on daily sales. Products transported range from fresh produce to *salaula* (second-hand clothing) and everything in between.

Over the years, these transporters have expanded their fleets and rent wheelbarrows to individuals who pay



fixed daily rates. The financial sector has embraced the potential of these commerce hubs, optimising small branches and agents to collect daily takings and provide secure banking for marketeers' hard-earned income.

Despite this economic significance, informal sector players face numerous challenges: difficulties accessing capital and growth loans, limited personal and business insurance options, no access to pensions, and constant conflicts with municipal authorities for those without established premises.

Yet the opportunities are substantial. Entrepreneurship remains accessible in Zambia—identify a gap, conceptualise a solution, and implement it. Growing local supply chains could enhance food security and reduce reliance on imports. The COVID-19 pandemic demonstrated this entrepreneurial resilience, spawning and accelerating online businesses that permanently altered Zambia's commercial landscape.

Until that point, digital marketplaces were uncommon, with most Zambians preferring physical shopping. The convergence of technologies has created viable alternatives to the status quo, with products ranging from food to fashion, cosmetics to electronics, being advertised through Facebook, Instagram, and WhatsApp. Mobile money payment options enabled safe transactions,

setting the stage for a significant shift in business practices.

Combined with the delivery app explosion, Zambian customers gained access to convenience and doorstep delivery through established services using everything from walking personnel to flatbed trucks. While the pandemic has passed, digital entrepreneurs now form part of the Zambian economic chain, creating employment

opportunities for many young people and exponentially expanding the sector.

The situation isn't entirely bleak for the informal sector. Progress has been made: Zambia's National Financial Inclusion Strategy (2017-2022) set out to raise overall financial inclusion to at least 80%, with a target of 70% for formal inclusion. SME tax thresholds were revised to accommodate micro-enterprises, including a recent increase in the Turnover Tax threshold to ZMW 5 million. The Zambia Revenue Authority enabled informal traders to register and pay simplified taxes through the ZRA TaxOnline platform. However, significant gaps remain in policies providing inclusive social protection, affordable credit access, business training, and regulations that accommodate informal business realities, not forgetting reliable pension schemes.

The bottom line is clear: Zambia's informal economy must move from the sidelines to centre stage. Acknowledging this sector is essential for sustainable economic growth. Policies must transition from well-worded documents to executable programmes based on inclusion, empowerment, and entrepreneur protection. After all, it's the *tamanga* (small-scale trader) who keeps our economy's wheels turning—quietly, but powerfully.





# LIQUID EXCELLENCE AWARDS

LIQUID INTELLIGENT TECHNOLOGIES CELEBRATES INNOVATION AND EXCELLENCE

Words and images by Liquid Intelligent Technologies Zambia



In July, Liquid Intelligent Technologies Zambia celebrated the transformative power of connectivity by honouring the remarkable journeys of its customers through The Liquid Excellence Awards. This year's awards featured an empowering new approach: customers self-nominated across various categories, detailing their impactful work and significant milestones. An independent judging panel then evaluated submissions based on challenges faced, innovative technological solutions, and outcomes achieved. These entries truly embodied stories of resilience, creativity, and vision.

The event was attended by distinguished guests, including the guest of honour, the Minister of Technology & Science, represented by Permanent Secretary Dr. Brilliant Habeezu. During his speech, he expressed gratitude to Liquid for establishing a platform that recognises "Zambians doing extraordinary things through the power of connectivity."

Other noteworthy attendees included the National Coordinator for Smart Zambia, Mr. Percy Chinyama. The memorable evening featured distinguished speakers from the

innovation, information, and technology sectors. Key industry representatives included leaders from the ICT Association of Zambia, FNB, UBA, CSR Network, and Probase, who shared insights on Zambia's digital transformation journey.

The awards recognised outstanding achievements across multiple categories. Winners included major institutions such as Stanbic Bank, Bongo Hive, Indo Zambia Bank, NAPSA, ZRA, LOLC Finance, and Agora Microfinancing. Individual winners were also recognised for their exceptional collaboration and dedication to implementing Liquid Zambia's innovative local solutions.

A standout moment was the introduction of the Customer Excellence Award category, designed to honour those effectively using technology to enhance customer experience and streamline business processes. The winner, Misozi Tembo, demonstrated remarkable innovation by utilising social media to manage and successfully fulfil pre-orders for her trading business, showcasing how connectivity can transform small enterprises.

The awards reinforce Liquid's ongoing mission to celebrate technology sector achievements, building on the momentum from the successful Women in Tech Lunch held in March. These initiatives demonstrate Liquid Zambia's unwavering commitment to advancing Zambia's digital future through its extensive fibre network and industry-leading Cloud and Cyber Security solutions.





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# THE CURRENCY OF PROGRESS

## HOW DIGITAL PAYMENTS ARE CHANGING AND SHAPING ZAMBIA

Words by Royd Kapesa



Imagine a world where your wallet is your phone, and your loud uncle, who still doesn't trust online banking, sends you money with the same ease he forwards conspiracy videos on WhatsApp. That world isn't some faraway dreamland anymore; that world is right here in Zambia. And mobile money is the reason.

Across the globe, societies are discarding their reliance on paper currency, much like they shed their jerseys in summer. Sweden has made headlines for using physical cash in fewer than 10% of all transactions. Kenya turned mobile money into a national infrastructure with M-Pesa, which isn't just a convenience but a lifeline. And here at home, Zambia is quickly following suit, not with flashy apps or fintech startups, but with solid, everyday adoption of mobile money platforms that are now embedded in our everyday life.

Let's not skip the numbers. They tell a powerful story. According to news reports, in 2023 alone, the value of mobile money transactions in Zambia rose by 50%, from K295.8 billion in 2022 to a staggering K452 billion. Yes, billion with a "B." To put it into perspective, that's more money than the entire 2024 national budget allocated for education, health, and defence combined, food for thought. It wasn't just the value that rose; volume jumped too. Zambians made more than 2.24 billion mobile money transactions in 2023, compared to 1.58 billion the year before. That's a 42% increase in volume. Because we've stopped asking "Do you have Airtel?" and started saying "*Tumani che, boss*" (just send it, boss).

And it's not urban elites driving this trend. With 12.6 million active mobile wallets recorded by the end of 2023 and over 340,000 mobile money agents

across the country, the infrastructure is reaching deep into rural Zambia. In villages where banks are a distant rumour and ATMs are rarer than rain in September, the nearest mobile money booth is often just a few houses down.

It makes sense when you think about it. Mobile money is safer, more convenient, and frankly, less intimidating than walking into a bank branch. It operates outside of the traditional 8 to 5, you don't need to wear shoes or bring a payslip. All you need is a phone signal, and boom, you're financially active. A 2022 VoxDev study found that in rural Zambia, 56.8% of users sent money via mobile platforms, and a whopping 88.4% received it, usually from family members in urban areas.

Yet, for all this growth, sceptics believe mobile money is part of a drive to create an entirely cashless economy, but here's

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the twist: mobile money isn't killing cash. In fact, cash is doing just fine. Currency in circulation actually increased alongside the rise in digital payments. According to Bank of Zambia data, the total cash in circulation rose from K13.5 billion in 2021 to K14.6 billion in 2022, an 8.9% uptick. By 2023, it was estimated to rise even higher. The logic-defying takeaway? Even in a booming digital economy, Zambians are still holding on to their kwacha notes as a safety net.

It's what economists refer to as the "paradox of banknotes." Even as people swipe, tap, and send digitally, they still hoard physical cash. Why? Because cash is tangible. It doesn't need a charger, the network doesn't drop because of a thunderstorm, and it works even when ZESCO doesn't. So, instead of thinking about mobile money replacing cash, it's more accurate to see them as partners, two systems working together in a hybrid economy that still respects the feel of a 50 kwacha note.

Some observers argue that financial institutions are deliberately reducing cash availability to push digital payments. There are even rumours of cash shortages being orchestrated to accelerate the shift. But actual data doesn't support this theory. The Bank of Zambia has continued issuing new notes—nearly K3.9 billion worth in 2022 alone. If you've had trouble finding

change for a K500, blame the shop owner, not monetary policy.

So if it's not policy forcing our hand, what is? The answer lies in preference and practicality. People are choosing mobile money because it's faster, safer, and fits into modern lifestyles. You can pay for your ZESCO tokens at midnight. You can send money to your cousin in Solwezi while stuck in Lusaka traffic. Try doing that with cash.

Of course, the system isn't perfect. Mobile money comes with its own growing pains. While the transaction fees are small, they eventually add up, especially if you are making multiple payments a day. And let's not forget about digital literacy for users who may already have difficulty navigating new technologies in the first place. Non-intuitive user interfaces and infrastructure gaps can also cause headaches, particularly when agents run out of float or there's a network failure mid-transfer. And let's not forget the scammers who've moved from stealing bank PINs to phishing mobile wallet codes.

Regulation is also a work in progress. The Bank of Zambia regulates mobile money alongside the Zambia Information and Communications Technology Authority (ZICTA). In 2024, they introduced a small transaction levy, which sparked public debates about whether mobile money

transactions should be taxed. So far, this levy hasn't discouraged usage, but it's clear that the regulatory landscape has its eye on this infrastructure.

However, despite these challenges, the benefits outweigh the negatives. Financial inclusion in Zambia rose from about 59% in 2015 to nearly 69% by the end of 2023. That means millions more Zambians have access to formal financial services, even if they've never stepped into a bank. Mobile money isn't just about convenience, it's about empowerment. It allows people to save, to invest, to plan. During the COVID-19 pandemic, when physical interactions were discouraged, mobile money kept commerce going. It's not an exaggeration to say it kept parts of the economy alive.

Where does all this leave us? Not quite in a cashless utopia, but certainly on a path toward a less-cash, more-digital economy. Mobile money is becoming the norm, not the novelty. But to complete the journey, we'll need investment in digital infrastructure, better literacy programmes, consumer protection regulations, and innovative taxation policies that don't stifle innovation.

So is mobile money part of a larger conspiracy? No. We're not ditching cash entirely, not yet. But Zambia is walking, wallet in one hand and phone in the other, toward a future where your bank is wherever you are, and your money moves at the speed of your fingers.

# Airtel Money Africa Partners with pawaPay

## Seamless International Remittances Across Africa



Airtel Money Africa, Airtel Africa's mobile money arm, today announced an extended partnership with Africa's largest mobile money payment service provider (PSP), pawaPay, to enable seamless cross-border payments for licensed International Money Transfer Operators (IMTOs) across seven key Airtel Africa markets.

This collaboration officially launches pawaPay's service for inbound remittances into Uganda, Rwanda, Zambia, Malawi, Gabon, Congo Brazzaville, and Tanzania. The partnership enables IMTOs to efficiently deliver funds directly to over 161 million Airtel Money customers' wallets globally, leveraging pawaPay's renowned reliability, scalability, and 99.9% platform uptime.

Building on five years of trusted collaboration in domestic mobile money, this expansion strengthens and simplifies Airtel Money Africa's backend processes, using pawaPay's robust payment service provider infrastructure, which processes over four million transactions daily.

Airtel Money Africa CEO, Ian Ferrao, said: "We're pleased to expand our partnership with pawaPay to advance

international remittances across Africa. Their proven reliability and commitment to African consumers make them an ideal partner. This integration empowers International Money Transfer Operators to securely connect with Airtel Money's growing footprint, delivering real-time payments that support financial inclusion and economic growth."

PawaPay CEO, Nikolai Barnwell, said: "Our mission is to simplify payments for businesses in Africa, and remittances are pivotal. Deepening our relationship with Airtel Money allows International Money Transfer Operators to leverage our world-class infrastructure for seamless cross-border payments."

Remittances remain critical for millions of Africans, enabling family support, entrepreneurship, and financial inclusion. This partnership ensures secure, instant mobile wallet transactions, key to advancing Africa's digital economy.

