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Newsletter

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Lusaka City Council Launches Social Inclusion and Gender Policy

From Left to Right: Dep. Chief of Mission Mr. Christopher Krafft, Local Government PS Mr. Amos Malupenga, Dep. Mayor Ms. Chilando Chitangala, and LCC Town Clerk Mr. Alex Mwansa.

The Lusaka City Council (LCC), on 19th June, 2018 launched a Social Inclusion and Gender Policy with support from the American government through the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) aimed at ensuring that LCC promotes and maintains a conducive and enabling working environment and ensures that its services reach all intended beneficiaries. The policy is part of institutional strengthening support to LCC under the US$355 million Lusaka Water Supply, Sanitation and Drainage Project (LWSSDP).

In a speech read on his behalf by his Permanent Secretary Mr. Amos Malupenga, Minister of Local Government, Hon. Vincent Mwale noted that Social Inclusion and Gender policy will help improve social inclusion and gender integration within LCC which was in line with the Zambian government's goal of bringing services to Lusaka's residents.

"Lusaka City Council is not moving alone in this direction because the Zambian government is committed to ensuring that services reach everyone regardless of where they live, their status in society, their gender or their economic conditions. Inclusive service provision must be realized in all government departments and among all stakeholders that we work with," he said.

Secretary to the Treasury and MCA-Zambia Board Chairperson, Mr. Fredson Yamba, who was ably represented by LCC Town Clerk Mr. Alex Mwansa, lauded the launch of the policy as a milestone in ensuring that Compact investments are sustained beyond the life of the Lusaka Water Supply, Sanitation and Drainage project.

"Ultimately, through the implementation of this policy, LCC will ensure that residents of Lusaka are engaged in an effective manner that will promote behavioural change resulting in sustainable use of Compact investments and other future investments," he said.

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Town Clerk and MCA-Zambia Board Member Mr. Alex Mwansa delivering a speech on behalf of Secretary to the Treasury and MCA-Zambia Board Chairperson Mr. Fredson Yamba during the launch of the Social Inclusion and Gender Policy.

Speaking at the same event, the United States Embassy Deputy Chief of Mission, Mr. Christopher Krafft said, "…sustainable development relies on inclusive development. Efforts to promote economic growth and to help people lift themselves out of poverty are best achieved when they harness the full participation and potential of women, the poor, and other members of vulnerable or marginalized populations, ensuring that all residents fully benefit from expanding economic opportunities, services, and public investments."

Meanwhile Ministry of Gender Permanent Secretary, Auxilia Ponga bemoaned the low women representation in decision making positions at local government level.

In her speech at the launch, Dr. Ponga expressed concern that out of the 1, 624 elected councilors in the country, only 130 are women.

Ministry of Gender Permanent Secretary Auxilia Ponga speaking during the launch.

Local Government Permanent Secretary Mr. Amos Malupenga (M) , US Embassy Deputy Chief of Mission Mr. Christopher Krafft and Lusaka Deputy Mayor Ms. Chilando Chitangala officially launching the LCC Gender Policy.

Nomakanjani Cultural Group performing a short play about the importance of Social inclusion and Gender equity .

She said the statistics showed that there is still a lot of work to be done to ensure that more women participate and make decisions that affect them.

She said the eight percent is far below the SADC target of 50 percent representation of women in decision making.

Dr. Ponga said equal participation of women and men in local government decision making is critical to ensuring that any decision made and budgets allocated are relevant to the living conditions and needs of women, men, youth and children at local level.

Dr. Ponga however, commended the Lusaka City Council for launching the gender policy, saying it has demonstrated that it is a candidate for the certification process.

Healthy and Safety and Care for Infrastructure Signs Needed Along Mazyopa Drainage

The team on site in Mazyopa.

With works on the Mazyopa drainage now completed, it now remains for the community to help in looking after the infrastructure and to ensure safety along the drain. Unfortunately the situation on the ground is not impressive. Vandalism and a lack of care by some members of the community around the drainage was observed during a site visit by MCA-Zambia, Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC), Co-Water and the Lusaka City Council.

It was disheartening for the team to note that the infrastructure is not being properly looked after by the community. A long stretch of the palisade fence along the drain has been vandalised and the walls of the drainage have graffiti on them.

Tyres being burnt inside the drain

It is for this reason that MCA-Zambia, Co-Water and the Lusaka City Council visited the area to determine locations where permanent signage can be installed along the drain. The team that visited the area included SGA Director Ms. Matimba Mungule, Eng. Bismark Pule, Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) Deputy Resident Director Ms. Gigi Goodhart and representatives from LCC and Co-Water.

During the site it was noted that the infrastructure is not well taken care of as residents are hanging around footbridges and theft of fencing is rampant. Children were also seen playing in the drains, and crossing in wrong places. Graffiti and solid waste are also major challenges.

“We saw people dumping right in the vicinity of the drains from their yards. Houses are being built close to the drain. One youth was found burning tyres right in the drains,” Ms. Mungule noted after the site visit.

In order to mitigate the situation, different messages discouraging residents from hanging around the drainage and highlighting the health and safety risks will be

Bentry Maliwa Gets MBA

On July 3, 2018 MCA-Zambia Internal Auditor Mr. Bentry Malilwe was all smiles when he graduated with an MBA from Edinburgh Business School (EBS) of the Heriot-Watt University - Scotland.

Mr. Maliwe was even more excited because he graduated together with his wife who is also an accountant.

"Studying for the MBA gave me a good appreciation of modern business practices and a better understanding of the attributes of high performing individuals, teams and organisations. I have as much as possible applied the acquired knowledge in my current role," he said.

Congratulations Bentry!

The Lusaka Water Supply, Sanitation and Drainage Project Countdown

Years	Months	Days
00	04	04

SaKala's Book Unmasked Wins Best Short Stories Award

Two years ago MCA-Zambia's Audio visual and Graphic Design Technician Henry Joe Sakala self-published a book entitled Unmasked. The book is a collection of short stories and poems.

Recently the book was awarded as the Best Collection of short stories at the first ever Tell Your Own Story awards ceremony.

Sakala was happy to receive the award and was thankful to the people who voted for him. He noted that the award would help to make the book known to a wider audience and in turn contribute to the growth of the Zambian reading culture.

"Zambian books are slowly gaining ground and are now competing favourably with foreign books. We however, still have a lot of work to do in ensuring that we get more Zambians to read our books. There are many local stories that have to be told and we have a mammoth task ahead of us," Sakala said in an interview.