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## **NEW LEADERSHIP, NEW MOMENTUM: RDA WELCOMES CEO**

**By Brian Chavula**



RDA Director and CEO, Eng. Nelson Chuma.

The Board of Directors of the RDA on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2026 appointed Eng. Nelson Chuma as Director and Chief Executive Officer of the Agency.

Eng. Chuma is a qualified Civil Engineer with 37 years of extensive experience in engineering design, planning, operations, and management.

Prior to his appointment, Eng. Chuma served as Chief Buildings Engineer at the United States Embassy in Lusaka from 2009 to September 2025. Before that, he was Country Manager for Basil Read (South Africa) from 1999 to 2008. From 1990 to 1999, he worked for Minestone Zambia Limited, where he rose through the ranks from Junior Engineer to Contracts Manager.

In his keynote address to RDA employees during the 2026 Awards Giving Ceremony to commemorate International Labour Day held at Mulungushi International Conference Centre on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2026, Eng. Chuma said the best solutions come when everyone has a voice.

“My vision for RDA is simple. We build roads that last and we maintain them so that they keep working for Zambia every day. Development without maintenance is wasted money. Over the next few years, I want us to be known for two things; delivering projects on time to specifications and with the budget, and running a maintenance program that keeps our network in a condition where travel is safe, predictable and efficient,” Eng. Chuma said.

“That means better planning, stricter quality control and faster decision-making when issues arise on site. It means we use data from our weigh bridges and conditions surveys to decide where to invest, not just where the loudest voice is. We can’t do any of this without the way we work. Our reputation is the most valuable asset. This means that every certificate we sign, everyday variation we approve, every contractor we manage reflects on RDA.”

Eng. Chuma said he expected RDA employees to be firm but fair, to be transparent in their decisions and intolerant of shortcuts that compromise safety or quality.

“If something doesn’t feel right, speak up. I will back you up. The best solutions come when everyone has a voice. I don’t expect one person in this room to have all the answers. In this room we have decades of combined experience. Use it. I want a culture where junior staff can raise a red flag and the senior staff listen,” the CEO said.

“As I start my duties as your CEO, I pledge that: I will issue clear direction and quick direction and quick feedback on decision that reach my desk, support you when you face contractor pressure or political interference. Treat RDA’s projects and resources like they are your own. If you see a problem don’t wait for someone else to fix it, bring solutions. I want to say RDA has a critical role to Zambia’s development.”

Eng. Chuma said the roads the Agency build and maintain today will determine how fast business grows, how quickly farmers get to the market and how safe the children are as they go to school.

“I am here to work with you! Let’s make the Agency known for delivery, integrity and people who take pride in the work,” said Eng. Chuma.



RDA Director and CEO, Eng. Nelson Chuma with award winning employees during the Labour Day celebrations in Lusaka.

## **PRESIDENT HICHILEMA COMMISSIONS LIMULUNGA ROAD IN WESTERN PROVINCE**

By Fridah Nkonde-Mubanga

The Government is executing a major push to upgrade the road network in the Western Province to unlock the region's agricultural, livestock, and mining potential.

President Hakainde Hichilema on 5th May 2026 commissioned the Mongu-Limulunga road in Western Province.

Speaking during the commissioning of the Limulunga Road, President Hichilema said the Mongu-Limulunga Road will unlock new opportunities and stimulate business growth in Western Province.

He said the project would significantly improve travel and ease transportation challenges in the area.

"Today is a great day. I am happy to stand here and commission the Mongu-Limulunga Road. As I reflect on the state this road was in not long ago, it used to take a long time to travel from Mongu to Limulunga. The road was dusty. But today, we are here with this beautiful road. I have every reason to be happy. Are you not happy?" he said.

"The Mongu-Limulunga Road will bring new opportunities and stimulate business growth in this province. It will also ease movement. I would like to thank the Ministry of Infrastructure, Housing and Urban Development, the Road Development Agency (RDA), and the contractor for a job well done. Travel between Mongu and Limulunga will now be easier and faster, and commodities will move more efficiently," President Hichilema added.



President Hakainde Hichilema ( c ) during the commissioning of the Mongu-Limulunga Road in Western Province.

The Head of State reaffirmed the Government's commitment to infrastructure development across the country.

"We are working on roads in all provinces and communities. That is why you elected us into government — to work, not to sleep on duty. Through projects like this, we are improving people's lives and ensuring they feel cared for. But we are not done yet. More work remains, and we need your continued support," he said.

Minister of Infrastructure, Housing and Urban Development, Hon. Eng. Charles Milupi, described the Mongu–Limulunga Road as more than just a transport route, calling it a vital link that strengthens connectivity, stimulates economic activity, and improves access to essential services.

He said the project reflects the New Dawn Government's commitment to delivering quality infrastructure that supports national development.

"It is clear that this road will ease movement, reduce travel time, enhance trade, and improve livelihoods. As we commission it today, I urge all road users to take responsibility for its preservation so that it serves future generations," Hon. Eng. Milupi said.

The project includes the rehabilitation of Libonda Road (1 km) and Lyambai Road (1.9 km), improving connectivity from the Mongu traffic circle on the M09 Road to the Mongu–Kalabo Road.

Additionally, works covered the rehabilitation of the 14.5-kilometre Mongu–Limulunga Road and the upgrade of Muoyo Road in Nalolo District to bituminous standard over 3.6 kilometres.