PawaPay will extend this capability to additional Airtel Money Africa markets in the coming months.





## LATE SUBMISSION

**A**n exchange that may have happened between Sebastian and the gracious and punctual editor of Nkwazi. You know how these conversations always start, right? With hope. False hope:

**Editor:** Just a reminder, Sebastian, your column was due two weeks ago. *(Now, I panicked. So naturally, I did what any professional writer would do in this situation.)*

**Sebastian:** heysFt83F

**Editor:** Huh?

**Sebastian:** Sorry, my keyboard was stuck. *(Perfect recovery, right? Flawless. Like a gymnast landing a triple backflip into a pit of excuses.)*

**Editor:** That's happened the past three times I've contacted you.

**Sebastian:** Yes, it's a recurring problem. Like arthritis. Especially in the cold.

**Editor:** Is that why your column is late?

**Sebastian:** No.

**Editor:** Then...?

**Sebastian:** Oh, I was just explaining why I said heysFt83F in the first place. *(You see, I'm helpful like that. I answer the questions nobody asked while systematically avoiding the ones they did.)*

**Editor:** Okay. Why is your column late?

**Sebastian:** Oh, I can't remember.

**Editor:** How can you not remember?

**Sebastian:** I feel like that's a philosophical question I am unable to answer.

**Editor:** What's philosophical about it?

**Sebastian:** Well, if I could remember what I could not remember, then I would remember it in the first place, and I wouldn't have to say that I couldn't remember it. *(The circular logic of a man desperately buying time while his career circles the drain.)*

**Editor:** Why do you always do this?

**Sebastian:** Do what?

**Editor:** Speak in riddles. And lie.

**Sebastian:** That seems like another philosophical question.

**Editor:** It's not a question.

**Sebastian:** Really? In my head, you had that questioning tone. The one you're always using with me. *(You know the tone. The one that suggests your editor is simultaneously disappointed in you as a writer AND as a human being.)*

**Editor:** That's because I'm always asking you where your column is.

**Sebastian:** And I'm always asking pointed social questions through laughter.

**Editor:** You make jokes about yourself mostly.

**Sebastian:** Exactly – I am the social problem. *(Finally! Some self-awareness! It only took three weeks past the deadline to achieve it.)*

**Editor:** We can finally agree on something.

**Sebastian:** That's a bit rude, isn't it? *(Yes, I was offended that my editor agreed with me calling myself a social problem. The logic is flawless. But then—oh, then—my editor did something beautiful. Something I didn't expect.)*

**Editor:** Oh no, I was agreeing in the philosophical sense.

**Sebastian:** What does that even mean?

**Editor:** Well, if we could agree about what I could not agree on, then I would agree with it in the first place, and I wouldn't have to say that I couldn't agree on it. *(She was learning. Adapting. Using my own weapons against me.)*

**Sebastian:** That's gibberish, but I see what you're doing. You're funny, aren't you?

**Editor:** Well, I'm not a social problem, if that's what you're asking.

**Sebastian:** Ha ha.

**Editor:** Even your laughs sound sarcastic.

**Sebastian:** That one was. Hazard of the job.

**Editor:** I wouldn't call this a job...

**Sebastian:** You're right, I'm not paid enough to call this a job.

**Editor:** This again? We gave you a branded water bottle.

**Sebastian:** You spelt my name wrong.

**Editor:** Must be the keyboard. A recurring problem. Like arthritis. Especially in the cold.

**Sebastian:** You're wittier than you used to be. You must be reading my column regularly.

**Editor:** I'm probably the only one who looks out for your writing.

**Sebastian:** I'm honoured. But I have other fans.

**Editor:** Do you? You complain that you don't have any friends.

**Sebastian:** I'm working on it.

**Editor:** Like you're working on your column?

**Sebastian:** Yes.

**Editor:** Tomorrow, Sebastian, no later. *(And here, faced with an actual deadline with actual consequences, I responded with the eloquence of a true wordsmith.)*

**Sebastian:** F\*\*k.

**Editor:** Keyboard?

**Sebastian:** Sure, we can say that.

### » ABOUT SEBASTIAN

Sebastian was once so late for a party that he pretended to have just recovered from Hepatitis B. He then proceeded to lick anyone on sight if they refused to believe him.

# AUGUST IS CHILD EYE HEALTH AND SAFETY MONTH:

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Many eye problems in children go unnoticed because kids may not complain or realize they have difficulty seeing. Regular eye check-ups can detect issues early, allowing for timely treatment and preventing long-term damage. Parents and caregivers should also encourage habits that protect children's eyes, such as wearing protective eyewear during sports, limiting screen time, and providing a nutritious diet rich in vitamins.

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# INSIDE

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ANNIVERSARY



Building Lusaka is a reflective journey through the capital's history and growth, blending personal memories with the city's evolution from colonial outpost to a uniquely Zambian city on page 70.





We're going  
to Mars!

WITH A SPACEGIRL, TWO  
CATS AND A MISSIONARY  
By EDWARD MAKUKA NKOLISO

ROCKET

Zambia's Space Mission  
We'll Beat You to Mars

THE DUTY -  
The first of the  
space mission  
will be to  
reach the  
surface of  
Mars.

# A THOUGHT EXPERIMENT

WHAT IF ZAMBIA HAD MADE IT TO THE MOON?

*The space race began on August 2, 1955, when the USSR responded to the US announcement of its intention to launch the first artificial satellite by declaring its own plans to do the same. On October 4, 1957, the USSR successfully launched Sputnik 1, the first Earth-orbiting satellite in history. However, on the morning of October 25, 1964, Zambia stunned the world as the first female afonaut, Matha Mwamba, was launched into space, becoming the first African country to send a manned spacecraft into space. — **Space Race Timeline, Royal Museums Greenwich***

Words by Victor Muteleksha,  
illustrations by Tsungai Kaunda



BBC World News

October 26, 1964

## ZAMBIA FIRST ON THE MOON—AFRICAN NATION STUNS THE WORLD

As the sun crested the eastern sky, the day after Zambia's first Independence Day, a thunderous crack split the air above the Kafue plains. A sleek, bronze-tinted rocket—code-named Kalu-D1—emblazoned with a Chitimukulu emblem and the motto "Where fate and human glory lead, we are always there"—lifted off. Inside was Matha Mwamba, the world's first female astronaut and the pride of a newly liberated Africa. Her mission: to land on the Moon.

**W**hile the USA and USSR were engaged in a race to launch the first human into space, in a remote corner of the British colony of Northern Rhodesia, a different dream was taking shape. In 1960, Edward Festus Mukuka Nkoloso—a freedom fighter, science teacher, and radical thinker—established the Zambia National Academy of Science, Space Research, and Philosophy (ZNASSRP). His mission was bold: to send a human and two cats to the moon.

While Nkoloso's space programme may have been inspired by the two superpowers, his ambitions and timeline far exceeded those of his counterparts. He didn't just aim to place humans and animals on the moon—he envisioned reaching Mars.

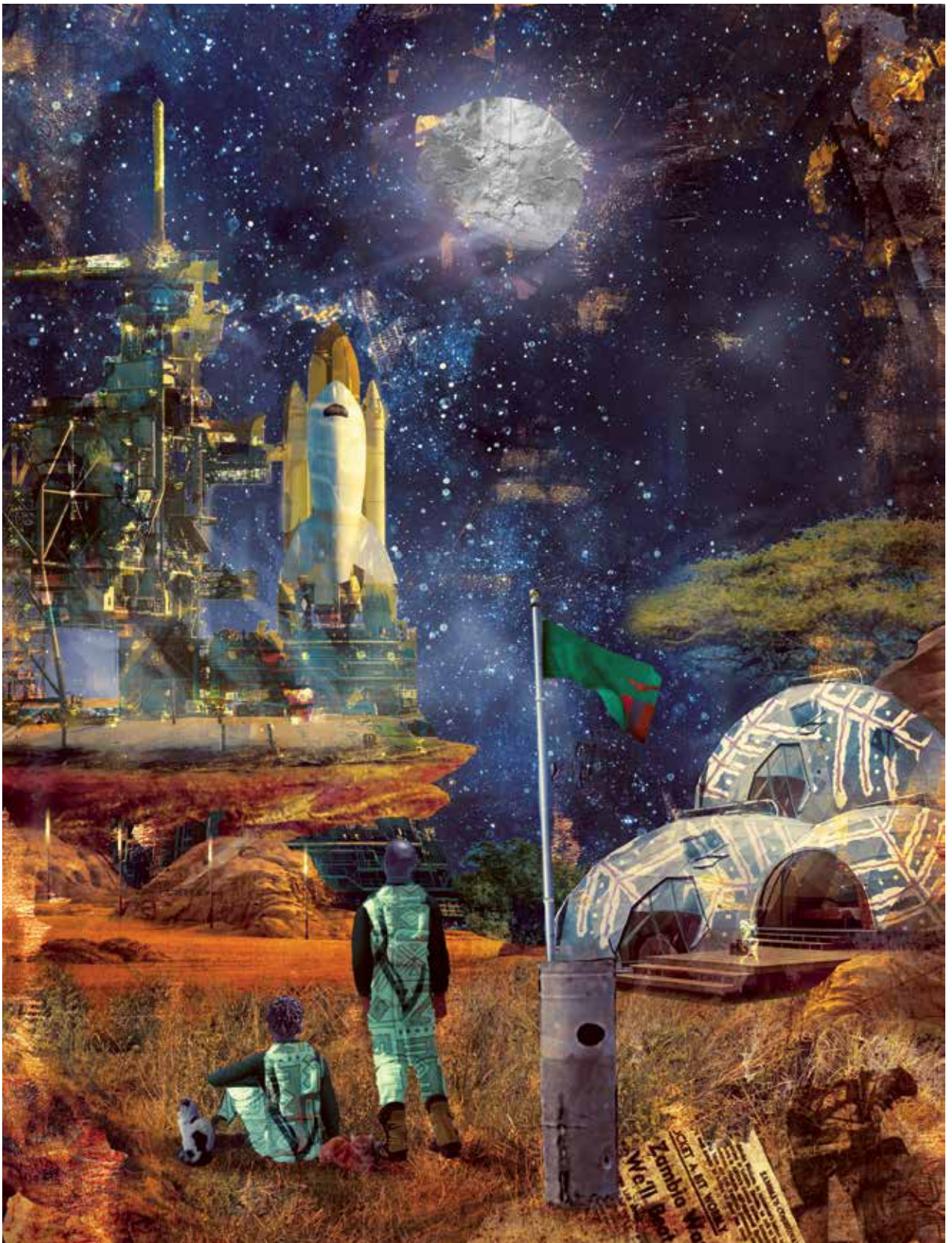
Edward Festus Mukuka Nkoloso (1919–1989) was a former World War II soldier who served in the British Signal Corps. He was a freedom fighter contributing to Zambia's liberation movement by making explosives to destabilise the colonial regime. He later became a science teacher, and also earned a law degree from the University of Zambia. He served as President

Kaunda's special representative to the African Liberation Centre, the headquarters for all the regional freedom movements fighting for independence.

