



“THE NATIONAL VOICE FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT”

“I DON’T GO TO THE CIVIC CENTRE ANYHOW- WORK IS IN THE WARD”, WATSON MTONGA COUNCILLOR MTENDERE WARD 30 LUSAKA



Lusaka Mtendere Ward 30 Councillor Watson Mtonga at his office.

By LGAZ Staff

Lusaka Mtendere Ward 30 Councillor Watson Mtonga has said a civic leader is supposed to serve the community within his/her respective ward and as such, each councillor should be identified with an office where people could easily find him/her. Councillor Mtonga was speaking during an interview with LGAZ Information Officer, Ms. Namumba, from his office. Narrating his experience, Councillor Mtonga revealed that a day after being sworn into office, his house was host to over forty people with various issues for his attention. This situation prompted him to approach

the Director of Housing for Lusaka City Council to find him space to operate from, who upon consultations, threw the challenge back at him to identify an area he could operate from. Accordingly, the council site office in Mtendere was relocated to the skills development centre in order to accommodate the Councillor.

Councillor Mtonga holds that as a link between his community and other institutions/stakeholders, he is bound to be easily accessed by all members of his ward and his home was not a conducive place for such a noble cause. He further said he did not

support the idea of frequenting the civic centre as work was in the community and not at the civic centre. “I don’t go to the civic centre anyhow, work is in the ward and not the civic centre,” he said.

He added that although councillors were regarded as part time, reality on the ground was otherwise arguing that an objective view of the office of councillor will go a long way in taking service provision closer to the people. Councillor Mtonga bemoaned the lack

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of reference documents necessary for institutional memory. He observed that due to councillors operating from their homes, all the official documents from previous councils ended up in their respective homes upon leaving office, a situation he said was not helpful in the sustainability of developmental projects.

Councillor Mtonga who is currently running the office from own resources stated that bus drivers in Mtendere have taken it upon themselves to support him by subscribing K50 every day for his lunch and talk time. Through the Area Member of Parliament his office was currently working with the Ministry of Community Development and Social Welfare in identifying deserving members of the community in accessing the social cash transfer. He said that there had been challenges in the past in identifying deserving members of the community to access this facility adding that as area councillor he was better placed to identify community needs. As such there was need to ensure that the office of Councillor in terms of physical premises to operate from, was formalized.

He dispelled the notion by some sections of society that councillors were attending to issues which were outside their mandate such as rendering support during funerals for the bereaved members of the community. He held that tradition and culture demanded that once informed of such problems, even a visit to the funeral house went a long way in making members of the community have a sense of belonging. "We have to respect our cultures even as we perform our civic duties," said Councillor Mtonga.

Councillor Mtonga observed that the introduction of qualifications for the office of councillor meant that one had to provide a service to the people and survive at the end of the day. He appealed for an objective view towards the office of the councillor if meaningful development was to be realized. He added that it was only fair that, the idea of a councillor being provided with an office was supported by all well-meaning citizens. He observed further that for those in rural areas, including urban ones for that matter, there were a number of public places such as schools where space could be found to accommodate councillors. He also appealed for the speedy establishment of Ward Development Committees in his ward as provided for in the constitution.

Councillor Mtonga indicated that he was in the process of engaging various groups and institutions in the ward. For example, he had engaged Mtendere Police Station to curb crime especially conmen who were in the habit of swindling members of the community. The crime rate in Mtendere was on the rise as the area has never had a proper police station. In this regard, Councillor Mtonga was collaborating with the Zambia Police and an agreement had been reached to the



Members of the community from Mtendere waiting to be attended to at the councillor's office.

effect that the Police would inform him of all the activities taking place in the ward. Further he said that he would soon be engaging Rwandeas and Burundeas who were reportedly being abused by their landlords who were in the habit of borrowing items from their shops without paying for them. He wanted to ensure that no member of his ward was abused.

Another area of concern was the health post which was understaffed and was lacking key equipment. The X-ray and scanning machines which were privately owned meant that patients were accessing these facilities at a higher fee. Township roads were another matter he wanted to address.

