Tiyende Pamodzi

— a publication of the U.S. Embassy in Zambia

Volume IV, Issue 2 http://zambia.usembassy.gov April-June 2010

The U.S. Mission to Zambia:
Promoting Peace, Health and Development Through Partnerships with the Zambian People

Inside:
Entrepreneurship and private enterprise: ingredients for success
•••
Giving the gift of life
•••
Sports envoys serve up volleyball, life skills
•••
North Western province: buzzing with business
•••
Reuse the past, Recycle the present, Save the future
•••
Bringing a legend to life

Page 4: American volleyball stars help Zambian youth develop their skills on and off the court.

A message from *Chargé Michael Koplovsky*

Zambia's economic growth has long been a U.S. priority. A strong, stable and prosperous Zambia is a reliable, capable U.S. partner in solving regional, African and global challenges. An economically robust Zambia is an appealing market for U.S. businesses and investors. That is why the American people continue to invest in Zambia's economic growth and deepen our commercial ties.

As you will read, we do this in many ways. At the grassroots, Peace Corps volunteers teach villagers fish farming and new agriculture techniques. The U.S. African Development Foundation promotes and supports Zambian entrepreneurs. USAID assists Zambian farmers to purchase inputs and sell their goods—especially as value-added food products. Our economic officers support large-scale American investors in mining services, cotton, grain, seeds, and milling; these businesses create jobs and contribute to national wealth and government revenue.

I am proud of progress our governments have made by removing obstacles to trade, investment and commerce; promoting business-friendly environments that reward innovation and risk-taking; and expanding economic opportunity for all. Working together, Zambians and Americans can and will make the world a wealthier, healthier place by harnessing the power of the private sector and its role in tapping the immense potential for development in Zambia.

Entrepreneurship and private enterprise: ingredients for success

A tomato is just a tomato. Right?

Not anymore.

With the commissioning of the Freshpikt canning factory in Lusaka, millions and millions of Zambian-grown tomatoes and other produce are now on their way to becoming something else: long-life consumer products that can be sold across Zambia and around the globe.

> Freshpikt stands as an important symbol of Zambia's economic growth strategy, a strategy based on agricultural production, value addition and export growth.
> *– Chargé d'Affaires Michael Koplovsky*

The factory commissioning demonstrates the U.S. commitment to partnering with Zambia's private sector. The initiative is clear evidence of the dedication of the American people to poverty reduction in Zambia. Financial support from the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) allowed Freshpikt to complete factory renovations and purchase crops for processing. Technical assistance in marketing allowed Freshpikt to secure large regional export orders.

Photos from top: Freshpikt is pursuing regional and global markets for its products; Managing Director Midge Drakes presents a selection of products to U.S. Chargé d'Affaires Michael Koplovsky.

The Freshpikt factory is an important and visible symbol of Zambia's economic growth strategy, based on agricultural production, value addition and export growth. The factory creates jobs, including skilled employment; provides an expanded, predictable market for farmers; and increases Zambia's export earnings when it enters regional and international markets.

Praising the commissioning as another successful chapter in the partnership between Zambia and the United States, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires Michael Koplovsky called for continued entrepreneurship and private enterprise as the path to better lives and reduced poverty for all Zambians.

"Entrepreneurship and private enterprise are keys to Zambia's prosperity, to creating wealth and jobs, and to addressing the economic challenges and poverty that affect so many of Zambia's people."

Koplovsky encouraged continued steps toward a business-friendly environment in Zambia, saying "It is imperative that the government create and foster a business climate conducive for entrepreneurs and small businesses to take risks and thrive, not only in manufacturing and agriculture, but throughout the economy." Koplovsky added, "An environment that encourages and rewards risk-taking, that promotes innovation, that harnesses entrepreneurial spirit will attract both domestic and foreign investment and will bring out the best in Zambia's young, business-minded people."

