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ELECTION WATCH | Quiet Campaign Mood Persists as Zambia Heads to the Polls



By Joseph Mwape | Ndola

When opposition National Reconciliation Party for Unity and Prosperity (NRPUP) presidential candidate Brian Mundubile addressed supporters at a campaign rally in Twapia Township, Ndola on the Copperbelt, the loudspeakers carried familiar promises of change.

Away from the podium, however, a different story was unfolding. Several voters approached by MakanDay were reluctant to discuss the upcoming 13 August general election on the record, with some declining to explain their concerns even anonymously.

One young woman, who said she will be casting her ballot for the first time, described this year's election campaign as unusually quiet.

She said she was afraid to vote in the forthcoming elections. However, when asked whether she would allow her comments to be recorded or explain the reasons for her fears, she declined.

Another elderly woman initially agreed to speak with MakanDay but withdrew from the interview after learning it would be recorded.

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While the reasons for their reluctance remain unclear, the encounters reflected a level of caution among some Zambians about discussing politics openly. The observations come as political parties intensify campaigns ahead of polling day.

MakanDay has also spoken to residents in other parts of Ndola in recent weeks. Although many were willing to discuss politics, most openly identified with particular political parties, making it difficult to find voters who described themselves as politically neutral.

Meanwhile, two presidential candidates interviewed separately by MakanDay offered a similar explanation for the subdued campaign atmosphere.

Green Party president Peter Sinkamba and Zambia Wake-Up Party (ZAWAPA) president Howard Kunda said many Zambians have become increasingly disillusioned after years of campaign promises that they believe have gone unfulfilled.

They argued that repeated promises that have not translated into tangible improvements have left many citizens disengaged from electoral politics. Despite the subdued mood reported by some voters, there are signs that campaign activity is beginning to intensify.

A similar sentiment was echoed by Dag Hammarskjöld Constituency independent parliamentary candidate Ernest Sumani, who said years of unfulfilled political promises have made it increasingly difficult for aspiring candidates to earn the trust of voters.

In an interview with Radio Icengelo in Kitwe, Sumani described the political atmosphere in the constituency as peaceful but characterised by a noticeable silence among voters ahead of the 13 August general election.

He said many residents tell him they believe all politicians are the same and accuse aspiring candidates of seeking votes only to disappear after winning elections, as they allege previous leaders have done.

Despite the widespread scepticism, Sumani said some voters remain willing to give new leaders an opportunity, a development he believes offers hope for independent candidates seeking to convince an increasingly cautious electorate.

Despite the subdued mood reported by some voters, there are signs that campaign activity is beginning to intensify. In recent days, political parties have increased the visibility of their campaigns, with public address vehicles, roadside mobilisation teams and loudspeaker announcements becoming more common across parts of Ndola.

Even so, longtime residents interviewed by MakanDay said the current campaign season appears less vibrant than previous election periods, when rallies, roadshows and party activities dominated public spaces weeks before polling day.

With less than two weeks before Zambians vote, the contrast between increasingly visible campaign activities and the reluctance of some citizens to speak publicly about the election presents an emerging picture of an electorate that is being courted by politicians but, in some cases, remains cautious about openly expressing its views.

The post includes a resignation letter purportedly written by Dr. Bestty Phiri and addressed to the UPND Provincial Chairperson for Eastern Province.

“After careful consideration, I have decided to resign from the United Party for National Development (UPND) for personal reasons,” reads part of the letter.

What did MakanDay check?

MakanDay examined the following question:

- Was Dr. Phiri the UPND’s adopted parliamentary candidate for Kapoche Constituency when he resigned from the party?
- What the evidence shows

MakanDay established that Dr. Bestty Phiri did resign from the UPND. His resignation letter was published on his official Facebook page, confirming that he had stepped down from the party.

However, the available evidence shows that Dr. Phiri was not the UPND’s adopted parliamentary candidate for Kapoche Constituency.

Information reviewed by MakanDay shows that Luckson Lungu was adopted by the UPND as its parliamentary candidate for Kapoche Constituency ahead of the 2026 General Election.

Posts on Dr. Phiri’s official [Facebook page](#) indicate that he had sought the UPND adoption for the Kapoche parliamentary seat but was not selected during the party’s adoption process.