Councillor Mtonga was also engaging staff at Mahatma Gandhi School, which was in a deplorable state. The school which was located in one of the notorious areas of Mtendere had students who went to the extent of indulging in illicit drugs and as a civic leader, his interest was to see to it that Mtendere produced responsible citizens who would effectively contribute to the development of Mtendere and the nation as a whole.

He appealed to his fellow civic leaders to remain dedicated in serving their respective communities and emphasised that they could not effectively serve their respective communities from their (councillors') homes. Integrity was key in serving mankind and as such he advised his counterparts to serve with dignity. He appealed to the Members of Parliament to support their respective councillors and in this regard commended his Area MP Hon. Nkandu Luo for the support she was rendering to him in serving the people of Mtendere.

APPOINTMENT OF NEWLY CREATED COUNCILS AS RATING AUTHORITIES TO ENHANCE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

By Tryson Chunga - Council Secretary Mambwe

The Central Government desire to empower the people and eradicate poverty through equal distribution of scarce resources has greatly necessitated the creation of new districts to ensure sustainable local social economic development.

As such, the onus is on the newly created local authorities to take advantage of the prevailing conducive environment to quickly reposition themselves to enhance local social economic development and provide quality public services to the local people.

For them to be able to serve local people effectively, there is need for new councils to be appointed as Rating Authorities.

The Rating Act No (12) of 1997 (as amended) empowers the Minister responsible for Local Government to appoint local authorities as Rating Authorities. The Act also empowers local

authorities, through a council resolution to declare rateable areas, assessment of rateable property and levying of rates, among others. To do this, a council must cause a list of properties existing within the entire district which are on title. Usually, a local authority can obtain such list from the Ministry of Lands.

Once this is done, a local authority can pass a resolution and apply to the Minister responsible for Local Government to be considered for appointment as a Rating Authority.

Once this is achieved, the Local Authority can then embark on the preparation of a Valuation Roll which is an instrument that captures all rateable properties. Revenue from this source will then contribute to economic development and improved delivery of services as local authorities are engines of wealth creation and hubs of efficient service delivery.

WHAT MAKES AN EFFECTIVE MANAGER OR LEADER IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE?

By Tryson Chunga - Council Secretary Mambwe

This article is a contribution in support of an article carried in the issue No 2 of 2016 on the capacity development programmes for councillors and officers countrywide.

One of the major constraints facing the local government service is the inadequate energized driving force in the form of experienced, trained and skilled manpower.

Most local authorities have been weakened due to reduced revenue base following the sale of housing stocks. Further, few experienced, trained and skilled personnel have either been forgotten in the system or transferred to small remote or rural local authorities, in the name of equitable skills or knowledge sharing, thereby causing deterioration in skills due to reduced work responsibility. It is high time that human resource development was prioritised as people are the most precious resource to foster development in any organization.

The paucity of financial support to local authorities also makes it difficult for them to provide quality services and

contribute to poverty reduction.

The main focus of this article is on factors which make a manager/leader effective in the wake of the decentralization process the country has embarked on.

Firstly, inherent ability/personality is the most influential contributor to developing an effective manager. Hence, the reason why other human resource practitioners argue that, 'leaders are born and not made.' In short, effective managers must have innate abilities to effectively perform or deliver to the satisfaction of the local community. For instance, in local government service, the Valuation Roll is an instrument for resource mobilization to cover the cost of council operations, which any manager cannot ignore. Alas, most inexperienced managers in councils may have no knowledge of tools of revenue mobilization for council operations such as this one.

Secondly, management qualifications are vitally important to one's managerial capacity in the performance of assigned duties.

The third factor is job experience whose importance cannot be overemphasized to effective management. Job experience/skills are critical to local government to propel it in the provision of quality services. Local authorities being multifunctional in nature, skilled/experienced manpower is therefore critical to ensure efficiency.

