

MAZABUKA MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

Newsletter
Edition 04

2024



THE TRANSFORMATIVE POWER OF CDF

Information Sharing is Power





VISION

To be a well-planned city built around the basic needs of the people and the district's efforts will be committed and focus towards this cause.



MISSION

To provide Quality social services effectively, efficiently and sustainably to the residents of the sweetest town in the Nation that is Mazabuka.

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CONCEPT CREATIONS AND DESIGNING HOUSE
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APPRECIATION

On behalf of the entire team, I want to extend our deepest appreciation to the Mazabuka Central Constituency CDF Committee and Magoye Constituency CDF Committee and our dedicated Mazabuka Municipal Council CDF Drivers for their invaluable support in making our newsletter a resounding success. Your unwavering commitment, tireless effort, and generous contributions have played a pivotal role in bringing our vision to life and ensuring that our newsletter reaches its full potential.

Together, your collective efforts have not only made our newsletter a success but have also strengthened our team and fostered a sense of camaraderie and achievement. We are truly grateful for your invaluable contributions and look forward to continuing our journey together.



MAYOR'S MESSAGE

I am pleased to present the Second Edition of the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) Newsletter. This newsletter provides an overview of the latest news and developments within our community.

This edition highlights the significant achievements made possible through our collective efforts in addressing various societal issues. The CDF serves as a platform to support, organize, and mobilize community-led projects aimed at improving public services, infrastructure, opportunities, and overall quality of life in the district.

As Mayor, I am proud to report that last year, we undertook a number of community projects, awarded bursaries to individuals in Secondary Boarding Schools and Skills Development, and provided grants and loans for empowerment. I am excited to share the positive impact CDF has had on the people of both Magoye and Mazabuka Constituencies.

Furthermore, Mazabuka district has effectively utilized CDF to enhance sectors such as education, transportation, infrastructure, health, water, and agriculture. This has been achieved through the construction and rehabilitation of township roads,

sinking of boreholes, and construction and maintenance of schools and health facilities. However, our work is ongoing, and the Local Authority is committed to ensuring that projects are funded within the stipulated period.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to President Hakainde Hichilema and the entire UPND Administration for their unwavering support towards developmental projects aimed at improving the lives of Zambians. The continued increment in CDF is a clear indication of the government's commitment to uplifting the social and economic well-being of its citizens.

Lastly, allow me to thank all the civic leaders, partners and communities for their support and to urge them to continue supplementing Government's efforts as it works through the council.

Mr Vincent Lilanda

His Worship the Mayor

TOWN CLERK'S MESSAGE

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you, our readers, to the 2024 Second Edition of the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) Newsletter. The Local Authority has implemented several CDF projects in the district. However, I must mention that, like any other government projects, the successful completion of these works did not happen without challenges.

Nevertheless, as a council, we remain determined to deliver according to the expectations of our communities.

This newsletter highlights some of the notable achievements made possible by the CDF in the constituency. It showcases projects that have helped improve our infrastructure, enhance education, promote health, and improve the quality of life in the district.

As Town Clerk, I am delighted with the work that has been done. I thank our community members, partners, and volunteers for their commitment and hard work. The success of the CDF initiatives continues to be a testament to what we can accomplish when we work together towards a common goal. I have seen firsthand how these projects continue to strengthen our community, and I am thrilled to see how they have grown and strengthened over time.

I extend my sincere thanks to all the community members, organizations, and partners who have worked with us to achieve these successes. Your dedication to the community remains invaluable, and I look forward to continuing our partnership towards making our district a better place to live.

I hope the content of this newsletter will inspire community members to become more engaged in CDF programs.

Judith Mukwita Maambo (Mrs)

Town Clerk



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EDITOR'S NOTE

We are delighted to present the Second Edition of the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) newsletter for the Sweet Town of Mazabuka. The editorial team would not have achieved the compilation of stories without the hard work and dedication of our Mayor, Mr. Vincent Lilanda, the Honourable Members of Parliament from both Constituencies, the Town Clerk, Mrs. Judith Mukwita Maambo, our 20 honourable Councillors, Mazabuka Municipal Council Management, and staff who work tirelessly to ensure that CDF Projects in the District are implemented successfully.

This edition aims to provide much-needed information on numerous impactful success stories arising from the unprecedented increase of the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) from 1.6 million to 30.6 million kwacha per Constituency. The Editorial team will continue in its endeavours to bring out the success stories and the impact that this fund has had in meeting the Government's aspirations of leaving no one behind.

We believe that the quality of the content we produce reflects the care and attention that goes into the editorial process. Our team has been thorough in researching, fact-checking, and editing each piece, ensuring that we maintain the highest standard of trust and integrity.

