

CONSTRUCTION NEWS

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- **NCC: Aims and Objectives**
- To unify the construction Industry, to promote its well being, to strive to create a profitable environment for its constituents, and to establish a united national platform encompassing formal and informal sectors of the industry and its professions
- To contribute to the reconstruction, rehabilitation and development of Zambia and the uplifting of all its people
- To promote and advance the status and public recognition of NCC, its members and the construction industry
- To promote encourage, support or oppose any legislation or other measures affecting the industry
- To address macro issues affecting the industry
- To co-ordinate, improve and facilitate the accessibility of training
- To strive, achieve, monitor and maintain the highest possible standards in the construction industry
- To add and amend these objects from time to time as decided upon by the National Council

GOVERNMENT BUYS ZAMBIA NATIONAL SERVICE US\$ 25M WORTH OF CONSTRUCTION MACHINERY



The Zambian Government has invested US\$ 25m in new Construction equipment for the Zambia National

The Zambian Government is reported to have bought construction machinery worth US\$ 25m for the Zambia National Service (ZNS). The Construction machinery which came on two train loads via Tanzania, was bought from the China National Aero-Technology Import and Export Corporation (CATIC). The acquisition of this construction machinery into the country is no doubt, a very welcome development, considering the lack of adequate machinery in the country. Whereas, we really appreciate the acquisition of this machinery into the country, we are nevertheless, buffed by the deci-

sion to give this machinery to the Zambia National Service, a public sector Institution. The Zambian Government has on several occasions clearly stated the fact that, it will not engage itself in commercial businesses.

Our understanding has been that Government would only concentrate in policy formulation and facilitating an enabling business environment for the private sector to prosper. The decision, therefore, "to empower the Zambia National Service to undertake road and dam construction activities in the rural areas will

only deprive the rural business community (construction companies) the much needed business. The above notwithstanding, past experience has also taught us that the public sector is not equipped with the managerial and financial skills to undertake such business transactions like road and dam construction.

For example, the current privatisation process in the country and elsewhere, stems from the fact that the public sector has failed to run such businesses.

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GOVERNMENT BUYS ZAMBIA NATIONAL SERVICE US\$ 25M WORTH OF CONSTRUCTION MACHINERY

Continued from page one
If the intention of Government in equipping the Zambia National Service with such equipment, is for purposes of ensuring that the ZNS is able to effectively respond to natural disasters and emergency road repairs, then we can appreciate Government's position, but then again an investment of US\$ 25m is rather too much for that purpose.

Surely, had the US\$ 25m construction machinery been invested in the pri-

vate sector, the economic impact, especially in these rural communities would have almost been immediate. With poverty levels running at over 75% nationally and about 90% in most rural areas, what these rural areas really need is some form of employment opportunities, which will give them some form of income. The decision, therefore, by Government to empower the ZNS carry out rural road and dam construction will only perpetuate poverty in these areas.

The Government Roads

Training School inconjunction with the International Labour Organisation (ILO) has already trained a number of Small-Scale Labour based Road Contractors, who are patiently looking to Government for road and dam construction works (businesses).

Alternatively, Government would have set up a (private sector) hire purchase or plant hire company with the above equipment, in which case Government would be able to recoup its money.

"There is nothing so useless as doing efficiently that which should not be done at all"-Drucker

ZAMBIA INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS (ZIA) HAS A NEW PRESIDENT AND COUNCIL

The Zambia Institute of Architects recently held its Annual General Meeting (AGM) at the Mulungushi International Conference on Saturday 4th November 2000 at which a new President and Council were elected.

The New ZIA President is Mr. Nkole Bwalya. Mr.

Bwalya is not a new comer to the Institute nor to the activities of NCC, having served in the [previous ZIA Council as the Treasurer, as well as being a member of the NCC Finance and Fund raising Subcommittee. The rest of the members of the new ZIA Council are:

Vice President: Mr. Morris Chitondo, **Secretary:** Mr. Douglas Katengo, **Treasurer** Vacant
Council Members; Messrs M. Mungandi, B. Chiyaba, A. K. Chatta, N. Jere, W. Mulungushi. and Mrs. K. Katengo.

NEW LUSAKA MAYOR PROMISES TO RESTORE LUSAKA'S GARDEN CITY STATUS

Lusaka has a new Mayor and he is Councillor Patrick Kangwa. Councillor Kangwa will be taking over from Ms. Patricia Nawa, who has served her (maximum) two terms allowed under the law. The new Lusaka Mayor has promised to restore the Garden City status of Lusaka City. Councillor

Kangwa also bemoaned the lack of adequate and trained personnel at the Lusaka City Council offices.

We at the NCC share in the new Mayor's dreams of restoring Lusaka's garden city status, and further agree with him that the first step in achieving that dream, lies in employing

and paying well qualified staff. We wish to further assure the new Mayor and his Chief Officers of the NCC's full support if and when called upon. Councillor Kangwa was very receptive as Deputy Mayor of Lusaka, we only hope that he will continue to do so as Mayor.