The fourth factor is in-house or internal capacity development through short training courses which strengthens the core grip on career growth in the local government service. Often, it is through internal capacity development that institutional memory is built and organizational cultures well internalized and learnt. It is important therefore that managers/ leaders being in policy making positions as providers of public services, must be exposed to regular training.

In conclusion, the dilemmas and difficulties facing the local government service today are to a large extent a result of an absence of some of the factors highlighted above.

GOVERNMENT TO PROCURE EQUIPMENT FOR GARBAGE COLLECTION

By LGAZ Staff

Minister of Local Government Hon. Vincent Mwale has revealed that government was in the process of procuring refuse collection trucks to support efforts of councils in garbage collection and the “Keep Zambia Clean and Healthy Campaign”. The Minister said this when a delegation of the Local Government Association of Zambia led by Association President Mayor Christopher Kang’ombe called on him to discuss a number of issues affecting the local government sector. The Minister indicated that the distribution of these trucks would be based on performance to motivate those councils excelling in this area.

The Minister stated further that all newly created districts would soon be appointed Rating Authorities. He said all these efforts were aimed at improving service provision with the view of taking service provision closer to the people. In addition, the Minister informed the LGAZ delegation that the provisions of the Markets and Bus Stations Act would soon be fully implemented. In the same vein, the Minister

indicated that all local authorities would be appointed Fire Authorities. In this regard, local authorities were encouraged to start putting in place facilities for this purpose.

Meanwhile, LGAZ President Mayor Christopher Kang’ombe appealed for the speedy revision of the K700 monthly allowance for councillors. He said councillors were on perpetual duty to serve their respective communities and as such, there was need to properly remunerate them for the service rendered.

The Minister appreciated the Association’s appeal and promised that government was doing everything possible to improve the welfare of councillors. He also indicated that the Emoluments Commission would provide comprehensive conditions of service for councillors, council chairpersons and mayors, once constituted. The Minister thanked the Association for calling on his office stating that this was how things ought to be as a number of issues affecting the sector could be addressed through dialogue which he said should be a regular feature.



Minister of Local Government Hon. Vincent Mwale (in grey suit) listens to LGAZ President (in glasses and dark suit), Mayor Christopher Kang’ombe’s submission.

LGAZ APPLAUDS THE UPGRADING OF CHIPATA AND CHONGWE

By LGAZ Staff

LGAZ President Mayor Christopher Kang'ombe has commended His Excellency Mr. Edgar Chagwa Lungu, President of the Republic of Zambia, and government for the favourable consideration of the petition made by Chipata Municipal Council to be upgraded to city status. The last time this kind of event took place was in 1996 when Livingstone was upgraded to city status.

In the same vein, Mayor Kang'ombe commended the Minister of Local Government Hon. Vincent Mwale, MP, for favourably considering Chongwe Town Council's petition to be upgraded to Municipal status. It was the Association's hope and trust that deserving municipal councils and township councils will take a leaf from Chipata and Chongwe to petition the President or the Minister of Local Government as the case may be, for upgrading to higher status.

On behalf of the local government fraternity, Mayor Kang'ombe congratulated His Worship the Mayor, Aldermen, Councillors, Officers and the people of Chipata as well as His Worship the Mayor of Chongwe Aldermen, Councillors, Officers and

the people of Chongwe for this historic and memorable achievement.

Meanwhile Namasiku Njovu, Public Relations Officer for Chongwe revealed that Chongwe Council had been operating as a district council since its establishment in 1993. She said this in a statement made available to LGAZ. She added that during the ceremony to grant Chongwe municipality status held at the Civic Centre on Monday 27th February, 2017, the Honorable Minister of Local Government Hon. Vincent Mwale urged Chongwe Municipal Council not to relent but endeavour to provide improved services in the district, to meet the aspirations of the people.

The Minister noted that as a municipality Chongwe would see a number of investment opportunities, which will result into more infrastructure development, job creation and improved living standards in the district.

