Having celebrated 40 years of our national independence, it is only befitting that we also take time to review the performance of our industry (construction) in the past 40 years. In doing so, we shall take a closer look at how things have been in the construction industry during the period in question and also look ahead to the coming years. From the outset, it is important to state that worldwide, the construction industry is well known for its booms and bust cycles, and the Zambian construction industry is no exception. For instance, the older generation will remember with nostalgia the period 1964-1975 as a period of high construction activity that saw the industry become the second biggest employer in the economy, after the mines. At its peak in 1974-5 the Zambian construction industry was employing 74,500 workers and yet Zambia's population was a mere 4.5 million people. The irony, however, is that today with the population having more doubled to about 10.3m, the total formal employment figures in the industry have shrunk to a mere 13,000.

The industry's contribution to GDP has also reduced from a peak of 9% compared to the current 3-4%. It is also important to remind ourselves that although the Zambian construction industry started off as private sector driven in 1964 upon independence from the British colonialists, the industry was quickly transformed into a public sector led industry, especially after the Matero and Mulungushi reforms of 1968 and 1969. After, the Matero and Mulungushi reforms, most hitherto private construction companies were nationalised by the then UNIP Government.
The 1960s and early 1970’s was a period when the Zambian Government, unlike today, was able to singularly finance most infrastructure development in the country, be it that some of these projects were financed from loans hence our current huge foreign debt. Donor financed projects, if any, constituted only a very small portion of our project portfolio, thanks to the then prevailing good copper prices. With income from copper, the Zambian Government was able to marshal its own resources to undertake most infrastructure development projects albeit the dominance of the expatriate skilled labour force. Indeed this was a period that was guided by good focused planning and execution of development projects planned through the National Commission for Development Planning and executed through the then Ministry of Public Works/Transport, Communications and Works. This is of course a complete reverse of what is going on today, where the donors are calling the shots in our infrastructure development programmes. The Ministry of Works and Supply seems to have lost their intended role of coordinating and supervising our infrastructure development process/programme, simply because every ministry is now doing their own thing without any coordination and long term planning involving other ministries or sectors. For example, the Ministry of Education is currently employing their own Architects and Engineers and therefore designing their own schools. Similarly, we are now hearing of the Ministry of Sports going into Stadium designs and construction. The result is all very clear for every one to see; our infrastructure development programme is driven by spontaneity rather than based on coordination and long term planning. How else does one explain the above goings, not to mention the current congestion on our urban roads, the ever growing shanty areas and inadequate water and sewerage serviced areas in our major towns and cities?

The late 1970s and 1980s were a period of construction slow down, although in comparison, it is now very clear that there were still some remarkable construction activities thanks to the budget deficit policies of the then Government. The 1990’s however, saw the coming to power of the MMD Government with their liberalisation economic policies which had far outreaching impact on the industry. At the centre of these policy and institutional changes was the underlying intention to liberalise the Zambian economy. With specific reference to the construction industry, the result of the above economic liberalising was total dismantling of the parastatal firms, which hitherto controlled well over 80% of the Zambian economy and were a major clientele for the Zambian construction industry. Whereas the Zambian Government was very fast in dismantling the parastatals, with the concomitant results of massive jobs loses, there has been no immediate national economic strategy of filling the void left by the Parastatals in terms of them being the major clientele for construction services. Consequently, therefore, there was a remarkable slowing down of the construction industry activities immediately after the coming to power of the MMD government in 1991. The mines and the Zambia Consolidated Copper Mines (ZCCM) in particular, were the main consumers and client of the Zambian construction industry, especially on the Copperbelt. For example ZCCM alone was once reported to be consuming over 20% of cement from Chilanga Cement PLC, although this figure is now reckoned to have gone down to just about 5 to 6% of Chilanga’s total production.