Hon. Eng. Milupi noted that since taking office in August 2021, the government has prioritised key infrastructure projects in Western Province, including the completion of the Kafue Hook Bridge and the previously stalled Mongu–Limulunga Road, where only 3.2 kilometres had been worked on by the previous administration.

Other completed projects include the extension of Limulunga Road to Jelten Stream (900 metres), access roads to the Limulunga Royal Palace (1 km) and the presidential health facility (1.2 km), Muoyo Road in Nalolo District (3.1 km), and the combined 2.9 kilometres of Lyambai and Libonda Roads, as well as the construction of the Luanginga and Silanda bridges.

Meanwhile, AVIC International representative Gan Lijun said the 28.9-kilometre urban roads project in Mongu reflects the government's vision for infrastructure development and national progress.

He noted that by linking the northern, central, and southern parts of the town, the project will enhance mobility, facilitate trade, and improve access to essential services.



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## LUANGINGA AND SILANDA BRIDGES SET TO ENHANCE SAFETY IN WESTERN PROVINCE

Bridges play a crucial role in the development and sustainability of rural areas. They are more than just structures for crossing rivers or valleys—they are lifelines that connect communities to opportunities, services, and economic growth.

Speaking during the commissioning of Luanginga and Silanda Bridges in Kalabo District, President Hichilema said the newly constructed bridges will play a critical role in safeguarding lives and improving livelihoods.

President Hakainde Hichilema recently commissioned two bridges in Western Province.



Silanda Bridge in Kalabo District, Western Province.

He emphasized that the infrastructures will significantly reduce the risks people previously faced when crossing the waterways.

“The two bridges here in Kalabo will undoubtedly drive economic development and transform the lives of our people. While campaigning across the country when I was in opposition, I made a public commitment to construct these bridges once elected.

“Today, we celebrate the fulfillment of that promise. These are public assets, and they belong to all of us,” he said.

The President noted that many lives had been lost in the past as people attempted dangerous crossings.



President Hakainde Hichilema during the commissioning of the Luanginga and Silanda Bridges.

“Many people drowned while trying to cross to the other side. We chose to build these bridges in their honour. Traveling from Liuwa Constituency to Kalabo District was once a major challenge, this is how we remember those we lost.

“We are confident that these bridges will protect lives in Western Province. Today, we celebrate not only safety, but also a valuable economic asset,” he added.

President Hichilema reaffirmed government’s commitment to infrastructure development nationwide.

“We are undertaking similar projects across the country. This is how we repay the trust you placed in us in 2021. We do this because we care deeply about the people of Zambia,” he said.

He acknowledged that more work remains and encouraged continued public support ahead of the 2026 general elections.

Minister of Infrastructure, Housing and Urban Development, Hon. Eng. Charles Milupi, described the Luanginga and Silanda Bridges as more than just physical structures.

“This project represents a vital link to Liuwa National Park. It strengthens connectivity, stimulates economic activity, and improves access to essential services such as healthcare, education, and agricultural support,” he said.

Hon. Eng. Milupi explained that the project was funded through savings realized from the rehabilitation of the Mongu–Limulunga Road.

Additional works financed through these savings include the rehabilitation of Libonda Road (1 km) and Lyambai Road (1.9 km), improving connectivity from the Mongu traffic circle on the M09 to the Mongu–Kalabo Road.

He added that further developments include the upgrading of Muoyo Road (3.6 km) in Nalolo District to bituminous standard, improvements to the Hakainde Hichilema Mini-Hospital Road (1.2 km), and construction of a dual carriageway in Mongu.

Hon. Milupi described the bridges and their connecting road as a testament to the government's commitment to delivering quality infrastructure that supports national development.

"These bridges will ease movement, reduce travel time, boost trade and tourism, and ultimately improve livelihoods. I urge all users to take responsibility for preserving this investment so that it benefits future generations," he said.

Meanwhile, AVIC International representative Mr. Gan Lijun said the project marks a major milestone in the region's infrastructure development.

"With a combined length of 270 metres, these bridges will provide safe, reliable, year-round connectivity—especially during the rainy season when access has historically been difficult," he said.

"Beyond their structural importance, the bridges will improve access to markets, schools, and healthcare services, while supporting trade and economic activity. They will serve as vital links, bringing communities closer together and unlocking new opportunities for growth."

# LABOUR DAY ROUND UP

## CENTRAL AND LUAPULA PROVINCE SCOOPED BEST DRESSED AWARD

**By Peggy Mwanza**

The Road Development Agency (RDA) joined the rest of the world in commemorating International Labour Day under the theme, "Securing Zambia's Future of Work: Protecting Jobs, Skills, and Pensions for Decent Work for All."

The occasion celebrates the achievements and contributions of workers across various sectors.

This year's theme underscores the need to safeguard jobs in an evolving work environment, while equipping workers with relevant skills to remain competitive.

It also highlights the importance of strengthening social protection systems to ensure job security and promote decent livelihoods for all.

Meanwhile, the RDA Central and Luapula Provincial Offices stood out during the celebrations, emerging as the Overall Best Dressed Marchers at the commemorations held at Godfrey Ucar Chitalu Stadium in Kabwe District, Central Province and at Kaole stadium in Mansa, Luapula Province respectively



Central Provincial Office scooped the overall best dressed during the celebrations.



Central Provincial Human Capital and Administration Officer, Ms. Patricia Musukwa receiving an award for scooping the best dressed during the celebration held at Ucar Chitalu Stadium in Kabwe.



