

NEWS LETTER

THBF

Capacity Building and Handing over of a Laptop.



"Our Gwembe branch is currently undergoing capacity building. We recently handed over a brand-new laptop to the team in Gwembe, followed by a financial assessment and team capacity building by our partner, the Zambian Governance Foundation. This is part of our ongoing efforts to build climate resilience and adaptation in our climate-smart project. We appreciate the support."



Kenneth Sichalwe, Grants specialist from ZGF. Offering financial management to the Lukonde team.

TOP NEWS...

- **STRENGTHENING GOVERNANCE CAPACITIES: A COLLABORATIVE ENDEAVOR LED BY MR. NSANA and MARTIN MUTONDO**
- **EMPOWERING LIVINGSTONE LOCALS: THE MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT AND MAYOR DISTRIBUTE CDF TO COOPERATIVES AND BUSINESSES**
- **EMPOWERING ABILITIES: CELEBRATING THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES.**
- **THE CHIEFDOM OF MUSOKOTWANE THRONES CHIEF EASON MUSOKOTWANE**

Thanks to our funders and partners for their unwavering support. Your commitment to community development has transformed lives and fostered sustainable change in rural villages. We appreciate your collaboration as we strive to create a positive impact in underserved communities.



RESTLESS DEVELOPMENT

Disability inclusion is our core Business

Disability Inclusion is our core business. Persons with disabilities are among many vulnerable groups in our society. This is why we have a deliberate approach to inclusion in our activities through sensitization and community meetings in the fight against climate change in Gwembe (Lukonde and Chipepo wards

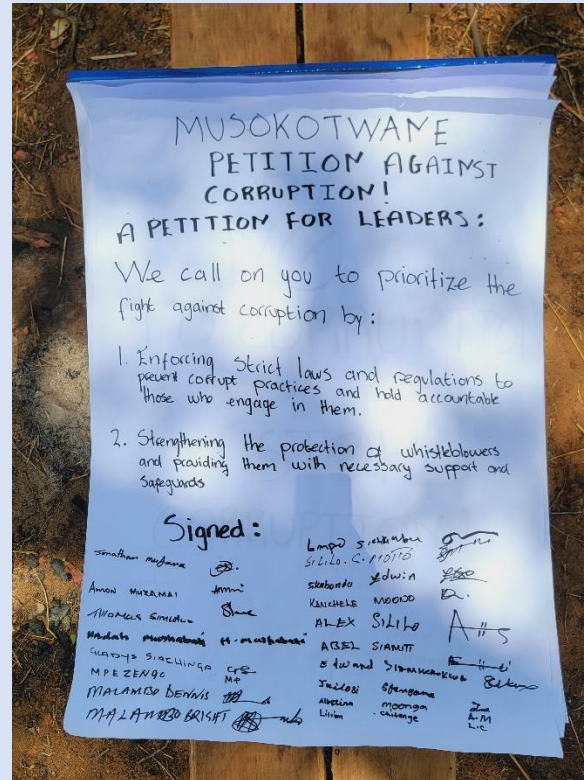
The Chiefdom of Musokotwane Enthrones Chief Eason Musokotwane.



We are immensely proud of our great Chief Eason Musokotwane, whom God has enthroned as a man of great wisdom and leadership. Our organization (THBF) has been working closely with him and his entire chiefdom in fighting corruption. His open-door policy and zero tolerance for corruption have made our work in his chiefdom easy. He leads the fight against corruption and strengthens community voices in demanding accountability for the use of public resources. Recently, his senior headmen signed a

petition against corruption, which was only possible under a brave leader and pioneer like our chief.

We congratulate our chief and wish him a long life, great honor, peace, wisdom, good health, and vitality. May the Lord preserve him from all harm and danger, and may he reign with wisdom and execute with majesty.



“Empowering Abilities: Celebrating the International Day of Persons with Disabilities”

The International Day of Persons with Disabilities is observed on December 3rd each year. And this year it was under the theme, “**United in action to rescue and achieve the SDGs for, with, and by persons with Disabilities**”. It is a significant occasion that draws attention to the rights and abilities of people with disabilities. Recently, various organizations came together to celebrate the resilience, talents, and accomplishments of individuals with disabilities, among which was the [Zambia Agency for Persons with Disabilities](#) (ZAPD). The event served as a platform for showcasing inspiring stories, highlighting how these individuals not only overcome challenges but also contribute significantly to their communities.