Our goal as a PR Unit is to deliver content that is not just informative but also demonstrates how CDF has truly impacted the lives of people in the community.

In conclusion, we urge the people of the Sweet Town of Mazabuka to take a keen interest in reading such newsletters, as this is one of the ways through which communities can access factual and adequate information on CDF and how they can tap into the said fund.

Ruth Nzazi - Public Relations Officer

PROVISION OF DESKS FADING OUT THE ERA OF LEARNERS SITTING ON THE FLOOR

For years, inadequate classroom infrastructure has been a prevalent issue, negatively affecting learners' concentration and overall learning experience in Mazabuka. Having identified lack of adequate desks as a barrier to provision of quality education in schools, Mazabuka residents have prioritize provision of desks in the district.

Using the Constituency Development Fund (CDF), the district has embarked on an ambitious mission to transform the educational landscape by providing desks to schools across Mazabuka.

This initiative not only aims to address the lack of adequate furniture in classrooms but also enhances education service delivery.

Speaking during the commissioning of the desks in Magoye Constituency, Mazabuka District Education Board secretary, Christeter Mwale noted that the provision of these desks, will help the learners to sit comfortably, eliminating potential distractions that arise from discomfort or poor posture.

"This newfound comfort will undoubtedly lead to improved focus, increased retention of information, and a heightened level of engagement in classroom activities.

Beyond physical benefits, the impact of these desks also extends to the psychological well-being of students. The introduction of well-designed furniture brings with it a sense of pride and upliftment. Learners will feel a greater sense of belonging and value within the educational community, fostering a positive mindset and encouraging them to excel."

And speaking earlier, Magoye Constituency Member of Parliament, Mweemba Malambo stated, "By equipping schools with proper seating arrangements, the hope is that learners will enjoy a more comfortable and conducive atmosphere, laying the foundation for enhanced academic performance. The provision of desks represents a significant step towards rectifying the challenges which have lowered the standards of education in the district."



Magoye MP, Hon Mweemba Malambo (fifth from right) during the commissioning of the CDF desks



DEBS, Ms Mwale and DC ,Mr Mulomba shake hands



Mazabuka Central MP, Hon Nkombo cutting a ribbon with DEBS, Ms Mwale (far right) during the commissioning of the CDF procured desks

2023-CDF KEY FACTS AND STATISTICS

MAGOYE
CONSISTUENCY



a.



MAZABUKA
CENTRAL CONSISTUENCY



b.



c.

a. Magoye Empowerment Loan Beneficiaries celebrate for a photo.

b. Mazabuka Central Skills Bursaries beneficiaries pose for a photo.

c. Mazabuka Central Empowerment Loans beneficiaries photo with the DC, Mr Mulomba, Mayor HW Lilanda and MP Hon Kombo



THE TRANSFORMATIVE POWER OF CDF

Growing up on a family farm in the heart of Magoye, Harry Moonga cultivated a deep-rooted passion for agriculture.

After being retrenched at Zambia Railways in Kabwe, Mr Moonga went back to his home land, to embark on farming, something that he had learnt best during his childhood.

While many farmers chose traditional paths, his visionary spirit led him to venture into the world of feedlot management.

Unfortunately, it was not all rosy as the ambition encountered some financial and other unforeseen challenges which forced him to abandon the mission two years later and reluctantly reverted to the conventional farming activity. "Feedlot management requires sufficient working capital for vaccines, feed, labor and knowledge if the business is to flourish," Mr Moonga noted.

With the devastating effects of climate change on agriculture, crop farming has become a risky undertaking owing to variation in precipitation leading to crop failure, hence, Mr Moonga's decision to give it a second thought, and get back to feedlot enterprise as the viable option, a decision that is steadily proving to be the cornerstone of his extraordinary success business story.

Undeterred by the known challenges that lay ahead, Mr Moonga has bravely embraced the task of re-establishing the feedlot.

Equipped with a wealth of knowledge, determination and an acute understanding of animal husbandry, he has turned a piece of land into a feedlot facility that setting new standards in the industry.

Empowered with a K200, 000 CDF loan, he has focused on providing a state-of-the-art environment that prioritizes animal welfare, he has created a feedlot that not only maximizes efficiency but also ensures the highest level of animal comfort and well-being.

Mr Moonga has kick-started with ten beef animals, acquired at a cost of K8 000 each. He has also bought enough feed for the animals so that they would be ready for sale in the next few weeks. As Mr Moonga's feedlot flourishes, so are the fortunes of the local community. His operation has already created numerous job openings for local residents in the area, stimulating economic growth and providing a lifeline for families.

"I have engaged four families within the local community that are tending the animals. As you might be aware, these animals are on a special diet and need maximum attention so that they get ready for sale three months after feeding them," he explained and continued, "Beef animals have a ready market across the country because almost everyone needs beef."