The Zambian industry has today, however, repositioned itself as the biggest growth industry in the macro-economy with average annual growth rates of about 15% in the last 5 years, thanks mainly to RoadSIP. Despite, this positive development, the industry, especially the building sub-sector remains highly informalised. Consequently, therefore, professionals in the building sub-sector as well as Government in terms of revenue have not benefited from the current construction boom.
ZACCI Elects New Chairman

The Zambia Chambers of Commerce and Industry (ZACCI) recently elected Mr. Wamulume Kalabo as Chairman. Mr. Kalabo takes over from Mr. Justin Chisulo.

The Vice Chairpersons were retained; Mr. Eugene Chandi as Vice Chairman South, while Mr. Howard Gatchell is the Vice Chairman North.

ZACCI has in the past few years re-established its role as key representative of the private sector on various issues and has successfully engaged Government in dialogue.

The NCC is an active member of ZACCI and has contributed significantly on issues pertaining to infrastructure development.

It is the aim of NCC to form strategic partnerships with trade and professional associations that will add value to the construction industry in Zambia.

To that end, the NCC will support ZACCI and actively participate in matters that will develop the private sector and foster development in Zambia.

Serial AGMs for NCC Professionals

There will be a series of Annual General Meetings for respective professional bodies in the construction industry.

The Surveyors’ Institute of Zambia (SIZ) and the Zambia Institute of Architects (ZIA) are set to have their meetings on Friday, November 5, 2004.

The Association for Consulting Engineers of Zambia have scheduled theirs for November 29, 2004.

These meetings will result in the election of new office bearers to represent the respective professionals.

One of the features at the SIZ Annual General Meeting is a talk by NCC on ‘Professional Ethics in the construction industry’.

Whereas professional bodies have codes of conduct to guide them, contractors do not have any codes of ethics. The NCC will soon initiate a code of conduct for contractors to supplement the NCC Act as well as provide a basis for contractor’s ethical behaviour.

The NCC will also coordinate with the respective professional bodies in ensuring that professional ethics are adhered to and maintained in the industry.

It has been observed that despite the various Acts governing professionals in the construction industry, some professionals have ventured to do work beyond their scope.

“The problem is that we think as if we are English or French speaking people. We have completely abandoned our African culture.”

Kenneth Kaunda

NCC Registration Scheme to Be Launched Soon

The NCC will soon launch the new contractor and consultant registration, which will facilitate the effective monitoring and regulatory framework in the construction industry.

Three sensitization workshops have been planned to be held in Livingstone, Ndola and Lusaka to cover the major regions of the country.

Registration will be in effect in January 2005, however, the registration exercise is expected to commence before the end of the year.

All contractors and consultants in the construction industry are advised to register their participation at the workshops by December 10, 2004. Contact details are provided in the notices.

The registration exercise is important to the industry as it will provide basis for construction industry development. Currently, it is difficult to accurately determine the capacity of the industry as no data is avail-
Q. What is the best aspect of your job?

A. It is a paying job and at the end of it all, the community benefits through jobs created in the process of road maintenance; and, standards of living in communities are enhanced.

Q. What is the worst aspect of your job?

A. When our employers do not pay us on time resulting in workers on site stopping work. Subsequently, deadlines for completion of the works are not met.

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

A. I conduct roll call; allocate work according to the work programme; then I inspect the works if they are done accordingly. This is a continuous process. I then make a day’s report and work plan for the following day.

Q. Do you regret becoming a Contractor or entering this male dominated industry?

A. No! Infact I am learning a lot.

Government must be serious about employment otherwise crime in the country will increase to unimaginable levels.”

Simon Nsama, Zambian youth
Q. Who has been your greatest inspiration in your life, especially in taking up Construction as a Career?

A. My father, Mr. Muyunda Kayaka, who is also a contractor. He is the one who has been encouraging me to join the construction industry.

Q. What has been your favourite project to date?

A. I can’t really say which one has been my best project because the project I am doing in Kalomo is my first one. I believe more is yet to come.