RDA Central Provincial team.

The Central Provincial Office awarded the following:

1. Mr. Misheck Musonda Technologist Works awarded as Improved Dedication to Duty;
2. Mr. Cornelius Mukonka Weighbridge Officer Kapiri Mposhi awarded for Long Service; and
3. Ms. Edith Mwanza Weighbridge Officer Mumbwa awarded Most Improved Employee.

## LUAPULA REGION



Luapula Provincial Human Capital and Administration Officer, Ms. Grace Mambwe receiving an award for scooping the best dressed award during the Labour Day ceremony held at Kaela Stadium.



Eng. Elizabeth Sachi- Engineer Planning and Design and Mr. Penias Daka Assistant Accountant both received awards for hard work.



The Luapula team during the Labour Day Celebration at Kaela Stadium in Mansa, Luapula Province.

## RDA HEAD OFFICE AND LUSAKA PROVINCIAL TEAM



RDA Head Office and Lusaka Provincial team during a march past at the Freedom Statue.



RDA Head Office and Lusaka Provincial team during a march past at the Freedom Statue.



RDA Head Office and Lusaka Provincial team during a march past at the Freedom Statue.

The following RDA employees from Head Office and Lusaka Provincial Office received awards:

1. Gershom Chilukusha (Principal Environmentalist) from Planning and Design Department received the CEO's awards under the Most Dedicated to Duty category;
2. Taonga Isaac Longwe (Engineer - Road Construction) from Construction and Rehabilitation Department was awarded under the Most Hardworking category;
3. Sydney Chipundu (Accountant) from Lusaka Provincial Office was awarded under the Outstanding Customer Care category;
4. Anderson Banda (Principal Internal Auditor) from Central Administration (Internal Audit Unit) was awarded under the Most Dedicated to Duty category;
5. Fabian Phiri (Office Assistant) from Public Private Partnership Department was awarded under the Most Dedicated to Duty category;
6. Mike Tembo (Acting Principal Procurement Officer) from Central Administration (Procurement) was awarded under the Most Hardworking category;
7. George Jalata (Principal Quantity Surveyor) from Central Administration (M&E) was awarded under the Most Dedicated to Duty category;
8. Gladys K. Kapambwe (Personal Assistant) from Planning and Design was awarded under the Most Hardworking category;
9. Joseph Ngwira (Documentalist) from Corporate Services was awarded under the Most Dedicated to Duty category;
10. Justin Sindano (Regional Accountant (Luapula) from Finance Department was awarded under the Most Hard-working category;

11. Alfred Munyimba (Project Engineer) from Road Maintenance Department was awarded under the Most Hardworking category;
12. Kennedy Chanda (Weighbridge Technologist (North)) from Vehicle Load Management Department was awarded under the Most Dedicated to Duty category; and
13. Marvelous Nyirongo (Office Assistant) from Legal Services Department was awarded under the Most Hardworking category.

## EASTERN REGION



Eastern Provincial Office team during the Labour Day Awards.



Mr. Patrick Muyangwa, Driver, Eastern Province was awarded as most hard working employee.



Ms. Musambila Bulawayo, Eastern Provincial Assistant Accountant was awarded as the most improved employee.



(From left-right): Ms. Dorcus Nabesa, Weighbridge Officer, received the most hardworking award, Katete Weighbridge Supervisor, Ms. Sheeba Mambwe and Mr. Mwangelwa Siloiso, who received the most improved award at Katete Weighbridge.

## MUCHINGA REGION

Muchinga Provincial Office awarded the following:

1. Alinani Simfumkwe-Accountant-Employee of the Year
2. Angel Mokola-Technologists works-Most Honest
3. Moses Ngala- Project Foreman-Most Improved
4. Frank Goma- Weighbridge Supervisor-Most Dedicated to duty
5. Gregory Ngambi-Weighbridge Operator-Most Hardworking



Muchinga Provincial Office team during the Labour Day celebration in Chinsali District.



Muchinga Human Capital and Administration, Mr. Kennedy Chileshe (in a blue shirt) pose for a picture with the Award recipients.

## NORTHERN REGION



The Northern Provincial Office awarded Mr. Rawlings Chilomo, Regional Accountant For dedication to duty.

## WESTERN PROVINCE



Western Province team.

# SOUTHERN PROVINCE



Team Southern Province.

## COPPERBELT REGION



Copperbelt Province team.

## NEARLY TWO DECADES OF DEDICATION: SITALI MUTUNA SIGNS OFF



Outgoing Western Province Human Capital and Administration Officer, Ms. Sitali Mutuna.

In this edition, we feature the outgoing Western Province Human Capital and Administration Officer, Ms. Sitali Mutuna, whose remarkable journey with the Agency spans nearly two decades.

Known for her professionalism, fairness, and unwavering commitment to policy and procedure, Ms. Mutuna has dedicated her career to serving people with integrity and respect, even in the most challenging situations.

As she bids farewell and transitions into retirement, we take a closer look at her inspiring journey, career highlights, and the legacy she leaves behind at the Agency.

Currently serving as Human Capital and Administration Officer, Sitali's journey with the Agency began on 1st June 2007 when she joined as Personal Assistant to the Regional Engineer.

Through hard work and determination, she steadily rose through the ranks, later serving under the Procurement Department and the Construction and Rehabilitation Department before being promoted to her current role in December 2014.