His dedication to top-tier livestock management will not only elevate his own feedlot enterprise but also give a transformative hand to the Magoye community at large.

EXCAVATOR ELATES NGWEZI WARD COMMUNITY

Ngwezi Ward Development Committee secretary, Getrude Mwansa has paid glowing tribute to the government for empowering the grassroots with a voice to decide on the projects they would like to implement.

Ms Mwansa said people in the community know too well their needs and the kind of development they yearn for.

“We are delighted that we have a say on how the CDF should be used because we know and understand better the challenges that affect our lives. Many thanks to the government for the expanded CDF is improving the well-being of the rural communities,” Ms Mwansa said.

Speaking during the commissioning of the Excavator in Magoye, Ms Mwansa noted that farmers in the area have faced a range of challenges which include poor feeder roads, inadequate dams for crop irrigation and drinking water for cattle among others.

“Agriculture is the economic mainstay of Magoye; hence, it is exceedingly important that we prioritise

projects that support farming activities. Impassable feeder roads impede access to markets, making our farmers vulnerable to exploitation by unscrupulous briefcase businessmen.”

Magoye Member of Parliament, Mweemba Malambo has cautioned the community members against abuse of the recently procured Earth Moving Equipment.

Mr Malambo said the equipment was meant for community projects which are meant to benefit everyone in the constituency and not for personal use or any other fund-raising activities.

“This equipment is not for hire or to be used on any project for individual benefit but for the community’s benefit. It has been procured to develop Magoye in terms of road infrastructure, construction of dams and weirs and many other projects with direct benefit to the community,” Mr Malambo emphatically said.

The Earth Moving Equipment was procured with finances from 2022 Magoye Constituency Development Fund





One of the banana plantation staff working

FROM TRADITIONAL FARMING

Ramsey Musenge has broken ground with his foray into banana plantation in Siyowi area, which is exclusively known for its vibrant gardening.

Empowered by a CDF loan, Mr Musenge has transformed his farm into a thriving banana plantation. Born and bred in Kasama, Mr Musenge had never thought of banana growing not until he visited a friend who had a banana plantation with mouthwatering fruits.

“The fruits sparked my interest and I requested for a sucker to plant at home. Unfortunately, the few suckers that were produced by the parent plant were scrambled by equally interested farmers. However, my desire for a banana plant did not die,” Mr Musenge narrated.

His transfer to Mazabuka reignited the interest for growing bananas after acquiring a piece of land in Siyowi area where he is engaged in traditional farming.

A year after some farming activities in Siyowi, Mr Musenge identified the potential to diversify his agricultural practices and embrace his dream of growing bananas. With his determination and a spirit of reinvention, he embarked on his potato farming career.

“I planted a few roles of bananas to separate the five fields I had on my piece of land, on trial basis.

Interestingly, I was impressed with the growth and demand, and finally decided to go flat out, and planted

200 more as a field of bananas.

Slowly, a banana plantation was emerging and the need for expansion became apparent.”

After securing the Mazabuka Central CDF loan, we have increased the number of plants from 400 to 1596 plants. The expansion has also increased the tonnage of out harvest,” Mr Musenge said.

The K200, 000 CDF loan has also helped Mr Musenge to invest in high-quality banana varieties, efficient irrigation systems, and advanced agricultural practices to ensure optimal growth conditions for his bananas.

The transformation of Mr Musenge’s farm into a successful banana plantation has an impact on the local community. Not only has the plantation generated significant revenue for him, but it has also created new job opportunities for the Siyowi community. The banana plantation has contributed to the livelihoods of numerous families, promoting economic prosperity within the local community.

“I have four workers on permanent basis while other workers are hired depending on the volume of work, especially when the farm is at peak,” He said.

His inspiring journey not only showcases the tremendous impact of government support on rural entrepreneurship but also highlights the potential of diversification in agriculture.



CDF IS CULTIVATING SUCCESS

In a rural community of Lubombo, a female farmer is sowing the seeds of success and cultivating an agricultural enterprise with the help of a CDF loan obtained under Mazabuka Central Constituency.

Embracing the challenges of farming with grit and determination, Mukwiza Mulemba Natala has ventured into potato production, transforming her dreams of agricultural entrepreneurship into a flourishing reality.

The success story of this enterprising Mrs Natala begins with a vision motivated by passion and a deep-rooted connection to the land.

Before getting the CDF loan, Mrs Natala conducted a survey which revealed that potato production was a viable farming business worth to undertake.

After obtaining a K200 000 loan, Mrs Natala took a leap into potato production, planting over a hectare equipped with a reliable irrigation system.

The impact of the loan has already being felt in Lubombo as she has employed seven full time workers.