He further noted that government identified Local Economic Development as a key instrument for government to deliver its objectives. The Minister called on all stakeholders in the district to double their efforts

to attract more investments taking advantage of the municipality's proximity to the capital city which positioned Chongwe in a better standing as a satellite city.

During the same occasion, the Minister installed Chongwe Council Chairperson Cllr. Geoffrey Chumbwe as Mayor of the Municipal Council. The installation ceremony was followed by the official opening of the Mayor's Parlor.

In turn, Mayor of Chongwe Municipal Council, His Worship Geoffrey Chumbwe, thanked the Minister for upgrading Chongwe to municipal status. Mayor Chumbwe pledged his commitment to serving the people of Chongwe.

Speaking earlier, Her Royal Highness Senior Chieftainess Nkomeshya Mukamambo II. said that the establishment of Chongwe as a municipal council was long overdue as evidenced by massive development projects undertaken by government and other stakeholders in the district. She implored government to accelerate the completion of infrastructure projects such as roads, universities and schools.

EQUALISATION FUND CHANGES THE FACE OF CHEMBE TOWN COUNCIL AS DECENTRALISATION TAKES EFFECT

By Webster Hamuvumbe - Acting District Planning Officer

The Local Government Equalisation Fund has changed the face of Chembe Town Council. Chembe was created in 2012 out of Mansa. Being a new district, the deployed officers faced a number of operational challenges which included lack of office space and residential accommodation. In order to mitigate these challenges, the council made use of the Local Government Equalisation Fund (LGEF) to rehabilitate the former council guest house into a civic centre. This was made possible from the 20% LGEF monthly allocation the council received. In addition to the offices, the council also managed to construct four houses.

The civic centre is also accommodating six other departments whose functions are earmarked for devolution. These are the

District Education Board Secretary, Department of Community Development, Social Welfare, Forestry, Culture and Arts and the Department of Infrastructure. Plans are however in hand to construct a new Civic Centre so as to let the current building revert to its original use as a guest house.

Following the issuance of Circular No 10 of 2014 on the implementation of the Revised National Decentralisation Policy, Chembe Town Council has established all the Ward Development Committees. The exercise of establishing WDCs was completed in the last quarter of 2016. The WDCs are operational and members have since been oriented and have commenced making their submissions to the local authority in terms of the micro-projects they want implemented.

AMICAALL ZAMBIA VISITS AMICAALL NAMIBIA



Namibia's Deputy Minister of Urban and Rural Development Mr. Derek Larzen (seated in middle) with officials from AMICAALL Zambia and Namibia.

By LGAZ Staff

Recently a delegation of eight officials from AMICAALL Zambia Chapter visited their AMICAALL Namibia counterparts to share experiences in the local response to HIV and AIDS. During an experience sharing session with AMICAALL Namibia Chapter, Mr. Johannes Shivute, the Monitoring and Evaluation officer, indicated that the Alliance had a staff establishment of seven dedicated to the implementation of Alliance programmes. This staff complement including the Alliance programmes were supported by the Global Fund. He however, expressed concern over the dependence syndrome on external funding which was not sustainable. To overcome this, Mr. Shivute pointed out that the Alliance was in the process of finding ways of sustaining its operations, once the Global Fund comes to an end towards the end of 2017.

Mr. Shivute also informed the Zambian delegation that the Alliance was implementing a number of projects which included transformational leadership training, health and wellness programmes, community capacity enhancement, gender mainstreaming, development and review of wellness policies, strategic toolkit training and programme monitoring and evaluation.

Among other key institutions the Zambian delegation visited was the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development. The ministry is responsible for the operations of all local government authorities in Namibia. During the visit, the delegation was welcomed by the Deputy Minister of Urban and Rural Development Mr. Derek Larzen who gave a brief about the structure of the ministry. He stated that the ministry was responsible for all local authorities both urban and rural. Speaking on how the

ministry was addressing HIV issues, the Senior Administrative Officer in the Ministry informed the delegation that the ministry was implementing wellness and HIV and AIDS programmes. She stated that there were two committees in the ministry for internal and external purposes tasked to deal with wellness and HIV and AIDS. The internal committee dealt with wellness for members of staff in the ministry while the external one dealt with HIV and wellness programmes for local authorities. Each of the committees had a dedicated officer and among the notable wellness activities carried out by the ministry was a workshop on debt management for workers. This was done in collaboration with officials from one of the banks in Windhoek.

