



CDF Students Sent to Deregistered College

- Hundreds of publicly funded trainees enrolled despite TEVETA's decision to deregister the institution.

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A MakanDay investigation exposes how public funds meant to empower vulnerable youths may instead be exposing them to uncertainty, poor living conditions and qualifications that may not be recognised.

By Clara Chisenga

Hundreds of vulnerable youths sponsored under Zambia's Constituency Development Fund (CDF) skills development bursary scheme have been enrolled at a training institution that regulators say was deregistered nearly a year ago, raising serious questions about oversight, public spending and the future of students who passed through its programmes.

A MakanDay investigation has established that more than 200 beneficiaries are currently enrolled at Pascal Institute of Operators and Safety in Ndola after the institution had been deregistered by the Technical Education, Vocational and Entrepreneurship Training Authority (TEVETA) for offering programmes outside its approved accreditation.

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Hundreds of CDF Students Enrolled at Deregistered College Despite TEVETA Ban cont...

From front page

By Clara Chisenga

Documents reviewed by MakaanDay, including [TEVETA records](#), revised 2024 CDF Skills Development Guidelines, student testimonies and interviews with public officials, show that publicly funded students continued to be placed at the institution despite regulatory concerns surrounding its operations.

The affected students were enrolled in programmes including excavator operations, forklift operations, mobile crane operations, front loader operations, drilling and fire fighting — courses TEVETA says the institution was not authorised to offer.

The findings raise questions about how local authorities, CDF committees and oversight institutions verify compliance before approving bursary placements and releasing public funds intended to equip young people with employable skills.

Deregistered but still receiving students

Clive Siachiyako, TEVETA's Manager for Corporate Communications, confirmed that Pascal Institute was initially accredited in 2023 to offer Occupational Health and Safety programmes only.

However, he said the institution was deregistered in August 2025 after inspectors found it offering programmes outside the scope of its accreditation.

Siachiyako said the institution was formally notified after failing to comply with TEVETA regulations.

"We have already prepared the necessary legal documents and enforcement action will follow," he said.

"I know it might look like we have taken longer to act, but when conducting investigations you want to present a strong case before the courts so that you can secure a conviction."

He said TEVETA routinely updates local authorities whenever its database of accredited institutions is revised and maintained that certificates issued by Pascal Institute after its deregistration are invalid because

the institution was no longer authorised to provide training.

Siachiyako further disclosed that both TEVETA and Ndola City Council had reported the institution's continued operations to Ndola Central Police Station.

However, Copperbelt Police Commissioner Mwala Yuyi told MakaanDay that police records contained no such report.

"We do not have such a case," Yuyi said.

Meanwhile, Ndola City Council said it was only informed of Pascal Institute's suspension in August 2025 after most of the processes for the 2026 skills development programme had already been completed and 85 students had enrolled awaiting the commencement of classes.

Public Relations Manager Rebecca Mushota said the council had since withheld K828,750 in tuition fees pending the outcome of ongoing investigations.

A review of TEVETA's January 2026 Register of Accredited and Registered Institutions further showed that Pascal Institute does not appear among the 496 institutions authorised to offer accredited programmes in Zambia.

Despite this, publicly funded students continued to be enrolled at the institution.

Councils paid public funds

A source within the Livingstone Central CDF Committee disclosed that at least 44 students under the 2026 CDF intake had enrolled at Pascal Institute.

The source said students are generally free to select institutions of their choice, particularly where certain programmes are unavailable in their home districts.

In a response to MakaanDay, Livingstone City Council Town Clerk Sombo Kawilila said the council paid K555,550 in tuition fees for 41 learners sponsored to study at Pascal Institute this year.

Of the 41 learners, 25 have completed their studies and received certificates, while 16 have completed

approximately 75 percent of their coursework and are awaiting practical driving tests.

Kawilila said the council was unaware that the institution had been deregistered because the TEVETA registration certificate submitted during the application process appeared valid from July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2026.

She added that following a resolution by the CDF Committee on May 12, 2026, the council had stopped sponsoring learners to the institution.

Students left in uncertainty

For many of the students, the bursaries represented a rare opportunity to escape unemployment through government-funded skills training.

Instead, some now fear they could leave the programme with qualifications that may not be recognised.

Several students told MakaanDay they only became aware of questions surrounding the institution's accreditation after they had already enrolled.

Some said courses expected to last only a few weeks had stretched into several months because of delays in practical training and inadequate facilities.

