

‘Better investment in water must’

Women, girls adversely affected by lack of commodity - GWPSA

CHOMBA MUSIKA
Lusaka

THERE is need to have better investments in water and infrastructure because doing so will benefit many women and girls.

Global Water Partnership

Southern Africa (GWPSA) board member Chileshe Kapwepwe says better investments in water infrastructure will benefit women and girls who are adversely affected by the lack of the commodity and climate change.

Ms Kapwepwe said this during the Zanzibar water investment conference, a

lead-up to the 9th World Water Forum to be held in Dakar, Senegal, from March 21 to 26, 2022.

Speaking prior to the launch of the Zanzibar water investment programme, Ms Kapwepwe said better funding in water infrastructure will help address many challenges women and girls face in trying to access the commodity.

The Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa secretary-general also said the successful implementation of the Zanzibar programme is vital given that water is one of the most essential natural resources.

The Zanzibar water investment programme supports implementation of the country's development vision 2050 to

achieving the Blue Economy Policy.

It is set to promote investment in the sector, strengthening governance, enhancing capacity of various stakeholders, mobilising resources and ensuring optimal water supply.

African leaders, international development experts, representatives of the private

sector and technocrats in the water and sanitation industry have been meeting for the official launch of the Zanzibar water investment programme.

The programme aims to mobilise over US\$665.5 million between 2022-2027.

Speaking at the launch of the programme, President of Zanzibar Hussein Ali Mwinyi said the project will promote

investment in water supply.

“The Zanzibar water investment programme supports the implementation of the country's development vision 2050 towards achieving the Blue Economy Policy.

“The programme aims to ultimately ensure optimal water supply to all the areas and people of Zanzibar,” Dr Mwinyi said.

2nd phase of bridge infrastructure maintenance on

JUSTINAH KAPAMBWE
Lusaka

IN ITS continued quest to enhance the state of infrastructure countrywide, Government, through the Road Development Agency (RDA), has started the second phase of bridge maintenance targeting Southern, Northern and Copperbelt provinces.

The project is being supported by the Japanese government through Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

More than K12 million will be spent in repairing bridges in Southern Province, K6 million on the Copperbelt and K5

million in Northern.

Ministry of Infrastructure, Housing and Urban Development Permanent Secretary Danny Mfune said this on Friday during the JICA coordinated meeting.

“The roll-out programme in other remaining provinces is underway and works are expected to commence in the second or third quarter of 2022,” Mr Mfune said.

He said the first phase of the project started in February 2015 and was finished in August 2017.

Mr Mfune assured Japan of Zambia's commitment to continue providing for maintenance of bridge

infrastructure in a sustainable manner.

“I would also like to inform you that the implementation of another pilot project for the repair of bridges is expected to commence in April 2022.

“There is also need to build the capacity of our contractors, particularly the small-scale contractors so that they can also effectively participate in the routine maintenance and repair of bridges,” Mr Mfune said.

And RDA director and chief executive officer George Manyele said due to effects of COVID-19, an agreement has been made with stakeholders to have the project extended for

at least one year to allow for smooth completion of works.

“I wish to submit that due to the COVID-19 pandemic, some of the planned activities under the project have either been suspended or halted.

“I wish to thank both the Zambian and Japanese governments for the support they have rendered to the project in the past two years,” Mr Manyele said.

JICA Group chief representative Tokuhashi Kazuhiko pledged Japan's support in ensuring smooth repair of all dilapidated bridges, especially those affected by rains.

Nawakwi hits at stepsons again

CHOMBA MUSIKA
Lusaka

FORUM for Democracy and Development (FDD) president Edith Nawakwi has filed contempt of court proceedings against her stepsons, Mweemba and Mulundu Hambulo, for allegedly interfering in a civil lawsuit she filed against them in the High Court.

Ms Nawakwi says contrary to the Lusaka High Court's directive not to perform any functions as estate administrators, her stepchildren filed a lawsuit against her in the lower court seeking reliefs similar to the ones she has requested.

The 62-year-old widow of late businessman Geoffrey Hambulo submits that her stepsons' actions amount to contempt of court.

This is in a case Ms Nawakwi is seeking an order of injunction

restraining Mweemba and Mulundu from acting as administrators and performing any functions that may affect management of the estate.

The economist also wants the court to revoke letters of administration granted to Mweemba and Mulundu on January 12 this year.

Ms Nawakwi contends that Mweemba and Mulundu allegedly appointed themselves as administrators without consent from her as the surviving spouse.

She also claims that after they acquired the letters of appointment as administrators, the duo perpetually verbally and emotionally harassed her and her workers at her house.

In response, Mulundu alleged that Ms Nawakwi refused to work with him and Mweemba despite the two being the only children of Mr Hambulo

currently residing in Zambia.

Mulundu later filed a criminal lawsuit against Ms Nawakwi, who recently appeared before Lusaka magistrate Nthandose Chalaba for hearing.