In a telephone interview with MakanDay, Dr. Phiri confirmed that he had sought adoption as the UPND parliamentary candidate for Kapoche Constituency but was not adopted. He further confirmed that he is not contesting the Kapoche parliamentary seat as an independent candidate.

His resignation letter also does not state that he was the UPND’s adopted parliamentary candidate. It simply communicates his decision to resign from the party.

Verdict

Claim: The UPND aspiring candidate for Kapoche Constituency has resigned.

Rating: False

Dr. Bestty Phiri did resign from the UPND. However, the Facebook post incorrectly identifies him as the UPND parliamentary candidate for Kapoche Constituency. The available evidence shows that while he sought the party’s adoption, he was not selected as its candidate. Dr. Phiri also confirmed to MakanDay that he is not contesting as an independent candidate in the constituency. Therefore, the claim is false.

FACT CHECK | Did the UPND Aspiring Candidate for Kapoche Constituency Resign?

By Ennety Munshya

Claim

A Facebook page operating under the name [Chipata EP Legacy](#) claims that the United Party for National Development (UPND) aspiring parliamentary candidate for Kapoche Constituency in Eastern Province has resigned from the party.



ELECTION WATCH | Voters Want Proof, Not Promises

Conversations with traders at Chelstone Big Market suggest that, as Zambia heads to the polls, many voters are increasingly judging candidates not by campaign pledges but by what has already changed in their lives.

By Clara Chisenga

As candidates intensify their campaigns ahead of Zambia’s 13 August General Election, they continue to promise free education, Constituency Development Fund (CDF) opportunities and expanded social protection. But conversations with traders at Chelstone Big Market suggest many voters are asking a different question: Can candidates show what they have already delivered?

Over a three-week period, MakanDay spoke with traders at Chelstone Big Market in Lusaka’s Munali Constituency. Their responses revealed a common sentiment: many are no longer persuaded by campaign pledges alone. Instead, they want tangible evidence that promises made in previous elections have translated into real improvements in their communities and livelihoods.

The conversations matter because Chelstone Big Market sits within Munali Constituency, one of Lusaka’s most competitive urban constituencies.

According to the Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ), the constituency has over 146,000 registered voters, making it a significant electoral battleground in the capital.

Their concerns offer a snapshot of the issues shaping everyday political expectations in one of Lusaka’s busiest trading communities.

1. Voters Want Promises That Last Beyond Campaign Season

Several traders said candidates return every election with familiar pledges, particularly around CDF loans, grants, market development and empowerment. According to them, these promises rarely translate into visible improvements once elections are over.

“We keep hearing about CDF and empowerment programmes, but we don’t see them happen.”

Rather than new commitments, traders say they want elected leaders to account for promises already made.

Official records show that Munali Constituency has received annual CDF allocations since 2022, while completed projects include classroom blocks, police infrastructure, school desks, bursaries and empowerment funding for community groups. However, many traders interviewed by MakaanDay said they either had limited information about these programmes or had not personally benefited from them, reinforcing their call for greater accountability and transparency.

2. Voters Want Better Access to CDF Opportunities

Campaigns often highlight CDF loans and grants as opportunities for small businesses.

Yet many traders say they only hear about these programmes during election campaigns or from people who have already benefited.

They argue that information about eligibility, application procedures and available funding should be provided throughout the year—not only when politicians are seeking votes.

Available Lusaka City Council records indicate that Munali has received steadily increasing CDF allocations over the past five years, while dozens of loans and grants have been approved for businesses and community groups. However, the published beneficiary lists do not indicate how many recipients came directly from Chelstone Big Market, something traders say makes it difficult to understand whether marketeers are accessing the opportunities being advertised.

3. Voters Judge Leaders by Everyday Services

Beyond national campaign messages, traders pointed to practical local issues that affect their businesses every day.

Among the concerns raised were the installation of security lighting, regular cleaning of ablution facilities, rehabilitation of blocked drainage systems, improved waste management,

and enhanced security around the market.

For many traders, these everyday services are a more meaningful measure of leadership than campaign promises or political speeches.

Their concerns also reflect broader questions about the implementation of development projects. According to the 2024 Auditor General’s Report on Constituency Development Fund (CDF) utilisation, several projects in Munali Constituency experienced delays, while some completed projects had not been commissioned within the expected timeframe.