Born on 19th May 1971 in the former Senanga District, now Nalolo District, Sitali is the youngest in a family of ten children. Her early years were shaped by resilience and family support, particularly under the care of her late elder sister who raised her from the age of two and later moved with her to Kasama in Northern Province.

She attended Grades One and Two at Soft Katongo Primary School in Kasama, before continuing her primary education at Lusaka Girls Primary School from Grade Three to Seven. She later completed her secondary education at Kabulonga Girls Secondary School from Grade Eight to Twelve.

Reflecting on her upbringing, Sitali believes it played a significant role in shaping her character and values.

"My upbringing contributed to who I am today. Being the youngest came with a lot of love, guidance, and attention," she says.



Ms. Sitali during her interactions with casual workers in Western Province.

Working in Human Resource Management, a field that directly impacts people's livelihoods requires patience, fairness, and professionalism.

Throughout her career, Sitali has remained committed to treating people equally and adhering to policies and procedures, even during difficult situations.

"I always made sure I treated everyone fairly regardless of where they came from," she explains.

Her professional growth was further strengthened when the Agency sponsored her Bachelor's Degree in Human Resource Management, an opportunity she says greatly contributed to her career development.

Beyond work, Sitali values balance and family time. During weekends, she enjoys relaxing at home while listening to her favourite Kalindula music after completing household chores.

When asked who inspires her, she recalls the former Acting Director Construction and Rehabilitation, Eng. Remmy Chanda.

"He never made decisions based on emotions and always listened first. That taught me to focus on solutions rather than taking things personally."

As she approaches retirement after 30 years of service from 1996 to 2026, Sitali looks forward to taking a well-deserved rest. However, she hopes her legacy within the RDA family will be remembered through her character and treatment of others.

"I would like to be remembered as a kind, honest, approachable, and welcoming person who never looked down on anyone regardless of their status."

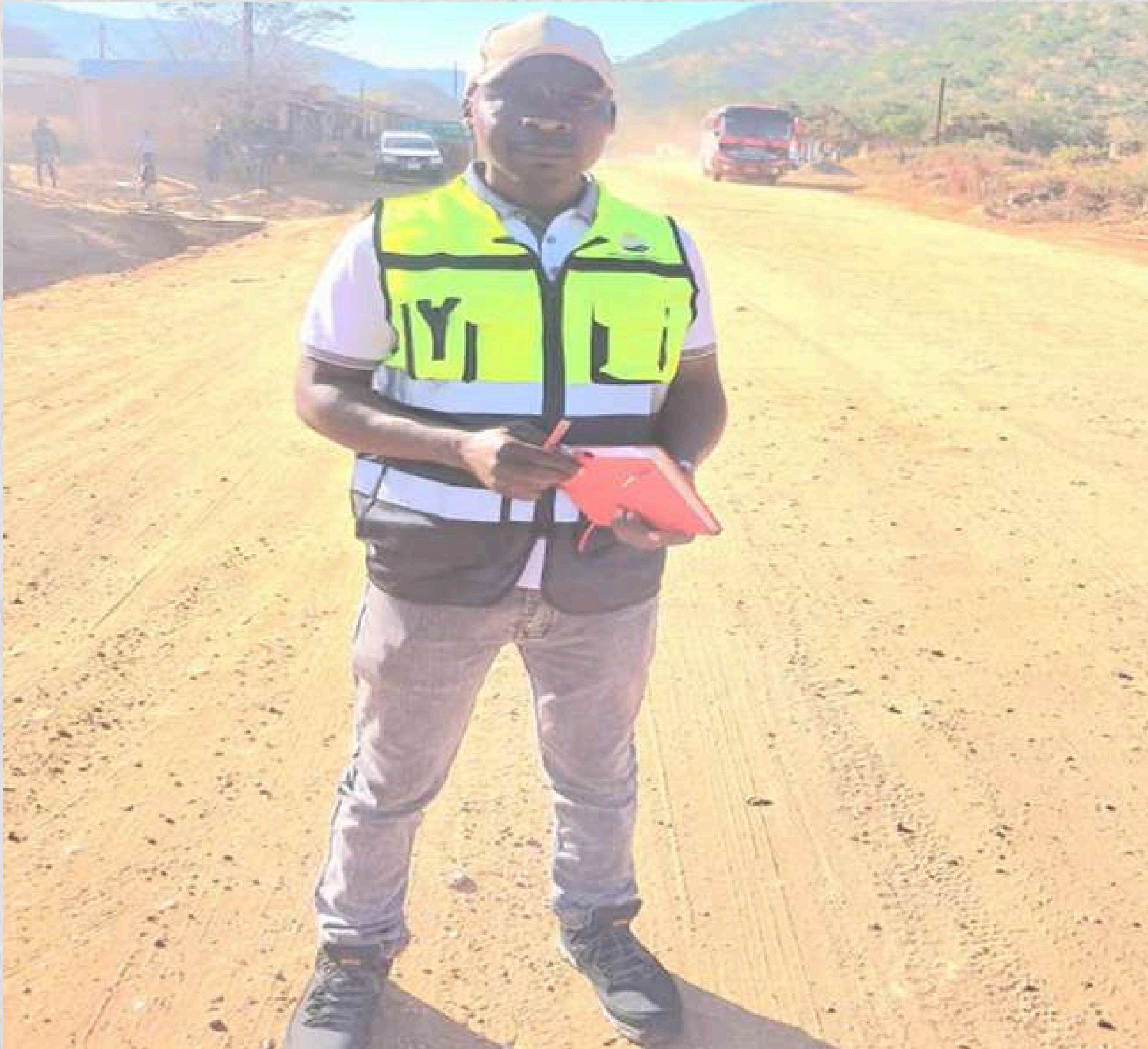
Her favourite quote perfectly reflects her life journey:  
"A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step".

