



Installed at Last But the Battle Isn't Over

A chief who has finally been installed after a 24-year succession battle, yet whose struggle exposes unresolved tensions between customary authority, the courts and the state in Zambia's traditional governance system.

By Linda Soko in Lufwanyama

As women laid colourful chitenge cloth before his feet and drums echoed across Nkana Chiefdom in Lufwanyama District on May 22, Paul Lubunga walked towards a throne he had spent more than two decades fighting to claim.

To the thousands who travelled to Chief Nkana's palace in Chembe, about 13 kilometres from Kalulushi town, the ceremony represented far more than the installation of a traditional leader. For many, it marked the culmination of a 24-year succession dispute that had divided the chiefdom and generated years of litigation.

Yet even as supporters celebrated what they described as the restoration of legitimate leadership, the dispute remained far from settled. A rival claimant, Godfrey Shamanena, continues to insist he is the rightful Chief Nkana, while Lubunga remains engaged in separate court proceedings concerning his formal recognition by the state.

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Supreme Court Says Government Must Be Heard in Landmark Sino Metals Toxic Spill Case

- Judges say environmental harm may take years to emerge as 177 residents pursue constitutional claims over the 2025 spill.

By Charles Mafa in Kabwe

The Supreme Court has directed that the Government of Zambia be joined to a case in which Sino Metals Leach Zambia Limited, a subsidiary of the state-owned China Nonferrous Metal Mining Group (CNMC), is challenging a High Court decision allowing a constitutional petition by affected residents to proceed.

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From front page

By Linda Soko in Lufwanyama

The result is an unusual situation: a chief installed through customary processes, supported by sections of the royal establishment and accepted by many of his subjects, yet still awaiting a court decision that could determine whether the government formally recognises his status and the privileges attached to the office.

A throne contested for more than two decades

The succession dispute traces its origins to 1999 following the death of Senior Chief Nkana, Joseph Mutupa. What began as a disagreement over succession gradually evolved into one of Zambia's longest-running traditional leadership disputes, with rival camps advancing competing interpretations of lineage, legitimacy and customary succession procedures.

Tensions intensified in 2002 when Godfrey Shamanena declared himself Chief Nkana, seeking to fill the vacancy left by Mutupa's death. The move triggered a fresh round of legal challenges. Backed by many members of the royal family, Lubunga contested Shamanena's claim and embarked on a protracted court battle, arguing that the throne rightfully belonged to his lineage under customary law.

At the heart of the dispute are competing claims over succession, with rival camps advancing different interpretations of which royal lineage is entitled to provide the next chief. Over the years, the matter has moved repeatedly between traditional structures and the courts, deepening divisions within the chieftdom.

A series of court decisions gradually strengthened Lubunga's position. A ruling delivered on January 13, 2023, cleared the way for his installation on April 19, 2024, when Senior Chieftainess Mushili installed him as Chief Nkana VIII in a ceremony that many supporters viewed as bringing the long-running succession dispute closer to resolution.

A day of celebration

From the early hours of the morning, residents from across the chieftdom gathered

to witness the ceremony. Traditional songs filled the air as cultural dance groups performed before crowds dressed in colourful attire.

The arrival of Chief Nkana VIII alongside Senior Chieftainess Mushili Joyce Katampi of the Lamba people of Masaiti District was greeted with ululations, singing and applause.

Supporters laid chitenge cloth on the ground as a symbolic gesture of honour while members of the royal family, traditional leaders and community members participated in the celebrations.

For many residents, the ceremony symbolised hope that years of uncertainty and division within the chieftdom could finally be put behind them.



Rival claimant rejects installation

Not everyone agrees. Shamanena, who says to have served as Chief Nkana for 24 years, maintains that he remains the legitimate traditional leader. Speaking to MakoDay, he dismissed Lubunga's installation and described him as an illegitimate claimant.

"He is not the chief, and all the ceremonies he is conducting are fraudulent," Shamanena said.

He further alleged that the installation ceremony never took place because police officers dispersed the gathering before proceedings could begin. However, MakoDay attended the ceremony and observed it proceeding without disruption.