4. Voters Want Leaders Who Stay Visible After Elections

Several traders complained that candidates frequently visit markets during campaigns but rarely return once elected.

Some candidates have promised regular engagement with traders if elected.

The traders say they will judge those commitments by whether such visits continue after polling day.

5. Voters Want Economic Relief

Beyond infrastructure, traders said slow business remains one of their biggest concerns. Many appealed for policies that improve cash circulation and strengthen local economic activity, arguing that increased customer spending would do more for their livelihoods than repeated campaign pledges.

How Candidates Responded

Candidates contesting the Munali parliamentary seat told MakaanDay they have taken note of traders’ concerns and have proposed different approaches.

Resolute Party parliamentary candidate Chrispin Chiinda pledged to improve roads around Chelstone Big Market and across Chelstone Township, arguing that better infrastructure would improve business activity, particularly during the rainy season. He also said traders who struggle to

access CDF because of limited knowledge of application procedures would receive assistance.

Citizens First candidate Mwenya Matafwali said his campaign focuses on improving access to business capital and creating a better trading environment. Drawing on his experience as former City Market Chairperson, he said he understands the challenges facing marketeers and believes practical solutions can be found.

Meanwhile, UPND candidate for Chakunkula Ward, Nchimunya Njomoon, said he intends to continue improving water reticulation, market infrastructure, drainage systems and access roads while strengthening communication about CDF opportunities for traders.

Other candidates contesting the Munali parliamentary seat are Thomas Sipalo (UPND), Vincent Mpomwa (Socialist Party), Daniel Phiri (Zambia Must Prosper), and independent candidates Andrew Mutila, Obbie Chomba, Mpanza Mvunga, Semba Chimbalanga and Makishi Lusulo.

Expert Perspective

Political scientist and historian Dr Euston Chiputa believes election coverage often places greater emphasis on presidential and parliamentary campaigns than on local government elections, even though many of the issues affecting traders fall under the responsibility of councils.

He argues that journalists should devote greater attention to councillors and local government candidates because services such as markets, drainage, sanitation, local infrastructure and many CDF programmes are implemented at council level.

Caritas Zambia has similarly urged political actors to broaden campaign discussions beyond CDF and free education. The organisation says issues such as land management, urban planning and overall public service delivery deserve equal attention during the election period,

ELECTION WATCH | Voters Want Proof, Not Promises cont...

while acknowledging the important role CDF continues to play in community development.

The Chelstone Context

Chelstone Big Market is located in Chakunkula Ward of Munali Constituency.

According to the Electoral Commission of Zambia’s validated voters’ register, Munali Constituency has 146,076 registered voters.

Traders told MakaanDay that, so far, they have mainly been visited by candidates from the ruling UPND and independent candidates contesting the ward seat.

Campaign messages have largely centred on continuing free education, expanding CDF empowerment programmes and increasing access to Social Cash Transfer.

While traders acknowledge the importance of these initiatives, many say they would rather see existing programmes implemented consistently before new promises are made.

The Bigger Picture

The conversations at Chelstone Big Market reflect a broader question many Zambian voters appear to be asking during this election campaign: Can candidates demonstrate what they have already delivered, rather than simply offering new promises?

For many traders, elections are becoming less about campaign rhetoric and more about visible performance, accountability and sustained engagement beyond polling day. They are not rejecting campaign promises outright; they are asking candidates to demonstrate that commitments made in previous elections translated into tangible improvements in their daily lives.

As Zambia heads to the polls on 13 August, the voices from Chelstone suggest that voters are increasingly measuring leadership not only by what politicians promise during campaigns, but also by what they continue to deliver long after campaign vehicles have left the marketplace.

Munali at a Glance

Indicator	Details
Constituency	Munali, Lusaka Province
Registered voters (2026)	146,076 (77,012 female; 69,062 male)
Parliamentary candidates	10 candidates contesting the seat
Key wards	Munali, Mtendere, Kalikiliki, Chakunkula, Chainda and Kalingalinga
Chelstone Big Market	One of the constituency’s largest trading hubs and a major source of livelihoods for hundreds of traders
CDF allocations (2022–2026)	Approximately K160.7 million allocated to Munali Constituency over five years
Examples of CDF-funded initiatives	Classroom blocks, police post, school desks, bursaries, empowerment grants and loans, road works and market infrastructure
2026 Enterprise Support	Munali received K2.825 million to support 113 youth, women and community groups through CDF empowerment funding
Issues raised by traders	Access to CDF, drainage, sanitation, security, waste management, market infrastructure, business opportunities and post-election accountability
What traders say they want	Evidence of delivery, greater transparency, consistent engagement and improved public services rather than repeated campaign promises



Photo Credit | Hakainde Hichilema’s Facebook Page

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.