## RDA MENDS POTHOLES ON GREAT EAST ROAD

**By Brian Chavula**

The Road Development Agency (RDA) through Road Maintenance Directorate has been actively involved in the maintenance of roads across the country.

RDA Lusaka Provincial office has since restored a stretch of 225 kilometres through pothole patching on Great East road (T4) from Airport Roundabout to Luangwa Bridge.



Lusaka Provincial Roads Engineer Felix Mubanga during the interview in Rufunsa District.

“We have so far carried out maintenance works by patching potholes on a stretch of about 225 kilometres on Great East Road (T4) from Airport Roundabout to Luangwa Bridge. The patching of potholes on this road is now a routine activity due to the deteriorated state of the wearing course.

“We are currently patching the potholes between Nchoncho area and Chansanje area which is a stretch of about 11 kilometres. Some sections of the road had new potholes that emerged due to increased rainfall activity in both Chongwe and Rufunsa Districts,” Eng. Mubanga narrated.

“This had also affected the stretch from Airport Roundabout to Chongwe Toll Plaza which has now been worked on and the maintenance works are still ongoing.

I should mention that the entire road pavement for Great East Road in Lusaka Province has deteriorated and needs to be fully rehabilitated with possible dualisation of the stretch from Airport roundabout to Chongwe Weighbridge.”

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RDA Lusaka Provincial Office technical staff patching the Great East road (T4) in Rufunsa District.



RDA Pothole patching Team on Great East (T4) in Luangwa.

“To make it possible for our office to carry out the maintenance works of the entire stretch of Great East Road that falls within our jurisdiction, we employed 68 temporary workers who were divided into three groups. One group was camped at Luangwa Bridge area and was working in the western direction towards Lukwipa area.

The second team had been positioned at Mpanshya area near Manenekela Area.

This team was working on the stretch from Manenekela area to Sinjela which is around CH90+000. The last group of workers was mobile and could camp either in Lusaka or at Chinyunyu around CH73+000.

This group worked on the stretch from Airport roundabout to Sinjela,” Eng. Mubanga said.

## GOVT BREAKS GROUND FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF MPONGWE-MACHIYA ROAD

By Fridah Nkonde-Mubanga

The government recently broke ground for the construction of the Mpongwe-Machiya Road.

Minister of Infrastructure, Housing and Urban Development, Hon. Eng. Charles Lubasi Milupi during the ground-breaking ceremony in Mpongwe said the construction of the Luansobe-Machiya Road and Mpongwe-Machiya-Ngabwe Road will transform lives and unlock economic potential of the Copperbelt and Central Provinces.

Hon. Eng. Milupi said Mpongwe, Machiya and Ngabwe were areas with vast agricultural potential.



Minister of Infrastructure, Housing and Urban Development, Hon. Eng. Charles Milupi during the groundbreaking ceremony in Mpongwe.

“It gives me great pleasure to be here today in Mpongwe District to fulfil yet another important national assignment following the signing of the concession agreement on November 28, 2025 for the construction of the Luansobe–Machiya Road, the Mpongwe–Machiya–Ngabwe Road, and the 20 kilometres of urban roads in Mpongwe and Ngabwe districts,” Hon. Eng. Milupi said.

“This project is not merely about constructing roads and bridges; it is about transforming lives and unlocking the enormous economic potential of the two provinces, namely Copperbelt and Central. Improved road infrastructure will significantly reduce transportation costs for farmers and businesses, improve access to markets, and facilitate the movement of agricultural produce to major commercial centres and export routes,” he added.

The Minister said the project marked another milestone in government’s commitment to improving connectivity, promoting economic growth, and enhancing the quality of life for the people.

The project is estimated at a cost of approximately US\$ 383.4 million under a 25-year concession arrangement, which includes three years for construction and twenty-two years for operation and maintenance.

During the maintenance period, at least three periodic maintenance interventions will be undertaken to ensure that the road infrastructure remains in good condition throughout the concession period.

Government has reserved an estimated minimum sum of US\$23.6 million for local subcontractors.



Hon. Eng. Charles Milupi during the event.

This is a deliberate effort to empower local contractors, create business opportunities for Zambians, and ensure that the people directly benefit from national development projects.

The project includes: the rehabilitation of 59.6 kilometres of the Luansobe to Mpongwe Road, including the dualisation of the first 5 kilometres from Luansobe junction; the construction of 132 kilometres of the Mpongwe–Machiya–Ngabwe Road and the construction of 20 kilometres of urban roads in Mpongwe and Ngabwe Districts.

The project also includes the construction of four strategic bridges, namely: a 120-metre bridge over the Kafue River; an 80-metre bridge over the Luswishi River; another 40-metre bridge over the Luswishi River; and another 120-metre bridge over the Kafue River at Ngabwe; the construction of two six-lane toll plazas; the installation of two large type-2 weigh-in-motion weighbridges; and the installation of smart optic fibre ducts and a modern control room to support intelligent transport systems and digital connectivity.

Hon. Eng. Milupi said Mpongwe was also endowed with mineral deposits including copper, gold, zinc and platinum.