In the complaint, Mulundu accused his stepmother of interfering in the administration of their late father's estate.

He also accused Ms Nawakwi of refusing to hand over some properties forming part of the estate of their father, who died on December 5 last year.

But Ms Nawakwi now wants the High Court to cite her stepchildren for contempt of court.

In the application to have them cited, she says in the main lawsuit, the High Court, on January 31 this year, directed that none of the parties should perform actions that may affect the estate of Mr Hambulo.

Ms Nawakwi says on February

17 this year, the court heard an application for an injunction to restrain Mulundu and Mweemba from acting as administrators and reserved February 24 this year as the date for ruling.

“However, contrary to the direction of this honourable court, the alleged contemnors have initiated criminal proceedings against me claiming that I intermeddled with the administration of the estate,” Ms Nawakwi says.

The FDD leader submits that her stepsons' application before the lower court is frivolous, vexatious and aimed at undermining the authority of the High Court.

“This is a proper case in which contempt of court proceedings should be commenced against the alleged contemnors,” she said in her application for an ex parte (one-sided) summons to start contempt of court proceedings.



COMMON Market for Eastern and Southern Africa Secretary General Chileshe Kapwepwe (right), who is also Global Water Partnership Southern Africa (GWPSA) board member, with former Tanzanian President Jakaya Kikwete at the Zanzibar water investment conference.

THE FUTURE FIT BUSINESS

Now and Beyond



Kapumpe Chola Kaunda
FNB Zambia

Zambia reported its first two cases of Covid-19 on Wednesday, March 18, 2020. It is almost two years later and it is now becoming a rarity to hear someone refer to these extraordinary times as the 'new normal,' simply because life as we knew it is long gone.

Without a question, Covid-19 has had an impact on our lives, businesses, and the global economy. The pandemic has tested businesses' agility and resilience, inhibiting growth in some industries while enabling others to thrive, a stark contrast between the tourism and

pharmaceutical & telecoms sectors. Regardless of the side of the coin businesses are on, they have had to learn, and unlearn what they have known as conventional business.

In Zambia, most businesses have had to ensure employee and customer safety in line with the Ministry of Health guidelines and have had to recalibrate their business models to reduce or limit the number of people in their business premises at any given time.

Telecommuting, as well as the infrastructure and technologies that enable it, have become critical components of business decisions. Change or be changed, right? According to Global Workplace Analytics, 44 percent of businesses operate remotely (in the last 4 years), 51 percent (in the last decade), and 159 percent (in the last 12 years).

FNB Zambia was not spared from the pandemic's challenges. Our response was to create a work environment that allowed for telecommuting while ensuring that our clients were not inconvenienced in any manner. In February 2021, we

implemented a work-from-home policy. To ensure that our service delivery was not compromised, we migrated a considerable amount of our customers to our digital channels

A quote by Francis of Assisi reinforces our commitment to constantly innovate, “start by doing what's necessary; then do what's possible; and suddenly you are doing the impossible”.

In this ever-changing environment it is critical that we combine innovation, employee well-being, agility and resilience for effective business continuity.

Almost a year later and we have 60% of our employees working from home across our network. The goal has been to have a blended working model especially in light of the world opening up with increased vaccinations in some areas.

For FNB Zambia, the choice between employee and customer safety and keeping the current operating model was an easy one. What remains a source of contention is how we are prioritizing the health of our employees and customers while continuing to service their requirements and preserve the business, a true test of our innovative nature.

Not only has this enabled us to develop a more resilient workforce, but it has also reinforced our commitment to putting employee wellness first. This was an appropriate response to the pandemic and the way we conduct business.

The writing is on the wall; businesses must consider their options for survival now and in the future. While capacity and readiness vary by business, we believe we are

living in a more digitally advanced world that will enable businesses to provide goods and services to customers with less human interaction while maintaining a high level of customer service and experience.

Businesses have an opportunity to adapt their operating models and thrive, particularly because, even within the Zambian context, we are witnessing a sea change in various sectors as a result of enabling and investing in technology. Digital banking, e-commerce and agency banking are the buzzwords in nearly every sector, as

businesses seek to operate more efficiently and reach more customers speedily and conveniently. For example, eCommerce is a platform in which all sectors, including the public sector, have invested. Banks and telecommunications companies are two notable industries that leverage the eCommerce space.

What is the working formula? Trust in the workforce and make an investment in technology that keeps the business consistently connected and agile. Our response to the pandemic is not a one-size-fits-all and does not necessarily have to be replicated by businesses. Rather, it serves as an example for businesses large and small to rethink their business models and ensure that they are future-ready as change is an unavoidable part of the dynamic environment in which we operate.

Whichever model the business chooses, the objective is to constantly innovate and adapt in order to prioritize the health and safety of customers and employees.

Kapumpe Chola Kaunda is the Head of Corporate & Investment Banking at FNB Zambia