

# 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

## HEAVY RAINS LEAVE A TRAIL OF DESTRUCTION: IS IT TIME TO MODIFY OUR CONSTRUCTION STANDARDS?



The result of poor or no drainage— Flooded and Damaged roads in Lusaka's Kanyama Compound

Heavy rains have left a trail of destruction in the last few weeks, with a number of our bridges, roads and houses (especially in the shanty compounds) either washed away or severely damaged. Lives have also been lost and other property either damaged or completely lost. Recent media reports have reported that scores of houses have collapsed in Kitwe's Ipusukilo compound, the Chingola – Solwezi road has been totally damaged, and the list goes on.

Unfortunately, as is custom in this country, people are already accusing designers

and contractors of shoddy work in building these houses, roads, and bridges.

What these critics fail to realise is that this phenomenon is worldwide, and not only restricted to Zambia and her immediate neighbours. Countries in North America and Western Europe have also experienced this severe weather changes and its resultant damage.

In this country, with floods becoming a yearly phenomenon, we need to change our construction standards to adapt to these new weather conditions, or that we simply take the nec-

essary precautionary steps. For example, much of the damage that is caused to our urban roads and houses is due mainly to very poor drainage or the lack of it.

If only government was so generous with funds for clearing and maintaining our drainage as they are with offering relief and "compensation" to the victims, we would not find ourselves in these situations in the first place. The problem in this country as in most other African countries, is that we are only ready to react to emergencies and not take preventative measures

## NHA TO BUILD MORE HOUSES

The National Housing Authority (NHA) is continuing with its programme of building more houses, in an effort to alleviate the current housing crisis in the country. Emphasis in building new houses is said to have been placed on the newly created six districts in the country. The six new districts are Kazungula, Lufwanyama, Mpongwe, Chavuma, Chiengi and Shangombo.

The above housing programme is being co-financed by the Zambian Government and Shelter Afrique at a total cost of

about \$5m. This particular housing programme entails building seven houses in each of the above mentioned districts. Overall a total of 450 housing units are planned to be built under this project.

The National Housing Authority is said to have obtained a loan US\$ 2m from Shelter Afrique on the understanding that the Zambian Government would provide another US\$2.5m as counterpart funds. What is not however clear is whether the Zambian Government has since managed to secure the

US\$2.5m counter part funds. The National Housing Authority also plans to build 170 low cost core houses and complete houses in Lusaka and another 60 in Livingstone under the same programme.

It is further envisaged that money generated from the sale or renting of these units, will be used under a revolving fund to build more houses in the remaining districts.

Meanwhile NHA is looking for a senior Quantity and land Surveyor to join their permanent staff. For de-

*"Hiked ZESCO tariffs are a receipt for bankruptcy in companies. It is not a way of encouraging investment in the economy by increasing tariffs. We are paying for their inefficiencies"*

*Gaudenzio Rossi  
President Hotels and  
Catering Association of  
Zambia*

## ZESCO INCREASES COMMERCIAL ELECTRICITY TARIFFS

The Energy Regulation Board (ERB) has once again approved an adjustment of 25% on electricity commercial tariffs. The Board has however introduced a special tariff structure for the farming community and reduced tariffs for domestic fixed rates.

The Board also rejected a

request by ZESCO to increase by 16% fixed monthly charge for residential and social services classes.

The above increases have resulted in most businesses condemning this increase, with some proposing that the solution to the problems facing ZESCO

did not lie with increasing electricity tariffs, but lay squarely with restructuring ZESCO. Is it any wonder that more companies have continued to re-locate to other countries like Zimbabwe, even when given our very liberal economy policies and stable political situation?

## GOVERNMENT TO REVIEW INVESTMENT ACT; WARNS FOREIGN INVESTORS FLOUTING OUR LABOUR LAWS

Commercial, Trade and Industry Minister, Mr. David Mpamba announced in Parliament on Tuesday 27th February 2001 that, the Government was set to review the Investment Act, to include provision that would bar foreign investors from investing in certain sectors of our economy. The Minister went on to

assure Parliament that the review of the Investment Act would be done this year. We can only hope that all stakeholders will be extensively consulted, and that we in the construction industry will also have our say.

In a similar move, Government has warned some foreign investors in the

country who have been flouting our labour laws, by denying workers their right to form Trade Unions at places of work. The Minister of Labour told Parliament that there was a tendency by some foreign investors to deny Zambian workers their right to form a Trade Union as contained in our state laws.