Mrs Natala has projected to harvest a minimum of five hundred bags of potatoes. Today, as she tends to her fields with care and precision, the female farmer stands as a shining example of resilience, innovation, and success in agriculture.

Her graduation from loan recipient to agricultural entrepreneur serves as a source of inspiration for female farmers.

CDF SKILLS TRAINING PUTS DONALD ON THE ROAD TO MASTERY



Donald Zulu (left) working with his brother at the workshop



One of Donald's works

In a society where white collar jobs are the envy of every youth, a young male carpenter is crafting dreams to life. Meet Donald Zulu, a true testament to the transformative powers of the CDF skills bursaries program.

Donald, 28, is an upcoming visionary craftsman who is carving his own path, quite literally, after a six-month CDF sponsored skills training at St Paul's Center in Mazabuka.

Born and raised in Nakambala, Donald had to wait for four years after completion of grade 12 to get into a tertiary institution, owing to lack of funds. Following a successful application of the CDF skills bursary, he selected a course in carpentry and Joinery, after identifying that he had an affinity for woodworking during his teenage years.

Encouraged by his family and some friends, Donald has embarked on a journey that would truly define him.

After graduating from St Paul's Training Center, he sought apprenticeships and eagerly absorbed wisdom from seasoned carpenters in his field. He worked tirelessly in workshops and construction sites, where he honed his craft and acquired knowledge beyond his years.

With a small capital raised from apprenticeships, Donald audaciously started his own workshop at his father's home where he is living.

Two years down the line after establishing his workshop, registered as Highways Carpenters and Contractors, Donald's portfolio boasts of an impressive variety of projects that garnered well-deserved recognition from his clients, peers and parents.

"This young man creates works that blend functionality with awe-inspiring aesthetics. The furniture I bought from him is well-designed and has added value to the overall beauty of Abivist Gardens," Abuity Zulu, Director of Abivist Gardens remarked.

Cognizant of his peers who may be facing financial challenges for training, Donald offers free practical lessons to fellow youths in Nakambala Township where he resides.

Through the CDF Skills Bursaries funds, Mazabuka is witnessing the birth of an inspiring young craftsman.

SETTING NEW STANDARDS

IN BEEF PRODUCTION

Oscar Chilokota is an ambitious entrepreneur who, with the support of a CDF loan, has successfully transformed his cattle trading into a thriving beef enterprise that not only provides beef products but also creates opportunities for rural development.

In a groundbreaking development for his community, Mr Chilokota has taken an ambitious move to bring value addition to his beef business, thanks to the K200,000 loan that has spurred innovation and economic growth in kaleya and the surrounding areas.

Mr Chilokota has been running two butcheries, one in Kaleya and the other in Kabobola in Mazabuka Town under his company called Proscar General Dealers.

Recognizing the untapped potential in value addition, he envisioned a future where his butchery could produce high- quality beef products that would command markets both in Kaleya and Mazabuka as a whole. It is this vision that made him take a bold step to secure the necessary resources to bring his dream to life.

“I discovered that selling beef pieces didn’t give me the expected turn-over, hence, the idea to upgrade the business by investing in cutting-edge technologies and facilities for making mince meat and sausages,” Chilokota said.

With the introduction of value-added beef products, Proscar General Dealers has tapped into new market segments and is widening consumer preferences. The transformation in business has not only benefitted him but also helped the local community through employment opportunities.

“With the business growth, I have involved local residents in Kaleya and Kabobola, offering employment opportunities and purchase of their animals, especially in Mwanachingwala Village three where I live,” Mr Chilokota said.

Mr Chilokota further revealed that he also takes beef carcasses to Kasumbalesa and live cattle to Chingola.

“Before I got the loan, I would take only two or three animals, but this time around, I take fifteen or more animals to the Copperbelt.

Mr Chilokota’s tale is a clear testimony of how the CDF has created an environment conducive to innovation and growth.



Mr Chilokota at Magoye abattoir





Mr Chintu (far right) working with his son at the workshop

RESHAPING THE RURAL ECONOMIC LANDSCAPE

A midst the serene landscapes of rural Mazabuka, where agriculture reigns supreme, an enterprising individual has forged a new path to success. Androit Chintu, a remarkable individual has defied the odds and transformed a CDF loan into a thriving metal fabrication workshop, bringing innovation and prosperity to his rural community.

Recognizing the untapped potential in the metal fabrication industry in Magoye, Mr Chintu decided to remain in the same area after losing his job following the closure of the company he was working for.

He embarked on a mission to breathe life into his aspirations and invigorate his surroundings with the power of innovation through a metal fabrication workshop.

He harbored a burning desire to uplift his community from the shackles of limited opportunities through a vibrant business that would develop the local economy.

