

Friends



Friends of Zambia Newsletter

Volume 1 • Summer 2005

FRIENDS OF ZAMBIA

by W.E. DR. INONGE
MBIKUSITA-LEWANIKA



The appointment of the current Zambian Ambassador to the United States of America was greeted with great cheer and applause in Zambia. The President of the Republic of Zambia and the Ambassador received many compliments and congratulations.

Among the long time friends of the Zambian Ambassador, the news of the appointment was equally well received. One of the Ambassador's friends had remarked in 2002 that the President of Zambia should appoint her as Ambassador to the United States of America. This was taken as a joke! When the 'Prophecy' was fulfilled and the appointment announced in Zambia, the then Ambassador designate wrote to the friends, "... the prophecy has been fulfilled."

The Ambassador and family landed in Washington, D.C. on February 1st, 2003 at the beginning of severe snowstorms and winter. She was welcomed heartily by American and Zambian friends in the United States of America.

A core group of old time American friends asked her, "What can we do to make you the most successful Ambassador? How can we best support you and your efforts?" What a welcome! What support! Few ambassadors in the Diplomatic Corps are offered such welcome and support. I am truly grateful. Discussion on the subject of this support continued.

One afternoon at the Ambassador's residence, Mr. Richard Schubert, Mrs. Virginia Schubert, Mr. Rick Little, Mrs. Elaine Little, Ms. Nawina Nyirenda and Dr. Inonge Mbikusita-Lewanika met. The conclusion was to establish 'Friends of Zambia' (FOZ).

Friends of Zambia was established and incorporated as a 501c(3) in the State of Virginia, facilitated and sponsored by Richard and Virginia Schubert and Rick and Elaine Little. These friends recruited their friends to join FOZ. Friends enlisted friends and so the FOZ increased.

The friends read everything they could find on Zambia. Zambia was in their heart. The Embassy of the Republic of Zambia gave the FOZ as many materials and information on Zambia as they could.

Then the FOZ decided to crown all the information and knowledge on Zambia that they had acquired with an on the spot visit to Zambia.

The Ambassador communicated the plan of the FOZ to visit Zambia. The Zambian leadership was happy with the idea and suggested an official launching of FOZ in Zambia.

We Are Friends of Zambia!

The Friends of Zambia announce their mission statement, identity and tag line as they launch their first newsletter.

The mission of the Friends of Zambia is to promote knowledge and understanding of Zambia in order to encourage business investment and development, and support for education and welfare among Zambia's people.

Our mission statement and identity embody the attributes, character, sense of the future and spirit of Zambia and her people. We wanted our tag line to reflect the energy, caring and commitment of Friends of Zambia from all over the world. Therefore we chose: **WE ARE ONLY ONE OF HER MANY RESOURCES.**

The main message we want to communicate is that FOZ is an organization formed by reputable and humanitarian people working together to unite Zambia with supporters in the U.S. We think of FOZ as a hub that can connect U.S. interests with Zambia; being able to acquire donations and funding to go where there are opportunities and to support those most in need.

Zambia is a country with vast natural resources that can benefit businesses in both Zambia and the U.S. Our intent is to develop the FOZ brand to help educate and create awareness about this gentle land we call Zambia, and its wonderful people.



Minister of Tourism visits U.S. to launch “Zambia... the Real Africa”

In April 2005, the Honorable Patrick Kalifungwa, Minister of Tourism, Environment & Natural Resources visited the United States to launch “Zambia...the Real Africa” the 2005 tourism campaign. At a reception hosted by the Zambian Ambassador to the U.S., H.E. Dr. Inonge Mbikusita-Lewanika, the Minister greeted guests, introduced members of his delegation and formally launched the campaign.

Ms. Charity Chanda Lumpa, Managing Director of the Zambian National Tourist Board, welcomed those attending and presented the campaign.

The campaign highlights Zambia and many events scheduled for 2005 including the Livingstone Centenary Celebrations. The presentation gave a broad overview of Zambia including: Zambia's superior location in the heart of southern Africa; its peaceful separation from Great Britain in 1964; its peaceful relations internally and with its eight neighbors for more than 40 years; and its low population of 10 million culturally diverse peoples speaking 73 tribal dialects with English as the primary language.

Zambia is shaped like a butterfly with major tourist destinations including Victoria Falls and the Zambezi River. Livingstone, Zambia's tourism capital, and Lusaka, the national capital, are major population centers. Nineteen well known National Parks include Kafue and North and South Luangwa which has the largest concentration of game in Africa and where walking safaris were pioneered.