Additionally, key stakeholders, including government representatives, outlined plans to foster inclusivity and active participation in the development process.



One of the highlights of the event was the showcase of the talents of individuals with disabilities. Participants from different walks of life exhibited their skills, ranging from art and music to entrepreneurship. During the event, one of the participants, who was a visually impaired artist, gave a live singing performance that captivated the audience. This performance proved that art has no boundaries and can be enjoyed by anyone, regardless of their physical abilities. Another entrepreneur, who has a limb defect, shared their success story of how they work independently to earn income by making and selling doormats. These demonstrations shattered stereotypes, emphasizing that disability does not equate to inability.

Thus, Their Inspirational stories that were shared illustrate how these individuals have not only pursued their passions but also established successful careers despite the challenges they face.

A key theme of the event was the emphasis on economic empowerment for persons with disabilities. Entrepreneurs with various disabilities showcased their businesses, providing insight into how they’ve not only overcome barriers but have also become self-sufficient contributors to the economy. The event highlighted the importance of creating an inclusive business environment that allows individuals with disabilities to thrive and make a meaningful impact. Government representatives and policymakers played a crucial role in the event, taking the stage to articulate their commitment to inclusivity. They



shared ongoing and upcoming initiatives aimed at removing barriers and promoting equal opportunities for persons with disabilities. From accessible infrastructure projects to inclusive education programs, the government emphasized the need for a collaborative effort to create a society that values diversity and recognizes the potential within every individual.

In inclusion, The International Day of Persons with Disabilities commemoration event served as a powerful testament to the capabilities and resilience of individuals with disabilities. By showcasing talents,



entrepreneurial endeavors, and governmental commitment to inclusivity, the event emphasized the message that disability is not a barrier to success. The collaborative efforts of various stakeholders showcased the potential for a more inclusive and supportive society, where everyone, regardless of ability, can actively contribute to and benefit from the development process. As we reflect on this celebration, let us carry forward the momentum to create a world where the abilities of every individual are recognized, appreciated, and fully utilized.

Empowering Communities: Zambian Governance Foundation's Paradigm Shift in Gwembe



To promote community-led development, the Zambian Governance Foundation (ZGF) has implemented a revolutionary approach that empowers people to take charge of their development. Their philosophy is centered around "shifting the power," which means that communities should be given the power to shape their future rather than being passive recipients of external influence.

The Gwembe branch of The Healing Balm Foundation (THBF) is at the forefront of this initiative. Now, ZGF has implemented a training program that goes beyond traditional models and is designed to foster a sense of ownership and urgency within the community. This approach ensures that decisions are made collectively and that they reflect the unique needs and aspirations of Gwembe communities or villages.

The three training sessions were conducted by ZGF in Gwembe to equip selected CSO groups (of which, THBF is one of them) with the knowledge and skills needed to drive their development. The focus is on nurturing local leadership and cultivating self-reliance instead of imposing solutions. This approach recognizes the inherent wisdom within the community and seeks to amplify its voice on matters affecting its well-being.

The "shift the power" philosophy is not about pushing communities in a predetermined direction but rather creating an environment where they can evolve and thrive organically. The Gwembe branch of THBF is an example of participatory development, demonstrating the potential that can be unleashed when communities are given the autonomy to determine their own path in their own environment.

By embracing community-led development in Gwembe, the Zambia Governance Foundation did not just conduct a training program; it is fostering a movement that celebrates the community's resilience, resourcefulness, and collective strength. As power dynamics shift, a new era of sustainable and locally-driven development is emerging, promising a brighter future for the people of Gwembe.