Faced with the challenge of insufficient capital which limited his operations, Mr Chintu took a leap of faith and applied for a CDF loan aimed at procuring machinery and materials to inject a new lease of life into his infant workshop.

Fortunately, he was granted the financial support needed to turn his dreams into reality. With a K200,000 CDF loan in hand, he set out on a journey that would

forever change his life and the lives of those around him. "I used part of the money to buy machinery such as modern welding machine, drilling machine, bender machine and materials," Mr Chintu disclosed.

Equipped with cutting-edge machinery, materials and fueled by his expertise, he increased operations, creating the need for more labor. Through expanding his team with skilled locals, he has created job opportunities that will uplift families from the clutches of unemployment.

"I have employed six young men and offered attachment opportunities for students from different vocational institutions. Recently, I had eight students from University of Zambia who came for orientation on the Magoye Ripper," Mr Chintu said.

"Before the loan, I could only manage orders less than K10 000, but this time around, the volume of business has trebled. As you can see, am working on a number of projects which include door and window frames, animal spray, magoye ripper and many other worth more K30,000," he disclosed.

Mr Chintu has a word of advise to those whose business has stagnated due to limited capital, "seize the CDF loans and expand your business so that you reshape your operations and propel your community into an era of prosperity and growth."

EMPOWERING YOUNG WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE



Recognizing the potential of piggery farming to not only meeting the growing demand for pork products but also generating employment opportunities in the community, Mirriam Manje has demonstrated exceptional business acumen in the field of piggery farming.

Taking advantage of the Constituency Development Fund loans, Ms Manje has successfully expanded her thriving piggery farm, showcasing the resounding impact of government support on rural women in agriculture.

As an innovative female farmer, Ms Manje has invested the K80, 000 loan in modern infrastructure and technology to enhance the efficiency of her operations and acquired high quality pig breeds.

She boasts of twelve pig pens from only three before the loan, provided decent accommodation for the three families working at the farm as well as establishing a poultry unit.

“I have also diversified my agriculture activities to include maize cultivation and vegetable gardening. I am looking at producing my own feed in the near future.” Ms Manje has fenced her twenty hectares farm to

secure the animals and prevent encroachment as well as started a fish pond project which is at advanced stage.

Through meticulous attention to detail and stringent quality control measures, Ms Manje has cemented her reputation as a provider of premium pork products in the Mazabuka.

By prioritizing the well-being and health of her pigs, she consistently deliver quality pork that meet the standards of her clients. Her commitment to excellence has earned the trust of both local buyers and those from Lusaka.

“Two to three years from now, I see myself as a fully established young farmer with expanded operations.” Ms Manje’s extraordinary journey serves as an inspiration to aspiring women in agriculture, highlighting the transformative power of government support.

Her success in piggery farming expansion not only breaks gender barriers but also showcases the immense potential that women possess as leaders and entrepreneurs in the rural agricultural sector.

By actively encouraging and investing in women, the government has set a powerful precedent for the empowerment and economic progression of rural communities.



Commissioning of the Zambia Police vehicle for Mazabuka

CDF ENHANCES PUBLIC SAFETY

Police in Mazabuka have for a long time faced the challenge of operating with limited resources, including old and unreliable vehicles. Realising the critical role that law enforcement plays in protecting and developing a community, people in Mazabuka and Magoye Constituencies resolved to acquire a vehicle for each area in a bid to improve public safety.

Officer Commanding, James Mululwe observed that one of the primary advantages of the vehicles is its potential to boost emergency response.

“These new vehicles have the potential to transform the way the state police respond to emergencies and serve the public,” Senior Superintendent Mululwe said.

“With quick access to a reliable and well-equipped vehicle, law enforcement officers will be able to respond promptly and effectively to calls for assistance.

In emergencies, every second counts, and these new cars will empower the state police to swiftly reach the scene, ensuring public safety is a top priority.

“Law enforcement officers will also have increased mobility and visibility, allowing them to patrol neighborhoods more effectively and build stronger

relationships with residents. This improved accessibility will foster a sense of trust and confidence among the public, as they witness law enforcement actively engaged in their communities and staying vigilant for potential safety concerns.”

Senior Superintendent Muluwe said the nature of defilement, rape, murder and assault cases which are rampant in the far flung areas of Mazabuka, require emergency response.

And a community member in Mazabuka Central Constituency, Jones Mpundu said “The new vehicle sends a powerful message to us the public that our safety and well-being are valued and prioritized by both the community and state police.

Mr Mpundu expects that the vehicles will enhance emergency response, improved crime prevention, and a strengthened bond between law enforcement and the public.

He said police should understand that the community is dedicated to public safety, hence, their decision to support the purchase of the vehicles to ensuring the well-being of the community for years to come.