A student from Livingstone currently staying in Ndola said the original group consisted of 33 students but only 13 had completed their programmes. Others were later transferred to Chingola for practical heavy equipment training.

Another student enrolled in an excavator operations course in February said he had completed theoretical lessons but had still not undergone practical training months later.

Other students alleged that some lessons were conducted in rented facilities rather than at approved institutional premises.

Poor accommodation conditions

Beyond questions over accreditation, MakaanDay also found concerns relating to student welfare.

Video footage reviewed by MakaanDay showed overcrowded

boarding facilities where students appeared to be sleeping on thin mattresses spread across floors in cramped and poorly ventilated rooms.

The footage showed limited living space, inadequate storage facilities and conditions that raise concerns about hygiene, privacy and general welfare standards.

Questions over compliance with CDF guidelines

The revised 2024 CDF Skills Development Guidelines require beneficiaries to study only at duly registered TEVET institutions offering accredited programmes at approved premises.

The guidelines further state that training should, where possible, be undertaken within a beneficiary's province unless the required programme is unavailable locally or institutions have reached full capacity.

Yet MakaanDay established that students from constituencies such as Livingstone Central were sponsored to study at Pascal Institute despite regulatory concerns surrounding the institution.

A wider pattern of weak oversight

The concerns emerging from Pascal Institute mirror weaknesses previously identified by the Auditor General.

In the [2023 audit](#) of the Constituency Development Fund, the Auditor General identified weak monitoring systems, poor oversight and cases where councils funded programmes outside approved CDF guidelines.

The audit found that 122 students, representing more than K1.27 million in payments, had been sponsored into programmes that fell outside the intended scope of the skills development initiative.

The Auditor General's 2024 report also highlighted recurring weaknesses in internal controls and compliance across several local authorities.

Previous [MakaanDay investigations](#) in Mufulira similarly uncovered allegations of political favouritism,

Hundreds of CDF Students Enrolled cont...

manipulation of beneficiary records, ghost guardians and weak oversight in the allocation of government-funded bursaries.

Questions over ownership and accountability

PACRA records reviewed by MakaanDay identify Amon Mumba as the proprietor of Pascal Institute of Operators and Safety.

Further investigations established that Mumba was also seeking adoption as a parliamentary candidate for the ruling United Party for National Development (UPND) in Msanzala Constituency ahead of the August 13, 2026 general elections.

Campaign materials and public posts reviewed by MakaanDay identified him as a prospective candidate promoting President Hakainde Hichilema's development agenda.

Efforts to obtain a response from Mumba regarding the institution's accreditation status, student enrolment, and concerns raised by students were unsuccessful. Although he repeatedly promised interviews when contacted by phone, he had not provided any responses by the time of publication.

Public funds, uncertain futures

While TEVETA says Pascal Institute has been deregistered, is operating illegally and cannot issue valid certificates, more than 200 vulnerable youths have already passed through its programmes using public funds intended to equip them with employable skills.

The case now raises broader questions about whether councils, CDF committees and regulatory institutions have adequate safeguards to prevent public funds from being channelled to institutions that are not legally authorised to train students.

MakaanDay also sought a response from the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development, which oversees the administration of the Constituency Development Fund. However, a ministry official referred all queries relating to the sponsorship of students at Pascal Institute to Ndola City Council, saying the local authority was best placed to respond on matters concerning the selection and sponsorship of beneficiaries.

Chinese Mining Firm Faces Supreme Court Test Over Zambia Toxic Spill

More than a year after Zambia's toxic spill disaster, over 170 families are still fighting for justice

From page 1

More than a year after a toxic waste spill devastated farms, polluted water sources and altered lives, 177 residents of Kalusale, a community in Kalulushi Zambia's Copperbelt Province about 380 kilometres north of the capital, Lusaka, are preparing for another battle — this time in the Supreme Court.

On 3 June 2026, the Supreme Court sitting in Kabwe, Central Province, will hear an appeal by Sino Metals Leach Zambia Limited, a subsidiary of the state-owned China Nonferrous Metal Mining Group (CNMC), against a High Court decision that allowed a landmark constitutional petition filed by affected residents to proceed. The petition also cites NFC Africa Mining Plc, within whose mining area the tailings dams were located, as a respondent.

Sino Metals and NFC Mining are private limited companies involved in mining activities in Chambishi in Kalulushi district of the Copperbelt, with Sino Metals' operations, including an open-pit mine, concentrator plant, and tailings storage dams, located within NFC Mining's Surface Area and plant boundary.