Russia Courts Zambia Through Journalists, Offering Nuclear Power, Mining and Defence Cooperation

Moscow says it wants an “equal partnership” with Africa as it invites journalists to see Russia firsthand

By Gibson Zulu in Moscow – Russia

From page 1

As Zambia’s long-stalled nuclear energy ambitions remain largely dormant, Russia is stepping up efforts to deepen its engagement with the country—not only by offering to build nuclear power stations and invest in mining, but also by courting African journalists through media exchange programmes designed to showcase Moscow’s vision for the continent.

During a media programme organised by the African Initiative News Agency in Russia, the agency’s Editor-in-Chief, Artem Kureev, outlined what he described as Russia’s renewed commitment to expanding partnerships with African countries, including Zambia, across infrastructure, energy, mining, defence and education.

Speaking in an exclusive interview with MakaanDay, Kureev said Russia views Zambia as a country with significant opportunities for cooperation and is prepared to support large-scale infrastructure and energy projects.

“We can build nuclear power stations for you. You can pay us with some resources. We can make investments in mining in Zambia. We have many directions for collaboration,” Kureev said.

His remarks come as Zambia’s own nuclear energy ambitions remain uncertain. In previous reporting, MakaanDay documented how the country’s plans to establish a civilian nuclear power programme have largely stalled despite years of cooperation agreements with Russia’s state nuclear corporation, Rosatom, and repeated government announcements about pursuing nuclear energy as part of Zambia’s future electricity mix.

Beyond nuclear energy, Kureev said Russia possesses advanced expertise in space technology, geological research, mining and military industries that could support Zambia’s development priorities.

“We are among the best in nuclear power station construction, space research and military technologies. We can equally cooperate,” he said.

He also recalled the historical relationship between Zambia and the former Soviet Union, arguing that the two countries already have a foundation on which stronger economic ties could be rebuilt.

According to Kureev, cooperation could also extend to geological exploration, tourism, mining and higher education through expanded academic exchanges and technical partnerships.

Kureev further said Russia’s experience from the ongoing war in Ukraine has significantly transformed its military capabilities, creating expertise that some African countries are now seeking to learn from.

“Many African countries ask for instruction from the Russian Ministry of Defence because we now have professionals with experience in modern warfare, including drones and new-generation military technologies. We can share that experience,” he said.

He maintained that Russia’s objective is not to dominate African countries but to establish what he described as mutually beneficial relationships.

“We want a multipolar world. We want equal partnership. We want to have as many partners as possible.”

The interview formed part of a broader programme organised by the African Initiative News Agency, a Russian media organisation established in 2023 with a stated mission of strengthening information exchanges between Russia and Africa.

The initiative brings African journalists and digital content creators to Russia to meet officials, media practitioners and academics while visiting institutions across the country. According to the organisers, the programme brought

together 50 participants from across Africa, including journalists, bloggers and digital content creators from countries such as Zambia, Madagascar, Tanzania, Togo, Equatorial Guinea, Kenya, Rwanda and several others. Zambia was represented by two journalists and two digital content creators.

Critics have argued that such exchanges form part of Russia’s broader effort to expand its influence across Africa by shaping public narratives. Kureev rejected suggestions that the programme amounts to propaganda.

“We simply invite people, organise visits and show them our country. Then you decide for yourself,” he said.

He said African audiences deserve perspectives beyond those commonly presented by Western media.

“We want people to see the situation with their own eyes and tell it to their audiences,” he said.

According to Kureev, the African Initiative was created to strengthen media cooperation by covering political, economic, cultural and security issues affecting both Russia and African countries.

Kureev also reflected on the growing role of artificial intelligence in journalism, describing it as a useful research tool but not yet a replacement for professional reporting.