Commissioning of the Zambia Police vehicle for Magoye

DAM THRILLS HAMAKONA COMMUNITY

“The Dam Will Boost Crop Yields, Increase Agricultural Income and Drive the Economic Drive of our Community”

The construction of a weir dam in the once barren landscape of Hamakona area in Magoye has brought a wave of prosperity, much to the delight of the community.

Dam project chairperson, Honex Mwiinga said the construction of the weir dam, with the finances from Magoye Constituency Development Fund (CDF) is expected to alleviate water scarcity and improve the agricultural output in the area.

“Farmers, who have for a long time struggled with inadequate water supply for their crops, will now enjoy consistent access to irrigation. This development is expected to boost crop yields, increase agricultural income, and drive the economic growth of our community,” Mr Mwiinga said.

“The Hamakona community has 24 villages with a total of 1 200 people, who face acute water challenges after the month of May every year until the onset of the rainy season, which is now unpredictable. During this dry spell, we are forced to walk over ten kilometres to the point where we can find water for both our animals and us.”

The enhanced access to water resources has sparked excitement among farmers who dream of expanding their cultivation and diversifying their crops.

“With the support of the dam, we expect improved production of staple crops such as maize, sweet potatoes and groundnuts thereby ensuring food security for our community,” said Macdonald Milimo one of the Hamakona community members.

“In addition to agricultural benefits, the weir dam will also help us with water during times of drought. The reservoir formed by the dam will allow for the collection and storage of water during the rainy season, ensuring a steady supply throughout the year. This will safeguard the community from drought-induced hardships and foster resilience in the face of unpredictable weather patterns.

As the community looks forward to reaping the benefits of the weir dam, it serves as a prime example of how the CDF is transforming and improving the lives of rural communities.



Commissioning of the Hamakona Dam

MARKET SHELTER TO BOOST TRADE FOR RURAL WOMEN

After years of operating in an open area, Munjile Marketeers' cry for a decent trading place has finally been answered following the construction of a market shelter through the Magoye Constituency Development Fund (CDF).

The newly constructed market shelter which is expected to empower rural women traders and foster economic growth, was officially commissioned by Magoye Constituency Member of Parliament, Mweemba Malambo and witnessed by Mazabuka District Commissioner, Oliver Mulomba. Mr Malambo emphasized the importance of supporting rural women traders, "The government recognizes the significant contributions made by these women to our local economy. By providing a secure and comfortable trading environment, we aim to boost their efforts and enable them to expand their businesses.

"By recognizing the challenges faced by women traders, who often operate in vulnerable and exposed spaces, this market shelter aims to empower them and contribute to their economic independence."

And one of the women speaking on behalf of the marketeers, expressed their gratitude for the positive impact it will have on their businesses and, ultimately, their lives. Ms Iness Chibbonta stated, "The market shelter will attract more customers, enhance our credibility, and enable us to sell our products in a conducive environment."

Ms Chibbonta recalled that their merchandise got damaged as result of being exposed to long hours of sunlight at the open market. She further observed that the environment under which they were doing their business posed health hazards to both the marketeers and the customers.

And Magoye CDF chairperson, Semba Mubita noted that the market shelter will not only provide safety and convenience, but it will also serve as a platform for networking and knowledge sharing among traders.

"This communal space enables the exchange of ideas, experiences, and skills, fostering a supportive environment that encourages growth and innovation. It is anticipated that this interaction will lead to increased productivity and improved marketing strategies among the traders," Mr Mubita said.

This development aligns with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals, particularly Goal 5, which aims to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls. By providing a safer trading environment and creating equal opportunities for economic growth, the government is making significant strides towards realizing this



Munjile Market Shelter



Current Market Shelter in Plan 2000 Township



The new CDF Market Shelter under construction in Plan 2000 Township



THE LIMITLESS OF WOMEN POTENTIAL

From an inspiring narrative of courage, perseverance, and empowerment, a young female individual has successfully utilized a CDF Skills Bursary empowerment to forge a path of her own in the world of plumbing.

After securing the skills bursary, which saw her go for training at Livingstone Institute of Business and Engineering Technology Studies (LIBETS), Adinas Daka has transformed her passion for fixing things into a successful career, completing her training and now making waves as a competent and skilled plumber.

Her journey to skilled tradesperson is a testimony to the limitless potential of women in non-traditional careers and a testament to the power of education, determination, and support in fostering equity and inclusivity in the workforce. Despite facing scepticism and prejudice along the way, she has remained undeterred, letting her passion and determination

guide her towards her goal of becoming a plumber to reckon with.

“There are times when I face discouraging situations especially unblocking sewer lines which emit awful stench, but I have remained focused to continue the plumbing journey I chose to take. I have convinced myself to like and cherish my trade,” Daka said.