At the heart of the case is the February 2025 collapse of multiple tailings dams, which discharged vast quantities of acidic and toxic waste into the Chambishi Stream, Mwambashi River and Kafue River system, triggering what many experts and affected communities describe as one of Zambia's worst mining-related environmental disasters in recent decades.

Tailings dams are large engineered structures used to store waste left behind after minerals are extracted from ore. The waste often contains heavy metals, acidic compounds and processing chemicals that can pose serious risks to people and the environment if containment systems fail.

The hearing is expected to become a major test of corporate accountability

in Zambia's mining sector. At stake is not only whether the affected families will have their day in court, but also whether communities living alongside large-scale mining operations can successfully challenge powerful mining interests when environmental disasters destroy livelihoods and contaminate critical water sources.

Sino Metals, which has been carrying out cleanup and remediation activities in the affected area, has appealed the High Court's decision to allow the constitutional petition to proceed after the court rejected the company's application to dismiss the case.

For the residents of Kalusale, the case is about far more than legal arguments.

Before 18 February 2025, many families say they relied on the Chambishi Stream, Mwambashi River and the Kafue River for drinking water, farming, fishing and livestock rearing. Small-scale agriculture sustained most households and provided food security for the community. Then disaster struck.

Crops Destroyed, Livelihoods Lost

The petitioners argue that the pollution transformed a once self-sufficient farming community into one struggling for survival.

Farmers say crops were destroyed and some agricultural fields became unsafe for cultivation. Some residents were reportedly warned against harvesting maize because of contamination concerns. Livestock deaths were reported, fish stocks declined and many households lost their primary source of income.

More than a year later, many residents say recovery remains elusive. Previous investigations by MakaanDay found that some farmers were still unable to cultivate portions of their land because of contamination concerns, while uncertainty continued to surround the long-term safety of affected farmland.



Clara Chisenga is a journalist from Radio Icengelo in Kitwe. She is currently undertaking a three-month internship at MakaanDay after earning third place in the 2025 MakaanDay Awards for Investigative Journalism.

Chinese Mining Firm Faces Supreme Court Test Over Zambia Toxic Spill cont...

Farmer Peter Shula, one of the affected residents, says many families remain unconvinced that conditions have returned to normal.

“They told us the fields were restored and the wells were safe, but our experience says otherwise,” Shula previously told MakaanDay.

Kalusale area chairperson Bernard Njovu has previously criticised compensation efforts.

“Looking at the figures which the company is making, personally as a farmer I think that compensation was just a scam because it was not real compensation,” Njovu told MakaanDay.

“It was like they were just giving money to help people cope with the situation while waiting for proper compensation.”

The contamination also disrupted domestic water supplies. Residents say streams and wells that had sustained communities for generations became unsafe for drinking, cooking and irrigation, forcing many families to depend on alternative water sources.

The impact extended far beyond Kalusale.

The affected waterways feed into the Kafue River system, one of Zambia's most important sources of water for domestic, agricultural and industrial use. Authorities temporarily shut down water treatment facilities serving Kitwe following the disaster amid fears of contamination.

Environmental specialists warn that pollution from mining waste can persist for years if not properly remediated, particularly where heavy metals and acidic compounds contaminate soils, groundwater and river systems.

Health Concerns Persist

The petitioners also allege that the spill triggered health problems among affected residents.

Court documents cite reports of diarrhoea, skin irritations and respiratory complications following exposure to polluted water and surrounding environments.

Although the company provided water to some households after the disaster, petitioners argue that the assistance

was insufficient and left many residents with limited options.

They further allege that ongoing earth-moving activities in the area continue to generate contaminated dust, raising concerns about long-term exposure and health risks.

For many families, uncertainty remains one of the greatest burdens. Residents say they still do not know the full extent of the environmental damage or what long-term health consequences they may face.

The Fight for Accountability

In September 2025, Peter Shula and 176 other affected residents filed a constitutional petition, arguing that the disaster had violated rights guaranteed under Zambia's Constitution, including the rights to life, human dignity, property, and a clean and healthy environment.

The petition seeks emergency relief, environmental restoration, healthcare support, compensation for losses and the creation of a fund to finance long-term remediation efforts.

Residents argue that compensation paid to some affected households does not reflect the scale of losses resulting from destroyed crops, livestock deaths, loss of income, environmental degradation and ongoing uncertainty.