Shamanena also maintained that he possesses documents recognising him as Chief Nkana and argued that the government does not recognise Lubunga's claim. According to him, further court proceedings relating to the dispute are expected to continue.

Traditional authority defends the process

Senior Chieftainess Mushili strongly defended Lubunga's installation, insisting that the succession process followed established Lamba customary procedures. According to her, responsibility for identifying and selecting traditional leaders rests with the Ngalamwe Council of Elders, which is mandated to determine succession matters within the royal establishment.

his group as custodians of the succession process. He explained that traditional structures function as referees in succession disputes, ensuring that chiefs are selected according to established customs and family lineage.

According to Litana, Queen Mothers within the Ngalamwe royal establishment play a central role in tracing eligible candidates through maternal family lines before recommending a successor.

"There is often competition among those aspiring to become chiefs, but the rightful chief is the one who has followed the traditional process," he said.

Installed, but still seeking Government recognition

Despite his installation, questions surrounding Lubunga's official recognition remain the subject of ongoing court proceedings.

According to court documents, Lubunga has petitioned the courts seeking declarations relating to his status and recognition as Chief Nkana, arguing that decisions made through traditional processes and subsequent legal proceedings should be given effect. The matter was heard in chambers on May 28, and judgment has been scheduled for August 6.

Until the matter is determined, Lubunga has not been formally recognised by the government as Chief Nkana. As a result, he does not currently enjoy certain benefits ordinarily associated with government-recognised chiefs, including access to a government salary, official residence and other privileges attached to the office.

The question of recognition also has implications for the administration of the chieftdom. Traditional leaders play an important role in land allocation, local dispute resolution, development initiatives and engagement with government institutions. Supporters of Lubunga argue that uncertainty over recognition has complicated efforts to provide clear leadership and representation

"The Ngalamwe Council identifies a suitable person to govern the chieftdom and hands over the mandate. The subjects themselves are the only ones with the power to reject a chosen leader if they believe that person is incapable of leading them," she said.

She argued that succession to the throne is hereditary and should not be influenced by politics or external interests.

The Chieftainess further said previous court decisions had not supported Shamanena's claim to the throne and maintained that traditional structures had consistently identified Lubunga as the successor.

The custodians of tradition

Patrick Litana of the Goat Clan,¹ Abena Mbushi, described

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for the chiefdom, while critics maintain that the dispute itself must first be conclusively resolved.

MakanDay sought comment from the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development, which oversees traditional leadership in Zambia, but no response had been received by the time of publication.

A national problem

The Nkana dispute is not an isolated case. The growing tendency for succession disputes to end up in court is becoming a concern across Zambia. Although no comprehensive figures are available, numerous traditional leadership disputes are currently being litigated.

Chief Chamuka of the Lenje people in Chisamba warned that prolonged succession disputes can weaken community cohesion and create uncertainty over land and resource management. He argued that such disputes should primarily be resolved through traditional structures, with courts playing a limited supervisory role.

"If we allow such cases to be settled within the royal family, there is usually quicker resolution compared to taking them to court," Chief Chamuka said. "Court processes often take a long time, and prolonged disputes disadvantage communities on the ground."

As a long-term solution, Chief Chamuka proposed legislation that would grant greater authority to the House of Chiefs to adjudicate succession disputes before they reach the courts.

The future of the Nkana throne

At Chief Nkana's palace, the celebrations have faded and daily life has resumed. After 24 years of dispute, Lubunga now sits on the Nkana throne following his installation by traditional authorities.