The Former Minister said the road will stimulate investment in mining by facilitating the movement of exploration and mining equipment to potential mines and ultimately the movement of minerals to major commercial centres and export routes.

“Allow me to urge the concessionaire and all stakeholders involved in this project to work diligently and professionally to ensure timely completion of the works. I also encourage our communities in the project area to support and protect this infrastructure because it belongs to all of us and is meant to benefit both present and future generations.”

Copperbelt Minister, Hon. Elisha Matambo said the construction of the Machiya Road will bring immense economic and social benefits to Mpongwe District and beyond.

“As Government, we are fully aware that Mpongwe is largely a rural district whose economy depends heavily on agriculture. That is why, in addition to this major road project, Government has deliberately set aside resources under the Constituency Development Fund for the rehabilitation of feeder roads across the district,” Hon. Matambo said.

Meanwhile, KPMM Zambia Limited Managing Director Kelvin Twiddy said the Mpongwe-Machiya Road was more than just asphalt, it was a lifeline.

“We are not just here to turn soil, we are here to plant the seeds of a 25-year partnership that will redefine the connectivity of the Copperbelt and Central Provinces. On behalf of the KPMM Zambia Board and our engineering team, I want to express our deepest gratitude to the Government of the Republic of Zambia for the trust placed in us to deliver the Luansobe-Mpongwe-Machiya-Ngabwe Road Project,” said Mr. Twiddy.

And Chief Machiya of the Lamba speaking people in Mpongwe District thanked the Government for embarking on a road project that was expected to spur economic development.

## GOVERNMENT COMMISSIONS ANDERSON KAMBELA MAZOKA TOLL PLAZA

By Fridah Nkonde-Mubanga



Anderson Kambela Mazoka Toll Plaza.

Government on 13th May 2026 commissioned the Anderson Kambela Mazoka Toll Plaza situated along the Lusaka–Ndola Dual Carriageway between Landless Corner and the Kabwe Bypass Road.

Mr. Mazoka was a distinguished Zambian whose life was marked by academic excellence, professional achievement, and dedicated public service.

Born in 1943, he received his secondary education at Mungwi Technical Secondary School in the then Kasama District in Northern Province before proceeding to the United States of America, where he graduated in 1969 with a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering.

While in the United States, he distinguished himself as an innovator and was credited with the design of one of the earliest wind tunnels, an achievement that earned international recognition and demonstrated his exceptional technical capability.

Upon his return to Zambia in the 1970s, Mr. Mazoka joined Zambia Railways Limited as an assistant Mechanical Engineer. Through hard work, discipline, and outstanding performance, he rose through the ranks and was eventually appointed as the first Zambian General Manager of the institution by the late President Dr. Kenneth David Kaunda—a testament to the confidence placed in his leadership and technical expertise.



Hon. Eng. Milupi (c) with Mrs. Mazoka (r).

He later joined Anglo American, where he served with distinction for eighteen years, ultimately rising to the position of Managing Director for the Central African Division.

In his later years, Mr. Mazoka transitioned into public life, initially through the Movement for Multi-party Democracy and subsequently as a co-founder and first President of the United Party for National Development (UPND).

In the same spirit of recognising outstanding Zambians, Government has also renamed the Manyumbi Toll Plaza in honour of Godfrey Ucar Chitalu, one of Zambia's greatest football icons. His exceptional contribution to sport brought pride, unity, and international recognition to our nation. His legacy continues to inspire generations.

Speaking during the commissioning of the Toll Plaza, Minister of Infrastructure, Housing and Urban Development, Hon. Eng. Charles Lubasi Milupi said the event was significant because it honoured legacy, excellence, and national contribution through the naming of the Toll Plaza after Anderson Kambela Mazoka.

Meanwhile, the wife to the late Mr. Mazoka, Mutinta said the honour bestowed upon her husband by the Government was not only a tribute to his life, but also a powerful statement about reconciliation, national unity, and the importance of remembering those who contributed to the democratic growth of the nation.



Mrs. Mazoka during the event in Kabwe recently.

“It is with profound humility, gratitude, and emotion that I stand before you today on this historic occasion as we commission the Anderson Kambela Mazoka Toll Plaza in honour of my late husband, Anderson Kambela Mazoka – a patriot, statesman, businessman, and founding father of the United Party for National development,” Mrs. Mazoka said.

“Anderson Mazoka believed deeply in the unity and potential of this country. He believed that Zambia belonged to all its citizens regardless of tribe, region, religion, or political affiliation. At a time when division could easily have prevailed, he consistently preached peace, dialogue, and coexistence. His dream was of a Zambia where every citizen would have dignity, opportunity, and hope.”

Mrs. Mazoka said her family was deeply touched by the gesture.

“We thank His Excellency the President Mr. Hakainde Hichilema and the Government for recognizing the legacy of Anderson Mazoka in such a meaningful and lasting way. History becomes stronger when a nation learns to honour all those who contributed to its journey, regardless of political seasons or differences,” said Mrs. Mazoka.

Meanwhile, speaking on behalf of the Concessionaire, MOIC-LN Consortium Limited, Maggie Feng said the commissioning of the Anderson Kambela Mazoka Toll Plaza marks an important milestone, as it will become the first section of the Lusaka-Ndola Road to be delivered as a modern dual carriageway – the beginning of a new chapter for travel, trade, and economic growth in Zambia.