They are also seeking compensation for personal injuries, increased health risks, emotional distress, relocation costs and the loss of use and enjoyment of their land and natural resources.

The petition further asks the court to order comprehensive environmental rehabilitation and guarantee independent expert access to affected areas.

In November 2025, the High Court rejected Sino Metals' attempt to have the matter dismissed, allowing the constitutional petition to proceed. The company subsequently appealed, leading to this week's Supreme Court hearing.

The Southern Africa Litigation Centre is supporting the petitioners, who are represented by Messrs. Malambo and Company Advocates and Messrs. Lusitu Chambers.



According to one of the lawyers representing the petitioners, the appeal scheduled for hearing before the Supreme Court on 3 June relates primarily to the procedural arguments raised by Sino Metals in its attempt to have the petition in the High Court struck out.

At its heart, the dispute raises broader questions about access to justice, environmental protection and whether communities affected by industrial disasters can obtain meaningful remedies when powerful corporate interests are involved.

The appeal comes amid continuing scrutiny of the contrast between community recovery efforts and the financial performance of the mining group.

Earlier reporting by MakaanDay found that CNMC reported strong profits and substantial shareholder payouts in the months following the disaster, even as affected communities continued seeking long-term compensation and environmental restoration.

More Than a Court Case

Environmental advocates say the outcome could shape how Zambia addresses corporate accountability for environmental harm, particularly as the country seeks to expand mining production to meet growing global demand for critical minerals.

Activist David Ngwenyama has described the case as one of the most significant environmental justice matters currently before Zambia's courts, warning that its outcome could have far-reaching implications for accountability

in the mining sector as the government pushes to expand mineral production.

“Ignoring this matter would set a dangerous precedent for future mining operations and send the wrong message to investors about environmental accountability,” he said.

“We hope and pray that the court will act independently in this matter. For me, the judiciary is the last resort because when affected communities cannot obtain redress from regulators or the executive, their only remaining option is to seek justice through the courts.”

For the families of Kalusale, however, the issues remain deeply personal.

While lawyers debate legal principles in courtrooms, many residents say they are still waiting for clean water, restored livelihoods and assurances that their environment can recover.

On 3 June, those hopes will once again be placed before Zambia's highest court. For the residents behind the case, the question is no longer simply who is responsible for the disaster, but whether justice can still be delivered more than a year after their lives were turned upside down.

The Road to Justice: Key Moments in the Kalusale Pollution Case

- 18 February 2025 – Multiple tailings dams (TD15F, TD15E, TD15D, RD15C, TD15B, TD15A) operated by Sino Metals collapsed, releasing an estimated 900 million litres of toxic effluent into the Chambishi Stream, Mwambashi River and Kafue River system

Chinese Mining Firm Faces Supreme Court Test Over Zambia Toxic Spill cont...

- 19–21 February 2025 – ZEMA confirms extensive contamination; Zambian Parliament acknowledges the disaster
- March–April 2025 – Ministries and independent researchers confirm unsafe heavy metal levels; US and Finnish embassies issue evacuation advisories
- July 2025 – A limited compensation scheme is launched, excluding most households and requiring petitioners to sign broad liability waivers
- 12 September 2025 – 176 residents file constitutional petition (Cause No. 2025/HP/1285) in the High Court of Zambia

- 31 October 2025 – Sino Metals files application to dismiss the petition
- 17 November 2025 – High Court dismisses all grounds in Sino Metals’ application; case to proceed
- 6 April 2026 – Sino Metals files an appeal against the High Court decision to refuse to dismiss the petition
- 3 June 2026 – Supreme Court to hear Sino Metals’ appeal (Appeal No. 8/2026)

Further Reading: visit <http://makanday.org>

minerals”—minerals like copper, manganese, and zinc -- needed for the energy transition, digitalization, defense, and other purposes. China, the United States, and other industrialized countries have been ramping up efforts to access minerals in Zambia and other mining countries. But the global rush for minerals should not turn into a race to the bottom at the expense of people’s health and the environment.

Residents in mining areas are no longer standing by while companies pollute their land, water, and air. Last September, a group of Zambians filed a lawsuit against Sino Metals, demanding compensation. And in April, Kabwe residents filed a complaint with the African Committee of

Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, the African Union child rights body, alleging that the Zambian government had failed to protect them from the harm of lead mine waste. The complaint reflects the aspirations of many affected children. Their demand is simple: a healthy environment, accountability, and a future free from toxic pollution.