THE COPPERBELT UNIVERSITY (CBU) LAUNCHES NEW (ROADS) CIVIL ENGINEERING DEGREE

The Copperbelt University (CBU) will from next academic year launch a new Civil Engineering Degree programme. The NCC has been informed that this new CBU Civil Engineer-

ing Degree programme will have a bias to Roads Engineering and that it is basically an upgrading of the previous run Highway (Higher Diploma) Programme which was run by

the same Department, (Department of Engineering and Construction).

The Dean of the School of Built Environment, Dr. Silengo with his Heads of Department, Mr. P. Makasa (Architect) and Mr. G. C. Ngoma (Engineering and Construction) were recently in Lusaka to promote and liaise with all stakeholders on their proposed Degree programme. The CBU delegation met with The NCC President Dr. Ndilila, ZIA, SIZ, UNZA, Ministry of Local Government and Housing and other officials. We at NCC, can only wish CBU the best of Luck.



SIZ President, Mr. Kasito talking to the CBU delegation at the AA offices

"It is not enough to make progress, we must make it in the right direction," -Anonymous

NCC SECRETARIAT CLOCKS ONE YEAR OF OPERATIONS

The Secretariat of the National Council for Construction (NCC) has now clocked one full year of operations, having started operating in November 1999. I suppose after one year of operations, it is now time to reflect on our operations in the last one year.

No doubt we have scored some successes in some areas, and some failures in others. It is important to note, however, that whereas, the National Council and indeed the National Council for Construction has been operating since 1998, a full time Secretariat was only put in place in November 1999. During this time, the NCC through the Secretariat has been able to act as a resource center for the construction industry. Today, not only Government, but other international donors, Embassies, NGOs, private investors, banks, academics, students and other interested parties

consult the NCC Secretariat on various issues concerning the Zambian Construction Industry.

The production of a monthly Newsletter and a Quarterly Magazine has also filled the information gap that hitherto existed in the industry. These publications above have found their way not only in the other towns and cities of Zambia, but are read within the region and beyond. The NCC has also gone internet, and can now be found on the following address: www.ncc.co.zm.

The NCC has also been actively campaigning/lobbying Government and other major clients on a number of issues, among which the issues of foreign competition and high taxes have featured prominently.

The introduction of the "Construction Forum" was another very positive development, although the industry has not been forthcoming

to these discussions, especially those matters which have been discussed affect all those in the industry.

A number of Sub-Committees have also been formed, to ensure active participation of the various affiliate and individual members.

It is important that affiliate and individual members of the NCC begin to take a more pro-active stance in the affairs of their Council. For example, we would like to hear our members views on how we are performing, including suggestions on how we can improve.

Our greatest weakness in the past one year has no doubt been our bias to Lusaka City, to the extent that we have not organised any major function outside Lusaka, save for the Copperbelt tour in September and a Construction Forum at the Copperbelt University during the same trip.

THE ENGINEER AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



Mr. Zulu at the FIDIC 2000 Conference in Honolulu

“ Sustainable development requires finding new ways to do business; most significantly, to do more with less – less resources, less energy consumption and less waste”-Mr. Levi Zulu—Chairman of the Association of Consulting Engineer of Zambia (ACEZ).

Mr. Levi Zulu (the current Chairman of GAMA, the African affiliate of FIDIC and Chairman of the Association of Consulting Engineers of Zambia (ACEZ) attended the FIDIC 2000 conference Honolulu, Hawaii from 10th to 16th September 2000. The theme of the conference was “Sustainability : The Challenge of the New Millennium”. In this article, Mr. Zulu shares some of the sustainability considered during the conference.

There are many definitions of sustainable development.

Herman Daly of the World Bank describes sustainability thus:

the rate of use of renewable resources should not exceed the rate of regeneration. the rate of use of non-renewable resources should not exceed the rate of development of sustainable alternatives.

the rate of emission of pollutants should not exceed the capacity of the environment to absorb them.

A colloquial way of expressing the same truths of these definitions might be “if we treat the environment as though there were no tomorrow, there will be no tomorrow not as we know it”.

Engineers must view environmental, technological, eco-

nomical and social development as interdependent concepts in which industrial development and ecological sustainability are addressed as complementary aspect of a common goal. Sustainable development demands new roles, not only for engineers, but also for all members of the development team, who must work together to ensure success. Sustainable development requires finding new ways to do business; most significantly, to do more with less – less resources, less energy consumption and less waste.

In order to safeguard the survival of humanity the per capita consumption of resources in the industrialized world must be massively reduced, promoting a change of lifestyle, away from excess to a better quality of life and environment for everyone. We must change without delay our unsustainable consumption patterns if we are to achieve real want to be consequent with sustainable development. In the dialogue over environmental responsibility, sustainable development quickly became a nebulous concept, a type of overarching moral obligation of one generation to

the next. Much of the environmental community first described it as the maintenance of existing resources to meet the needs of both the present and the future populations. Sustainability today has evolved into a concept which is less centered on protecting the environment from humanity and more focused on compelling individuals to make sensible choices concerning resource consumption.

The effort to achieve sustainability without sacrificing personal well-being will undoubtedly be helped by new scientific knowledge and new technologies developed from it. Improvements in technological understanding and choice can make significant contributions to sustainable development and to human health and welfare.