The goal of the 2005 campaign is to increase tourism from the U.S. by 30% in the next five years.



The launching of Friends of Zambia (FOZ)

Twenty-two Members of Friends of Zambia traveled to Zambia in March 2004. They were mostly from the United States of America: Virginia, Maryland, Illinois, New York and California. Two (2) were from the United Kingdom.

The highlight of the visit was the launching of FOZ by the Government of the Republic of Zambia. The President of Zambia, His Excellency Levy P. Mwanawasa, SC and the First Lady, Mrs. Maureen K. Mwanawasa, hosted the FOZ at a luncheon at the State House of Zambia. The Hon. Patrick Kafumukache, Minister of Labour and Social Security officially launched FOZ in Lusaka, the capital of Zambia.

The FOZ visited Lusaka, and the Central, Southern and Western Provinces of Zambia. In Livingstone, they experienced the mighty MUSI-O-TUNYA (Victoria Falls) when the water was at its fullest, as it was the rainy season. Another highlight was the Boat Cruise on the great Zambezi River, one of the biggest rivers in the Continent of Africa. The FOZ also visited Senior Chief Mukuni of the Toka Leya people as well as his Royal Palace. FOZ went through the Southern Province by road from Lusaka to Livingstone and back. They stopped at the Choma Museum where they were again treated to traditional crafts. They met a cross section of Zambian government officials, traditional and community leaders, men, women, youth and children.



The FOZ program visit exposed them to both rural and urban areas. They visited community projects; House of Moses (a rescue home for abandoned infants and orphans), Kabwata Orphanage, and Chilanga HIV/AIDS Hospice. The visit also took FOZ to the oldest national school for girls, Chipembi, two and half hours from Lusaka in Central Province. They had a delicious lunch at the Protea Hotel where they also viewed many animals. The Protea Hotel is co-owned with some Zambian locals. In Mongu, the FOZ paid courtesy calls on the Traditional Leaders. They visited the Kasholwasholwa Women's Resource Centre, a community initiative to create space for women. They had another glimpse of the Zambezi River in Senanga, Western Province of Zambia, where they were hosted to a lunch, which was a good match to the Six Star Hotels of Lusaka. The road from Mongu which in the past took forty-five minutes took almost two hours due to damaged parts of the road.

Throughout their visit, the FOZ were received with joy, cheer and admiration for taking time to visit Zambia and the Zambian people. They were feasted and welcomed with singing, drumming and dancing. The FOZ visit was well covered by the Zambian press, radio, television and the print-media. FOZ reciprocated the welcome with gifts and souvenirs to Zambians. FOZ has made a great impression in Zambia and some bonding has occurred.

Upon their return FOZ members have adopted various projects which they are supporting. Among these are the Sefula School for the Blind and the Kasholwasholwa Women's Resource Centre. Other members are in personal contact with individual Zambians. One young Zambian has been sponsored for an MBA degree through these friendships. FOZ is currently working on more partnerships and support for Zambia.

One of the Friends of Zambia has supported work in Zambia through the African Development Foundation (ADF). ADF commenced work in Zambia in late 2003. They are supporting Out Grower farming sectors in the Copperbelt

and Central Provinces. They have embarked on supporting two coffee projects in the Northern Province and beekeeping and honey products in North-Western Province.

In September 2004 the FOZ hosted a reception in Washington, D.C. in honour of His Excellency Levy P. Mwanawasa, SC, the President of the Republic of Zambia and the First Lady. It was superbly organized and well attended. The President, his delegation and staff of the Zambian Embassy greatly appreciated this kind gesture.

Follow-up

One of the follow-ups to the FOZ March visit was the facilitation of FOZ investors and business people to visit Zambia. This occurred in November 2004 when the FOZ second trip to Zambia was made. The group was comprised of 28 people from the business, corporate and philanthropic sectors. They followed the same program but started off in Livingstone. The group enjoyed the Falls and participated in related adventures such as bungee jumping. They went on Safaris in both Livingstone and Botswana. The group had a business meeting with the President and some Cabinet Ministers. The second FOZ group also had an opportunity to meet a cross section of Zambians and visited both urban and rural projects. They came face to face with HIV/AIDS and its effects at the University Teaching Hospital, Chilanga Hospice and others.

The visit ended with some commitments to business partnerships, investment and collaborative work to strengthen the Zambian economy.

Future

The Friends of Zambia plan to make two visits to Zambia each year, covering the various provinces. The goal of Friends of Zambia is to make friends in different countries and continents.