“Artificial intelligence is very good for searching information, but many articles and videos produced by AI are still not very professional. In the future it may replace some people in newsrooms, but we will have to see how it develops.”

Kureev said the Russia-Ukraine war had fundamentally reshaped Russia’s economy and foreign policy by reducing its dependence on Western countries and encouraging greater cooperation with partners elsewhere in the world.

He said Africa has become an increasingly important part of that strategy.

“I expect our cooperation to become stronger and stronger,” he said. “I hope to see major infrastructure projects that Russia can undertake in Zambia, and I wish Africa to be peaceful, independent and in control of its own resources.”

Photo credit. Krisztian Boesi/Bloomberg



OPINION | Every Election Needs a Punching Bag. Too Often, It’s the Police.

Campaign violence is born in political intolerance, not in police stations.

From page 1

A police officer is recovering from injuries sustained while responding to campaign violence in Luampa district. Musician Clifford Dimba, better known as General Kanene, is recovering after he was attacked with a machete while performing at a campaign rally in Shibuyunji district. Ordinary Zambians have also found themselves caught in the violence.

These are not isolated incidents. They are reminders that, during elections, it is often citizens—and even the police themselves—who pay the price for political intolerance.

Yet, almost as predictably as the violence itself, comes another ritual.

The opposition blames the police for failing to act. The ruling party insists the police are doing their best. Politicians condemn the violence, cameras capture the statements, and the campaign moves on until the next clash.

But there is one uncomfortable question that rarely gets asked: Who created the conditions that the police are now being asked to police?

Campaign violence does not begin at a police station. It begins with reckless political rhetoric. It grows through intolerance and explodes when supporters are encouraged to see opponents as enemies rather than fellow citizens exercising democratic rights.

By the time the police arrive, the damage has often already begun.

This is not to excuse poor policing. The Zambia Police have a duty to enforce the law impartially, regardless of political affiliation. Every assault, every act of intimidation and every breach of public order should attract the same response, whoever commits it.

But professional policing also requires honesty from politicians.

It is deeply disingenuous to inflame tensions throughout the day and then ask, "Where were the police?" once violence erupts.

The better question is: Where were the leaders who should have restrained their supporters?

Research by the Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy in Africa (EISA) has found that electoral violence in Zambia is often linked to the mobilisation of party cadres and organised political competition rather than spontaneous public disorder. That matters because if the problem is political, the solution cannot rest solely with the police.

Inspector-General of Police Graphel Musamba appeared to recognise this when he ordered the immediate arrest of those behind the recent violence in Shibuyunji, Livingstone and Luampa districts.

His strongest message was directed not at the police, but at politicians: "No politician or cadre will escape prosecution just because they belong to a political party."

He also pledged that: "The law will be applied fairly, professionally and impartially, without regard to political affiliation."

Those words deserve to be more than a press statement. They should become the standard by which the police are judged.

The injured police officer did not benefit politically from stepping between rival supporters. General Kanene was not contesting public office when he was attacked. Traders who close their shops and motorists stranded by campaign clashes have no political agenda. They are casualties of a problem they did not create.

The Zambia Police Act gives officers broad powers to preserve public order, prevent crime and apprehend offenders. But it also places them within a command structure headed by the Inspector-General, who exercises command "subject to the orders and directions of the President".

The police can investigate crimes. They cannot legislate political maturity.