The delegation also visited Windhoek City Council where they were received by the City Mayor Cllr. Muesee Kazapua who informed them that the city had included HIV and AIDS and other lifestyle diseases as priority areas in its strategic plan. This was because implementation of all other programmes of the city depended on the health and wellness of staff and employees. He stated that the city was also committed to implementing the Paris Declaration on HIV and AIDS.

Meanwhile AMICAALL Zambia Chapter Chairperson Mayor Nathan Bwalya stated that he was grateful to the Mayor for the warm welcome accorded to the delegation. He stressed the importance of the visit stating that it offered officials from both countries an opportunity to learn successes and challenges of the HIV and AIDS response.

Other organisations visited were the Association of Local Authorities of Namibia (ALAN), the Namibia Network

of AIDS Service Organization (NANASO), a network of 8 civil society organisations engaged in the HIV and AIDS response in Namibia, the Ministry of Health and Social Services, Gender Links Namibia and the Katutura Home for the Aged and Morea Grace OVC where the Zambian delegation leader made a donation on behalf of the delegation.

The main lessons from the visit could be summarized as follows:

- AMICAALL Namibia has a dedicated secretariat of seven which makes implementation of day to day activities of the Alliance effective. However, support for programmes is from the Global Fund meaning that once this support comes to an end this could be the end of the AMICAALL Chapter of that country.
- Further, there is need to devise strategies to tap into local resources for the response to counter possible negative effects of diminishing donor support.
- The presence of the two committees (internal and external) in the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development, responsible for implementation of HIV and AIDS programmes is a clear recognition of local authorities as critical players in devising suitable strategies for the response.

There is need to enhance collaboration, knowledge and experience sharing between AMICAALL Zambia and AMICAALL Namibia in order to improve the work of the two chapters. Further, there is urgent need for active AMICAALL national chapters such as Uganda, Swaziland, Namibia and Zambia to work out modalities of reviving the AMICAALL Africa which was currently inactive.

LOCAL LEADERSHIP KEY

IN THE EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECENTRALISATION POLICY SAYS SAKWIYA



Decentralisation Secretariat Director Alfred Sakwiya addressing the ILGAZ symposium.

By LGAZ Staff

As devolution takes shape, Mayors and Council Chairpersons are expected to play a critical role in realizing the objectives of the National Decentralisation Policy. Speaking when he addressed a symposium of the Institute of Local Government Administrators of Zambia (ILGAZ) on the topic 'the role of Mayors/ Council Chairpersons in the effective implementation of devolution', Mr. Alfred Sakwiya, Director of the Decentralisation Secretariat under Cabinet Office, stated that as political heads of districts, Mayors and Council Chairpersons were expected to champion the localization of the decentralization agenda. He added

that there was evidence to the effect that countries that had decentralized, performed better in terms of benefits accruing to the people.

Decentralization entailed the devolving of functions and matching resources from the centre to the local level where the majority citizenry were expected to play an active role in determining their destiny through sub-district structures. He said there was need to continuously sensitize the citizens about decentralization in relation to the roles they will be expected to play through sub-district structures. Mr. Sakwiya was, however, quick to caution the local leadership to address the current negative image of local government attributed to unsatisfactory service delivery.

He urged Mayors and Council Chairpersons to lead the change process and commended the Institute for organizing such an important forum under the theme 'Embracing change: the key to effective implementation of decentralization.' He said one key factor towards embracing change entailed local leadership remaining consultative with their respective stakeholders in their

respective areas. Consultations would address a number of possible conflicts and as such, he urged Mayors and Council Chairpersons to remain open to consultations.