Yet the broader questions raised by the dispute—about succession, recognition and the role of the courts in traditional leadership—remain unresolved, ensuring that the story of the Nkana throne is not quite over

- **The Goat Clan, known as the Abena Mbushi, holds a significant traditional role as custodians of the Abena Mishishi chieftaincy. Whenever there is a vacancy on the throne, members of the Abena Mbushi clan are entrusted with safeguarding the chieftaincy, preserving its traditions, and protecting the authority associated with the office.**
- **Until a successor from the Abena Mishishi clan is identified and installed, the Abena Mbushi assume responsibility for overseeing the affairs of the kingdom and ensuring continuity in traditional governance. Their role is to act as caretakers during periods of transition, protecting the throne and upholding customary practices.**
- **Once a new chief is installed, the custodians formally transfer authority to the traditional leader. During the recent installation ceremony, Patrick Litana, representing the Abena Mbushi clan, attended the event to formally hand over custodianship and traditional authority to Paul Lubunga, marking the completion of the transition and the assumption of office by Chief Nkana VIII.**

Registered to Deceive: How Online Investment Schemes Exploit Regulatory Gaps to Scam Zambians

By Christian Kasonde | Kasama

They promised wealth, financial freedom and a better life.

For many Zambians struggling to make ends meet, the promises sounded too good to ignore. FUD Football Solutions and Tripplelift Zambia, two companies that recently entered the Zambian market, presented themselves as opportunities for quick returns, daily income and financial security.

Thousands signed up, investing their savings in the hope of transforming their lives. But the promises proved hollow.

What appeared to be an opportunity was, for many, a carefully crafted trap that left investors counting their losses while raising troubling questions about how such companies are able to register, operate and attract thousands of customers before authorities intervene.

The Rise of FUD Football Solutions

In early 2023, FUD Football Solutions began operating in Zambia. It presented itself as a sports investment platform, promising users daily returns based on football match predictions. To many people, the operation appeared legitimate. It had a company name, a structured business model and, most importantly, official registration.

Documents reviewed during this investigation show that FUD Football Solutions was registered with the Patents and Companies Registration Agency (PACRA). However, as this investigation established, registration alone does not authorise a company to offer investment products or financial services.

As the platform grew, so did the number of people joining it. Some invested modest amounts, while others borrowed money or sold assets in the hope of multiplying their savings.

"People we knew recruited us," said David Mutale, one of the investors.

"They kept following up, and the company appeared genuine because it was registered with PACRA and had all the necessary documents. We decided to invest a significant amount of money."

Another victim, Patrick Katongo of Kasama, recalled how he joined the platform.

"I signed up through a link shared by a friend. I was told making money was easy and safe," Katongo said.

Then, without warning, the system collapsed. Withdrawals stopped, communication ceased and investors could no longer access their money.

Tripplelift Zambia: A New Promise, the Same Outcome

Two years later, in early 2025, another company, Tripplelift Zambia, entered the market. The business model was different, but the promise remained the same. Participants were told they could earn money simply by watching advertisements online. Users were encouraged to purchase "work bonds" and upgrade their accounts to unlock higher earnings and larger returns.

The company aggressively marketed itself online and established physical offices in selected towns, reinforcing public confidence in its legitimacy.

Lydia Chanda, a resident of Kasama, said users were promised payments for viewing advertisements.

"I started with K20," she said. "Later, I was required to pay K200 to continue earning more money. As time went on, I invested even more because the system kept promising higher returns."

Like many others, Chanda believed the platform offered a genuine opportunity to earn an income. Instead, she would eventually discover that the promises were far easier to make than to fulfil.



Registered to Deceive: How Online Investment Schemes Exploit Regulatory Gaps to Scam Zambia cont...

Who Was Behind the Companies?

Official records from PACRA show that FUD Football Solutions was registered on 10 May 2023 by Brian Kalimachi, with Man Lombe listed as a co-owner.

Records further show that Tripplelift Design Limited was registered on 10 July 2025, with links to Nathan Banda and Precious Tutor.

However, the registration trail raises important questions. Documents reviewed during this investigation show that the phone number listed on Tripplelift's registration records is registered under a different name that does not appear among the company's official owners. Yet when contacted, the number was answered by an individual linked to one of the listed owners.

While this does not, on its own, establish wrongdoing, it suggests a more complex ownership or management structure than is reflected in the official registration documents. On paper, the companies appeared compliant with registration requirements. Yet registration alone did not guarantee that they were authorised to solicit investments or operate the schemes they promoted to the public.