## KWACHA CONTINUES TO HOLD AS COMMERCIAL BANK INTEREST RATES INCREASE

The Zambian Kwacha has continued to hold against the United States dollar and other major currencies, following constant intervention by the Bank of Zambia. The Zambian Kwacha which was trading at about K4,500 per US\$, only about two months ago before the Government intervened, is now trading at about K3,500. per US\$. For the Kwacha to appreciate to such levels, the Bank of Zambia has had to increase the Commercial Bank deposit rates, with the result that Commercial Bank base rates have had

to be increased to about 50% on average. This therefore means that borrowing has become very expensive in Zambia. This is not good for businesses, especially ours (Construction), which tends to rely heavily on borrowing to finance construction of houses, real estates and roads. Unless there is a halt to this ever increasing interest rates, we are likely to see a number of companies going under.

For me, high interest rates or a weak Kwacha are the two sides of the same coin,

which is harmful to our construction industry and the macro-economy as a whole.

There is no economy that has improved or can improve in the absence of new investments. As if the high interest rates were not enough, the Energy Regulation Board (ERB) has only increased commercial electricity charges by another 25%. As more local industries continue to collapse or re-locate, we will be forced to import, thereby increasing the demand for the US dollar.

## NOW KITWE ZOO SITE GIVEN TO GROUP FIVE OF SOUTH AFRICA

The Kitwe zoo site in Kitwe is now reported to have been given to Group Five Developments of South Africa following the failure of Stocks and Stocks another South African company to do so. The development of the Kitwe Zoo site will be done in two phases, with the first one

consisting of a shopping complex and a filling station, while the second one will consist of an office complex and a hotel. The planned cost of the whole development is estimated to be US\$ 14m. Construction work is expected to start in October this year. **Zambia Daily mail-27-02-2001.**

Meanwhile, Kitwe City Council plan to build a pedestrian flyover bridge at the junction of Independence avenue and Oxford road in the city centre. The funds for the construction of the bridge are said to come from central government. **Times of Zambia, 26-02-2001**

*"The greatest risk in life  
is not taking one"*

*Anonymous*

## PHI ENGAGES 150 ZAMBIAN LABOURERS AFTER VEEP INTERVENTION

The Chairman of the Presidential Housing Initiative (PHI), Mr. Richard Sakala is reported to have said that PHI has recently engaged some 150 Zambians on the OAU Village construction site, following a directive from the Vice President, Gen. Tembo. Some 350 more Zambians are expected to be engaged on the same site, as

work progresses, reported Mr. Sakala.

Although, it is a relief that some Zambians have finally been engaged on this site and that more will be engaged, it is a pity that it had to take the Vice President to intervene in this matter. I for one, would have thought, that prudent economic and social con-

sideration would have forced us to engage the Zambians in the first place.

In the same report, Mr. Sakala is also reported to have said that foreign investors have responded favourably to the Zambian request for an extra K20 billion to finish the Bennie Mwiinga Housing Project.

## GOVERNMENT SIGNS K13 BILLION ROAD REHABILITATION WORKS

The Ministry of Local Government and Housing recently signed a total of K13 billion worth of road rehabilitation works with a number of consultants and contractors to cover seven provinces in Zambia. All the aforementioned seven road contracts were awarded on a turnkey contract, meaning that consultants and contractors were asked to form one working team and bid as one.

We are happy to report that the NCC through its Executive Secretary was very much involved in formulating the contract forms for

these turnkey works, although we were not involved in the selection of the winning contracts and rightly so. The rehabilitation works will cover these following provincial headquarters,

1. Chipata, which was won by a team of LTA and Zulu Burrow and Partners at a cost of K3.2 Billion
2. Mongu—Stefanutti & Bressan/Bicon Zambia Bicon Namibia at a cost of K2.4 billion.
3. Mansa- JJ Lowe and Brian Colquhoun Hugh O'Donnell & Partners

at a cost of K900 million

4. Livingstone-Stefanutti & Bressan/Bicon Zambia and Bicon Namibia at a cost of K1.4 billion
5. Kabwe-JJ Lowe and Brian Colquhoun Hugh O'Donnell & Partners at a cost of K2.3 billion
6. Kasama-Turner construction and ASCO at a cost of K2 billion.
7. Solwezi-Reeves Asphalt/Con Roux and ZMCK at a cost of K1.3 billion.

*"I was trained to fight and one thing I was taught is not to fight a war which is not there". It is expensive to fight a war which is not there"-  
Brigadier Gen. Godfrey Miyanda-Education Minister.*

## GOVERNMENT WON'T SPLIT CHILANGA CEMENT PLC-CHIKWAKWA

The Government has no immediate plans of splitting Chilanga Cement plc into two separate cement companies as suggested by myself in the last issue of Construction News (Construction News-Issue 2 Number 1) Commerce Trade, and Industry deputy Minister Mr. Jazzman Chik-

wakwa is reported to have said that the company has already undergone privatisation and would therefore be wrong to split it now and stop it being a monopoly. The Deputy Minister however, challenged Zambians, to venture into cement production for the benefit of the economy.