Today, as she navigates the challenges and triumphs of her career as a plumber, the young woman serves as an inspiration for aspiring female tradespeople and showcases the power of the CDF skills bursary programme.

Breaking barriers with every pipe she fixes and every problem she solves, she is paving the way for a more inclusive and equitable future for women in the skilled trades.

ARTS AND CULTURAL CENTRE ESTABLISHED IN MAZABUKA



Mr Mumba explaining the impact of the CDF loan on their art works

In a visionary move aimed at nurturing creativity and fostering cultural expression, a youth group has successfully secured a K74, 000 CDF grant in Mazabuka Central Constituency to embark on a groundbreaking venture of establishing an Arts and Cultural Centre.

Fuelled by a shared enthusiasm for the arts and a desire to create a space where creativity can flourish, the group called Lukavilla Arts Centre, is set to transform their aspirations into reality through careful planning, strategic vision, and strong determination.

Group secretary, Derrick Mumba said the ambitious project aims to empower the youth and provide them with a platform to explore, express, and showcase their talents.

Mr Mumba said the centre aspires to be a hub of artistic innovation, offering a range of programs and activities that cater to diverse artistic interests, "From visual arts and theatre to music and dance, the centre promises to be a melting pot of creativity, where young talents can collaborate, learn, and grow."

"The centre is poised to serve as a catalyst for social change, bridging divides, fostering understanding, and

promoting inclusivity through the universal language of art."

Mr Mumba noted that the district has massive untapped talent in the field of arts and culture but lack an avenue through which they can develop and heighten their potential capacity.

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He said the group has a membership of eleven males and seventeen females drawn from different backgrounds but with common goal.

Mr Mumba is happy that the local authority has allocated them a 28m x 40m land where a shelter has already been built.

"The significance of this initiative extends far beyond the mere establishment of a physical space. It represents a sign of hope for the local community, showing a rebirth of cultural vibrancy and artistic passion."

Lack of financial services for small scale entrepreneurs is one of the barriers which has inhibited their expansion and ultimately hindered local economic growth and poverty reduction in Mazabuka. Over the years, the small scale entrepreneurs have tried in vain to access loans from banks and other financial institution due to attached conditions beyond their reach.

However, with the government's progressive initiative to provide affordable loans through the Constituency Development Fund (CDF), the small scale entrepreneurs have an opportunity to grow their businesses and household assets.

In a remarkable turn of events, a rural entrepreneur in the outskirts of Mazabuka town, is on a path to achieving success in the grocery wholesale industry after getting a CDF loan under Magoye Constituency.

Bennito Ngandu has changed his humble grocery wholesale business into a booming enterprise that generates both economic opportunities and community growth.

After accessing a K150, 000 CDF loan, Mr Ngandu has worked tirelessly to expand his grocery business into a full-fledged wholesale operation.

CDF LOAN - A CATALYST FOR ,GROWTH EXPANSION

"ALL MY GROCERY NEEDS FOR MY SHOP IN LWIINDI VILLAGE ARE FOUND AT BENNY ENTERPRISE"

With a focus on quality products, competitive pricing, and exceptional customer service, his company, Beny Enterprise has quickly gained a reputation as a trusted supplier among retailers in Kaleya and the surrounding communities. By streamlining operations and investing in technology, he has maximized efficiency, ensuring timely delivery of goods and meeting the increasing demands of his expanding customer base.

"I'm a regular customer because all my grocery needs for my small shop in Lwiindi Village are found here at Beny Enterprise," said Mike Chonye, who is running a Kantemba (small village shop) in the nearby village.

The growth of Beny Enterprise is having a profound impact on the local community. With each step forward, he has created jobs for the residents of Kaleya, stimulating economic activity and reducing unemployment rates. "As a result of the expanded business I have three employees from the local community (two young men and lady), who are helping me with operations," Mr Ngandu said.

By sourcing products from local farmers and producers, he is also nurturing relationships within the community and contributing to the overall development of the agricultural sector. For aspiring entrepreneurs in Mazabuka and beyond, Beny Enterprise serves as an exemplary role model. His success story highlights the impact that government support can have, breathing life into small businesses and empowering individuals to create thriving enterprises.

His journey is an inspiration to those who dare to dream big and showcases the power of CDF.



Mr Ngandu serving one of his many customers

(From left to right) Mr Costern Mweenda, Ms Beauty Hamweenda and Mr Anafi Makalani

ZNAPD IN FINANCIAL SELF-SUFFICIENCY

With a firm determination and shared vision of financial independence, a group of inspiring differently abled persons have acquired a CDF grant and established a booming village banking business.