Operating Without Financial Authorisation

According to the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) of Zambia, both companies were operating illegally because they lacked the licences required to offer investment products or financial services. This raises an important question: How were these companies able to operate openly, attract investors and collect money from the public before eventually collapsing? The answer appears to lie in a gap between company registration and financial regulatory enforcement.

SEC had previously issued public warnings about unlicensed investment schemes. However, questions remain about the effectiveness of enforcement and the measures taken to prevent such entities from operating. Repeated attempts to obtain further comment from the Commission were unsuccessful by the time of publication.

While PACRA registers businesses, registration alone does not authorise a company to provide investment or financial services. Those activities require additional approvals from relevant regulators. As a result, companies can appear legitimate to the public by virtue of being registered, even when they lack the licences necessary to conduct the activities they are promoting.

Questions for Regulators

The Zambia Revenue Authority (ZRA), which is responsible for tax administration and monitoring business compliance, was asked whether either company had declared income or paid taxes on its operations in Zambia. However, repeated attempts to obtain a response were unsuccessful by the time of publication.

The Bank of Zambia (BoZ) was also contacted for comment. In a response, Assistant Director of Communications Besnat Mwanza stated: "Please note that we are aware of reports involving the named entities, which are being investigated by the Zambia Police Service. You may wish to contact the Zambia Police Service regarding possible recoveries."

The response from BOZ suggests that financial regulators were aware of concerns surrounding the companies, although details of any regulatory action were not provided.

The Zambia Police Service confirmed that reports concerning the companies had been received.

"I have been informed that the matter was reported to the Zambia Cyber Security Agency," said Zambia Police Public Relations Manager Godfrey Chilabi.

Authorities have increasingly warned about the rise of illegal financial schemes, particularly those operating through digital platforms and cross-border payment systems, which can make oversight and enforcement more challenging.

Inside Tripplelift - An Insider Speaks

This investigation traced an individual linked to Tripplelift Zambia who requested anonymity. For the purposes of this story, we



will refer to him as Jack. According to Jack, he was approached and asked to register the company in his name to facilitate the establishment of a physical office in Zambia.

"The actual management was done by other people," he said. "I never met them, never spoke to them directly, and they portrayed the company as a U.S.-based company."

Jack further alleged that while official company phone numbers were registered, the individuals running the operation used separate numbers that were not linked to the registered business. He said he, too, ultimately became a victim of the scheme.

"They left with my money too," he said.

According to his account, he invested substantial personal savings before the company disappeared. His experience demonstrates how easily a registered company can be used to create a sense of legitimacy and how quickly such an operation can vanish.

Investigations and Unanswered Questions

The Zambia Cyber Security Agency was also approached for comment. However, instead of responding to specific questions regarding possible arrests, investigations or efforts to trace funds linked to FUD Football Solutions and Tripplelift Zambia, the agency referred to a public advisory urging citizens to: "Think before you post, verify before you share, and respect before you create."

The advisory focused largely on cyberbullying, deceptive electronic communications and misleading artificial intelligence-generated content.

While authorities have moved to halt the operations of the two companies, recovering investors' funds has proven far more challenging. Experts point to the increasing use of digital payment platforms, online networks and, in some cases, cryptocurrency-related transactions, which can make tracing money flows and identifying beneficiaries more difficult.

Others argue that the cases expose weaknesses in Zambia's regulatory framework, including gaps in company registration, financial oversight and coordination among enforcement agencies.

The rise and collapse of FUD Football Solutions and Tripplelift Zambia have left many investors nursing significant losses while raising broader questions about whether Zambia's regulatory systems are adequately equipped to detect and stop potentially fraudulent schemes before they attract thousands of victims.

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Supreme Court Says Government Must Be Heard in Landmark Sino Metals Toxic Spill Case cont...

A panel of three Supreme Court judges — Deputy Chief Justice Michael Musonda, Justice Nigel Mutuna and Justice Fulgencio Mwenya Chisanga — sitting in Kabwe, Central Province, held that the government, as the custodian of the public interest, must be heard before the appeal can proceed because the issues raised extend beyond the parties directly involved.