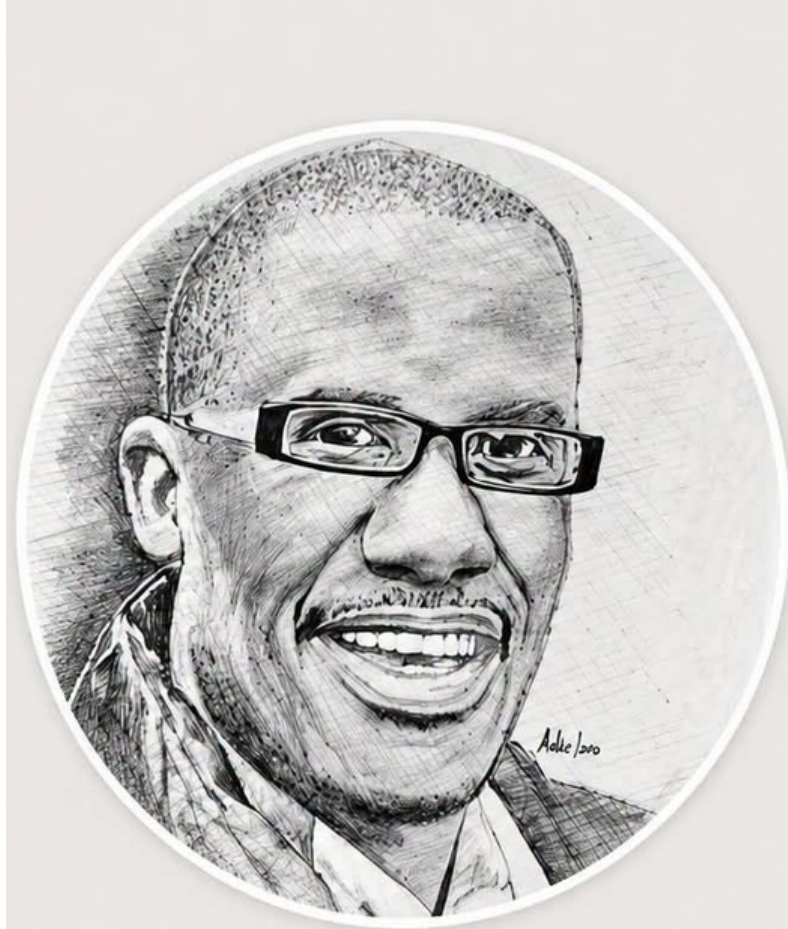
If Zambia wants peaceful elections, politicians must stop treating

violence as an unfortunate campaign tactic and the police as convenient punching bags whenever it spirals out of control.

The Zambia Police should be held accountable for how they enforce the law.

Politicians should be held accountable for why the law keeps having to be enforced.

Until Zambia demands both, every election will keep finding its punching bag—and ordinary citizens will keep paying the price.



from the

EDITOR

**MakanDay**

FACTS. FIRST.

They say “follow the money.” We took it literally

AUGUST 2026

Alumni Newsletter



Bloomberg

Media Initiative Africa

Alumni Spotlight



Charles Mafa

BMIA Financial Journalism Training
Alumnus, Zambia, Intake 2

Looking back on your journalism career, what first inspired you to pursue financial and investigative reporting, and how did the BMIA Financial Journalism Training program contribute to your professional development?

When I started my career, I was driven by a simple belief: journalism should make a difference in people's lives. As I covered communities across Zambia, I noticed a pattern. Reporting across Zambia showed me that many stories—whether about healthcare, pollution, infrastructure, or corruption—came down to one question: where did the money go? That curiosity drew me into investigative and financial journalism. The BMIA Financial Journalism Training program gave me the skills to analyze financial information. More importantly, it changed the way I think as a journalist. Instead of seeing financial reporting as a specialist field, I began to see it as an essential tool for accountability journalism.

We’re proud to share that MakanDay Editor, Charles Mafa, has been featured in the Bloomberg Media Initiative Africa (BMIA) August 2026 Alumni Newsletter.

The feature reflects on his journey in investigative and financial journalism—and the question that continues to drive our reporting: “Where did the money go?”

This recognition is also a tribute to the incredible MakanDay team, our partners, courageous sources, and loyal readers who believe in journalism that serves the public interest.

Thank you, Bloomberg Media Initiative Africa, for the recognition.

? Read the feature:
<https://assets.bbhub.io/company/sites/61/2026/07/BMIA-Newsletter-August-2026.pdf>

This Week in The Bulletin & Record

From political life to a gardening supremo

From page 1

By Moses Walubita

On a wall by the verandah of Mrs Edna Kamanga’s farm in Lusaka South is a map of Africa and two small plaques. They read: No-one replaces a mother. Simply Do Your Best Then God Will Do The Rest, and God bless this home.

Says Mrs Kamanga, who is the widow of Zambia’s first Vice President, Reuben Chitandika Kamanga: “I believe in all of them, especially the one reading: Simply Do Your Best Then God Will Do The Rest.