Faced with physical challenges that have often been perceived as insurmountable barriers to economic participation, the Zambia National Association of Persons with Disabilities (ZNAPD) have refused to be defined by their disabilities.

Instead, they harnessed their resilience, creativity, and entrepreneurial spirit to pave a new path towards self-sufficiency and empowerment.

ZNAPD secretary, Beauty Hamweenda narrated that they have established a Village Banking Business to serve as a beacon of financial inclusion and empowerment in their community.

Ms Hamweenda further said, "Through a system of collective savings, loans, and investments, the group is not only generating sustainable income for ourselves but also providing vital financial services to community members who may have been excluded from traditional banking systems.

She disclosed that the group got a K40, 000 CDF grant under Mazabuka Central Constituency to kick start a village banking business in 2023, which embraces the concept of microfinance and community-based

banking.

"After our first cycle of loans, we realised K74, 000 translating into a profit of K34, 000 which was equally shared amongst the ten group members as an empowerment," Ms Hamweenda revealed one of the group members, Costern Mweenda, said he utilised the K3 400 to boost his electronic accessories shop, "My shop is now well stocked with a wide range of electronic spare parts for radios, phones, televisions and computers."

And vice chairperson, Anafi Makalani is impressed with the financial discipline shown by the group members who are handling money.

"They have shown high levels of transparency and accountability in the manner they are handling the group's financial matters," Mr Makalani noted.

In the face of adversity, the group of physically disabled individuals has proven that resilience knows no bounds and that success is not limited by perceived limitations.

By embracing entrepreneurship, financial literacy, and the spirit of communal support, they have redefined what it means to break barriers and carve out a space of empowerment in a world that often underestimates their potential.



**“We’re Assured of Round
the-clock Health
Care Services”**

HEALTH STAFF HOUSE GIVES HOPE TO MUNENGA COMMUNITY

Munenga community is rejoicing as the construction of a new staff house for their dedicated health officer is completed. Lack of suitable accommodation posed a significant challenge for the health officer assigned to the community health center.

Without a proper living arrangement, the officer faced difficulties in providing round-the-clock healthcare services, hampering their ability to respond quickly to emergencies.

Recognizing the importance of having a resident health officer, the community took a decisive action to address this issue and has successfully constructed a new staff house using the Constituency Development Fund in Magoye’s Munenga Ward.

Speaking in an interview after the commissioning of the house, Chief Mwanachigwala’s Representative, Gristern Choomba said the house will help to improve healthcare access and ensure the well-being of both the officer and the community they serve.

“The availability of a decent staff house not only supports the health officer’s ability to respond promptly to healthcare needs but also encourages other healthcare professionals to consider serving in rural areas.

“This project takes a step towards addressing the disparity in access to healthcare services between urban and rural areas.

The community’s appreciation and satisfaction were clear as they openly shared their sentiments. Munega Ward Councilor, Emmerson Mweemba expressed contentment, saying, “We are relieved to know that we now have a health officer who can be available whenever we need medical attention. This house will undoubtedly contribute to our overall health and well-being.”

And speaking when commissioning the staff house, Magoye Member of Parliament Mweemba Malambo emphasized the importance of promoting equitable healthcare delivery.

“Providing suitable accommodation for our health workers is a step towards bridging the healthcare gap between rural and urban areas. This shows the government’s commitment to ensure the well-being of everyone regardless their geographical location.”

The new staff house is equipped with modern facilities and designed to provide a comfortable living environment for the officer.

CDF GROWTH ON AN UPWARD TRAJECTORY

YEAR

2024

K30.6m

YEAR

2023

K28.3m

YEAR

2022

K25.7m

YEAR

2021

K1.6m



Know your MAYOR, D/MAYOR & COUNCILORS



Vincent Lilanda
His Worship the Mayor



Saul Mwiinga
D/ Mayor -Ngezezi Ward



Eugene Chinkuli
Nkonkola Ward



Lybrand Chiyobwa
Mugoto Ward



Phaniel Lwiindi
Itebe Ward



Chrispin Hamangaba
Mazabuka Central Ward



Learned Ngoma
Musuma Ward



Onard Chaatila
Mbaya Ward



Mike Malambo
Nachipoma Ward



Live Choongo
Nega nega Ward



Edson Muluma
Kalama Ward



Gloryson Laki
Bennie Mwiinga Ward



Japhen Mabinda
Chivuna Ward



Clifford Jolezya
Kaonga Ward



Keith Kabezo
Siyowi Ward



Kelvin Muleya
Nakambala Ward



Chemist Munyaka
Mwanachingwala Ward



Eugene Nataala
Lubombo Ward



Emmerson Mweemba
Munega Ward



Severino Habeenzu
Chizobo Ward



Ian Hatimbula
Munjile Ward