The court further observed that environmental matters often have long-term consequences, noting that the full effects of environmental harm may not become apparent until a decade or more after the accident.

The ruling comes as 177 residents of Kalusale, a community in Kalulushi district near the mining city of Kitwe on Zambia's Copperbelt Province, prepare for another legal battle more than a year after a toxic waste spill devastated farms, contaminated water sources and overturned livelihoods.

On 3 June 2026, the Supreme Court, sitting in Kabwe, was supposed to hear an appeal by Sino Metals against a High Court decision that permitted the constitutional petition filed by the affected residents to proceed. The petition also names NFC Africa Mining Plc, within whose mining area the tailings dams were located, as a respondent. On 3 June 2026, the Supreme Court, sitting in Kabwe, was supposed to hear an appeal by Sino Metals against a High Court decision that permitted the constitutional petition

filed by the affected residents to proceed. The petition also names NFC Africa Mining Plc, within whose mining area the tailings dams were located, as a respondent.

Sino Metals and NFC Africa Mining are private limited companies engaged in mining operations in Chambishi, Kalulushi district. Sino Metals' operations — including an open-pit mine, concentrator plant and tailings storage dams — are situated within NFC Africa Mining's surface rights area and plant boundary.

At the centre of the dispute is the February 2025 collapse of multiple tailings dams, which released vast quantities of acidic and toxic waste into the Chambishi Stream, Mwambashi River and the wider Kafue River system. The incident triggered what environmental experts and affected communities have described as one of Zambia's most serious mining-related environmental disasters in recent decades.

The petitioners are being supported by the Southern Africa Litigation Centre (SALC) and are represented by Messrs Malambo and Company Advocates and Messrs Lusitu Chambers. Sino Metals is represented by Chibesakunda & Company.

The petition seeks to hold the mining companies accountable for the environmental, economic and social consequences of the spill, which residents say destroyed crops, polluted water sources and undermined their ability to earn a living.

maturity or national unity, the reality appears far less noble. In many cases, what we are witnessing is not love for country but love for self. The calculations are often centred on access to power, positions in government, influence, and the benefits that come with proximity to those who control the national purse.

The same can be said of many politicians in the opposition who appear to be patiently circling around government, waiting for an opportunity to cross over when the political winds become favourable. What brings many of these individuals together is not a shared vision for Zambia's future, but a shared desire for political survival and personal advancement.

This is perhaps the greatest dilemma facing voters as election day approaches.

The problem is compounded by the growing number of political parties and presidential aspirants. Zambia's August election features one of the most crowded presidential races (14) in recent history. On the surface, this may appear to be a sign of a healthy democracy. However, more candidates do not necessarily mean more ideas.

Many parties are difficult to distinguish because they are built around personalities rather than clear ideological differences or policy alternatives.

Instead of presenting coherent programmes for economic growth, job creation, education, healthcare and governance reforms, many politicians spend their time negotiating alliances, switching political camps, or positioning themselves for appointments after elections.



Photo Credit: Saviour Chishimba, President of United Progressive People (right) and Hakainde Hichilema. Hakainde Hichilema's Facebook Page

What Zambians expected from this campaign season was a serious discussion about the country's future. Citizens wanted to hear how political leaders intend to address the rising cost of living, youth unemployment, poverty, public debt, and the challenges facing key sectors such as agriculture, mining and education.

Instead, much of the political conversation has been dominated by defections, endorsements and alliances of convenience. The focus has shifted away from policies and towards personalities.

The tragedy is that this pattern is not new. Election after election, politicians move from one party to another with remarkable ease. Leaders who yesterday described each other as corrupt, incompetent or dangerous suddenly become trusted allies. Principles that were once presented as non-negotiable are quietly abandoned when political interests demand it.

Such behaviour inevitably breeds cynicism among voters. When politicians can change positions overnight without adequately explaining what has changed, citizens are left wondering whether any campaign promises are genuinely held beliefs or merely tools for winning power.