Scientific and technological knowledge has led to remarkable advances that have been of great benefit to human kind. But at the same time the application of technological advances has led in the past to environmental degradation, contributing to social imbalance and the manufacture of sophisticated weapons. Scientific knowledge, technological ability and courage to seek out new horizons are being focused upon at this turn of the new millennium.

The biggest challenge of all is that all interest groups separately identified must invite and work together for the indefinite future. It will require a willingness from all parties to abandon extreme or simplistic positions in favour of rational appraisal of conflicting aims and benefits. There is a growing need for consensus, co-operation, and team work, if the aspirations for a better planet for all of us are to be realised.

COURSES AT ROADS DEPARTMENT TRAINING SCHOOL



In the background- The Refurbished Roads Department Training school

The RDTS would like to renew the earlier call upon the Construction Industry made in the July issue No. 7 of the Construction News.

The call was about the Construction Industry coming up with the type of courses they want the school to be running on their behalf. "Market-demand driven Courses". As it was reported in the July issue no. 7 of Construction News, the School is earmarked for transformation from a Government run to a private run institution through a Board of Trustees.

Since this Institution may be at the center of developing Human Resource base in terms of skills training for the Construction Industry whom we feel will be our biggest subscriber to courses that may be run by the school, it is imperative therefore that we strike a

partnership already to ensure that what the School is venturing in, in terms of courses is in line with what the Construction Industry requires in their line of business.

Purpose:

It is therefore envisaged that once the identification of the market demand driven short courses suitable for the Construction Industry is done, then the Construction Industry itself in collaboration with TE-VETA and the RD through RDTS can come together to design the curricula and the syllabi for the chosen courses. This partnership is already in place, when the RD, the Industry (Construction) and TE-VETA came together in March 2000 to design a curriculum and syllabus for Contract Management Course which will be conducted at the School in partnership with the Industry starting January 2001.

This is our vision as a School and we want your full participation if the courses to be run by the School have to be effectively managed on a sustainable basis.

We need you just as much as you need us to sharpen the skills of your technical staff in the Construction Industry and the Road Sector in particular.

Please send your suggestions to NCC who are now accommodated at the newly rehabilitated RDTS or directly to:

The Principal
Roads Department Training School
Sheki-Sheki Road
P.O. Box 30918
LUSAKA

Tel: 247185/245746/24404
Fax: 247264
E-mail: rts@zamnet.zm

"The new realism supports free enterprise but should recognize that open markets will not deliver prosperity by themselves. It requires a lot of work to fix banking systems, taxation regimes, educate a deep core of private and government officials and prosecute corruption.

Multinational corporations should recognize that in our situation they will shoulder more of the social costs because government is weak. They should not enjoy

Duty and Tax exemptions" -Dr. G. G. Chabwera Outgoing ZACCI President

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Mr. P. Makasa
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Lusaka, Zambia

Phone: 260-01-243115
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(Times of Zambia, Tuesday 7th November 2000)

B. Construction Forum: Prof Nkandu Luo-Minister of Communications and Transport

“The Road Sector Investment Programme (RoadSIP) in Zambia: Has it benefited the Zambian Construction Industry in particular and the Economy in general?”

The National Council for Construction (NCC) will this Friday, 10th November 2000 hold a Construction Forum at the Pamodzi Hotel on the above mentioned topic. The main Speaker, will be no other than the Minister of Communications and Transport, Hon. Prof. Nkandu Luo, who is also the Chairperson of the Committee of Ministers on RoadSIP. This discussion has be organised in the wake of complaints from a number of Zambian Consultants and Contractors, that they have not really benefited from RoadSIP. Also in attendance will be staff from the National Roads Boards and the Government Roads Department.

C ARCHITECT WANTED

A reputable Architectural firm, Harmani and Associates are looking for a an Architect with a minimum of 3-5 years experience wit a reputable company of architects. Those interested and having the required qualifications should forward their applications to

Harmani and Associates

Architecture and, Industrial Design and Planning

P.O. Box 35118, Lusaka

Tel: 223087 TELEFAX: 272276 Email: Pharmani@hotmail.com

(Times of Zambia, Tuesday 7th November 2000)

The NCC, as part of its ac- Government Roads train- stipulating the type of

THINKING OF ORGANISING A WORKSHOP/
CONFERENCE/SEMINAR? THEN CONTACT NCC
SECRETARIAT

tivities either on behalf of its members or for independent clients. Organises conferences, workshops and seminars on a variety of tropics related to the Construction industry. Resource persons can be drawn if required from its membership of consultants, contractors and Government.

The NCC operates a full time secretariat which is currently situated at the

ing School, Plot 1609/1625, Off Sheki Sheki Road, Light Industrial Area. The NCC also provides the following services; Photocopying, fax, e-mail, typing and internet facilities.

To organise a workshop/conference/seminar the independent client or member organization will have to:

Make a request in writing

service required
Pay a non-refundable commitment fee of US\$250

Contact persons:

Dr. M.S. Mashamba -
Executive Secretary :
243115/096-763669

Francesca Imutowana,
Conference Co-ordinator:
223115/096-761678