Although it is a pity that Government is reluctant to split Chilanga Cement plc into two separate companies, it is gratifying to note that Government Ministers do take time off to read our Newsletters and Magazine and react to it, albeit not in our favour this time around.

## LOCAL CONSULTING ENGINEERS (ACEZ) TO HOST INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

The Association of Consulting Engineers in Zambia (ACEZ) an affiliate of the National Council for Construction (NCC) will this month (22-23 March 2001) host an international conference for the Group of African Members (GAMA) for Consulting Engineers. The theme for this year's conference is "The consult-

ant's Role in Africa in the New Era", where experts from Africa and Europe will be giving papers on aspects of engineering relating to the aforementioned theme.

The conference is scheduled for the Pamodzi Hotel and registration fees are as follows;

US\$150 (K570,000) per person (includes full Conference pack, meals and social programme) or a day delegate (local) rate of US\$ 25 (K95,000) which excludes lunch and social programme. Deadline for registration is 14th march 2001. For more details please contact the ACEZ secretariat

## Women in construction-Mrs Mutinta Mwape Sichali

### Architect with Renceau Designs -Architects

*“Don’t fear to mispronounce English words. I encourage you not to shy away or fear to answer questions. You should not shun using the language but don’t do it carelessly. The point is to make ourselves understood as we debate here in Parliament” - Amussa Mwanamwambwa-Speaker of the National Assembly (advising our MPs)*



Mrs. Mutinta M. Sichali

**Q. What is the best aspect of your job?**

**A.** The best aspect of my job is designing, working out presentation drawings, sketching and handover of

projects.

**Q. What is the worst aspect of your Job?**

**A.** Working out detailed, drawings and surveying.

**Q. Can you please describe to us, your typical working day.**

**A.** I first outline my days work then I start working on the working drawings. I occas-

sionally do site supervision in the mornings then I continue with the working drawings after my lunch break.

**Q. Do you regret becoming an Architect or entering this male dominated industry?**

**A.** No I do not regret becoming an Architect.

**Q. What has been your favourite design to date?**

**A.** Mukambi Safari Lodge in Mumbwa

**Q. If you could swap jobs, what would you choose to do?**

**A.** I wouldn't mind doing Landscaping.

**Q. Which schools, colleges and Universities did you attend?**

**A.** I went to Kabulonga Girls and the Copperbelt University.

**Q. What are your future plans, career wise?**

**A.** I would love to go into Landscaping, specialize in Interior Designing and I would also want to be a part-time Lecturer at a Polytechnic School

**Q. What are your hobbies?**

**A.** Swimming, Singing and Gardening

**Q. What piece of advice do you have for the young girls or women intending to take up Architecture or any other construction related job?**

**A.** Aim to fulfill your career where your work will be appreciated. The sky should be your limit, never feel that a man is better than you. Always be determined and hard

working, it is not impossible to make it in this sector.

*“It is unfortunate that government has not considered constructing better bridges, a situation which put citizens at risk ”-Bonny Tembo”-President Anti-Voter Apathy Project*

## TENDERS

# ZAMBIA NATIONAL TENDER BOARD REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

**TB/ORD/010/01-935: TENDER FOR THE SUPERVISION OF THE  
CONSTRUCTION OF MANSA-LUWINGU ROAD –  
MINISTRY OF WORKS AND SUPPLY**

The Government of the Republic of Zambia through the Ministry of Works and Supply intends to engage a consultancy firm registered with the Roads Department to provide consultancy services to effectively supervise the construction of the Mansa-Luwingu Road (M3) to Class IC bitumen standard.

The consulting services include and are not limited to the following:

- (i) construction supervision and inspection of all the works including final inspection and final construction report;
- (ii) administer and supervise the construction of contract in accordance with the conditions of contract, drawings and specifications;
- (iii) evaluate the bids submitted by the construction firms for the construction of the project road; and
- (iv) other engineering services as may be required to complete the construction works in accordance with sound engineering practice.

The Zambia National Tender Board, on behalf of the Ministry of Works and Supply, now requests for technical and financial proposals from eligible firms to participate in the above mentioned open tender.

A firm will be selected under Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS) and procedures described in the Request For Proposals (RFP).

Bidding documents may be obtained upon payment of a non refundable fee of K200,000.00 or its equivalent in any convertible currency at the prevailing exchange rate in cash or Bank certified cheque from the address below:

Director General,  
Zambia National Tender Board,  
P O Box 31009,  
Kulima Tower,  
13<sup>th</sup> Floor,  
Katunjila Road,  
Lusaka, Zambia

The telephone numbers are: 228633/4 and the TELEFAX number is: 260 (01) 220577.