Joyce from Kabwe is among those supporting the African Union complaint. Speaking at the launch event, she called for an environmental clean-up of Kabwe and declared, “Children in Kabwe also have dreams. ... we want to have a bright future.”

Juliane Kippenberg is children’s rights associate director at Human Rights Watch.

COMMENT

World Environment Day: Zambia’s Mining Pollution Victims Need Justice

Mining Should Not Come at the Expense of Human Rights

By Juliane Kippenberg

Mining pollution has been a fact of life for 15-year-old “Joyce” as long as she can remember. Joyce, whose real name is different, lives in the Zambian city of Kabwe, where mining for lead and zinc began during the British colonial period and continued for decades. Extracting minerals from the mine’s lead waste continues. As a result, Kabwe is now one of the most lead-polluted places globally: up to 200,000 people—particularly children—are exposed to lead, and many suffer from lead poisoning.

Today, June 5, is World Environment Day. The Zambian government commemorates this day with radio and TV shows, public events, and activities. One poster calls on citizens: “Be part of the solution, not the pollution.” But this rhetoric has not translated into tough action on the companies that pollute.

In Kabwe, South African, Chinese and local businesses have been extracting and processing zinc and other minerals from the former mine’s toxic lead waste, risking the health of residents.

The government has issued mining and processing licences for these companies, some of which are led by ruling party officials or have otherwise been linked to the ruling party.

In the Kanona area of Serenje district, workers at a manganese plant have suffered severe and chronic health problems from manganese exposure. The foreign-owned company has reportedly offered housing to some affected workers. However, despite campaigns by activists and a 2025 parliamentary visit, concerns about pollution and worker protection remain unresolved.

In the Copperbelt, the 2025 dam breach at a Chinese-owned copper mine, Sino Metals, caused the release of toxic waste into the Kafue River, putting residents at grave risk of cancer and threatening the livelihood of millions. The government has downplayed the risks and allowed Sino Metals to resume operations. The company has apologised.

These environmental disasters are taking place in the context of a global rush on “critical



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44 likes 9 shares

Bonnie Bleazard · 2d
I hope your articles are being shared with international media houses and environmental conservation groups along with UN human rights this a serious life affecting case to answer disappointing to note that the mining companies involved haven't offered to build clinics to treat and monitor families with the long term effects , another Kabwe in the making 😞

Malama Kampamba · 1d
they've blocked a stream near musakashi sch as u go to chingola now the stream is turning into a river n lives are being lost in that stream

Mark Hemsworth · 1d
The upcoming Supreme Court hearing on June 3rd is massive, but it leaves a major question unanswered: What happened to the independent assessment by the South African firm originally hired to look at the spill? According to investigative reporting by MakaanDay, that initial report suggested the environmental impact and heavy metal levels (like arsenic and uranium) were drastically higher than early official estimates before the firm's contract was abruptly terminated. If the courts don't allow this petition to move forward, will that critical data ever see the light of day?

LEAVING PARLIAMENT, NOT POLITICS: Kang'ombe Reflects on Politics, PF and Zambia's Future

By Clara Chisenga

At 41, Christopher Kang'ombe is walking away from elective office at a time when many politicians are only beginning to consolidate their careers.

After more than two decades in public leadership — first as a councillor, then Mayor of Kitwe, and later Member of Parliament for Kamfinsa — Kang'ombe says he is stepping back from electoral politics to focus on mentorship, policy advocacy and what he describes as a larger role in shaping national conversations.

But while he is leaving Parliament, he insists he is not leaving politics.

“I don't know if I can call it a break,” Kang'ombe said in an interview. “I think it is a transition into a different role that demands more community work and mentorship. But it is not the last time people are going to see Christopher participating in politics because politics affects people every day.”

His decision has attracted attention within political circles, particularly because he remains one of the former ruling Patriotic Front (PF)'s most recognisable young leaders and has often been viewed as a potential contender for higher office in the future.

Kang'ombe's public service journey began more than 20 years ago when he was elected councillor for Riverside Ward in Kitwe while still a student at the Copperbelt University. He initially served as an independent before later joining the Patriotic Front (PF). He went on to serve as Mayor of Kitwe from 2016 to 2021 before winning the Kamfinsa parliamentary seat in the 2021 general elections.

“When you look at it holistically, I have been serving the community at different levels,” he said.

He says one of the key motivations behind his decision is a desire to spend more time helping young people prepare for leadership roles and higher education opportunities.