A healthy democracy depends on elections being contests of ideas and competing visions for national development. Yet too often, our politics revolves around personalities, patronage and access to state resources.

As voters prepare to cast their ballots in August, they should look beyond the rallies, endorsements and political migrations that dominate the headlines. The critical question is not who is standing next to whom on the campaign platform. The real question is what concrete solutions are being offered to address the challenges facing ordinary citizens.

Elections should not be about helping politicians secure their next share of the national cake. They should be about choosing leaders who are prepared to serve the public interest. Until that principle becomes the centre of our politics, Zambia will continue to struggle with a political culture that too often places self-interest above national interest.

OPINION

Politics of Self-Interest Leave Voters With Few Choices

If anyone still had doubts that Zambia's political class is among the country's biggest challenges, those doubts should be disappearing as we head toward the August elections.

Who would have imagined that some politicians from the former ruling Patriotic Front would one day find themselves

sharing platforms with President Hakainde Hichilema and the ruling United Party for National Development? Only a few years ago, these were politicians who publicly criticised each other and presented themselves as political opposites.

While some may interpret these developments as evidence of political

District Thirsting for Answers

The truth behind Kalomo's water crisis

By *Kebby Sianjame in Kalomo, Southern Province*

Despite paying monthly water bills, some residents of Kalomo in Southern Province say they have gone months—and in some cases years—without reliable access to running water, forcing families to queue at communal hand pumps, draw water from rivers, and rely on unsafe sources to meet their daily needs.

An investigation by Voice of Kalomo Community Radio has found that the district's persistent water shortages are being driven by a widening gap between water demand and supply, ageing infrastructure, delayed maintenance, and unsuccessful efforts to secure new water sources.

Official figures from the National Water Supply and Sanitation Council (NWASCO) show that Kalomo's water system currently produces only 2,000 cubic metres of water per day against a demand of approximately 3,800 cubic metres, leaving a daily deficit of 1,800 cubic metres.

The consequences are being felt across the district. In Mawaya Compound, residents say they wake up before dawn to draw water before supplies run out.

"We wake up very early to draw water because if you delay, you may spend the whole day without any," said Mrs Sileu, a resident of the area.

Others have abandoned the taps altogether. Charity Muyaba said low water pressure has become a common feature in many parts of Kalomo, forcing residents to collect water from the Sichikwenkwe and Kalomo rivers.

"Most of the time there is low pressure, forcing residents to draw water from the rivers," she said.

In some communities, residents now depend almost entirely on communal hand pumps. At one hand pump visited by Voice of Kalomo, residents had already formed long queues before sunrise. Ruth Phiri said the pump only becomes operational around 05:00 hours, resulting in long waiting times.

"We draw water in turns because the queues are very long. Sometimes people spend hours waiting," she said.

For vulnerable residents, the situation is even more challenging. Bina Muleele, who lost a leg and relies on crutches, said a broken hand pump in her yard has left her dependent on others for access to water.

"I used to draw water from this hand pump in the yard but it has been broken for a long time. Sometimes I have to pay people to help me draw water," she said.

In Maclaymond Compound, resident Cosmas Sikano questioned why he continues receiving water bills despite going for prolonged periods without supply.

"I have never seen a drop of water for more than two years, but bills keep coming. I don't know what I am paying for," he said.

Residents' complaints about receiving bills despite prolonged water shortages raise broader questions about service standards and consumer protection. Water utilities are expected to meet agreed service levels and respond to customer complaints, yet many residents interviewed said they feel abandoned by a system that continues to bill them even when taps remain dry.

Residents also complained about delayed responses to reports of burst pipes and damaged infrastructure. Aaron Kambeu of Chikoli 620 accused Southern Water and Sanitation Company (SWASCO) of taking too long to repair damaged pipelines.

"Sometimes it takes too long before action is taken. I cannot understand their way of working," he said.