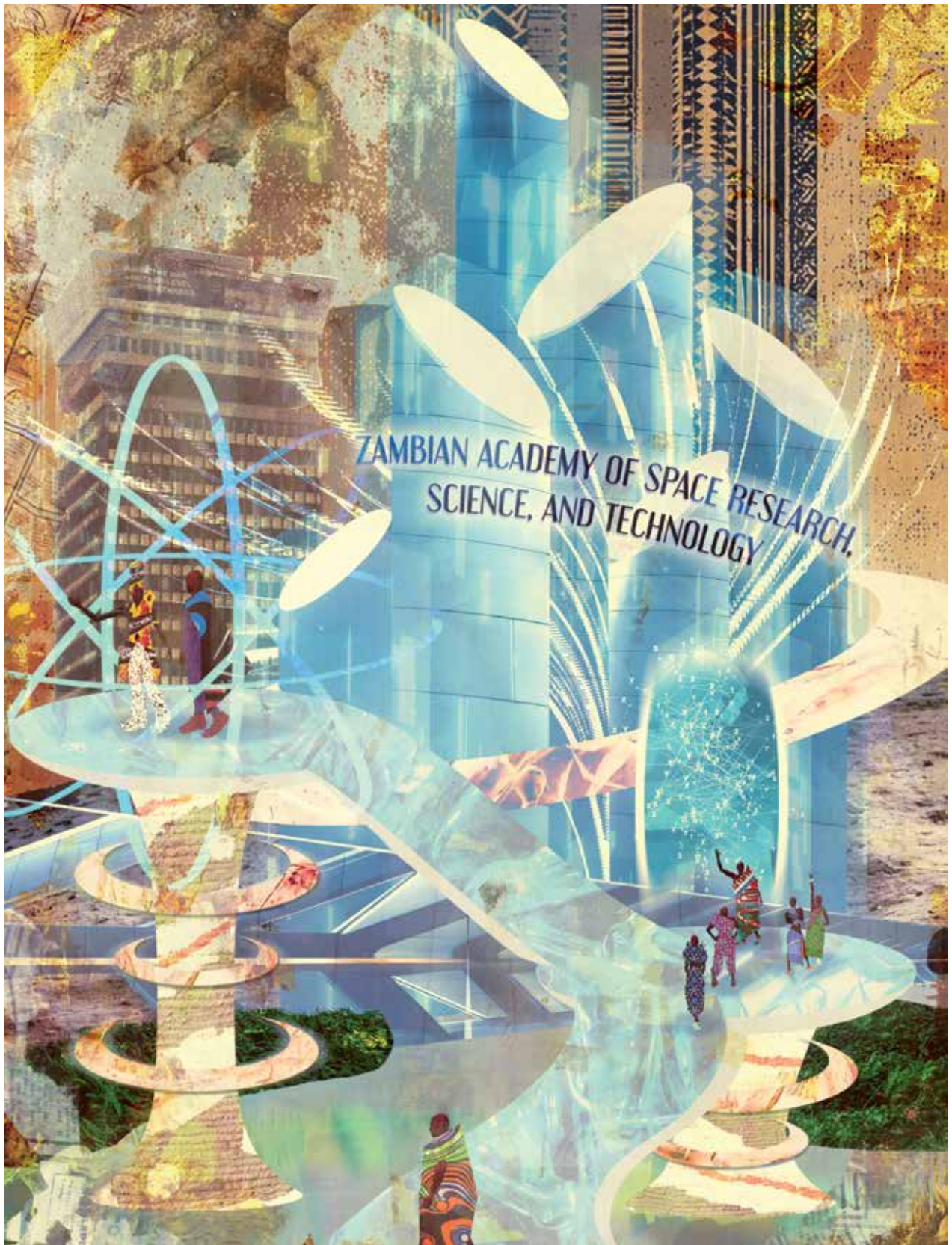
His academy's motto, "Where fate and human glory lead, we are always there," reflected a belief in the boundless potential of African minds. Afronauts were rolled downhill in oil drums to simulate weightlessness. Though crude in appearance compared to the 'gimbal rig' developed by NASA in the late 1950s, it was innovative in its intent. He wanted his team to think differently, dream freely, and reject the notion of inferiority.

In an interview, Nkoloso's son, Edward Mukuka Nkoloso Jr., recounts how, immediately after rolling and tumbling, and in a state of disorientation, Nkoloso Sr. would test them with questions to assess and develop their mental resilience.

By the late 1950s and early 1960s, the wave of independence was sweeping across Africa, and Zambia's turn was inevitable. Nkoloso's academy was a tool for self-realisation and complete decolonisation.







"TO MOST ZAMBIANS, THESE PEOPLE ARE JUST A BUNCH OF CRACKPOTS, AND FROM WHAT I HAVE SEEN, I AM INCLINED TO AGREE". — **TIME MAGAZINE REPORTER, 1964.**

Nkoloso was both an attentive student of history and a futurist, radical, and divergent thinker. He began his career teaching physics at a European school. Disillusioned by the limitations of the British education system, which he believed were inadequate in advancing Zambia's interests after independence, he founded his school to teach science, mathematics, and religious education—a move seen by colonial administrators as subversive.

Nkoloso's dream of space travel went beyond touching the stars; it was about mental liberation. He believed that colonial education turned Africans into servants of the colonial enterprise, rather than inventors. It trained them to extract rather than add value and innovate. It rewarded mimicry over mastery. This critique remains relevant: decades after independence, many African economies still rely heavily on extractive industries of finite minerals, exporting raw materials rather than producing finished goods.

Nkoloso also advocated the legitimisation of traditional African medicine, often dismissed as the work of "witch doctors". He argued that Christian missionaries had discredited these practices and that they should coexist with Western medicine.

Long before Western physicians acknowledged the value of traditional knowledge, Nkoloso viewed traditional healers as scientists and spiritual guides whose medical skills were deeply rooted in their respective habitats.

*European commentators often noted the technical skill of African surgeons and the variety of roots and leaves herbalists used to treat multiple illnesses. Herbal medicine was also employed to prevent disease and promote health, especially during conception, pregnancy, childbirth, and breastfeeding. As historical anthropologists across the continent have observed, African healing practices involved more than just alleviating symptoms. They focused on understanding why an individual became ill. These pragmatic healing cultures often combined clinical and spiritual interventions and usually involved kin or peer groups managing and evaluating treatment options. This approach of viewing healing as a process involving both spiritual and collective elements shaped many societies' public cultures of political engagement. Rituals aimed at healing the land or the state were seen as vital to collective prosperity, social cohesion, and addressing interpersonal tensions caused by disruptive forces like the slave trade or long-distance commerce. —Health in African History by Shane Doyle, Professor of African History at the University of Leeds.*

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The New York Mail

October 28, 1964

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## ZAMBIAN AFRONAUT MATHA MWAMBA LANDS ON MOON—A FIRST FOR HUMANITY

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"TEACHER! DON'T TEACH ME NONSENSE". — **FELA ANIKULAPO KUTI, 1986.**

*Challenging the prevailing assumptions of being mistaken for mad, confused, or a lunatic, Nkoloso would say to his son when asked why they were doing what they were doing, "...these Americans are not the greatest... if a bird can fly, why can't you?" We don't have wings, they would answer, or we are humans. Then he would tell them, 'You have brains.' —Kabinda Lemba, Faces of Africa Documentary - Mukuka Nkoloso: The Afonaut.*

Edward Mukuka Nkoloso's *Zambian National Academy of Science, Space Research, and Philosophy* served as a blueprint for decolonisation, self-belief, and self-determination. He knew too well the limitations of colonial structures if they were not addressed post-independence. Pan-African activist Joshua Maponga of Zimbabwe articulates Nkoloso's sentiments in his paper on neocolonialism and strategies for decolonisation,

*titled On How to Decolonise Africa's Systems — Education, Business, Health & More.* He describes colonialism as a "brutal, dark chapter in our history. It was more than land occupation; it was a systematic takeover of our lives. It aimed to control the African mind. Our languages were suppressed, our stories silenced, our cultures were deemed inferior, our traditions mocked and marginalised. This was the essence of mental colonisation—a deep-rooted psychological warfare...Many African languages are endangered. This loss of language is a loss of identity. Our traditional education systems were dismantled and replaced with Western models. This disrupted the transmission of indigenous knowledge and created a disconnect from our past."

What if landing on the Moon or Mars wasn't just about space travel, but about ascending to a higher state of consciousness?



Mutende News

October 25, 1964

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## FIRST WOMAN ON MOON IS ZAMBIAN. US AND USSR IN SHOCK

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“...IF A BIRD CAN FLY, WHY CAN'T YOU?” WE DON'T HAVE WINGS, THEY WOULD ANSWER. “YOU HAVE BRAINS.” — **EDWARD MUKUKA NKOLOSO, FOUNDER, ZAMBIAN NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCE, SPACE RESEARCH, AND PHILOSOPHY**

About mental decolonisation and liberation? What would Zambia have looked like 61 years later? Had Nkoloso's vision succeeded—particularly through indigenous knowledge systems—it would have marked the dawn of an entirely different Zambia.

The foundations of education would have been redrawn. Indigenous languages would no longer have been viewed as obstacles to modernity, but as pathways to new scientific expressions. Zambia's own Chokwe cosmology, like the Dogon of Mali, would have informed a homegrown astronomy—a sky mapped in native thought, as Nkoloso's likely intended when he founded his school as an instrument of resistance to the limitations of the colonial education system.

The triumph of Matha Mwamba would have symbolised more than technical success. Her presence in space would have shattered embedded gender assumptions. Picture the image of a Bemba woman planting the Zambian flag in lunar dust. This would have ignited a generation of girls to dream in the language of physics, not in the confines of stereotypes.

Had Nkoloso's afronauts made it to the moon, the event would have triggered the opposite of a subservient Africa. Ghana, Nigeria, and Kenya might have followed suit with joint research programmes. The OAU (now the African Union) could have launched a pan-African Space Agency by the 1970s.

The geopolitical balance would shift, not just in allegiances, but in how the world conceptualised knowledge and power. Zambia and Africa as a whole would no longer be relegated to the margins of technological development, but centred as a source of innovation and curiosity, and a multipolar world would have become the norm—my perpetual dream.

In his book, *Afrika Twasebana*, Simon Mwansa Kapwepwe's words of self-reliance urge readers to resist the reinvention of Africans in the likeness of imperial images. This stance of ownership and identity would form the basis for a new national identity. This dream had the capacity for a domino effect on multiple levels of integration. It was a vision that would translate today as “anything is possible.”

In global universities, curricula would diversify. Chokwe, Yoruba, and Ndebele cosmologies would stand alongside Copernicus and

Kepler. Scholars from around the globe would come to study physics in Zambia. African fabrics and writing systems would adorn the walls of science departments, not as tokens, but as frameworks of theory. The revival of herbal sciences under a national health strategy guided by ancestral knowledge would emerge.