“In my work as Mayor and Member of Parliament, many young people would approach me with development

proposals, empowerment ideas and business plans. I have realised there is a huge need for mentorship and guidance.”

Kang'ombe believes the knowledge he has accumulated through public service and academic studies can now be used differently. Apart from engineering, he later pursued a Master's Degree in Economic Policy and says he now feels equipped to contribute more through public lectures, policy analysis and leadership development programmes.

“I have reached a stage where I can offer advisory services on leadership, governance, economic policy and public administration. It is important to remain relevant and continue contributing to society.”



Looking Back at Kamfinsa

Reflecting on his tenure as MP, Kang'ombe says one of his proudest achievements was using Parliament as a platform to advocate for development projects in Kamfinsa Constituency.

He cited road infrastructure, water projects and youth empowerment programmes among the issues he consistently raised.

“I am proud of the opportunity I was given to serve.

However, Kangombe believes many Zambians still misunderstand the role of an MP.

Every time there were concerns about water supply, sewer blockages, title deeds or infrastructure development, we raised those issues in Parliament.”

“The role of an MP is not to provide food at funerals. That is voluntary community work,” he said.

“The real responsibility of an MP is to make laws, approve the national budget and ensure resources are allocated towards development projects that benefit citizens.”

Lessons from the Opposition Benches

He encouraged aspiring parliamentarians to make greater use of research tools such as the Parliamentary Library and to actively participate in parliamentary debates.

“People want to see their MPs active in Parliament. Preparation is what allows you to contribute meaningfully.”

Kang'ombe also revealed that some motions he introduced were unsuccessful because of political divisions.

One example was his proposal advocating for a 24-hour economy. “At the time, the motion was rejected. Today, government is promoting a 24-hour economy. These are conversations we could have started much earlier.”

He says Parliament should move towards evaluating ideas on merit rather than political affiliation.

“If a proposal is good, let it be considered. If it is bad, let people debate it intellectually.”

Parliamentary Independence

Kang'ombe believes one of the challenges facing Zambia's legislature is the political nature of its leadership structure.

“The Speaker is produced by the political party that forms government. That reality naturally creates perceptions of bias,” he said.

He challenged students and researchers to examine how other democracies organise their legislative institutions and whether alternative models could strengthen parliamentary independence.

At the same time, he stressed that fairness ultimately depends on individuals understanding and respecting their responsibilities.

The Future of the PF

Kangombe says the difficulties currently facing the PF were largely predictable.

According to him, internal disputes and competing claims to leadership weakened the former ruling party and reduced its ability to function as an effective opposition force.

LEAVING PARLIAMENT, NOT POLITICS: Kang'ombe Reflects on Politics, PF and Zambia's Future cont...

“The warning signs were there long ago,” he said.

Zambians revel in dispensing high-minded praise even when they don't really mean it.

And therein lies the catch. Because as soon as leadership climbs to its peak, it soon begins its descent.

He believes the PF's internal divisions significantly damaged its prospects ahead of the 2026 general elections.

Political Alliances

On opposition alliances, Kang'ombe says cooperation between political parties can be beneficial if it is built on shared values and policy positions.

“What is the common agenda? What are the shared positions on agriculture, mining, education or governance?” he asked.

“Political alliances should be based on ideas and policies, not simply on winning elections.”

Looking Ahead

Despite stepping away from elective politics, Kang'ombe insists he is not retiring from public life.

In fact, he hinted that his political journey may not be over.

“The remaining position in public service is obviously the Presidency,” he said.

“But you do not simply wake up and contest for the Presidency. You plan, reflect and organise before presenting yourself to the people.”

While declining to elaborate further, Kangombe suggested that his current transition should not be interpreted as political withdrawal.

Instead, he says he is preparing for a larger role in shaping national conversations around governance, economic development and leadership.

The Future of Zambia

Looking ahead, Kangombe believes Zambia's democracy must evolve towards issue-based politics and stronger institutions.

“We need political parties founded on principles and ideas, not simply on the desire to acquire power,” he said.

He also called for reforms in areas such as land ownership, healthcare access and economic participation.

Particular emphasis, he said, should be placed on ensuring ordinary citizens benefit more directly from sectors such as mining, agriculture and energy.

“We need to ask ourselves how Zambians can own the economy,” he said.

“Economic growth must translate into greater participation by citizens.”

Advice To Young People

For young people aspiring to enter politics, Kang'ombe's message is simple: participate.