**HOWEVER, TELEFAX OFFERS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

All bids must be submitted in accordance with the instructions to bidders contained in the bidding documents.

The closing date for the receipt of bids is on Friday, 30<sup>th</sup> March 2001 at 14:00 hours local time and bids shall be opened immediately thereafter in the Conference Room of the Zambia National Tender Board on the 13<sup>th</sup> Floor, Kulima Tower in the presence of the bidders or their representatives who choose to attend. Late offers by bidders shall not be accepted..

E M M Sikanyika (Mrs.)  
Board Secretary  
**ZAMBIA NATIONAL TENDER BOARD**

# SPECIFIC PROCUREMENT NOTICE

## ZAMBIA

### PROJECT TO SUPPORT THE SECOND PHASE OF THE ROAD SECTOR INVESTMENT PROGRAM 2002-2007 (ROADSIP II)

#### Request for Expressions of Interest from Road Engineering Consultants.

This request for expressions of interest follows the General Procurement Notice for this project that appeared in Development Business No. 548 of 16<sup>th</sup> December, 2000.

The Government of the Republic of Zambia intends to apply for a credit from the International Development Association towards the cost of a project to support the Second Phase of the Road Sector Investment Program (ROADSIP II). It intends to apply part of the proceeds of this credit to payments under the contract for the periodic maintenance and/or rehabilitation of selected paved Trunk, Main and District Roads.

The service to be provided include: (i) field surveys involving pavement and materials testing; (ii) identification of the most appropriate and cost effective intervention for each section of road; and (iii) detailed design and preparation of bidding documents for individual works contracts.

The services are to be procured in two packages and are expected to commence in late 2001:

#### **Design Package 1: Total length 145.7 km**

T1, Zimbabwe Border-Livingstone, 10.7 km

T2, Chirundu-Lusaka, 135.0 km

#### **Design Package 2: Total length 148.0km**

M4/M5, Ndola-Mufulira-Mwambashi-DRC Border, 105.0 km

M6, Kafulafuta-Luanshya, 43.0km

The Roads Department of the Ministry of Works and Supply now invites eligible consultants to indicate their interest in providing the above services. Interested consultants must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (brochures, description of similar assignments, experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills among staff, etc.) Consultants may associate to enhance their qualifications.

Consultants will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the World Bank's Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants by World Bank Borrowers, January 1997, revised September 1997 and January 1999.

Interested consultants may obtain further information at the address below during 08:00 and 17:00 hours.

Expressions of interest must be delivered to the address below by March 16, 2001.

The Director of Roads  
Ministry of Works and Supply  
Roads Headquarters  
P.O. Box 50003  
Lusaka, Zambia

Tel: (INT) 260 1 253088/253801/253002

Fax: (INT) 260 1 253404

*“Development is about co-operation. Co-operation is about sharing information and working together. As ZAM, we want the government to understand that we are partners in development and we want to be kept abreast with everything happening in the economy or any development relating to Zambia. It is for this reason that we demand to be told what the government went to do in Washington.”- Mr. Mark O'Donnell- ZAM Trustee*

## **NCC SUB-COMMITTEES**

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develop Zambia*



# TENDERS

## Ministry of Works and Supply Procurement and Supplies Unit

### TENDER FOR THE COMPLETION OF MEDICAL BLOCK AT MANSA GENERAL HOSPITAL

The Government of the Republic of Zambia, through the Mansa General Hospital Management Board wishes to complete one of the Out Patients Department Blocks, - the Medical Block.

The Ministry of Works and Supply Unit hereby invites eligible bidders to submit bids for the above project.

The scope of works for this project is contained in the Bills of Quantities and the Drawings.

Eligible bidders may inspect and obtain the bidding documents from the office of the Director of Buildings. The tender documents are ready for collection on payment of a non-refundable fee of K200,000.00 in cash or By Bank certified cheque.

Contact telephone numbers are 251280 and 254556. The TELEFAX numbers are 253616 and 251099. However telephone and TELEFAX offers will not be accepted.

Bids must be accompanied by a bid security of not less than 2% of the tender sum.

The closing date for the receipt of tenders is 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 2001 at 14.30 hours local time. Tenders will be opened soon after closing in the presence of bidders or their representatives who choose to attend. Late offers shall not be accepted.

J. Songwe

Head, Procurement and Supplies Unit  
**MINISTRY OF WORKS AND SUPPLY**

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

The NCC, as part of its activities either on behalf of its members or for independent clients. Organises conferences, workshops and seminars on a variety of topics 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

Government Roads training 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 stipulating the type of ser-

vice required

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

**Contact persons:**

Dr. M.S. Mashamba -  
Executive Secretary : 01-243115/096-763669

Francesca Imutowana,  
Conference Co-ordinator:  
01-243115/096-761678