## GOVERNMENT COMMENCES CONSTRUCTION OF FEEDER ROADS IN RUFUNSA AND LUANGWA DISTRICTS UNDER THE IMPROVED RURAL CONNECTIVITY PROJECT (IRCP)

By Fridah Nkonde-Mubanga

Feeder roads are important in Zambia, because a large portion of the population lives in rural areas and depends on agriculture. These roads link rural communities to main highways and urban centers.

Feeder roads support agriculture and farming, boost rural economies, enable communities to access basic services like schools, clinics, and hospitals more easily, and improve connectivity year-round.

Feeder roads also connect rural populations to economic opportunities, link villages to main roads and highways and encouraging investment and development.

Government through the Road Development Agency (RDA) has commenced the construction of 119.2 kilometres of feeder roads in Luangwa and Rufunsa Districts under the Improved Rural Connectivity Project (IRCP), with support from the World Bank.

The Improved Rural Connectivity Project (IRCP) is a Government of Zambia initiated project with support from the World Bank.

Speaking during the groundbreaking ceremony for the T4–Shikabeta Road Project in Rufunsa District on 29th May 2026, Ministry of Infrastructure, Housing and Urban Development Permanent Secretary, Prof. Albert Malama said the project marked another milestone in Government's commitment to improving connectivity, promoting economic growth, and enhancing the quality of life for citizens.

"It gives me great pleasure to be here today in Rufunsa District to officiate at the groundbreaking ceremony for the road project from T4 to Shikabeta in Lusaka Province.

"The Improved Rural Connectivity Project (IRCP), valued at approximately USD 200 million, is a significant Government undertaking supported by the World Bank and implemented across all ten provinces of Zambia," Prof. Malama said.

He noted that since its commencement in 2017, the project has played a critical role in addressing the challenges of poor rural accessibility and limited connectivity in many parts of the country.

"The project is scheduled to conclude in December 2026. Today, we gather here in Rufunsa to witness the commencement of construction works on 119.2 kilometres of feeder roads in Luangwa and Rufunsa districts at a total cost of ZMW 230,331,035.73. The construction phase is expected to be completed by December 2026," he said.

Prof. Malama explained that the initiative is divided into two major components. The first component, valued at USD 180 million, focuses on the upgrading, rehabilitation, and maintenance of priority feeder roads across the country.

The second component, valued at USD 20 million, supports institutional strengthening within the roads sector to ensure sustainable management and maintenance of road infrastructure.

The roads earmarked for construction in Lusaka Province include the 40.4-kilometre T4–Shikabeta Road in Rufunsa District, the 30.5-kilometre R220–Kavalamanja Road in Luangwa District, and the 14.2-kilometre D145–Mpuka Road, also in Luangwa District.

He further revealed that plans were underway to construct a bridge across the Lunsemfwa River through a separate financing arrangement. Once completed, the bridge will connect Rufunsa District to Mkushi District and the Great North Road via the Shikabeta Road.

The Permanent Secretary said the project's objectives were both timely and strategic, as it seeks to improve rural road accessibility for communities in selected areas while strengthening institutional capacity for sustainable rural road management.

He added that the project was also designed to enable Zambia to respond promptly and effectively to any eligible crisis or emergency that may arise.

"Allow me to commend the Road Development Agency (RDA), cooperating partners, consultants, contractors, and all stakeholders for the efforts made towards the implementation of this important project," Prof. Malama said.

He urged the contractor, Sinohydro Corporation Limited, and all stakeholders involved to work diligently and professionally to ensure the timely completion of the works.

Meanwhile, Road Development Agency Board Chairperson Eng. Eugene Haazele said the road projects symbolized the Agency's unwavering commitment to community empowerment, emphasizing that well-connected rural areas are key to improving people's livelihoods.

"As the road network expands, access to markets, healthcare, education, and opportunities for socio-economic advancement will equally improve for residents in these areas. It is our collective belief that through improved connectivity, we will unlock the immense potential that exists within our communities," Eng. Haazele said.

“Our mission transcends the mere construction of roads. Together with our cooperating partners, we are committed to being responsible corporate citizens, recognizing that our responsibilities extend beyond infrastructure development.”

He said the project would also incorporate essential community infrastructure such as boreholes for clean water, flushable toilets for improved sanitation, markets to support local trade, and bus shelters to enhance public transport services.

“This holistic approach to infrastructure development ensures that economic growth and community well-being go hand in hand,” he added.

Meanwhile, Sinohydro Contracts Manager Yuanchun Wang described the project as a major milestone in the district’s infrastructure development.

“Thank you for trusting us with this project. We will work diligently and professionally to ensure the timely completion of the works,” Mr. Wang said.

And Chief Shikabeta of the Soli people in Rufunsa District thanked the Government for undertaking a road project expected to spur economic growth and development in Rufunsa and Luangwa districts.

## **WORKS ON THE SAKANIA–MUFULIRA ROAD SECTION GAIN MOMENTUM**

Works on the Sakania–Mufulira section of the Ndola–Sakania–Mufulira Road Project have gained momentum following the end of the rainy season.

Work on the 41-kilometre stretch between Sakania and Mufulira, which commenced last year, has resumed, with construction progressing to bituminous standard.

The Government of the Republic of Zambia has partnered with Jaswin Port to rehabilitate the Ndola–Mufulira Road and upgrade the Sakania Border Post under a concession agreement that includes a two-year construction period and 19 years of maintenance and operations.

The project is scheduled for completion in the fourth quarter of 2026.