“Whether you win or lose, history will show that you offered yourself for public service,” he said.

He believes leadership is developed through experience and encourages young people not to be discouraged by limited resources or early setbacks.

“I was not the same leader 20 years ago. Leadership is something you learn at every stage.”

As he prepares for life outside Parliament, Kang'ombe says he hopes people will remember him as someone who rose from Ndeke Township in Kitwe and dedicated much of his life to serving the people of Kamfinsa.

And although his parliamentary chapter may be ending, he insists his contribution to public life is far from over.

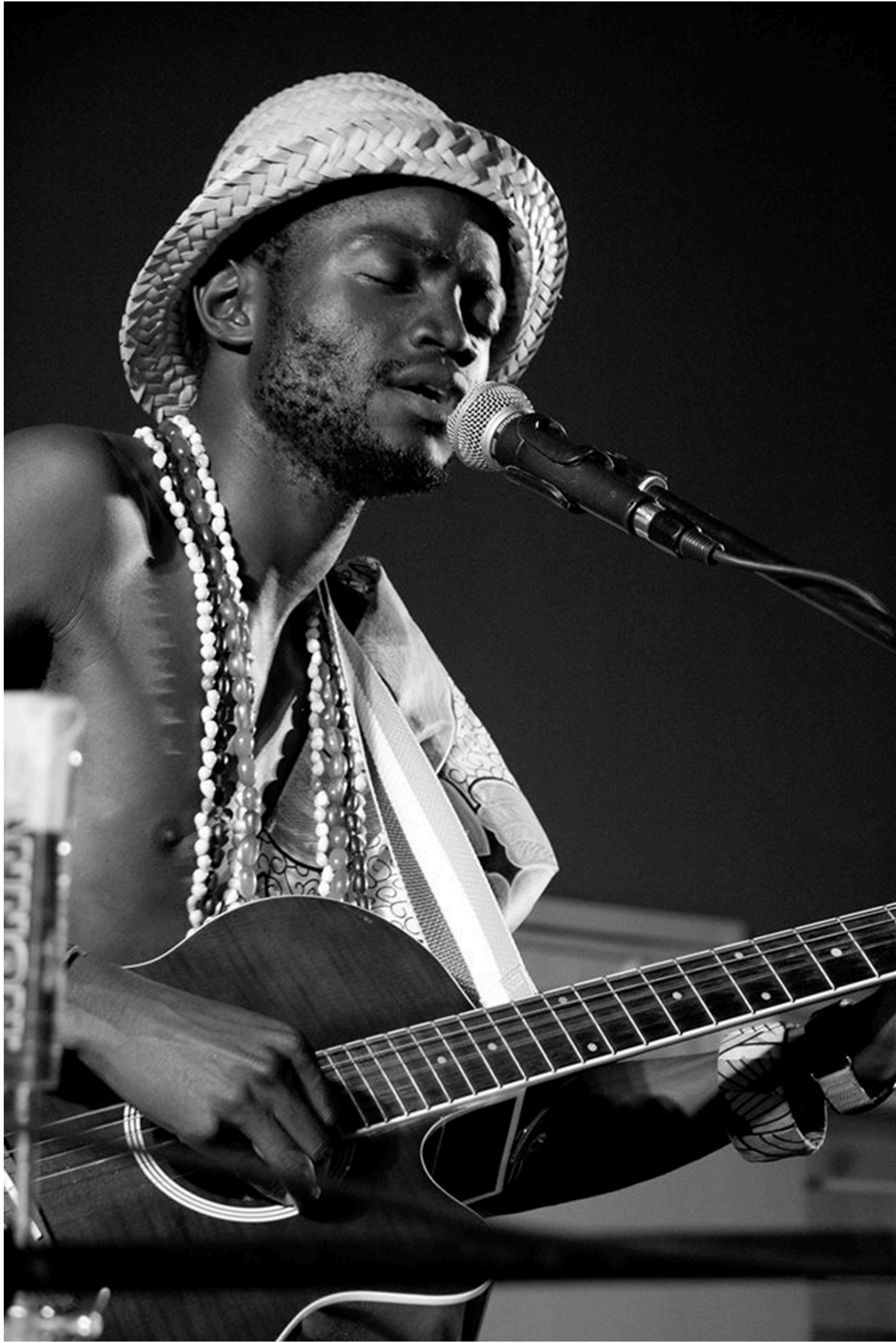
Additional reporting by Kennedy Mbewe Jr



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Looking Back

The music of a man who carries the world's pain on his shoulders



By Hope Mkunte

Zambian musician Mumba Yachie was destined make a mark: when most children his age made wire cars or watched cartoons on TV, he learned how to play the guitar -- and he has never looked back. His latest album, *Mukambo*, won him a Best Traditional Album accolade in the 2014 Zambian Music Awards.