Giving the gift of life

It could be an accident victim. Maybe a surgical patient or a burn victim. But more likely it's a child with malaria-induced anemia or poor nutrition. It's often a mother, suffering complications from childbirth.

They're all blood recipients benefitting from the Zambia National Blood Transfusion Service at University Teaching Hospital. Since 2004, ZNBTS has received funding from the American people through the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) to ensure access to safe, affordable, efficient and effective blood transfusion services for all Zambians. The U.S. and Zambian governments have partnered to train staff and improve transport to strengthen ZNBTS' main office, nine regional centers and 132 transfusion outlets and blood banks. Enhanced screening processes have reinforced blood safety, key for achieving health-related Millennium Development Goals. With support from the American people, ZNBTS has developed state-of-the-art facilities and increased the units of blood collected from 38,000 in 2004 to more than 100,000 in 2009.

Unfortunately, the demand for blood often far outpaces supply. Have you donated blood recently? Some fear needles. Someone who has never given, fear of the unknown. Whatever the reason, consider the chargé's example a call to action.

As part of a health promotion initiative, the U.S. Mission held a Blood Safety Awareness and Donation Day. Mission staff, led by Chargé d'Affaires Michael Koplovsky and Dr. Larry Marum, country director for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), braved 8 seconds of discomfort to donate. Donors were given a tour to show how blood is collected, screened and prepared for transfusion to a recipient. After the tour, Mission staff rolled up their sleeves. In total, 21 units were collected, more than double the usual daily number.

New and repeat donors are always welcome at ZNBTS. The staff works hard to ensure the process is simple and stress-free. Donors are screened to check for weight, blood pressure, anemia, recent illness and health risks. All collection is done by trained health personnel with sterile needles, tubing and bags that are disposed after use. The donation takes five to seven minutes, with approximately 20 minutes for recovery afterward. The remuneration is knowing you have given someone the gift of life.

Photos from top: Chargé d'Affaires Michael Koplovsky provides a donation to the Zambia National Blood Transfusion Service; all blood collected by ZNBTS is screened carefully for transfusion transmissible infections such as HIV, syphilis and hepatitis.

Sports envoys serve up volleyball, life skills

The evidence holds true from America to Zambia: Young people involved in sports are less likely to engage in risky behaviors such as drugs, alcohol and unprotected sex. They're more likely to stay in school and remain productive. Even if they never go on to earn a living as a professional athlete, those young people grow into adults who have learned the value of hard work, discipline and teamwork.

With that in mind, the U.S. Mission invited former U.S. Olympian Butch May and top U.S. collegiate volleyball coach Jill Stephens to Zambia to conduct a week of youth volleyball clinics. The program, which reached more than 500 boys and girls from 100 basic schools in the Copperbelt, Monze and Lusaka, was hosted jointly by the U.S. Embassy in cooperation with the Zambia Volleyball Association.

The clinics aimed to improve the playing skills of Zambian youth interested in the sport of volleyball. However, the purpose went beyond just skills on the court: May and Stephens also sought to provide youth with life skills that encourage positive behavior and make them role models among their peers. The sports envoys infused each clinic with discussions on the importance of a good education, leadership, communication skills, fair play, avoiding alcohol and drug abuse, and preventing HIV and AIDS. Members of the U.S. Mission's Women's Justice and Empowerment Initiative, a program that seeks to eliminate gender-based violence through victim support programs and police and prosecutor training, joined in to encourage youth to report gender-based violence in their neighborhoods and schools.

Speaking at the closing ceremony, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires Michael Koplovsky encouraged students to give their all to developing their skills on and off the volleyball court and to strive to be a role model to others.

"You are the future of Zambia, and you can claim that future through hard work, applying yourself in school and giving your all to developing your unique talents, whether it's volleyball or violin, math or martial arts," said Koplovsky. "If you work hard at school and sports; if you make healthy choices about preventing HIV and malaria and avoiding drugs and alcohol; if you treat others well — you will most definitely be a hero to someone in your life."