Health professionals warn that the growing dependence on rivers, streams and shallow wells could expose residents to serious health risks. A clinician at Kalomo Urban Clinic warned that untreated water can lead to outbreaks of cholera, dysentery, typhoid and other waterborne diseases.

"When people fail to access safe water, they turn to unsafe sources. Clean water is essential for public health," the clinician said.

While residents describe the crisis through daily struggles, official records point to deeper structural challenges.

Research by Voice of Kalomo based on NWASCO data found that water demand in Kalomo exceeds available supply by nearly 50 percent.

The report also highlights broader challenges across the water sector, including ageing infrastructure, water losses through leakages, and operational inefficiencies that reduce the amount of water reaching consumers. NWASCO inspections found that many utilities continue to struggle with infrastructure deterioration, delayed maintenance and high levels of water losses, limiting their ability to provide reliable services.

Despite the supply challenges, Southern Water and Sanitation Company has received positive ratings in some areas of service delivery. NWASCO's 2023 performance assessment awarded the utility an overall "A" rating for water quality compliance with a confidence level of 88 percent. However, the regulator also recorded turbidity failures in some districts served by the utility, highlighting the ongoing challenges of maintaining water quality standards across a large service area.

Questions have also emerged over investment in sanitation services. NWASCO records show that Southern Water and Sanitation Company had collected K14.36 million through sanitation surcharges by the end of 2023 but had spent K6.07 million on approved sanitation projects. While the figures do not indicate any wrongdoing, they raise questions about the pace at which sanitation investments are being implemented in communities facing water and sanitation challenges. SWASCO says it is aware of the challenges facing Kalomo and neighbouring Zimba District.

Speaking during a special programme on Voice of Kalomo Radio, SWASCO Kalomo Branch Manager Perry Lilanda attributed the shortages to increasing population growth, ageing infrastructure

and occasional power interruptions that affect water pumping.

Lilanda said the company is exploring long-term solutions, including the construction of a new 3,000-cubic-metre water treatment plant at Golden Miles and the identification of alternative water sources.

However, efforts to increase water supply have faced setbacks. According to information obtained by Voice of Kalomo, four industrial boreholes drilled at Golden Miles failed to yield sufficient water.

Residents and community leaders are now seeking greater clarity on when the proposed water treatment plant will be constructed, how it will be funded and when households can realistically expect improvements in water supply.

For now, thousands of residents continue to queue for water, draw from rivers and depend on overcrowded communal pumps as they wait for a lasting solution to a crisis that has become part of daily life.

Until new sources are secured, Kalomo remains trapped in a system that produces only 2,000 cubic metres of water each day against demand for 3,800 cubic metres—a deficit of nearly half the town's daily water requirements. For many households, the search for water still begins long before sunrise.



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This week in the Bulletin & Record

“Zambia is probably the only country in this region without art education at university level”

Roy Kausa explains

A man dips his feet in paint, and then walks over the canvas, later he sprinkles a brush all over the canvas in different colours, and he rolls over the huge sheet of canvas and finally stands up signs it. And as if that was not enough, the title of this artwork is "smile of the unborn"!

This abstraction of titles and art works by artists in Europe and the Americas is what has been the in thing for collectors in London, New York and Paris in the last 50 years. These art collectors globe trot just to purchase what seems to the ordinary eye to be rubbish.

American artist Jackson Pollock is one example of a painter who became the most influential and important painter of the mid-20th century. He was a leader of American.

Expressionism and the country's most significant painter. Some of his art works were inspired by Picasso and Mexican muralists. Pollock's wild "action paintings" soon became widely known and he became the first superstar of American art.

Art lovers and collectors alike in Europe and America have not just been stunned by modern art, but seem to appreciate that art in those parts of world has evolved over about 20,000 years, starting from the Ice Age rock surface painters in Spain and France, through the Italian Renaissance to present day modern art. And Africa in general and Zambia in particular are no exceptions.

In his 2004 book, A Brief History of Painting, Roy Bolton describes the history of painting as humanity's struggle to come to terms with its predicament. He says that people's interest in art is the same reason they are interested in religion, philosophy or science.