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

A. I am not thinking of swapping jobs. In fact, I want to learn more because there is still much to learn as I am young in this industry. I think that is what is making it more interesting.

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

A. I did my primary course at Holy Cross Basic School, and my secondary School at Linda Secondary School in Livingstone. Then, I did Hotel Management at Fairview Hotel in Lusaka. I am currently at the NCC Construction School pursuing Enhanced Road Maintenance for Small Scale Contractors.

Q. What are your future plans, career wise?

A. I want to pursue studies in Civil Engineering. Other than Road Engineering, I also want to do buildings.

Q. What are your hobbies?

A. Cooking, reading, watching T.V., listening to the radio and travelling.

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

A. They shouldn’t take construction as a male career only. Construction is like any other career. It just requires commitment and I am sure you will find it very interesting. There is nothing that is
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4th WEST AFRICA INT’L TRADE EXPO
12 - 14 January 2005
Lagos - Nigeria
Venue - International Expo Center - Eko Hotel
Exhibit Profile - Int'l Trade Fair On All Kinds Of Consumer & Industrial Products

9th ETHIOPIA INT’L TRADE FAIR
17 - 22 February 2005
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Venue - International Expo Center - Eko Hotel
Exhibit Profile - Int'l Trade Fair On All Kinds Of Consumer & Industrial Products

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“Politics is not money, it's about knowing the problems people are going through.”
Emmanuel Kasonde
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“Let’s have records of our traditions, if we die with our knowledge, how will the generations come to know about their culture?”

Chief Chitambo of Central Province
**Notices**

**ADDITIONAL TELEPHONE NUMBERS AT THE NCC SECRETARIAT**

We wish to notify you that the National Council for Construction has since merged with the Roads Training School as stipulated in the NCC Act No. 13 of 2003.

Find below the new contact Telephone and Fax numbers:

- **General Lines:** (With extensions to all offices) 260-1-247185 260-1-240386
- **Fax Lines:**
  - Administration 260-1-243115
  - Construction School 260-1-247264
- **Executive Director (Direct Line)** 260-1-244004
- **Technical Advisor (Direct Line)** 260-1-245746

**WORKSHOP/TRAINING FACILITIES AT NCC**

This serves to inform all NCC members and stakeholders that the NCC Secretariat provides workshop, meeting and training facilities at economic fees.

Meeting/training rooms are free for NCC affiliate organisations (ACEZ, ABCEC, SIZ, NASSC, and ZIA) however, they will be required to pay for refreshments and food wherever necessary.

Details of the charges can be obtained from Mrs. Barbara Lukhanda on 01 247105/240386.

“*Our concept is that development starts with yourself and not donors.*”

*Inui Eiji* - JICA Resident Representative
NOTICE TO ALL NCC MEMBERS AND STAKEHOLDERS

Association for Consulting Engineers of Zambia (ACEZ)
Association for Building and Civil Engineering Contractors (ABCEC)
National Association for Small Scale Contractors (NASSC)
Surveyors Institute of Zambia (SIZ)
Zambia Institute of Architects
Local Authorities
Buildings department
Roads Development Agency
Ministry of Works and Supply
Ministerial Tender Committees
Interested Parties and members of the public

SENSITISATION WORKSHOP ON THE NCC REGISTRATION PROCESS

This serves to inform the public that the NCC will be holding sensitization workshops on the newly established contractor and consultant registration scheme in Livingstone, Lusaka and Ndola.

All those wishing to attend these workshops are required to register with the National Council for Construction Secretariat by December 10, 2004 at the following address and contact numbers:

Plot 1609/1625 Sheki Sheki Road
Light Industrial Area
P. O. Box 39548
Lusaka, Zambia

Contact Persons:
Ms. Clara Malupande – 01 245746 or Mrs. Cynthia Majula – 01 244004

Fax: 243115

E-mail: ncc1@zamnet.zm