Investing early is a powerful strategy that can significantly impact your financial future. Here are some key reasons why starting your investment journey early is crucial:

- **Time to Compound:** Investing early allows your money to grow over a longer period, benefiting from the power of compound interest. This means that any returns you earn can be reinvested, creating a snowball effect that accelerates your wealth growth.
- **Financial Freedom:** By investing early, you can build a substantial nest egg that provides financial independence in your later years. This is particularly beneficial for those who plan to retire early or have other long-term financial goals.
- **Market Stability:** Investing early gives you more time to weather market fluctuations and recover from any missteps. This long-term perspective can help you make more informed decisions and avoid impulsive investing.
- **Investment Flexibility:** Starting early allows you to adjust your investment strategy as you gain more experience and knowledge. This flexibility can help you adapt to changing market conditions and invest in ways that align with your long-term goals.
- Investing early is not just about the initial investment amount; it's about the long-term potential and the ability to create a financial safety net for your future. By taking the time to invest early, you can set yourself up for financial success and comfort in your later years.



## HELLO MARATHONERS!

Participating in marathons is not just about the physical demands of the race; it also offers numerous benefits for mental and physical health. Here are some of the key reasons why taking part in marathons is important:

- **Cardiovascular Improvement:** Marathons are a high-impact aerobic exercise that strengthens the heart muscle, improves circulation, and enhances lung capacity. This can reduce the risk of heart disease, stroke, and other cardiovascular conditions.
- **Weight Management and Fat Loss:** Long-distance running is a powerful calorie-burning activity that helps maintain a healthy weight or lose excess fat. Marathon training promotes the burning of stored fat for energy, improving body composition and reducing the risks associated with obesity-related illnesses.
- **Improved Bone Density:** Weight-bearing exercises like running stimulate bone remodeling and increase bone density over time, crucial in preventing osteoporosis and fragility fractures as runners age.
- Marathons also provide a sense of accomplishment and motivation to lead a healthier lifestyle. The dedication and discipline required to train for and complete a marathon often spill over into other areas of life, inspiring individuals to make healthier choices regarding nutrition, sleep, and stress management.

# RISK MANAGEMENT CORNER



In public institutions like Road Development Agency (RDA), two forces stand above all others as guardians of organizational health: Integrity and Risk Management. At first glance, they may appear to occupy separate lanes one belonging to the ethics and compliance arena, the other to the domain of strategic planning and control.

But look closer, and a deeper truth emerges: Integrity and Risk Management are not separate disciplines. They are two sides of the same coin.

For the RDA, an institution entrusted with Zambia's road infrastructure and the public resources that sustain it, this connection is not merely academic. It is operational, it is daily and it matters enormously.

Integrity, at its core, is the consistent alignment between values and actions. In an institutional setting, it means that decisions are made in the public interest, resources are managed transparently, staff conduct themselves honestly, and accountability is neither avoided nor deferred.

Integrity is reflected in how procurement is conducted, how assets are safeguarded, how conflicts of interest are declared, how complaints are handled, and how staff relate to contractors and service providers. When integrity is present, trust is built with the government, with the public, with development partners, and within RDA itself. When integrity is compromised, the consequences extend far beyond a disciplinary file. They become Agency risks.

The table below is a brief illustration of when Integrity failures becomes Risks.

Every integrity lapse, at its root, is a risk event. Consider the following scenarios:

Integrity Lapse Risk Consequence

Biased contractor evaluation Procurement fraud risk; compromised road quality; legal exposure

Undeclared conflict of interest Reputational risk; audit findings; potential ACC referral

## REMEMBER:

**INTEGRITY WITHOUT RISK AWARENESS LEAVES THE INSTITUTION BLIND TO ITS VULNERABILITIES. RISK MANAGEMENT WITHOUT INTEGRITY LEAVES IT DISHONEST ABOUT WHAT IT FINDS. TOGETHER, THEY FORM THE BACKBONE OF A TRUSTWORTHY, HIGH-PERFORMING PUBLIC INSTITUTION.**

Falsification of weighbridge records Revenue leakage risk; loss of data integrity; regulatory risk

Misuse of fuel or vehicle assets Financial risk; operational inefficiency; disciplinary liability

Failure to report a known hazard Safety risk; public harm; institutional liability

Each of these examples illustrates the same fundamental principle: where integrity breaks down, risk enters. And where risk is poorly managed, the space for integrity failures widens. The two feed each other in both directions.

Effective risk management is itself an act of institutional integrity. When RDA conducts site risk assessments, maintains risk registers, escalates emerging threats, and reports honestly to Senior Management and the Audit and Risk Committee, it is demonstrating transparency, accountability, and a commitment to sound governance all hallmarks of integrity.

Conversely, a risk management culture that allows risks to be suppressed, under-reported, or ignored is itself an integrity failure. Risk registers that are completed merely as a compliance exercise, without genuine assessment, represent a breakdown of honesty within the system.

Each time an employee chooses honesty over shortcuts, accountability over silence, and professionalism over convenience, they contribute to reducing organizational risk.

Integrity therefore should not be viewed merely as a moral principle. It is a strategic asset that strengthens governance, improves operational effectiveness, and protects organizational value.

The road to institutional excellence is not built only with tarmac and bridges. It is built with the daily choices of individual employees who choose transparency over concealment, accountability over convenience, and honesty over expediency.

Risk management is not only the responsibility of a specific department or committee. Every employee contributes to the organization's risk environment through daily decisions and actions.

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