MWANAWASA RECEPTION

In September 2004 the Friends of Zambia hosted a reception in Washington, D.C. in honor of His Excellency Levy P. Mwanawasa, SC, the President of the Republic of Zambia and the First Lady. The reception, attended by the President's delegation, Embassy staff and many friends of Board members of FOZ, was held at the Metropolitan Club. Virginia Austin Schubert, Chairman of the Friends of Zambia Board of Directors, welcomed His Excellency to the United States and outlined highlights of the FOZ trip to Zambia the preceding March. She recalled the warm hospitality that was extended by His Excellency and the First Lady to those on the trip and anticipated the next FOZ trip scheduled for November.

His Excellency graciously accepted the hospitality of the "Friends," and told the group about challenges in Zambia on which his administration is focused. He welcomed the involvement of the Friends of Zambia and invited those assembled to visit Zambia.





BEYOND THE ORDINARY: Journey to Zambia, November 2004

by Nadia Rhodes

What would you do with eight days? Eight days to change your life, to alter your perspective. Eight days to jump-start making a difference in the world.

In November 2004, a group of 28 leaders in business and philanthropy from the U.S. and the U.K. came together for one intense, impacting week in Zambia. They traveled to remote villages, met with top government and business leaders, spoke with young entrepreneurs, visited HIV/AIDS clinics and orphanages, schools, and “programs that work” all to learn about the challenges and the opportunities in Zambia. Our hope was that those on the trip would come away—in eight days—with a deep appreciation of the challenges and the incredible untapped potential opportunities in the country.

From spontaneously helping to deliver a baby in an underprivileged-area health clinic, to swimming in a natural pool at the very edge of Victoria Falls, to playing soccer and hanging out with young people in the province of Mongu, the participants on the November trip to Zambia experienced the country in a unique and personal way.

Here’s what some of the participants had to say:

“The whole trip was beyond. Beyond cool to see some of the world’s most beautiful animals, even from our hotel room! Beyond heartbreaking to see such beautiful children and people lacking basic necessities and opportunities. Beyond wonderful to talk with people, to listen, learn and feel connected to our brothers and sisters in Zambia.”

Bill Hoogterp, Co-Founder, Club Mom

“Six months later, Zambia remains with me every day in a lot of different ways. . .my life has changed. The trip remains inside my head in images and feelings which will not leave me. . . [through the trip you become aware] of opportunities and connections which give you the energy to do something where before you would have done nothing.”

Dave Allen, Co-Founder, ?What If!

“The trip was well planned and organized, and there was a lot of value derived from the people and organizations we met. We continue to develop projects, economic as well as humanitarian which we hope will give our journey long lasting effects.”

Greg Barnhill, Partner and Member of the Board, Brown Advisory Securities, LLC

“The trip to Zambia was amazing. We were thrilled to participate. The Nike Foundation invests in helping to empower the world’s most disadvantaged girls so that they can transform their lives, their families, communities and countries, and I’ve had the privilege to travel and work in many cultures—but rarely have I participated in such a powerful, well-organized, action-oriented and enlightening experience as this trip.”

Maria Eitel, President, Nike Foundation

Six months later, the fruits of the trip continue to grow. The goal of the trip, to increase interest and investment—both charitable and business—in Zambia, is being realized. The participants from the trip are getting involved, in their own initiatives, in business and philanthropic projects in Zambia—some on a small scale and some large. As one participant succinctly put it, “We hope our trip will have long lasting effects.”

Eight days. Eight days to make a difference.

Outcomes of the trip

1. Large scale shipments of library materials and books for schools
2. Shipping medical supplies
3. Establish connection between Zambian craft-makers to European and American markets—based on market interests and needs
4. Fund a science lab in a girl’s school
5. Establishing a large scale program for acquiring and distributing computers, printers, fax machines
6. Investing in various projects with young people
7. ImagineNations Group starting Seeing is Believing trips with Friends of Zambia in Zambia and around the world
8. Upcoming trip in November 2005

The Friends of Zambia is a 501c(3) not-for-profit organization registered in the State of Virginia. We accept monetary contributions, in kind donations, membership by individuals and organizations. If you want to send a monetary contribution please send it to P.O. Box 6986 c/o Friends of Zambia, McLean, Virginia 22106. Please complete and return the following coupon:

I/My organization want(s) to become a member of the FOZ.

I want to make a contribution of \$_____.

Name _____

Address _____

E-Mail _____

Best time to contact _____