In her kitchen is a picture of former US President George Bush shaking hands with Reuben. On it President Bush had written: “I so enjoyed our meeting. With best wishes.” On a wall in the television room is a photograph taken on the Kamanga’s wedding day on September 7, 1963. It includes founding President Dr Kenneth Kaunda, Simon Mwansa Kapwepwe and the bride’s father, Oliver Kabungo.

A tribute to the late Reuben Kamanga, pinned to the wall from former Inspector-General of Police, Henry Mtonga, reads: U Kaziputa Limba (if you cause something to happen don’t chicken out”). Mr Kamanga was born in August 1928 in Fort Jameson (now Chipata), and died in September 1996.

Outside, Mrs Kamanga’s vast fertile garden spreads out, and it is the tending of the garden to which Mrs Kamanga devotes much of her time and skill. It is not difficult to imagine it as a version of the Garden of Eden.

“I am coming from a family of keen gardeners as evidenced by my late mother’s trophy in 1958 for the Home and Garden competition in Chifubu (Ndola) township,” she said. Like her mother, Edna Kamanga is an accomplished gardener, as evidenced by her election in June as chairperson of the Lusaka Garden Club. She has helped landscape many gardens and her younger sister Vida still does a lot of landscaping.

Not surprisingly, Mrs Kamanga’s favourite book, which occupies pride of place in the kitchen, is the Royal Horticultural Society

Gardener’s Encyclopedia of Plants and Flowers, which contains over 8,000 plants and 4,000 photographs. It is the definitive reference work for serious gardeners.

“You walk round and admire your plants and talk to them. There are times when I feel low and lonesome,” she explained. “I find solace when walking in my garden. It is a mature garden with plants collected from all over the world. Some of them were brought by my late husband from his many trips. Most of them have a story and they are hence a therapy because they bring sweet memories.” One of the plants is a 35-year-old Staghorn fern, possibly the biggest in Lusaka.

Edna Kamanga was born in Kitwe in March 1946. Her father, Oliver Kabungo, was a miner from Munkanta Village in Kawambwa District, and her mother was Eunice Damli Kabungo, from Transkei in South Africa.

Edna is the second born in a family of three children, while her own family is of six siblings and one stepdaughter. The children are daughters Chimwemwe and Chansa, sons Kabungo, Chitandika, Madalitso and Mtumba, and stepdaughter Misozi.

Mrs Kamanga disclosed that many women had asked how her stepdaughter had become her best friend when the trend was to subject stepchildren to a harsh life. She and her stepdaughter became best friends “because it takes two people to tango. If you show her love she will do the same”. The stepdaughter is Anna Misozi Zulu, a laboratory technician at Mpelembe Secondary School in Kitwe.

Young Edna started her primary school education at Twapia in Ndola before moving to Keembe in the Central Province and then completing Grade seven at Chimpempe in Kawambwa. She got married before secondary school education but in 1966 she attended Evelyn Hone College in Lusaka where she studied home economics. “This helped me a lot with my public life. Being an introvert, I was on the shy side.

The course helped me gather confidence in public life,” she said.

In 2005 Mrs Kamanga obtained a diploma in social work, and in 2011 a Bachelor of Arts degree in Development Studies, both from the University of Zambia. Next month she is destined to graduate with a master’s degree in sociology from the Zambia Open University (ZOU).

In sports, Edna participated in netball at Keembe and Chimpempe boarding schools. One of her best friends while at primary school included Charity Ngondo, widow of prominent Chipata and Lusaka businessman Ken Ngondo.

Edna’s first met with her late husband when her father drove to Reuben Kamanga’s house where the two men had a short meeting. As they bade farewell, Reuben saw Edna and her younger sister Vida seated in the car. He asked Mr. Kabungo why he had left some people in the car because both girls were also welcome. So they met.

Edna then started receiving letters at boarding school and eventually her parents approved the marriage to Reuben although they came from different provinces. Today, 52 years later, she has 15 grandchildren.

Although her husband rose to the second highest office in the land, Edna has not been involved in politics, although she discusses them. “I do follow current affairs both at home and abroad,” she said. “One of my sons is involved.”

Asked if she was happy with what is going on in politics and how Zambia could regain or maintain its status as a united nation, Mrs. Kamanga answered: “One Zambia One Nation is a slogan that says it all. It speaks volumes”, although she believes more development and progress are long overdue.

First published in the August 2015 edition of The Bulletin & Record.