Together with ZAVA, the U.S. Mission hopes to encourage healthy lifestyles and contribute to youth development in Zambia.

Photos, clockwise from top left: Jill Stephens coaches participants on "approaching the net"; Stephens with clinic participants in Monze; Butch May helps a player with his spiking form; young volleyballers practice the art of controlled bumping; Stephens gives a player tips on her overhand serve.

North Western province: buzzing with business

Don't let the name fool you: North Western province is actually quite central to Zambia's economic growth. From honey processing and pineapple production to mining and fish farming, producers and entrepreneurs in North Western province are benefitting from partnerships with the American people that boost their business. A team from the U.S. Mission recently traveled to North Western province to check out the exciting work being done there.

Forest Fruits is a honey processing company started in Mwinilunga in 1998. The company was established to aggregate honey from local bee keepers and help them get it to market. Forest Fruits introduced modern bee keeping methods to the area and introduced women to bee keeping, a profession previously reserved only for men in the area.

Partnering with PROFIT Zambia (Production, Finance and Techology) and the Market Access, Trade and Enabling Policies Project (MATEP), programs funded by the American people, Forest Fruits was able to implement cutting-edge processing equipment and access new export markets, starting regionally in southern Africa and eventually expanding to indude Europe.

The team also visited Mwinilunga Pineapples and the Kauchi Fish Project. The American people, through the United States African Development Fund (USADF), helped the Mwinilunga District Farmers Cooperative Union increase its management and operational capacity to make it easier for pineapple growers to access markets for their product. USADF also partnered with the Kauchi Multipurpose Cooperative Society to strenghthen its members' fishing enterprises and take advantage of the increased demand for food brought on by the opening of the Lumwana copper mine. In rural villages, American Peace Corps volunteers are working with Zambians to develop fish farms, creating sustainable income sources.

All of these projects demonstrate how a small amount of assistance from the American people, when combined with local entrepreneurship, can have a tremendous impact on the lives and incomes of Zambians.

Rounding out the trip, the U.S. Mission team visited the Meheba Refugee Camp, home to more than 15,000 Angolans, to re-affirm the U.S. government's continued support of refugees. Chargé d'Affaires Michael Koplovsky commended the Zambian government for its hospitality to refugees and encouraged the UNHCR and the Zambian government to pursue initiatives that will lead to lasting solutions for refugees in the settlement.

North Western province may be in the corner of Zambia but, as this team discovered, its activities are at the heart of Zambia's future.

Photos from top: Chargé d'Affaires Michael Koplovsky learns about honey production at Forest Fruits; taking time to play with children at Meheba Refugee Camp.

Reuse the past, Recycle the present, Save the future

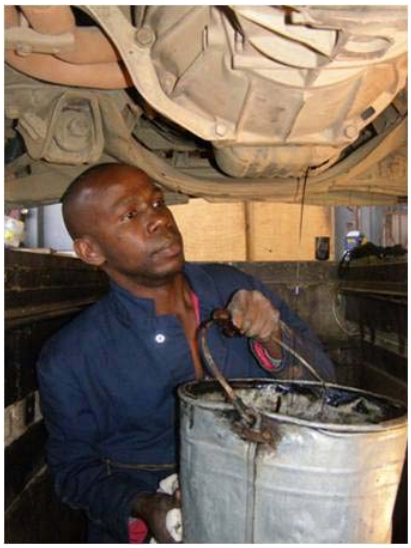
Drink a bottle of soda. Reuse the bottle.

Read a newspaper. Recycle it.

Buy groceries. Bring a reusable bag.

That's the new way—the "green" way. The U.S. Mission is demonstrating its commitment to a beautiful, sustainable, green Zambia with an ongoing program of reducing, reusing, recycling and upcycling—and we're inviting other offices, organizations and homes to join us.