Mr. Sakwiya, however, observed that a number of measures needed to be in place to effect devolution. As a first step, all legislation was being aligned to the new constitution. Secondly, plans were underway to accelerate the implementation of Cabinet Circular No 10 of 2014 in relation to fiscal decentralisation to ensure that devolved functions were accompanied by matching resources. Further that there was need to address mindset of all concerned with this change process for them to accept reality that devolution was real. He added that there was also need to develop capacities at all levels.

Speaking at the same occasion on behalf of the Local Government Service Commission (LGSC) Chairperson, Mr. Gomeziani Gondwe stated that all the devolving sectors were expected to play

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Members of the Institute of Local Government Administrators of Zambia (ILGAZ) follow proceedings of the symposium.

THE INSTITUTE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATORS OF ZAMBIA (ILGAZ) BECOMES AN ASSOCIATE MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATION

By LGAZ Staff

The Association has extended Associate membership to the Institute of Local Government Administrators of Zambia (ILGAZ) following successful consideration of the Institute's application. This decision was arrived at during an Executive Committee meeting held on 9th December 2016, in Mongu.

According to Article IV (3) of the Local Government Association of Zambia's Constitution, Associate membership is open upon application by institutions and entities provided that they are concerned with or share common objectives with those of LGAZ. The Institute's overall objective is to promote and maintain a system of training for Zambian Local Government

in top positions. This is in line with its mission statement which is dedicated to the provision of quality training in Local Government Administration through experiential and practical learning approaches with the vision of becoming a training institute of excellence in local government administration.

The institute was formed in 1967. From its inception up until 2013, the Institute examined students and also awarded certificates for part I, II and III upon successful completion. The Institute is the only indigenous body to have established the first Zambian profession in the field of local government administration. In 2014, the Institute resolved to relinquish the training and examination role to institutions better placed to do so.

The Institute has since redefined its role, by restricting itself to admissions to professional membership in respect of Affiliates, Associates and Fellows as well as regulating their professional practice and conduct.



Part of the LGAZ Presidency follow proceedings of the Executive Committee in Mongu.

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LOCAL LEADERSHIP KEY

IN THE EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECENTRALISATION POLICY SAYS SAKWIYA

their role such as preparation of staff returns, before the LGSC could assume responsibility over such staff. He said the LGSC was committed to transfer staff from devolving sectors once all the preliminaries were concluded especially with regard to cleaning up registers by respective Service Commissions before handing over to the LGSC.

He revealed that the new organizational structures had been adopted awaiting operationalization. In terms of administrative reporting by devolving sectors, Mr. Gondwe informed delegates that Heads of Departments have since started reporting to councils in most districts and that the Chalimbana Local Government Training Institute was being engaged to orient staff from devolving sectors. Mr. Gondwe stated further that the Commission was engaging Management Development Division under Cabinet Office to amend the organizational structure to provide for the position of District Aids Coordination Advisors (DACAs) in line with the Presidential directive made during the 59th Annual Conference of the Local

Government Association of Zambia.

Speaking at the same occasion, Mr. Henry Sakala Director of the Public Private Partnerships (PPP) Unit, urged local authorities to utilize PPPs in providing infrastructure services in their respective areas. He said significant investment was needed to improve infrastructure to underpin economic growth and development in order to enhance connectivity and competitiveness as well as improve service delivery. Since government cannot finance these projects alone, there was need to exploit private sector ingenuity and innovation.

Mr. Phiri advised that there was however need for local authorities to clearly identify what they needed before entering into any PPPs. He said identifying what was needed constituted one of the key success factors of PPPs adding that this should be coupled with designation of a strong political champion to drive the process. Extensive engagement with stakeholders was another success factor for effective PPPs. Mr. Phiri however,

cautioned local authorities to undertake clear risk analyses before venturing into any form of PPP. He was addressing the subject, Municipal Infrastructure: how to enter into effective PPPs.

NOTE

Any comments and contributions to the Newsletter should be addressed to:

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