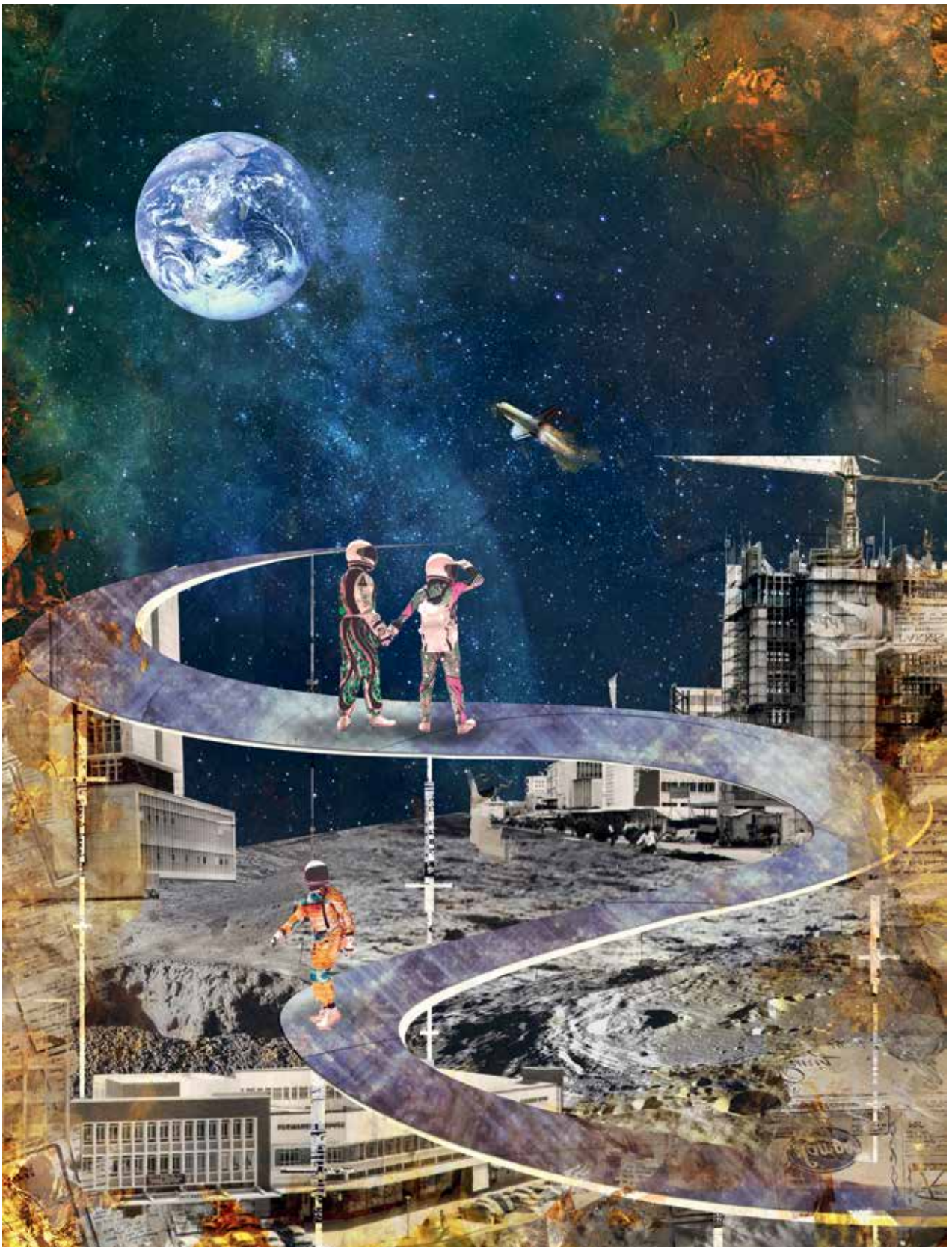
To call Nkoloso a madman is to misunderstand the language of liberation. A true artist is a liberated soul; he is never bound by rules that cage his imagination. His ambitions are a symbol of what true liberation would look like. Today, Nkoloso remains deeply relevant to artists, philosophers, and futurists alike.

His space programme has become a foundation for the Afrofuturist movement, inspiring works by a generation of Zambian creatives and intellectuals from across Africa and the world, including Aaron Samuel Mulenga, Anawana Haloba, Chembo Liandisha, Sary Mwaba and Cristina De Middel, among numerous others.

In 2023, the Lusaka Contemporary Art Centre screened a film titled *After the Dream*. It encouraged viewers to think about Zambia's unrealised ambitions after independence, not just for freedom, but for progress in science and technology. It reminded audiences that while dreaming is powerful, realising those dreams takes determination and long-term effort.

It is nearly impossible to capture the essence of the man through the depictions and rhetoric associated with the term “afronauts.” When he passed away in 1989, former President of Namibia, Sam Nujoma, stated, “Speaking for the liberation movements, let me thank the government for giving this befitting send-off to a man who distinguished himself as a great freedom fighter. Oh, I wish he could remain alive and see the independence of Namibia, which is inevitable. I say to this great son of Africa that the struggle continues, and victory is certain.”

Nkoloso was a man whose influence transcended generations, whose sole mission was to secure a better future for the benefit of Zambians. His endeavours to pioneer man's quest to space will continue to reverberate across time and space, a rocket ship propelled fiercely by the ambitions and dreams of contemporary Zambia.







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# BUILDING LUSAKA



Words by Mukandi Siame, images courtesy of The National Archives of Zambia









*The Tanzania- Zambia Railway Authority was established in 1968 and by October 1970, track-laying had commenced. In a partnership between China, Tanzania and Zambia, the tracks from Tanzania met at Kapiri Mposhi in June 1975.*

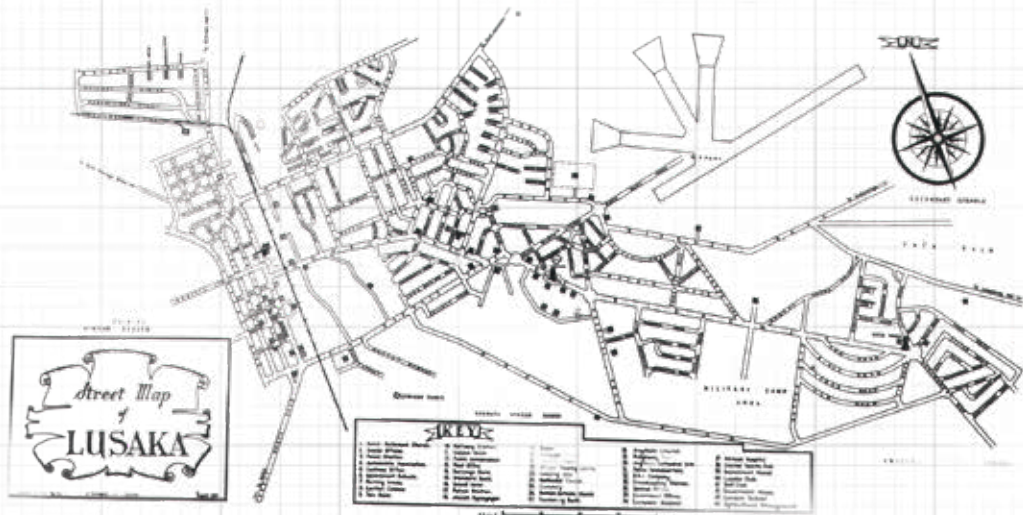
In the beginning, there was Lusaka, and the spirit of progress hovered like dust over the city.

One Monday in the 90s, a deep brown baby was swaddled in a knit shawl and carried from the birthing cot at the University Teaching Hospital to a one-bedroom flat in the high-rise flats of Kabwata. Political shifts led to privatisation, which led to opportunity, and her parents bought a two-bedroom flat in Kabulonga. The street on the elbow of a crescent off Roan Road became her first home. Kabulonga is lined with roads named after large African antelopes and pink bougainvillea flowers. She took her first steps there, gained siblings, and a fluffy dog named Fluffy, of course.

The rising pubescent population prompted a migration to Chalala, a budding suburb similar to the likes of Salama Park and Silverrest, but for the middle class. These would give Lusaka a new face and a new story, and that suburb became her second home. She went to school in town, graduated from the University of Zambia, and called a few new places home until she settled. With time and chance, she returned to her first home in Kabulonga, where she now lives alone. For clarity, that baby is me.

Like the lines in my palm, I can trace the roads in Lusaka and point to relics of a time passed. Blockbuster at Kabulonga Complex had





**Zambia Railways was Kenneth Kaunda's dream for Zambia's self-reliance and pan-African connection.**

the only clear VHS copy of *Mrs Doubtfire* (1993), and a polite man sold ice cream outside on hot days. Tontos Bakery sold sweet bread in the shape of a crocodile, and I walked across Ben Bella Road to peer into the windows of Ellerines and Supreme Furnitures at Kafue Roundabout. Chilumbulu and Burma Road had many more trees and fewer lanes, and Lusaka's buses were blue and white without the orange stripe. In that time, Old Leopards Hill Cemetery was all we needed. There was a farm with orange trees next to it; that farm is now Leopards Hill Memorial Park, and my father rests there now. Trapped in sentimentality, it is easy to feel like everything has changed, but some things have stayed the same. The trees around Lusaka Girls still shed purple flowers from the old jacaranda trees. Time is chasing us as we chase it.

Recently, on a ten-day work trip, homesickness found me. It was strange because I live alone. Isn't anywhere I am automatically my home? I looked within for my answers and found that what I missed were things I couldn't carry in my suitcase. The mix of words, the familiar beggars, the traffic lights I knew would not work, the sense of inevitable victory in a *salaula* negotiation, and the possibility of bumping into a deal or a friend. I missed Lusaka—its dust, garbage, madness, and hope.

#### ***But What Even Is Lusaka?***

Indigenously inhabited by the Lenje and Soli people, the patch of land had the paradoxical fate of being ideally situated for a railway stop to fulfil John Cecil Rhodes' dreams and the British South Africa



## BUILDING LUSAKA

Company's ambitions in 1905. In 1913, Lusaka became an outpost for administrators and farmers. Named after Chief Lusaaka, its central location and pleasant weather earned the city favour over the famously beautiful Livingstone, making it Northern Rhodesia's capital in 1935. This was long before independence in 1964, when the dream of Cape to Cairo was still alive.

Post World War II, Lusaka's position as an administrative and commercial hub drew all seeking to create better lives. Nicknamed 'The Garden City,' pre-independence Lusaka was lush, manicured, and built for functional colonialism. Fossils of segregation whisper in the names of its buildings, roads, and wrought iron finishings.

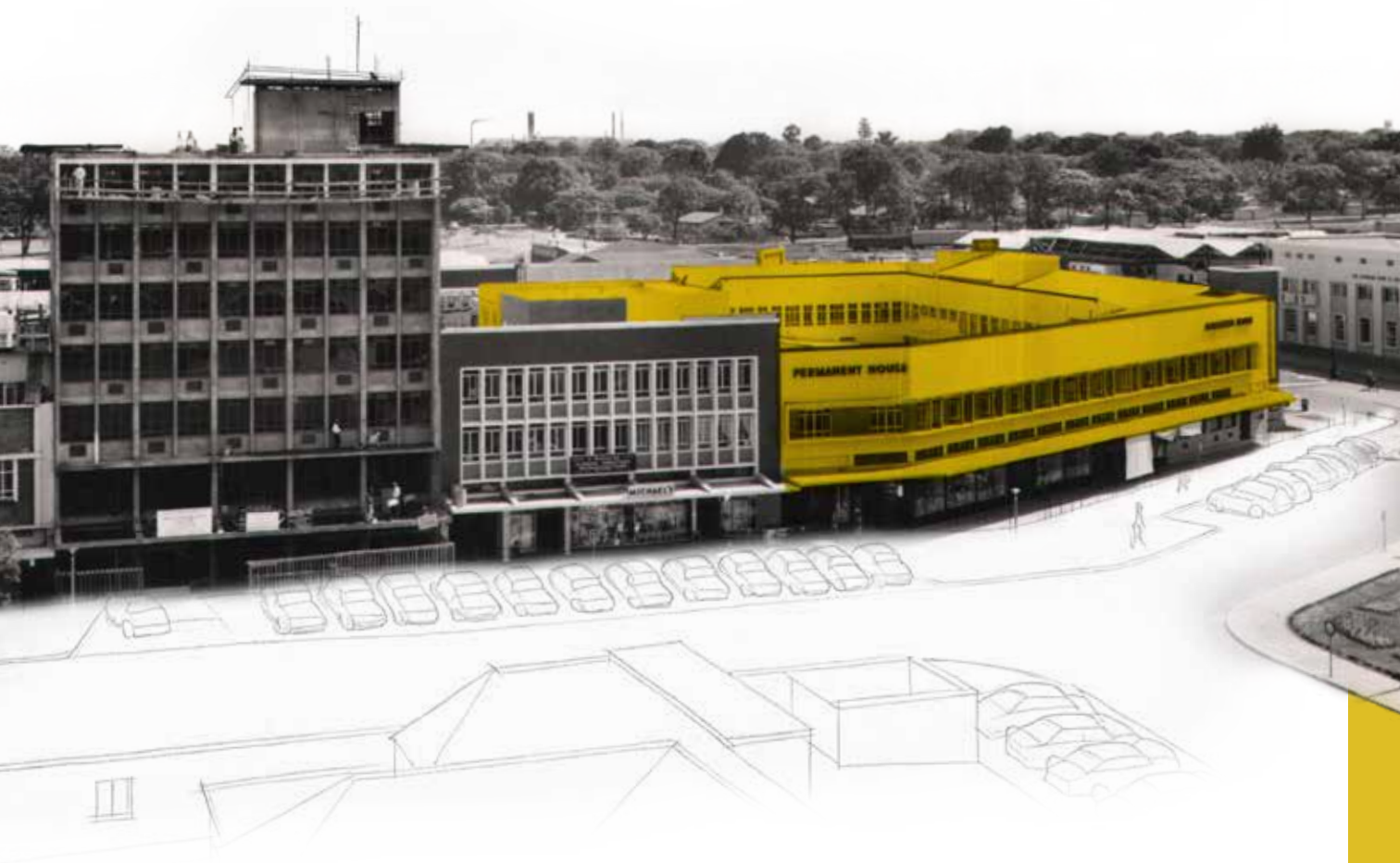
While I was away in the trenches, eyes glimmered when I said I was from Lusaka. Home to the tallest building in Zambia, the largest university, and the most advanced hospital, Lusaka means something.