Empowering Livingstone Locals: The Member of Parliament and the Mayor Distribute CDF to Cooperatives and Businesses



In an impressive demonstration of community-focused governance, Livingstone's Member of Parliament (MP) Hon. Rodney Malindi Sikumba, and Constance Nalishebo Muleabai the Mayor have teamed up with other stakeholders to allocate funds from the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) to local cooperatives and businesses. This initiative aims to support entrepreneurial ventures, foster economic growth, and address the specific needs of Livingstone's residents.

Local cooperatives form the backbone of many communities, and Livingstone is no exception. The distribution of CDF to these cooperatives is a strategic move to boost their capacity, enhance productivity, and create sustainable employment opportunities. From agricultural cooperatives to artisanal groups, the funds aim to strengthen the foundation of these enterprises, ensuring they contribute significantly to the local economy.



The CDF is not limited to cooperatives alone; it extends support to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) as well. By injecting funds into these businesses, the government aims to stimulate innovation, foster entrepreneurship, and create a conducive environment for sustainable economic growth. Whether it's a budding tech startup or a traditional craft business, the goal is to provide the necessary resources for these enterprises to thrive.

The distribution of CDF to local cooperatives and businesses is expected to have a positive and lasting impact on Livingstone. By nurturing entrepreneurship, creating job opportunities, and fostering a supportive business environment, the government is contributing to the



overall well-being and prosperity of the community. The ripple effect of this initiative is expected to be felt for years to come.

In conclusion, the collaboration between Livingstone's MP, the Mayor, and other stakeholders in allocating funds from the Constituency Development Fund to local cooperatives and businesses is a testament to their commitment to community-driven development. By empowering local cooperatives and businesses, the Government is not only addressing immediate needs but also laying the foundation for sustained economic growth and prosperity. This initiative serves as a model for effective governance that prioritizes the empowerment of local communities.

Hon. Rodney Malindi Sikumba Unveils New Grader in Livingstone, Boosting Infrastructure Development



On the 29th of December 2023, Livingstone witnessed a significant development as Hon. Rodney Malindi Sikumba commissioned a new grader under the Constituency Development Fund. The state-of-the-art grader will enhance the local infrastructure and foster community growth. It will boost road maintenance and construction efforts in Livingstone, improving connectivity and accessibility for both residents and tourists. Local leaders and residents appreciated the Minister's dedication to the development of Livingstone. The grader stands ready to make a lasting impact, paving the way for a more connected and prosperous community.

Know us and Contact Us

The Healing Balm Foundation is a local non-governmental, not-for-profit and non-partisan organization based in Livingstone along Kafubu Road, stand number A 100 former Works and Supply. We are passionate and driven and we have a bigger heart for the community striving to improve their lives through poverty reduction among the marginalized, the youth, women, girls, persons with disabilities and the aged. We endeavor to bring long-term sustainability measures and let the locals take full ownership of the sustainability strategy that would see them throughout their lives thereby reducing the dependency syndrome in our communities.

The organization is affiliated and registered with the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services, it is also a partner with the Zambia Agency for Persons with Disabilities. The organization has also been nominated to sit on the Ward Development Committees under the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development in more than four wards of Livingstone with its representation of marginalized groups and youths in more than eight wards.

We are working in several areas of Livingstone like; Mulala, Dambwa sit, Highlands, Maramba, Simatobolo and we are closely going into other Parts of Zimba, Kazungula and Kalomo, Simoonga and other surrounding areas. We always use the community approach to bring about the desired change such as engaging traditional leaders, rural community churches, and rural community schools

and create youth-friendly spaces so that youths especially can freely talk about certain pressing issues such as menstrual hygiene, sexual reproductive health and general sanitation.

VISION

To empower and attain an inclusive society were the marginalized youths, women and children including those with disabilities and the aged have equal access to social, economic, educational and moral benefits thus creating a self-sustaining generation.

MISSION

Empowering PWDs, aged, women, Other Vulnerable Children, and the youth out of social marginalization, isolation, and discrimination through income-generating initiatives, skills development activities and provision of access to education for better resource exploitation, management and control for improved quality of life which includes access to clean water and hygiene especially in rural areas.

To improve the knowledge and rights of persons with disabilities by teaching them how to advocate for their rights and their inclusion in society through participating freely and enjoying equal rights and policy formulation contributions in a democratic country like Zambia.



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