With three albums to his credit, Mumba Yachie's music is unique; it has that old school Kalindula feel but is laced with modern day stories. He rose to fame following the release of his first album *Inspire Me*, which has such heartfelt songs like *Webucushi*, *What Have You Done To Me?* and *We Mwana Wandu*, acoustic melodies that were a breath of fresh air in an auto tune- saturated Zambian music industry.

Mumba Yachie's work seems simple, but as always simplicity is often a trait of great achievement. But there is a sophistication about him that can only be understood when the listener hears his soulful music. It is the sophistication of a man who carries the world's pain on his shoulders, able to tell people's stories with his voice and guitar.

Asked where he gets the inspiration to sing such touching songs, he smiles and looks down before answering: “The music I do is what everyone feels in their hearts, the things I talk about... people feel them so I always feel like my music is real. I sing about what I see, trying to compare my own suffering with other people. I always feel bad when I see beggars in the

The music of a man who carries the world's pain on his shoulders cont...

street and there is no one to help them so I have to tell their stories. Songs like We Buchushi speak about what poor people experience.”

His second and third albums Mongu Rice and Mukambo were released within two months of each other, a feat that no Zambian artist had achieved to that point. He explains the meaning of the titles of the albums: “Mukambo is the village where I come from in the Copperbelt near Mufulira, because you have to know where you are coming from to know where you are going.

My first album was called Inspire Me and on this album I was inspired to reflect where I come from. Mongu Rice is me trying to emphasize the need we have as a nation to diversify, because you know we depend a lot on copper and other minerals, but we have other sources of income such as Mongu rice, which we can export to other countries. There are countries like Uruguay which just produces bananas and they make billions from exporting bananas, why can't we do the same with rice and other cash crops...?”

Mongu Rice, a 13-track album with publishing from Inzy, was released in November 2013 and is available from online stores such as iTunes and Amazon. The physical CD is coming out this year. Kantemya ntemya (Fire Fly), the lead single from the album is already getting many views on youtube, thanks to its music video that was produced by Vaticce, the graphics guru behind Inzy. Mumba offers some insight on the song. “Right now we are promoting Kantemya ntemya , on TV as well as on social media such as youtube.”

Kantemya ntemya is a love song and Mumba explains how the song materialised. “In this song I compare a firefly to a woman because, you see, when I was a child I used to follow the fireflies trying to catch them, but now that I am a man my woman is my firefly and she fascinates me the same way the firefly did when I was a child.”

Inzy has been instrumental in marketing Mumba Yachie's music for an international audience. He got signed to Inzy in 2010 and

Mumba recalls how the deal came about. He says, “Vaticce discovered my music and was impressed with it so he offered that we work together. I can remember very well that was on December 4, 2010 and then we started recording Mongu Rice in 2012.”

Mumba Yachie also plays the bongos, drums and the shakers. Almost all of his music skills are self-taught. His talent is home-grown, it goes way back to when he would hum melodies to himself while he helped his parents on their farm. His father took a keen interest in his son's music, even going as far as sponsoring his first album. There is a glint in his eyes when Mumba speaks about this. “While I was recording my first album I was also helping my parents. My father was the executive producer for my first album. He gave me money for a studio and said, “I believe in you, go and record your album” and now that I have three albums out he is happy that I am self-reliant and I am still doing what he helped me start. I perform at different places such as Bongwe and lodges but my biggest show was at Alliance Francaise last year. I don't want to play big shows yet because I am still perfecting my art and still learning a lot.”

Mumba owes a lot to his parents, not only for their support but also for how he was raised. He speaks fondly of them. “My parents are farmers and business people back in Mukambo. I am always thankful to my parents because they gave me a good childhood, because I never saw the troubles in families that I see today, like divorces. I thank them a lot for giving me that family education. I always want to help them now that I get some money but my parents said “there will be a time when we will ask from you, but for now build your life and settle down and then you can think of helping us.”

As we close the interview we drift into personal matters and Mumba, real names Mumba Yamfwa Chitenta, whispers that he is expecting. “My firefly is pregnant and I want the baby to be a girl, I love girls,” he says.

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