Lusaka was the platform for the civil unrest that led to the birth of the Republic of Zambia, of which she would become the capital. But is Lusaka even a woman? Lusaka has beauty, but what makes a city a man? Its ability to endure. Lusaka has that too. Lusaka is a genderless, shrewd body, taking up the form required for survival. While the bones of colonialism still hold up the structure of the city, Lusaka has a mixed economy where anything is made and sold, with rail and road routes



***Freedom House was a crucial base for the United National Independence Party. It is located on Freedom Way in Lusaka and was also the headquarters of the party. It is also part of the party's Research bureau and its archives hold some of the most important documents related to the party's history and the early ANC party.***





threading through and beyond the city. Leading in population, development is spreading out of the province, but as the capital, all things happen through Lusaka.

There is an old joke about a rural man who arrived in Lusaka City, only to be scammed by the *kaponyas* into paying a fee for looking up at Findeco House—the tallest building in Zambia. Officially opened in 1978, it still carries, behind its smog-covered copings, the glamour and awe that might make someone fall for such a scam. Described as 'brutalist modern' in style, most of Zambia's post-independence buildings share a similar form: stark, unapologetic structures that prioritise function over form. Findeco House, the University Teaching Hospital, and the University of Zambia are a snapshot of the sovereignty rush and optimism on which the city was built.

I can imagine Kenneth Kaunda standing in his suit, dictating the strict deadline to the Yugoslavian architects of *Energoprojekt*, who would go on to build a structure where 62 heads of state would gather under one roof. Mulungushi International Conference Centre was delivered two weeks shy of the deadline, symbolically pointing to political independence and the infrastructure necessary for its realisation.

#### ***Free Men We Stand Under the Flag of Our Land***

Audre Lorde says that free women are dangerous women. But I argue that it is not just women; it is people. True freedom reveals



***Kwacha House in Lusaka, currently houses the Ministry of Tourism and is a prominent example of Brutalist architecture in the city. It was completed in the 1970s and is known for its distinctive style.***



one's true essence, with an educated kindness or pure greed unshackled from subjugation. I spare my distant ancestors from judgment, but every single citizen of Zambia born after 1964 has to answer one question: why are we this way?

The architecture of our founding fathers is monumental, standing as tall as their legacies. Yet today, we seem to be taking on the form of bending kiosks, plastic malls, and wounded roads. The truth is, I am a little bit disgusted by what we have done with *the Garden City*, but I can't help loving it all the same. I get homesick for Lusaka because it's the only place on earth where I can tell where someone was raised simply by their choice in jeans; the only place where we all complain about service providers but never leave; the place where *Lukundo Lite*, *Pa Chimutengo*, and *Yellow Shop* have become designated names for their neighbourhoods; the only place where jokes about dusty areas are still funny.

It's the little things—things like discovering that 6, 10, 13, and 16 Miles are named thus because of their distance from the original heart of Lusaka: the rail line next to the Post Office.

Living in the house where I was raised has placed me in an era of peace and acceptance. I walk like my father, and I am ageing like my mother. It is hard to fight familial identity and geographical DNA. Maybe Lusaka will always be this way because we are this way. Maybe where we can't subtract, we must add. We can add direction to our innovation and build a future reflective of us. Lusaka is home. A place where I have the right to hate both the place and its people, with context, to rename things with a nickname others will share. A place I can't smell, a place with stray dogs I know, and beggars who know my mood on pay day. In 1935, they played British music. Now, in 2025, it's *Yo Boy* on every corner.

Lusaka is home. They created it for them, but we made it ours.



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# WITNESSES OF THE WILD





Words by Sebastian Moronell, images by Chona Mweemba





It's like a dream," Isaac says, looking out towards the horizon. His hands are resting against the side of the safari vehicle, a converted Toyota Hilux. The canvas-covered seats, both yellow and brown, catch the final fits of a dying sun. When it drops below the edge of the earth, so immediately does the temperature. Isaac, in a place between memories and a dream, tugs at his beanie.

We head off to the camp, Shumba Camp, part of the Wilderness Portfolio, which overlooks the Lufupa River and a few waterways supporting a constant supply of puku and lechwe. During the day, you can watch them from the raised balconies of the tented rooms and common areas, lazily grazing on

the short green grass of the river banks. Their lean bodies are like electric pulses on the landscape—almost unmoving at first, and then, without warning, they vanish into the horizon, forever fearful that they may be caught. Predators—the most numerous being lions—are never too far away. There is a radioactivity that permeates the plains: the sun rises over a carpet of mist that could as well be smog from factories, colours take on unnatural hues beyond the standard spectrum of the eye, one hears the urgent barks and whistles of antelopes that sound like industrial alarms, calling the end of a shift.

After dinner that night, we sat around the fire, a routine that would continue for the evenings to follow. The orange

and yellow flames reminded me of the sunset a few hours earlier, although more contained—we fed off it in the brisk evening air regardless. Now and then, a cold wind would blow across the plains, the Milky Way following it across the night's sky. Or maybe the wind followed the movement of the Milky Way; here, it is difficult to tell what follows what.

With his name, I imagined Evidence to be thin and wily like the law. But he is short and portly. A smile fills the width of his round face, betraying an uneasy friendliness that turns out to be genuine. At the fire, he sits down across from us and spreads his legs open, leaning forward. We, along with the fire, are co-conspirators.



*The name “Shumba” meaning “lion,” reflects the presence of thriving lion prides—sometimes numbering up to 20 individuals, frequenting the plains.*



WITNESSES OF THE WILD



*Busanga is teeming with big game, including predators such as lions, and cheetahs. You will also spot hippos wallowing in the shallow pools. If you are lucky, you may come across wild dogs and hyenas as well.*



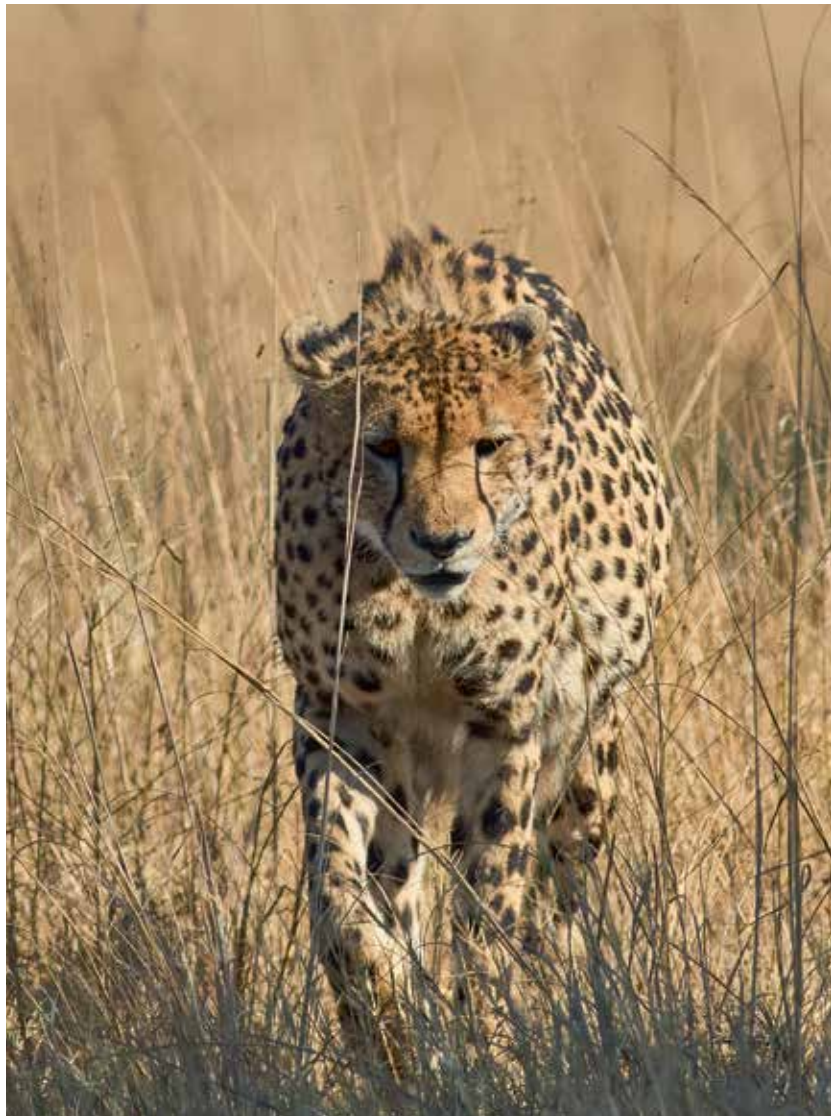
The bush is filled with anecdotes. Without them, it seems we may be lost. One has to be a good storyteller to make sense of this wilderness, and the casual violence with which an animal may die, hinting at our own human fragility. Evidence's position as manager means he orients himself towards his guests, relating their hubris and gentleness, and of national characteristics: Americans are like this, Russians like that (just don't get them in a game vehicle at the same time), and so on. There is a worldliness to working in Zambia's luxury lodges. And soon, like most things around a fire, the conversation drifts to politics. And to colleagues who have left 'the bush' to join the gold mining spree in towns not too far away. Sometimes reality mirrors fiction. By now, the Milky Way has faded, leaving only the brightest stars behind.

Isaac, our guide, joins us along with Dawid. The latter is quiet and kind. On the first morning, I turned out of bed quite ill—the long drive and a toxic admixture of gin and wine having set the world spinning. (I now understand why most people fly; we had the luxury of an eight-hour drive from Lusaka, half of which was spent on a dirt road.) With a cold, practised hand against my burning, embarrassed body, Dawid took my blood pressure and temperature.

Isaac is tall with a broad nose pointed at its end, and a short beard. Like Evidence, so too do his legs spread out in front of him to arrest what little warmth the fire gives. His beanie sits atop his head. Now and then, he adjusts it. Perhaps it is the light, but he is the spitting image of an older Thelonious Monk, the maverick jazz

pianist—he has the same deep-set eyes, the same world-weariness. He complains about his back as he carries coolers out of the game vehicle. One can imagine the physical toil of guiding for 17 years, riding on makeshift or non-existent roads for eight hours or more a day.

More anecdotes. This time, on the drive across the plains. Of animals—Isaac shows us a video of the area's resident hippo, Bubbles, being attacked by a group of lions. Some of the lions climb on Bubbles' back but fail to take him down. He's seen lions successfully hunt a hippo, and others killed by a buffalo. As the primary predators on the Busanga Plains, lions feature prominently in these anecdotes. Indeed, Isaac is something of an expert on the 'lion politics' of Busanga. Around midnight,







on our final evening by the fireside, he relates the history of lions in the area—or more appropriately, he describes an intergenerational saga spanning seventeen years. Five generations, a dispersed pride, the arrival of outsiders, incest, trophy-hunted males in the concessions—all this has led to three separate males vying for supremacy of Busanga. We hear roaring at night—these lonely males. They keep me up. Midnight turns into day without thought.