And as a result of this need for the human race to discover who they are and where they came from, huge sums of money are yearly spent to establish strong art, religion and scientific education at university level in Europe and America for new inventions.

Over the years art has, like scientific discoveries,

played a big role in recording history in Europe and America. In order to preserve history for posterity the Europeans and Americans quickly established museums where works by master artists could be kept for future generations to learn and value their past.

At the same time, art works became a symbol of wealth. It is as a result of the high value of works of art that palaces, cathedrals, presidential residences, banks and important state buildings purchased art to enhance their economic value.

However, the picture is totally different in Zambia. After 50 years of independence very little has been done in the fields of art, religion and science. Zambia is probably the only country in this region without art education at university level.



Half a century has gone by without government seriously supporting the art industry, while a few institutions in the Zambian private sector took advantage of that vacuum and have collected some of the most precious art works.

For instance, The Post newspaper premises in Lusaka have one of the biggest art collections in Zambia. On display are paintings and sculptures by some of Africa's leading artists such as Stephen Chipango Kappata, David Chibwe, Lawrence and Agnes Yombwe, Raphael Mutilikwa, and Lutanda Mwamba.

The office of Lawrence Sikutwa Associates near State House is yet another artistic paradise. For instance, the huge painting by Style Kunda is a masterpiece, and brings back memories of how Lusaka looked 20 years ago.

The Lawrence Sikutwa Associates collection, The Post premises, the Namwandwe Art Gallery, the Intercontinental Hotel's Twaya Art Gallery are some of the places where people can view examples of this country's visual art.

Similarly, the Garden Group of Hotels has also played a big role in the promotion of the arts in Zambia by supporting artists to further their art education. Dr Gaudenzio Rossi, who is chairman of the Garden Group has one of the biggest private art collections in this part of Africa, a collection spanning more than 30 years.

Another collection that is just outstanding and is displayed in a specially designed art gallery (designed by Zambia's Wally Dobkins) is the Namwandwe Gallery owned by John Kapotwe. This is a fantastic art gallery along the Leopard's Hill road boasting some priceless paintings by the likes of Shadreck Simikanga and Godfrey Setti.

The current Minister of Justice, Wynter Kabimba, is another serious collector of Zambian art. He enjoys viewing art exhibitions and chatting to artists.

Zambia's list of custodians of cultural heritage cannot be complete without mentioning the Lechwe Trust. This was founded in 1978 to promote the development of visual arts in Zambia. Since it was established, the Lechwe Trust, run for years by Cynthia Zukas, has sponsored some outstanding artists to further their art education at home and abroad, and it also boasts a huge collection of both traditional and contemporary art.

The Lechwe Trust has one of the biggest art collections in Africa. In the last 30 years it has grown so big that it fills a container.

Occasionally, part of this collection is displayed for the public to enjoy.

The good news this year for art lovers in Lusaka is that the Lechwe Trust art collection will be open to public viewing in its gallery in Lagos road. The Almer May Restoration Trust must be commended for giving the Lechwe Trust and the people of Lusaka a gallery in which to display their work.

In the last 30 years or so that I have been writing on visual culture in Zambia I have encountered situations where people do not just buy a painting because it is Zambian art, but because the art work relates to and reflects the Zambian way of life, which may not be easily understood by visitors to Zambia.

However, this is not the case when it comes to expatriates working in Zambia, or diplomats. The majority of these people collect what they term "African art" because of their ignorance about Zambian life styles and indeed African traditions.

Expatriates, especially diplomats, buy art from Africa or Zambia to help "poor" artists. But at the same time there is another group of expats who provide space for Zambian artists to exhibit their works free of charge except for the commission on a sale.

These art exhibitions, which are almost impossible for viewing by ordinary Zambians, have probably become gossip centres where the diplomats meet and exchange notes in a conducive atmosphere! In the end very little is done to help the "poor" Zambian artists.

This article was first published in the June 2004 edition of The Bulletin & Record Magazine. Some of the individuals mentioned have since passed away or are no longer in the positions referred to in the article.