The U.S. Embassy in Lusaka was the first American embassy in Africa to join the "League of Green Embassies," a group of American Embassies committed to reducing energy consumption substantially by 2015. The new U.S. Embassy on Ibex Hill will be certified by Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED), an internationally recognized green building certification system. That's an elaborate way to say we're doing our part.



The new recycling program will reduce the amount of waste going to landfills and instead supply local companies and nonprofit organizations with needed materials. Paper and cardboard are donated to Appropriate Paper Technologies (APTERS), a nonprofit organization at UTH that makes special seats and walkers from sturdy but lightweight cardboard construction for disabled children. Glass is donated to Mercy Ministries International, a nonprofit organization at Ibex Hill that makes glass decorative beads for sale to support programs for underprivileged children. African Classical Art uses aluminum and tin to make decorative art while plastic is donated to Plastic Recycling, a local recycling company.

Additional measures the Embassy has taken to practice good stewardship and lessen our impact on the Zambian environment include:

- Encouraging staff to reduce energy and water consumption at home and at the office by monitoring and reporting home use
- Using biodiesel made from used cooking oil in embassy vehicles
- Reducing ink and paper consumption in embassy printers

> The U.S. Mission is committed to good stewardship and lessening our impact on the Zambian environment.

- Conserving water by training gardeners to use less and recycle grey water for gardening
- Installing solar water heaters at embassy homes

We're reusing the past and recycling the present so we can save the future. We invite you to join us. How are you going to Reuse the past, Recycle the present, Save the future?

Photos from top: The widows and single moms of Chikumbuso crochet strips of plastic grocery bags into reusable bags to support a school for their children and community orphans; Kafue Chemicals uses used motor oil from Embassy vehicles in its production of sodium silicate, which is used to make soap and paint.

Learn more about U.S./Zambian relations online

http://zambia.usembassy.gov

http://www.facebook.com/usembassyzambia

http://www.twitter.com/usembassyzambia

http://www.youtube.com/usembassyzambia

U.S. Mission job opportunities updated at zambia.usembassy.gov

U.S. Embassy
Public Affairs Section
Corner of Independence and United Nations
Lusaka, Zambia
Phone 250955

American Center Library
COMESA Building
Ben Bella Road
Lusaka, Zambia
Phone 227993/4

Bringing a legend to life

The voice is unmistakable—even, at one point, declared the most recognizable American voice in the world. The music is inimitable, though many have tried — a soaring jazz trumpet that practically commands you to tap your foot and bob your head. Louis Armstrong revolutionized jazz in the 20th century, bringing the American art form to worldwide prominence and establishing himself as one of the greatest musical innovators in history.

Dr. John Edward Hasse has dedicated his life to ensuring the icons of American music are not forgotten. As curator of American music at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History, Dr. Hasse has worked to acquire national treasures such as the archives of Duke Ellington and Ella Fitzgerald.

In March, Dr. Hasse spent a week criss-crossing Zambia from Chipata to Lusaka and Kitwe to Livingstone, bringing the legacy of Louis Armstrong to life through his multimedia presentation and entertaining audiences with his own piano performances.

Through photos, audio clips and videos, Hasse took audiences from Armstrong's childhood in turn-of-the-century New Orleans through triumphant tours in Europe, Asia and Africa to performances in classic films like "High Society" and "Hello, Dolly." The reaction of the Zambian audiences to the presentation and performances proved that after many decades, jazz is still an international language.

To learn more about Louis Armstrong and other jazz musicians, visit the Smithsonian Jazz Web site at www.smithsonianjazz.org. The site includes music clips, oral histories, research archives and free lesson plans for teachers.

Photos from top: Dr. Hasse explains the elements of jazz, ragtime and boogie-woogie; a concert-goer in Chipata takes a mobile memory of the evening.

Want even more from your newsletter? E-mail LusakaNews@state.gov to subscribe to the electronic version, which includes links to additional information, pictures, audio files and more.