Isaac shows us other videos and pictures. He has an oeuvre that betrays his many years on the plains. He has an 'eye' for photography, and takes damned good pictures. That is not accidental, however: Busanga requires an attitude of observation. And patience. Isaac always keeps a hand on his binoculars, which survey the field for any clues of animals,

or of animals signalling the arrival of predators. It's a trick every good guide knows. "It's in the detail," Isaac says, as he compares watching animals through his binoculars with watching television. "Better than National Geographic." Which is why I imagine many folks come to these parts—to step outside of their virtual habits, for an encounter with the real.

Patience is a virtue for the guests, too. It can be a tiresome thing, looking out across the plains. Areas of long grass are punctuated by the slow movement of larger antelopes that gaze at us inquisitively. Closer to the waterways, the puku and lechwe are disturbed by our presence. We tread across the flat plains like an unwanted visitor—a dangerous curiosity. You cannot partake in this world, only observe it.

Isaac's photographs are akin to anecdotes—the visual equivalent of I saw this and that, which is a primary reason why people spend a small fortune to visit one of the country's most remote areas. (In our luxury tented rooms, there is a 'species checklist' book that taunts me every time I pass the foot of my bed—should I treat the wilderness as something which can simply be ticked off?) Of course, this attitude sustains Shumba, along with the other lodges in the area. The economics of safari lodges demand viewing wildlife as a commodity that can be harnessed to produce tangible results. (It would be remiss not to mention that there are other measures of conservation, although they are less financially rewarding.) And it is the same logic that leads Isaac to observe that Shumba "has so much potential."





*Wildlife congregates seasonally around the retreating waters: expect large herds of red lechwe, puku, roan, oribi, wildebeest, buffalo, and zebra. Come earlier in the season and you will witness young calves and cubs.*







***A standout spectacle of the plains: uninterrupted views of the sunsets, sundowners on the open plains and the guides that bring the bush to life.***



Part of this potential is the romantic allure of the bush. Words such as 'timeless' slip into conversations, 'beauty' is thrown around a little too often—but what does this all mean? There is a deep attachment to the terrain—Isaac, Evidence, Dawid, and the other staff see themselves as 'from the bush' now. Some of them are Kaonde, an ethnic group whose ancestors roamed the plains before the Kafue National Park

was officially established in 1950. They still have access to the land—or more specifically, the water—every year, their descendants are allowed to set up their fishing weirs on the Lufupa River. In the off-season, these structures of wood and twine seem like relics from a lost civilisation.

Human history, animal history, and the ecosystem all merge into one. Isaac is part-educator and part-storyteller, somehow part of this landscape. It is difficult to imagine him elsewhere—at home in Siavonga, for example, or in his village of Chiawa (just outside of the Lower Zambezi National Park, where Isaac is the reigning Scrabble champion). He cuts the right figure as he sits atop the side of the vehicle, this time teaching us the difference between puku and lechwe. It is not a difficult lesson. But he does it diligently, handing the binoculars around to each of us—in a place so seemingly vast, the details are the first to suffer.

"It's like a dream," Isaac repeats. Speaking about the plains now bathed in the orange glow after sunset, the plastic fold-out table for sundowners was just stable enough on the uneven ground below. Hippos and antelopes have created craters in the mud dried to dust in the intense winter sun. The gin goes to my head, and I smile. Yes, it's like a dream, I tell myself. It must be.



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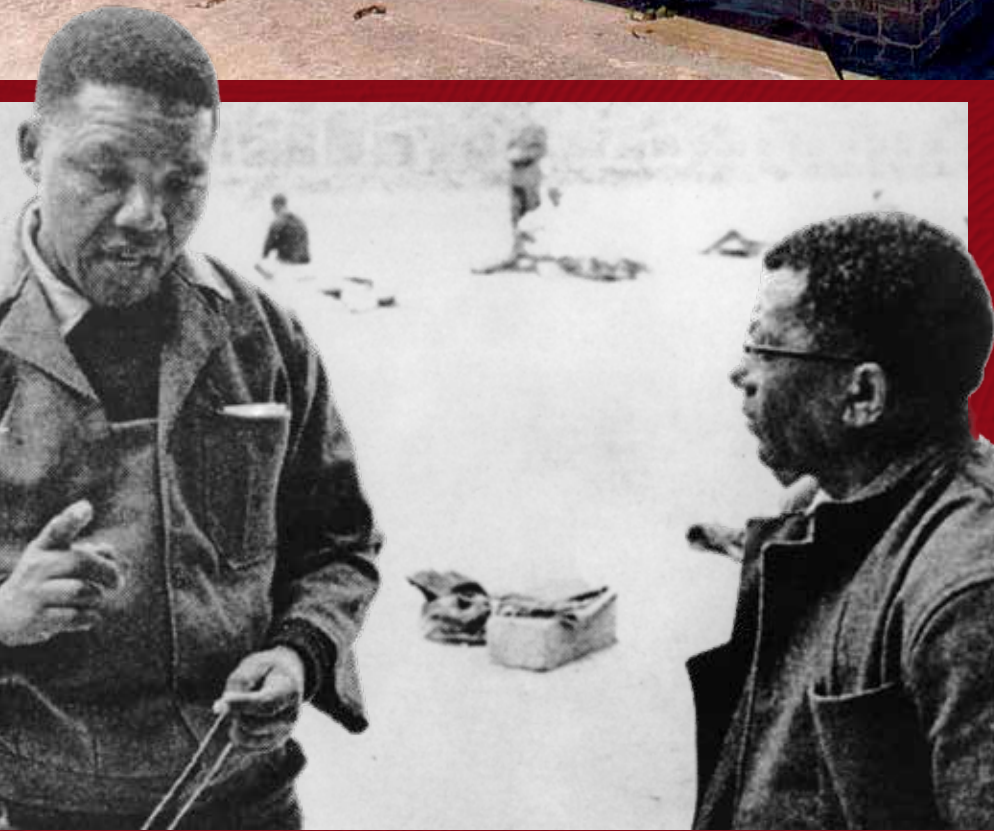


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WILDERNESS







# GOODBYE, ROBBEN

## TRIUMPH OF ROBBEN ISLAND

*"While we will not forget the brutality of apartheid, we will not want Robben Island to be a monument to our hardship and suffering. We would want it to be a triumph of the human spirit against the forces of evil. A triumph of wisdom and largeness of spirit against small minds and pettiness; a triumph of courage and determination over human frailty and weakness; a triumph of the new South Africa over the old." – Prisoner No. 468/64, Ahmed Kathrada.*

**Words by** Shilika Chisoko,  
**Images courtesy of** Robben Island Museum





**The apartheid prison, which operated from 1962 to 1992, was a maximum security prison built by black prisoners under harsh working conditions. It was built to hold the fiercest opponents of apartheid.**

in the centuries to come. In the 20th century, the apartheid government began using the island as a prison for political prisoners and dissenters.

Like many others, I associate the island with Nelson Mandela's 27-year imprisonment under the apartheid government. Mandela spent 18 of those years on Robben Island. After the collapse of the apartheid regime, the prison was transformed into a museum in 1997, and Robben Island was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1999, a fitting designation for such a historically significant island. Visitors can book a tour and encounter its storied past, which is precisely what I planned to do on a pleasant autumn day.

It was the beginning of autumn, which meant that the weather was cooling from scorching heat to pleasantly sunny days. I checked the time when the cab arrived—half past seven in the morning—and I was going to make it for the 9 a.m. tour. From what I had gathered, mornings were the best time to visit, as they tended to be less crowded. The ferry would not board for another half hour, so I opted to wander around the area, pondering what sights awaited me on the other side.

As the ferry launched from land, the wind picked up and its icy teeth bit into my bones. The weather was unpredictable, and visitors should dress for all kinds of conditions. As I pulled my jacket tighter around my body, I thought of all the prisoners for whom this ferry ride had been their last taste of freedom, even life. Nearly thirty minutes later, we arrived at Robben Island. As I alighted

A trip to Cape Town is always cause for celebration in my books. Beautiful beaches, a plethora of cuisines to choose from, mouth-watering wines, the list is endless. The Mother City (as Cape Town has been affectionately christened) lives up to its name in many respects, offering coveted respite to holidaymakers and luring both locals and visitors into various pockets of the city. I suppose one cannot separate the word holiday from Cape Town—they are firm synonyms. Yet, for all its beauty, the Mother City is a conduit of history that is a sobering reminder that Cape Town was once the crowning glory of a colonial, and later apartheid, state.

I decided to visit Robben Island on one of my excursions into the city, partly because I had been robbed of the opportunity on my first-ever trip to Cape Town (a long story for another article), and mainly because I wanted to see the place that has become a symbol of tenacity for South Africans and many people across the world. Robben Island is a small island located off the west coast of Bloubergstrand, a suburb in the northern part of Cape Town. Following Bartholomew Dias' arrival on the island at the tail end of the 15th century, Robben Island began as a refuelling station for ships in transit to India. The island functioned as everything from a quarantine station to a military base





**Even in prison, inmates were given different benefits based on their race. Black inmates were deliberately given less food than their coloured and Indian counterparts.**

the ferry, I was greeted by the same sight that ex-political prisoner Ntando Mbatha described as a cluster of "grey buildings, dull and dim". The island consists of several areas and buildings, including the maximum-security prison where Nelson Mandela was held, the lepers' graveyard, staff housing, places of worship, limestone quarries, and the house where Robert Sobukwe—a revolutionary and Pan-Africanist—was held for six years in solitary confinement from 1963 to 1969 under the notorious 'Sobukwe Clause': legislation specifically created to extend his imprisonment indefinitely after his initial three-year sentence expired.

We were directed to the buses that would shuttle us across the island. Our guide welcomed us with a brief overview of its history. The mood was sombre as we began the drive. "There are three prisons on the island," he explained. The *Ou Tronk* (old jail), the *Zink Tronk* (iron jail), and the maximum-security prison or apartheid prison built by Black political prisoners in the 1960s." As he spoke, I was surprised to learn that he had once been imprisoned on the very island that he now walked across with authority. In fact, several of the guides are former political prisoners. I marvelled at his resilience.

The guide pointed out the lepers' graveyard, the quarries, and the house where Robert Sobukwe was held, separate from the rest of the inmates. Despite the gravity of the scenes, sightseers crowded around with cell phones and cameras angled, a contrast that made me wonder how much of our freedoms we take for granted when this entire tour would inevitably be reduced to an Instagram story with smiling faces.

We drove into Robben Island Village, and our guide explained that the houses were once occupied by prison staff during the apartheid era and are now home to

museum staff. We then stopped by a small, white, Cape-Gothic-style church called the Garrison Church, which was built in 1841 with prison labour. Our guide informed us that the museum allows couples to get married at the church on Valentine's Day. This naturally drew lots of laughter from everyone on the bus.

Eventually, we stepped into the cool, dim entrance of the maximum-security prison—my main reason for taking the tour. Our footsteps echoed in the halls as our guide, another former prisoner, walked us through the chilling histories held within the heavy stone walls.

Opponents of the apartheid government and members of the Black Consciousness Movement (BCM) were held here under the ruthless regime. The Internal Security Act of 1982 built upon earlier laws like the Riotous Assemblies Act and Terrorism Act, essentially giving the apartheid government *carte blanche* to lock people up, break up meetings, and shut down any organisation that dared speak out.





**Once imprisoned, prisoners were forced to do hard labour extracting lime from the quarries and building the prisons and structures that would later hold them.**

The Security Act allowed authorities to detain people without trial, ban public gatherings, and restrict organisations and publications.

Stanley Motimele, an ex-political prisoner, had his incarceration marked by losing contact with his family and comrades. He and hundreds of others were placed in isolation with no visits or contact with family or inmates, sometimes going months without speaking to anyone. "In my case, I went for a period of 10 months, and during that time, you go through a very painful and intensive interrogation process. Physical attacks on the body, psychological attacks..."

As we were taken through the halls of the prison, I learned that it was divided into sections that separated prisoners of the Black Consciousness Movement (BCM) from common-law prisoners and solitary confinement cells.

Our guide explained that the prison initially used a grouping system, with the lowest group being Group H, deemed the most dangerous and therefore the least privileged. 'Good' behaviour promoted you to a higher rank until you eventually reached Group A. Prisoners in Group A were allowed to study, purchase censored newspapers that had all political content removed, and receive—also censored—letters from their loved ones. Conditions in the prison were



brutal and inhumane, but unbeknownst to the apartheid government, they would inadvertently build the very army that would pull it down.

According to former political prisoners, the revolutionary spirit in the prison was powerful. They strengthened each other and interacted with leaders of the liberation movements. Leaders were made and groomed within these walls. They mentored each other, had peer discussions and continued to build the movement from inside. They took their imprisonment as training to be soldiers, because they were fighting for the freedom of everyone.

As I took in the communal cells where the prisoners slept, I realised that not even confinement broke their spirits. In the 1970s and 1980s, prisoners protested prison conditions through hunger strikes, which ultimately led to the abolition of the grouping system and improved access to better food, recreational facilities including board games and sports, and educational opportunities such as academic classes and peer discussions, all while cut off

from civilisation and news from the outside world.

Finally, we were shown Nelson Mandela's cell. Brown blankets were folded neatly into a corner, a green table with a silver plate and cup on top, a faded red bin with a lid that functioned as a toilet, and a singular tiny window in the middle of a little room—this was Nelson Mandela's cell. We were not allowed to go inside, so everyone took pictures of the cell from the outside. Silence fell in the corridor as we took in Mandela's cell, only broken by the occasional click of the camera.

The tour of the prison had no formal end; we were merely instructed to head back to the buses that would take us to the ferry, much like being released from the prison. No fanfare, no farewell committee. Just due process—and stepping back into the sunlight, changed.

As we drove back, the silence at the end of the tour was apt, inviting visitors to ponder the history of Robben Island. On the ferry back, I felt an immense sense of gratitude for having visited a place of such great historical significance, a symbol of great hope and resilience.



Proflight Zambia operates daily scheduled flights from Lusaka to Livingstone, along with twice-weekly direct flights from Cape Town. Proflight Zambia also provides convenient connections via Lusaka from Kalumbila, Kasama, Livingstone, Mansa, Mfuwe, Ndola, and Solwezi.

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# PROFLIGHT ZAMBIA: 20<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY



*Proflight Zambia is celebrating 20 years of scheduled flights, a milestone that mirrors Zambia's journey since independence. Starting with one small plane, the airline has grown to connect cities, boost tourism, and support industries across the country and region. Proudly Zambian, it trains local talent, supports local businesses, and embraces the nation's culture. Its growth shows the country's progress, resilience, and ambition to reach even greater heights in the future.*





***Proflight Zambia has transported more than two million passengers. In 2024 alone, the airline carried over 270,000 passengers across 10,000 flights, offering more than 350,000 seats.***

**W**hen Chief Pilot, Captain Preller Kopolo, reflects on Proflight Zambia's 20 years of operations, he speaks not just of two decades in the skies but of a legacy rooted in aviation excellence and connecting Zambia's cities, towns, and industries to support national growth ambitions. From its first turboprop aircraft to the sleek hum of today's jetliners, Proflight Zambia has steadily delivered safe, reliable, and affordable connectivity across the nation and region.



Commemorating its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of scheduled services, the airline continues to demonstrate vision, resilience, and sustainable management in building homegrown enterprises that spur economic growth, create employment, empower communities, and transform aspirations into tangible progress.

#### **Humble Beginnings**

"It all began in June 2005 with Captain Tony Irwin's vision to transition to scheduled services. He acquired a British Aerospace Jetstream 32 and sought out seasoned pilots. I was honoured when he called me back to Zambia to help bring that vision to life," recalls Capt. Kopolo. Previously, Proflight Zambia operated primarily a charter service catering to bespoke travellers, cargo operators, and tourism excursions. But as Zambia's economy grew—driven by developments in mining, business, agriculture, and tourism—so did demand for dependable, cost-effective domestic air links. Recognising this gap, Irwin assembled a small, determined team of three pilots, two cabin crew, and a single 18-seat Jetstream 32. The inaugural routes connected Lusaka with Ndola, Livingstone, Mfuwe, and Solwezi, and later expanded to Chipata.

#### **Taking Flight**

Born in 1960, Capt. Preller Kopolo's aviation journey began on his 19<sup>th</sup> birthday aboard a Zambia Airways Boeing 707 bound for the UK: "That flight on 26 October 1979 changed everything." By April 1981, he attained his commercial pilot's licence and instrument rating at the British Airways' Hamble College of Air Training.

After flying internationally for nearly 25 years, he returned to Zambia to join Proflight Zambia. "Working with Tony again felt like coming home. We trained on the Jetstream 32 at Woodford near Manchester; it was intense. When I returned and signed the contracts, Proflight Zambia's and my journey with them truly began," he said.

#### **Two Decades of Growth and Resilience**

Looking back, Capt. Kopolo cites the growth of its fleet, the development of local aviation talent, and the establishment of a proudly Zambian brand among the airline's greatest achievements.

From a single Jetstream 32, Proflight Zambia now operates five 50-seater CRJ-200 passenger jets, one CRJ-100 parcel freighter, and five 29-seater Jetstream 41 turboprops. Passenger numbers in Zambia increased from 1.2 million in 2008 to a record high of over 2 million in 2023, the highest figure recorded by Zambia Airports Corporation Limited (ZACL) since its establishment in 1989.

Since the launch of scheduled services, Proflight Zambia has transported more than two million passengers. In 2024 alone, the airline carried over 270,000 passengers across 10,000 flights, offering more than 350,000 seats. The introduction of strategic regional routes, such as Lusaka–Livingstone–Cape Town and Lusaka–Johannesburg, played a pivotal role in boosting passenger volumes.

By June 2025, the airline had cultivated a workforce of 302 Zambian aviation professionals—individuals who have earned their place among the region's best by driving innovation, safety, and service quality.

The journey has not lacked challenges; high operational costs, volatile fuel prices, and stiff competition have tested its endurance and adaptability. Infrastructure constraints at smaller domestic airports and shifting regulations also require agility and foresight.

#### **Safety and Service Excellence**

"Safety is non-negotiable," Capt. Kopolo asserted. Under the oversight of the Zambia Civil Aviation Authority and in alignment with IATA (International Air Transport Association) and ICAO (International Civil Aviation Organisation) systems, Proflight Zambia continually improves its safety protocols. Senior



management recently completed an intensive safety management course, reinforcing a culture where every employee, from pilots to porters, plays a vital role.

Customer-centricity is also key. On the Ndola route, for instance, 05:30 departures and flexible return times cater to professionals needing same-day returns. "It's that kind of attention to detail that builds customer trust," stated Capt. Kopolo.

#### From Turboprops to Jets

Starting with turboprops, the airline gradually introduced the Jetstream 41, enabling routes to Harare and Lilongwe. The 2014 arrival of Bombardier CRJ jets marked the airline's "Jet Age", opening up services to Johannesburg, Durban, and Cape Town.

Today's fleet includes ten passenger aircraft, maintained by a dedicated 24-hour engineering team supported by a 24-hour Operations Control Centre.

ProCharter, the airline's sister company, continues to complement the operation by offering bespoke charter services for VIPs and groups, as well as high-demand cargo flights throughout Zambia and the region.

#### Abiding Values

Proflight Zambia's founding values of safe, reliable, efficient, and friendly service remain intact. Today, the airline employs over 300 people and has a 90% on-time performance target.

"Captain Irwin never compromised on investing in people," Kopolo highlighted. One of the CEO's most commonly used expressions in management meetings is 'Airlines are more about people than aircraft', and an established, loyal team

***Proflight Zambia  
never compromises  
on investing in people.  
Continual training is  
key in keeping with new  
technologies.***

is key to achieving these values; 'You can't buy experience in a supermarket', Tony regularly says. We are proud of the experienced team of aviation professionals at Proflight Zambia. Skills development is also a cornerstone that resonates deeply, an inheritance from Zambia's first president, Dr Kenneth Kaunda.

"My parents didn't spend a penny on my pilot training. Through government

scholarships, young Zambians once flew to England with full support. Proflight Zambia honours that legacy by nurturing local talent, pilots, engineers, and ground staff alike," Kopolo continued.

#### Pioneering Inclusivity and Training

In an industry where only 5.2% of licensed pilots and 2.8% of maintenance engineers in Africa are women, Proflight Zambia is rewriting the rules. Of its 302 staff, 38% are women, including three pilots and twelve engineers. Additionally, 96% of the workforce are Zambian nationals.

Over 16% of the airline's workforce have been with the company for over 10 years, and there are even seven employees who have worked at Proflight Zambia for over 20 years. The airline prides itself on an established team who have grown within the organisation, gaining invaluable industry experience and significant institutional knowledge. This process of developing individuals and promoting from within while offering extensive industry training enhances individual personal development and provides a strong team to deliver the Proflight Zambia product in line with the airline's values.

"Continual training is essential in keeping with technology and best practices," Kopolo explains. "Aviation has evolved rapidly in the past five decades alone." Proflight Zambia's partnerships with the CAA, ZACL, Ministry of Transport and Logistics, and Ministry of Tourism reflect its commitment to shaping Zambia's aviation future. The airline's maintenance facility now operates 24 hours, supporting safety, efficiency, and employment expansion.







## ***Zambia sits at the heart of Southern Africa, a game changer for tourism and connectivity.***

### **Cultural Pride and Corporate Identity**

The airline proudly embraces its Zambian heritage. Initiatives like "Chitenge Fridays" encourage employees and stakeholders to wear traditional fabrics, blending cultural identity with corporate ethos: "We are not just an airline; we are a bridge connecting people, traditions, and opportunities."

In addition, the airline is honoured to be approved to carry the 'Proudly Zambian' logo; a testament to the company's policies to support local business by choosing Zambian suppliers, serving Zambian products on board such as Kasama coffee and Kawambwa Tea, and embracing responsible practices both for the environment and also the economic development of the country.

### **Connecting Communities, Driving Economies**

By linking Lusaka to the mining towns of Ndola, Solwezi, and Kalumbila,

Proflight Zambia is facilitating industry growth. Tourism benefits from seamless connections to Livingstone, Mfuwe, and the Lower Zambezi, making Zambia more accessible to global travellers. "Visitors from Toronto can land in Lusaka and connect directly to Mfuwe," says Kopolo. "That is a game changer for tourism and connectivity."

Cargo services are expanding too. A dedicated CRJ freighter will soon expedite perishable exports, creating new opportunities for farmers, businesses, and artisans in remote areas. At 5 am every morning, a minimum of eight Proflight Zambia aircraft are lined up at the Kenneth Kaunda International Airport, Zambia's aviation hub, ready to take Zambian business travellers and leisure travellers, as well as visiting international tourists, to where they need to be.

### **Strategic Growth Partnerships**

Strategic partnerships with global carriers such as Emirates Airlines, Qatar Airways, Turkish Airlines, and CemAir have enhanced Proflight Zambia's reach and enabled seamless transfers for international travellers, bolstering Zambia's share of regional tourism and positioning Lusaka as a potential southern African hub. The airline has a strategy to interline with all online carriers operating into Zambia, with 11 interlines currently in place and another two in process.

### **Vision for the Next Decade**

"Geographically, Zambia sits at the heart of Southern Africa. With a collective will, government, airlines, and investors working together, we could establish a premier regional hub," said Capt. Kopolo.

Proflight Zambia's future plans include acquiring more fuel-efficient regional jets, expanding cargo operations, enhancing digital integration, increasing our regional network, and aiming to serve all 10 of Zambia's provincial capitals with scheduled services. Ongoing collaboration with government and industry stakeholders is helping to shape a modern, inclusive aviation ecosystem.

### **A Personal Legacy, A National Triumph**

For Capt. Kopolo, Proflight Zambia's anniversary is more than a corporate milestone; it's deeply personal. "After years as a co-pilot, Tony Irwin entrusted me with the captaincy. To see this airline flourish, knowing I played a role, is my greatest reward," he stated.

Now approaching the twilight of a distinguished 46-year aviation career, his focus is on mentoring the next generation of Zambian aviators.

Proflight Zambia's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary is a celebration of the airline's achievements, but also an affirmation of Zambia's aviation potential to soar to greater heights of growth, innovation, and transformation.



Proflight Zambia, established in 2005, is Zambia's leading schedule airline. Operating from its base in Lusaka its domestic routes include Kalumbila, Kasama, Livingstone, Mansa, Mfuwe, Ndola, and Solwezi, with seasonal safari routes to Jeki/Royal airstrips in Lower Zambezi National Park. The airline's regional flights to South Africa operate between Lusaka and Johannesburg, Lusaka and Cape Town (via Livingstone) and Livingstone and Cape Town direct.



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# FLIGHT SCHEDULE

## LUSAKA - JOHANNESBURG

#	DEP	ARR	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
020	08:15	10:15	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
024	11:00	13:00	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
028	16:30	18:30						●	●

## 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	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
335/028	13:45	18:30						●	●

## LUSAKA - CAPE TOWN (VIA LIVINGSTONE STOPOVER)

#	DEP	ARR	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
050	07:15	11:40				●		●	●

## LIVINGSTONE - CAPE TOWN

#	DEP	ARR	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
050	08:40	11:40				●		●	●

## LUSAKA - LIVINGSTONE

#	DEP	ARR	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
700	06:55	08:05		●					
704 (SEP)	10:35	11:45	●		●	●	●	●	●
704 (OCT)	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	●			●	●	●	
914	10:45	11:55					●		
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	08:40	09:35		●	●				
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	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
029	20:30	22:30						●	●

## 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	12:35	16:50				●		●	●

## CAPE TOWN - LIVINGSTONE

#	DEP	ARR	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
051	12:35	15:25				●		●	●

## LIVINGSTONE - LUSAKA

#	DEP	ARR	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
701	08:40	09:50		●					
705 (SEP)	12:20	13:30	●		●	●	●	●	●
705 (OCT)	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							●
915	12:30	13:40					●		
946	17:30	18:25		●	●	●	●		
919	17:30	18:25	●					●	●

## KALUMBILA - LUSAKA

#	DEP	ARR	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
930	08:40	09:35		●	●				
951	08:15	09:10	●			●	●	●	
946	16:40	18:25		●	●	●	●		
957	17:30	18:45	●						●

Please check our website, [www.flyzambia.com](http://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				●	●		●
318	16:45	17:30	●	●	●	●	●		●
308	17:30	18:10	●	●	●	●			●

#### NDOLA - LUSAKA

#	DEP	ARR	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
311	06:30	07:15	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
303	09:10	09:55	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
305	13:40	14:25		●		●			●
335	13:45	14:30	●		●		●	●	
307	15:15	16:00				●	●		●
319	18:05	18:50	●	●	●	●	●		●
309	18:40	19:20	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

#### LUSAKA - MFUWE

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

#### MFUWE - LUSAKA

#	DEP	ARR	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
801 (SEP)	08:40	09:50					●		
801 (OCT)	08:40	09:50						●	
805 (SEP)	12:20	13:30	●	●	●	●		●	●
805 (OCT)	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

+260 777034742  
reservations@proflight-zambia.com

#### 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.



# PROFLIGHT ZAMBIA'S REACH EXPANDS

## ARRIVAL OF SIXTH 50-SEATER CRJ-200 JET BOOSTS CAPACITY AND FREQUENCY



**P**roflight Zambia has strengthened its scheduled flight network with the arrival of its sixth 50-seater Bombardier CRJ-200 passenger jet, leased from Alberta Aviation Capital Corporation. The latest addition, which touched down on 23 June 2025 under the American register N8884E, is expected to join the Zambian register as 9J-PFF by the end of July and will be deployed across all of Proflight Zambia's destinations, except Mansa and Lower Zambezi, to enhance connectivity and grow its capacity.

"The latest CRJ jet is part of our ongoing efforts to strengthen our existing network. By increasing frequency on high-performing routes that are currently constrained by capacity, we're able to meet customer demand better and enhance connectivity," said Proflight Zambia's Director of Flight Operations, Capt. Josias Walubita.

By increasing seat capacity and frequency on its busiest services, Proflight Zambia aims to meet growing customer demand while maintaining its high standards of reliability and efficiency. This CRJ-200 arrival follows the delivery of a Jetstream 41 turboprop in May 2025, bringing Proflight's current fleet to eleven aircraft: six CRJ-200 jets, five Jetstream 41 turboprops and one CRJ-100 parcel freighter jet.

Captain Walubita explained that consolidating around proven aircraft types streamlines operations and operating costs, while creating valuable opportunities for in-house engineering and maintenance development. "Maintaining and operating the same aircraft models has improved our dispatch reliability and maintenance efficiency," he said. "Our engineers benefit from deepening their technical mastery, mentoring new entrants, and fostering team dynamics—factors that underpin our organisational stability."

The CRJ-200, capable of cruising at up to 860 km/h, is well suited to bridge Proflight Zambia's regional and domestic distances quickly and comfortably. Its blend of speed, capacity and runway performance makes it an ideal platform for Southern Africa's growing but sometimes infrastructure-limited markets. Backed by a solid design pedigree and extensive operational history, the jet delivers on safety, efficiency and passenger comfort.

While Proflight has no immediate plans for further fleet expansion, it continues to review opportunities to grow both its regional and domestic network strategically. The focus for the airline remains on optimising the current route structure, reducing operational bottlenecks and ensuring that resources are deployed where they are most needed, allowing the airline to sustain its upward trajectory in both customer satisfaction and operational excellence.



----- Seasonal, operated by ProCharter

———— New route starting March 2026





# PROFLIGHT ANNOUNCES SCHEDULE ENHANCEMENTS

## MORE FLIGHT OPTIONS TO BOOST CONNECTIVITY AND CONVENIENCE



**P**roflight Zambia has announced a series of schedule enhancements across its domestic and regional network, strengthening connectivity and improving travel flexibility and comfort for passengers.

The updates reinforce Zambia's leading scheduled airline's commitment to meeting growing passenger demand and optimising its operations for both business and leisure travellers. Proflight Zambia will continue operating its current twice-daily flights between Lusaka and Johannesburg, a key route for regional business and international connectivity. To further accommodate peak season travel, the airline has reinstated a third daily flight on Saturdays and Sundays and selected holiday-season dates to facilitate connections with long-haul flights to destinations such as Australia and the USA.

The new evening service—flight P0028 from Lusaka to Johannesburg will depart at 16:30 and arrive at 18:30. In contrast, the return flight P0029 will depart Johannesburg at 20:30 and arrive in Lusaka at 22:30. This service will operate on Saturdays and Sundays from 27 September 2025 through the first week of January. Additionally, these flights will run on selected weekdays (Monday to Friday) during the holiday peak period from 1 December 2025 to 3 January 2026, offering seamless connections and eliminating the need for overnight layovers in Johannesburg.

Proflight Zambia continues to service its popular Cape Town route with direct flights from Lusaka to Cape Town via Livingstone, and vice versa. From 7 August 2025, flight timings will shift slightly later to better reflect traveller preferences, with P0050 departing Lusaka at 07:15, stopping over in Livingstone at 08:40, and arriving in Cape Town at 11:40. On the return leg, P0051 will depart Cape Town at 12:35, stop in Livingstone at 15:25, and arrive in Lusaka at 16:50. A third weekly frequency will be added from 18 October 2025 on Saturdays.

In response to growing demand from Zambia's corporate and mining sectors, Proflight Zambia has increased frequencies on its key domestic routes. The airline now operates over 35 return flights between Lusaka and Ndola, 15 flights weekly to Solwezi, and 12 weekly to Kalumbila. These schedule enhancements are part of Proflight Zambia's continued commitment to supporting economic activity and ensuring frequent, reliable, efficient connectivity across Zambia's key industrial regions.

"These schedule enhancements directly reflect our ongoing efforts to improve connectivity and efficiency across our network. By listening to passenger feedback and closely monitoring demand trends, we are positioning the airline to serve passengers better, while keeping reliability, safety, and comfort at the core of our operations," said Proflight Zambia Director of Flight Operations Captain Josias Walubita.

# CONNECTING **LUSAKA AND CAPE TOWN**



- ✓ **Shortest Travel Time** – Just 4.5 hours total, compared to 6+ hours via Johannesburg.
- ✓ **Smooth Stopover in Livingstone** – Enjoy a refreshment on board while on ground for the 30 minute stopover.
- ✓ **Hassle-Free Airport** – Avoid Joburg queues and transit time with fast immigration at Cape Town International Airport.
- ✓ **Earliest Arrival** – Land in Cape Town early enough to enjoy your afternoon.
- ✓ **Enjoy convenient direct flights every Thursday, Saturday and Sunday\***  
Lusaka to Cape Town: 07:15 - 11:40  
Livingstone to Cape Town: 08:40 - 11:40  
Cape Town to Livingstone: 12:35 - 15:25  
Cape Town to Lusaka: 12:35 - 16:50

\*Added Saturday flight from 18 Oct





# Proflight Zambia Goes to **NAMIBIA**

## Starting 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2026

Proflight Zambia will operate three weekly flights on the route on Tuesdays, Fridays and Sunday

**Lusaka - Windhoek\***: 08:30 - 11:35

**Livingstone - Windhoek**: 09:55 - 11:35

**Windhoek - Livingstone**: 12:20 - 13:55

**Windhoek - Lusaka\***: 12:20 - 15:20

\*The Lusaka–Windhoek route will include a brief 30-minute stopover in Livingstone, during which passengers will remain on board

# PROFLIGHT FLEET

## BOMBARDIER CRJ200



FLEET	LENGTH	WING SPAN	HEIGHT	FUEL CAPACITY	MAX ALTITUDE	SPEED	MAX PASSENGERS
5	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
5	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 CONTAINERS OF 100ML  
MAXIMUM. POWER BANKS MUST BE  
CARRIED ON THE PERSON AND NOT IN  
CHECKED LUGGAGE.

## 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

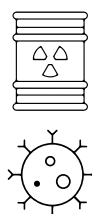
such as insecticides, weed  
killers, arsenic & cyanides.



## 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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- 2** The Academy's curriculum is **enriched by artistic, cultural, athletic and service activities**. Students represent their countries and earn international awards in areas such as sustainability, Model United Nations, sports and the arts.
- 3** The residential programme extends the academic experience. It includes a broad selection of activities and leadership opportunities to enhance students' learning and growth. Students form bonds and friendships with peers, dorm parents and faculty from around the world deepening their overall growth and experience.
- 4** Our students consistently attain IB DP exam results well **above world average**. Over the last three years, our students have been offered over USD 25 million in scholarships to attend top universities around the world.
- 5** Inside and outside the classroom, students are guided and mentored to become socially adept, independent and confident young people. Through this holistic development, the Academy is shaping the future leaders of East Africa and beyond.

Interested families are invited to discover the Aga Khan Academy Mombasa – a testament to the transformative power of education. Contact us:

☎ +254 730 966 000 | +254 735 931 144

✉ [info@agakhanacademies.org](mailto:info@agakhanacademies.org)







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